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# WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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## Westland short on election workers

**LeAnne Rogers**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Elections are always stressful for city clerks, but Westland City Clerk Richard LeBlanc has an additional worry — he's short on election workers.

"I'm trying to get precinct chairpersons. The manpower issues are challenging," LeBlanc said. "We're short-handed by a lot. A lot of people called off. I don't know why. It's just not good."

On Wednesday, LeBlanc had taken to Facebook seeking some computer-

literate, experienced people to fill two precinct chairperson slots on election day. With the polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., it's a long day and pays \$195.

For Tuesday's city general election, LeBlanc is predicting a 15.3-percent turnout — that's about 9,352 voters. Westland has 61,125 registered voters.

Nearly 7,800 local voters requested absentee ballots, with 5,400 returned less than a week before the election. LeBlanc expects more absentee ballots will be returned for the



LeBlanc

election.

"We got about 400 absentee ballots returned Tuesday and Wednesday," he said.

The turnout for the 2013 city election was 10.2 percent. A difference for the higher turnout this year, LeBlanc said, is likely due largely to the race between incumbent Mayor William Wild and Councilman Kevin Coleman for a four-year term as mayor.

Wild ran unopposed last election. There is also an unusually large group of candidates for four seats on the city council — a four-year term for

the top three finishers and a two-year term for the fourth-place candidate.

After the primary election cut the number of candidates from 16 to eight, voters will fill the four seats Tuesday.

The candidates include incumbents Peter Herzberg and Michael Kehrer, plus Jim Hart, Michael Londeau, former Wayne-Westland Schools board member Debra Fowlkes, Tasha Green, former Councilwoman Meriem Kadi and Timothy Gilbert, listed in order of their primary finish.

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Keth Famie and his crew film, at Michigan Great Lakes Military Cemetery in Holly, with Master Sgt. Jeff Rector (ret.) causality assistance officer, for "ENLISTED." He helps us understand the significance of a military funeral. VISIONALIST ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS

## Wayne-Westland students look for a Bright Future

**LeAnne Rogers**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

For 10 years, Bright Futures has been offering after-school enrichment programs for Wayne-Westland Community Schools district students.

Students, parents and staff recently gathered at Marshall Upper Elementary School to enjoy an open house, celebrate the program and also build support in the face of state budget cuts to the program. It was called Lights On Afterschool.

Based at Eastern Michigan University, Bright Futures provides supportive programs to students at five elementary schools, Franklin Middle School and Wayne Memorial High School. The programs are open to students in grades 2-12.

"My parents originally wanted me to have something to do after school. It was a social experience," said Gabi Klein, a ninth-grader at Wayne Memorial. "I didn't think it would help my confidence and academics. I broke out of my shell."

Participating in Bright Futures for the past five years at Taft-Galloway Elementary School, Klein said students had 45 minutes to do homework, then time to talk with friends and meet new people, followed by time for arts and crafts and other activities.

"I developed leadership skills, courage and integrity — the social skills I need in life," she said. Saying she wants to run for Congress, Klein teased Westland Mayor William Wild about running for his job first.

Molly Berwanger, the Wayne Memorial Bright Futures site coordinator, said she met Klein over the summer.

"She has just skyrocketed. She has helped other kids and helped with any other problems," Berwanger said. "Gabi is great with special-needs kids and loves to be active."

Much of the tutoring is peer to peer. "It gets through better. We have social, emotional learning — empathy and emotional management," Berwanger said. "While the focus, especially in high school, is to get them to successfully take tests, we get them to the test."

That includes teaching mindfulness, Berwanger said, breathing to start out and providing a place where students can be themselves but also to try new things and make new friends at Bright Futures.

The students participating in Bright Futures take those relationships developed in the program into their school day.

"We have a student who has some issues. We visit at lunch. We all support her," Klein said. "Four of us told her to let us know if she is feeling down. She is a friend to everyone, is nice to everyone."

## Film asks why would you join the military?

Famie's 'ENLISTED' tries to tell the story of those who have

**Dan Dean**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

They came wearing blue jeans and vests of military groups, suits, ball caps proudly displaying their involvement in the military and even tuxedos.

And as retired U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michelle Wager walked into Royal Oak's Emagine Theater on Oct. 26, you would never have known she had lost a leg in military service. But soon, the 100 or so other veterans in attendance would witness her story, told along with those of many others, in the documentary "ENLISTED."

Wager, who lives in Linden and is a 1993 graduate of Westland John Glenn High School, deployed to Iraq in 2006 with the 46th Military Police Command Michigan Army National Guard out of Lansing.

Five months into her 15-month tour in Baghdad, a roadside bomb hit her vehicle, seriously injuring her and two others and killing two other soldiers. The attack resulted in Wager's left leg being amputated above the knee. She went through a long road of rehabilita-



A scene filmed at the War Dog Memorial in South Lyon during the summer. VISIONALIST ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCT

tion and, after her physical wounds healed, she had to deal with PTSD.

After seeing herself on the big screen, Wager had nothing but praise for the film.

"I thought the film was really well done. It touched on so many different

topics that a lot of people don't want to discuss," she said. "I feel our vets get swept under the rug and this film, hopefully, will lift that rug. Help people understand a little better what it is

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## High schoolers teach preschool students



The firefighting and EMT students at the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center made a special visit Oct. 26 to the Sunshine and Rainbows Preschool. With firefighting gear in tow, they taught the 3- and 4-year-old students how to stop, drop and roll; how to stay low and crawl away from a fire; and what a firefighter will look like if he or she has to come into their home to rescue them. Students in the firefighter and EMT courses are high school juniors and seniors. These classes are designed for students who are interested in firefighting and related careers. This course will prepare students for attendance in a fire academy The Sunshine and Rainbows Preschool is a component of the Early Childhood/Teacher Education class at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. The three-day-a-week preschool is a training site for high school juniors and seniors who are interested in the child care and teaching fields.

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## STUDENTS

Continued from Page A1

Attending the Lights on Afterschool event, Dale and Linda Morris said their daughter Autumn, who has special needs, has been in the program for five years and has realized benefits. "It's really helped her be more outgoing and make friends," Dale Morris said. "She made the

Wayne Memorial High School freshman Gabi Klein, with Westland Mayor William Wild at the Lights on Afterschool event. WLND

basketball team last year thanks to the program."

Local program director Maria Mitter said the school administration identifies students who can benefit from the after school program, but parents can also request that their child participate.

With budget cuts reducing local Bright Futures staff from 20 to 15, parents were being asked to sign petitions calling on legislators to maintain funding for after school programs.

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# Maserati driver to serve 25-40 years for deadly crash

**Jay Grossman**  
hometownlife.com

The driver of a Maserati who was traveling at speeds of 134 mph last January when he slammed into another car, killing a 53-year-old mother of two, was sentenced Oct. 26 to serve a minimum of 25 years in prison.

Gregory Allen Belkin, a former U.S. Coast Guard member who served half his life in the military, broke down crying as he spoke to the family of Rhonda T. Williams, a financial planner who was driving home from work on Square Lake Road when the

crash occurred. "This is not who I am," Belkin said, sobbing. "I'm so sorry."

Belkin, 44, pleaded no contest in July to charges of second-degree murder and operating while intoxicated causing death. In sentencing Belkin to 25-40 years in prison, Oakland County Circuit Judge Denise Langford-Morris said she was taking into account his distinguished military record, which dates back to 1991, when he joined the U.S. Navy.

"You've led a good life, a really good life," Langford-Morris told the defendant. "I will certainly express the grat-

itude the community has for your service ... but in all the years I have served on this bench, I have not seen a drunken driving case that caused death that was this egregious - when I say I don't know what you were thinking, I really don't know what you were thinking."

Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor David Hutson said Belkin recorded a blood-alcohol level of 0.315 percent at the scene of the crash - or more than four times the legal limit in Michigan. Court records indicate it was the second



Belkin

drunken driving conviction for Belkin, who otherwise had a clean record.

An electronic data recorder recovered from the crumpled 2014 Maserati Ghibli indicates he was traveling at a top speed of 140 mph as he raced between traffic on a narrow strip of Square Lake Road in Bloomfield Township and traveling at 134 mph seconds before he struck the 2009 Subaru, sending the car flying into a heavy wood-

en fence. Belkin told police he dropped his cellphone and was trying to pick it

up when he struck the Subaru. He was talking to his ex-girlfriend, who told police that he began reading off the car's speedometer speeds right before the phone disconnected.

A resident of Oakland Township, Williams leaves behind a husband and two sons. Her sister, Rebecca Miller, spoke for the family at the sentencing.

"She was kind and loving, larger than life," Miller said. "I think the biggest thing about Rhonda is she loved others. She would have loved this defendant in this court case ... no project was too small and

no project was too big for her - she went out of her way to help others."

Defense attorney Loren Dickstein told the judge that Belkin started his career in the U.S. Navy in 1991, and later enlisted with the U.S. Coast Guard, where he specialized in training other servicemen on counter terrorism and port security. At the time of the crash, he was still serving with the Coast Guard and renting a house with a roommate in Bloomfield Hills.

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## LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

### Lawnmower taken

A resident who lives in the 31400 block of Scone came into the police station Monday evening to report a lawnmower stolen from his property.

He said he had left the lawnmower on the side of his house, where it had been for several years. He left for work that morning and came back that afternoon to find it missing. He said the

lawnmower had not been working due to a gas leak and he had left it out. No suspect information was available.

— By David Veselenak

## WAYNE POLICE BRIEFS

### Car stolen from rental business

Wayne police were dispatched Oct. 27 to Enterprise, 33173 Michigan Ave., on the report of a vehicle that had been stolen and not returned to the business.

Police spoke to the caller, who said the suspect was supposed to return their vehicle Oct. 6 but did not. The business tried to contact him several times, but he did not answer. A certified letter was sent Oct. 20 and the company received word he had gotten the letter a week later.

returned later that afternoon, he found the back door open and his dog running around in the yard. He went inside and discovered several items were missing from his room, including some firearms, a cellphone, watches and a computer. Police observed several other items in the house were not taken, such as an Xbox gaming system and an iPad on the counter. All the items taken appeared to be from the victim's personal room.

### Couch taken out of apartment

A resident who lives in the 35700 block of East

Michigan Avenue filed a police report Oct. 23, claiming some items had been taken out of his apartment.

He said he originally planned on moving out of his apartment, but then decided he would stay. He informed the apartment management company, who said that decision would be OK. He came back to his apartment, where he found a table missing from inside. He later left the apartment again Oct. 21 and came back two days later to find his couch missing and his apartment ransacked.

— By David Veselenak

## WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS

### Home broken into

A resident of the 1800 block of Ackley came to the Westland police station Oct. 24 to report someone had broken into her home.

The resident said someone had pried open the front door, damaging the frame. She said nothing was taken and did not know who would have broken in.

### Lost wedding ring

A patron at Planet Fitness, 34634 Warren, came to the police station Oct. 25 to report her wedding ring missing.

She said she tried to slide her ring into her purse in the locker room, though it must have fallen out. She said no one at the gym had turned in the ring.

### Snowblower stolen

A resident of the 1400 block of South Walton came to the police station Oct. 25 to report the theft of a snowblower.

She said someone took her snowblower from her shed in the backyard early Oct. 24. Nothing else was missing and no evidence was left behind.

### Credit card illegally used

A resident of the 7600 block of Nankin Court filed a report Oct. 27 over an illegal use of her credit card.

She said she received a notice from her bank about several charges to her account from an unknown website. She said she did not make those transactions and requested a hold on the account. She does not know who obtained her information.

— By David Veselenak

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## Kiwanis Club hands out dictionaries



During the month of October, members of the Livonia Kiwanis Early Risers distributed dictionaries to students in every Livonia third-grade classroom. Of the 1,458 dictionaries distributed this year, many were hand-delivered to the children by a Kiwanian. Pictured is Kiwanis member Anthony Kellum, passing out dictionaries to students at Hayes Elementary. Kellum pointed out to the children that the longest word in the dictionary is on page 373 and takes up the entire page, as it is a chemical formula.

## Memorial service helps ease grief during holidays

For more than two decades, David Griffin has hosted a special annual memorial service at his L.J. Griffin Funeral Home to help people who have lost loved ones navigate the emotional void they inevitably feel during the holidays.

Each year, he puts in so much time planning the event that he swears it will be the last time he does it. Then the families show up for the special service, and Griffin remembers exactly why he began hosting the service in the first place. He said it is very moving – and healing.

“I know this really does make a difference, and helps a lot of people get through the holidays,” said Griffin. “Holidays are when families get together. When there is a loss of someone who’s no longer at the table, it is difficult. This event lets them know they are not alone.”

The 23rd annual Holiday Memorial Service takes place 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, at the Chapel of the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Road (west of Lilley Road), in Canton.

When the service began 23 years ago, it was something Griffin offered only to the people who used his funer-

al home. After seeing the impact it had, he began offering it to the larger community and it grew every year. He even added other components to the service, including a military ceremonial presentation by members of the local American Legion and experts who spoke about dealing with grief during the holidays.

The event typically attracts about 125-150 people. Griffin said each person lost will be acknowledged during a ceremony.

“It is a solemn little ceremony. We light a candle for each person, and place the candles on a large table. At the end, the glow of the flames is really quite touching,” Griffin said.

It is free to attend the service and there will be light refreshments served.

All Griffin asks is that you call beforehand to let them know you will be attending and also provide the name of the person who you would like recognized, so they can plan accordingly. Griffin said each person will be given a gift at the conclusion of the ceremony.

“The door of invitation is open to you, your family and friends. Please join us,” Griffin said.

To attend, call the funeral home at 734-981-1700.

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**FILM**

Continued from Page A1

we go through.”

**Today's military**

They are teenagers following the path chosen by family members before them; some are looking for a way to pay for college; some looking for structure in their life; others want to see the world or prepare for a career.

Whatever the motivation, today's military is 100-percent volunteer. A big change from the 38.8 percent who volunteered for service during World War II.

The military has undergone a wide range of changes, from the pride and patriotism of World War II to skepticism and domestic unrest during the Vietnam era and the battle on terrorism today.

So why does anyone join? This was the overriding question film maker Keith Famie kept asking himself after producing many films on the military. What do or don't they get out of it and, for those who were severely injured, would they do it again? These are the questions Famie, who lives in Novi with his wife Katrin, set out to answer.

“Having grown up with a father who was a World War II pilot bombardier and a brother who served in Vietnam, I always had a sense of patriotism or maybe respect for the uniform,” Famie said about being drawn to telling the stories of those who serve. “I guess the answer is both my fascination with military history and appreciation for the sacrifice a person can make, not always for his or her country, but for each other when they are in the middle of something



Four military veterans gather at the ranch owned by retired Brig. Gen. John Kulhavi of White Lake during the filming of “ENLISTED.” VISONALIST ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS



Keith Famie meets with Michigan Veterans Foundation Executive Director/CEO Tyrone Chatman (right) and retired Brig. Gen. John Kulhavi before the screening of “ENLISTED.” DAN DEAN

most of us cannot imagine.

“I am sure what goes through their mind is not the flag of America or the president, but ‘Is my fellow soldier, marine, airman, etc. going to be safe and get out of this alive?’” he said.

**Michigan connections**

“ENLISTED” will be shown locally on Detroit Public Television at 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6, on WTVS-TV (Channel 56).

The film hits a wide range of topics and the stories of many who have served. Besides Wager, it features other local veterans, including retired

Brig. Gen. John Kulhavi, a White Lake resident, who gave opening remarks at last week's screening. Also featured is South Lyon's War Dog Memorial president Phil Weitlauf, Hamburg Fitness Center owner Tom Rau, the Pinckney High School cross country team and local runner Mark Bowen, a Vietnam veteran who has run one mile for every soldier killed in that conflict – more than 58,000 – and continues to do so for today's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kulhavi is the owner of a large hunting ranch in northern Michigan, where a portion of the

filming was done. Four retired veterans featured in the film came to the ranch to get away, connect with other veterans and have fun with all the motorized toys the ranch has to offer, including a Scorpion British tank driven in the film by Maj. Ivan Castro, who lost his sight while serving in Iraq in 2006.

“Keith is performing a great service to humanity,” Kulhavi said in response to the film. “He deals with things most people don't want to talk about.”

Kulhavi spent 35 years in the service. “We can relate, understand what (veterans) are going through,” he said. “I have been very blessed and it is my responsibility to give back.”

Kulhavi said he got a chuckle a week after the filming when Castro's wife emailed him, saying he had so much fun he keeps asking for the car keys.

Bob Gillette, founder of American House who resides in Bonita Springs, Fla., during the winter and Bloomfield Hills during the summer, is an executive producer on the film.

“It is a simple equa-



World War II veteran Don Straith is introduced at the screening of “ENLISTED.” DAN DEAN

tion,” he said about his involvement through personal friends related to the project. Gillette was a sponsor of the Wounded Warriors amputee softball team sponsored by Louisville Slugger. Three of the four invited to Kulhavi's ranch play on the team.

“No words can adequately describe the valor of the men and women we honor today. Because of them, our freedom endures,” Kulhavi said in his opening remarks.

“I do believe that soldiers in today's military, an all-volunteer military, are better disciplined. All are there because they want to be. None were drafted or given the choice by a judge to be drafted or go to jail,” Kulhavi said.

Famie, a former chef and restaurant owner, created Visionalist Entertainment Productions to produce cooking shows, most notably Food Network's “Keith Famie's Adventures.” He is widely known for his appearance on “Survivor: The Australian Outback.” But in 2004, he turned his attention to producing documentary films. He has earned 11 Michigan Emmy awards and been nominated for several others for a variety of

documentaries.

“I hope that ‘ENLISTED’ might be able to broaden the understanding of the person who chose to put on a uniform. Some do it for country, some do it for a career, some do it because they may feel this might be their only chance to move out of a life they are in now,” Famie said.

Wager would do it again. Despite all she went through, her answer is “yes.”

“If asked to go back to Iraq, I would in a second. I truly miss being a part of the armed services,” she said. “That was my calling in life and, unfortunately, it was cut short. ... It was an honor to be a part of this film.”

And for Famie, the film answers his questions as well “and I hope it does for anyone who sees it.”

Kulhavi, is an executive producer for “ENLISTED,” along with Gillette. Kulhavi told the audience being an executive director simply means he has the means to write a check to help underwrite production. Also, contributing as an associate producer are Anthony and Mary Schimizzi of Novi.

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# St. Mary Mercy raises funds for Healthy Livonia Initiative

St. Mary Mercy Livonia hosted its 25th annual gala on Oct. 13, at which corporate sponsors, donors, physicians, executives and staff raised more than \$320,000 to help fund the Healthy Livonia Initiative, a formal collaboration between the hospital and civic partners including the city, school system, parks and recreation and the Livonia Chamber of Commerce. Together, these organizations bridge gaps and help ensure that even the most vulnerable in the community have opportunities to get and stay healthy.

"Each year we come together to raise money for a good cause and each year we are fortunate to have the backing of such generous supporters,"



Evan Ames (from left); Sabrina Ames; Rob Casalou, regional president and CEO of St. Joseph Mercy Health System; Kristen Casalou; and Jerry Norcia, president and COO of DTE Energy.

said Dave Spivey, president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Livonia. "Funds raised this year will be re-invested back into our community and I'm hopeful will encourage people to live healthier lifestyles."

Approximately 680 guests supported the "Cirque De La Vie" themed event, which included juggling, aerial acrobatics and dance. The event was held at the Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center in



William Wild, mayor of Westland (from left); Sheri Wild; Carol Cassie, gala founder; David Spivey, president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Livonia; Julie Spivey; Tony Moscone; and Janine Moscone.

Livonia and was made possible in part through the support of DTE Energy Foundation, a platinum sponsor.

Carol Cassie, founder of the annual gala, was also honored this year. Since its beginning, the

annual gala has raised more than \$4.6 million to support St. Mary Mercy Livonia and the patients it serves.

For more information about St. Mary Mercy, go to [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org).

# Bowling for Backpacks helps strike out childhood hunger

Don't miss out on a fun day of bowling for a great cause at the fourth annual Bowling for Backpacks event, 2-4 p.m. (registration starts at 1 p.m.) Saturday, Nov. 18, at Merri-Bowl Lanes on Five Mile Road in Livonia.

The event includes two hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and beverages, a silent auction, various items for raffle and a 50/50 raffle. Tickets for bowling are \$20 and the cost for non-bowlers is \$10. Pre-registration is requested.

Blessings in a Backpack-Livonia is a program run by volunteers to address the problem of weekend childhood hunger.

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.biablivonia.org](http://www.biablivonia.org) or by contacting Audra Rons at [audraron@gmail.com](mailto:audraron@gmail.com) or 248-701-3277 or Colleen Drake at 734-516-3446 or [colleendrake@sbccglobal.net](mailto:colleendrake@sbccglobal.net).



Ava, a special helper at last year's Bowling for Backpacks event, presents the door prize (two Red Wings tickets and a parking pass) to the lucky winner, Tim Mulvaney. LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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— Mayor William R. Wild

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2013.....235  
2016.....195

### AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS



2013.....203  
2016.....166

### LARCENIES



2013.....1,358  
2016.....1,249

### ROBBERY



2013.....113  
2016.....83

### OVERALL VIOLENT CRIME



2013.....366  
2016.....298

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# Remembering Livonia's veterans in the Great War

This year's Veterans Day, Nov. 11, will be observed in its traditional way against a historical backdrop, the 100th anniversary of the United States of America's entry into World War I on April 6, 1917. Our country entered the Great War 2½ years after it began July 28, 1914.

Like all towns and cities throughout Michigan and the nation, soldiers and citizens from Livonia Township joined in all aspects of World War I efforts and answered the patriotic call to defend their freedoms. The Livonia Veterans Park, with its Wall of Honor, dedicated to those who were killed in action, wounded in action, missing in action or prisoner of war, honors our military veterans. On this wall is the name of World War I veteran Henry J. Rattenburg (1917-18). Another area World War I veteran, U.S. Marine Sgt. Myron Beals, who was killed in action, was



born in Plymouth. Livonia's American Legion Myron Beals Post 32 on Newburgh Road was named in his honor. A short historical biography and his photograph is located inside the post's main entrance.

The record of the totality of township veterans who were involved in World War I is still open to ongoing historical research. All men in certain designated age groups, in several World War I registration periods, were required to register. Not all of those who registered for the drafts were called to active duty. Additionally, many who registered and served were listed as residents of Wayne County. The formal city of Livonia did not yet exist. What we do know for

certain is that many men from Livonia did register and serve in World War I. According to research by local historian, cemetery "surveyor" and preservationist Kathy Bilger, we know, as much as can be determined at this point in time, the names of those who are buried in Livonia cemeteries who served in World War I or who registered during one of the draft periods.

In a discussion with noted Michigan historian and Livonia resident Dr. James McConnell, it would be worthwhile research to further study the draft registration and military service records to identify other Livonia veteran names who were involved in World War I.

McConnell was one of the principal supporters for the creation of a Michigan World War I Centennial Commission. Legislation for the commission (S.B. 248) was introduced by state Sen. Rebekah Warren. On Oct. 9, Gov. Rick Snyder

signed her bill into law.

During World War I, Livonia Township residents supported the war efforts. Being a large agricultural and farming community, Livonians had much to contribute in goods and services. In each Michigan county, a War Preparedness Board was created, consisting from three to 10 members who, in like manner, organized the townships of the county. With such an organization, it was possible to reach all areas of Michigan, enlisting every man, woman and child in various World War I campaigns and efforts.

One of the first acts of the overall War Preparedness Board was the creation of a War Food Preparedness Committee. This committee was of great assistance to the farmers of Michigan and Livonia Township in securing seed for the crop year of 1917. When World War I was over, the U.S. had a great responsibility

to honor veterans who were killed and to the thousands who were wounded and to meet their physical needs. In the aftermath of World War I and to "fulfill our promises to the men and women who served," the Disabled American Veterans of the World War was officially created. Its first national convention was held June 27, 1921, in Detroit.

The organization's name was later changed to the Disabled American Veterans. The author is honored to serve as the Americanism chairman for the Disabled American Veterans Livonia Chapter 114, located at 30905 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Our commander is Alan R. Stranyak. The chapter's general telephone number is 734-770-2253.

I would like to mention that the Friends of the Livonia Library, to mark the 100th anniversary of the U.S. participation in World War I, will

be hosting a free program by Livonia resident Richard VandenBrul. His talk will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, at the Robert and Janet Bennett Civic Center Library. His presentation is titled "World War I Still Impacts Us" and the history of the Polar Bears unit of World War I.

So this Veterans Day, take a few minutes to remember the Livonia veterans who fought and died in World War I and the veterans of all wars by visiting their graves and the Livonia Veterans Park. Take along a small American flag or some flowers to show them we still are forever grateful and remember their sacrifices.

*Joe Neussendorfer is a Livonia historian and Americanism chairman of Disabled American Veterans Livonia Chapter 114. He is also a member of the Livonia Historical Society, the Historical Society of Michigan and founder of the Alfred Noble Historical Society.*

# Football team supports autistic teammate's concert

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Nicolas Walch has autism. He doesn't let it keep him from pursuing his dreams, such as playing football or singing Broadway tunes in a confident, baritone voice.

The Salem High School freshman just finished his football season as a wide receiver and defensive back on the Rocks' junior varsity squad.

Perhaps more impressive was Walch's performance Oct. 17 during the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park choir concert in the Salem auditorium — as well as how his football family came out to lend loud, enthusiastic cheers.

"That was player-led," Salem football coach Kurt Britnell said. "It's family here, that's the big thing. We supported one of our brothers. And that's what we did."

"We had 35 or 40 play-

ers and coaches there to support him in his choir endeavor. That's what it's about. He's put in the time and we're just supporting him."

And how did Walch perform during the concert as part of Parksmen, a beginning level men's choir for students from all three high schools at P-CEP?

"He's pretty good; he shocked me," Salem senior quarterback Ryan Young said. "He shocked us. He came out and did it with a smile on his face."

Senior lineman Alex Howie said it was all about being there for a friend and a teammate.

"It was just us coming together as family," Howie said. "He's been here every day, every workout in the summer. Every practice, every two a day. He's worked as hard as anybody else, with a smile, too."

"He comes here with a great attitude. So it's only right that we go support him."

How did a football



Nicolas Walch can't help smiling when he's around Salem friends — on the football team or in choir. SALEM ATHLETICS

team then on the cusp of playing in its first state playoff game in 26 years find the time to go to a concert?

"During the day, (Salem assistant principal for athletics and activities director) Brian Samulski came to me and let me know the football team wanted to come to the concert and asked if we could save seats in the balcony," P-CEP choir director Jennifer Neumann said. "We did, they

came and, after each song that Nick's choir sang, you could hear them applauding loudly and saying Nick's name."

"Nick was very proud. You could see it on his face that that meant a lot to him."

**You'd never guess**

Walch, whose parents are Jennifer and Michael Walch, was born with autism spectrum disorder. Neumann said no one could ever guess the

teen has the developmental disorder.

"Nicolas is highly functional. He can talk, he communicates well," Neumann said. "He fits in well with the group. He sings well. He is really interested in Broadway, he's seen lots of shows in Detroit, at Meadowbrook Theatre and he's very excited to see 'Love Never Dies,' a musical in Detroit."

"He's sung for the class on his own, during our talent show days in class. Songs from musicals and things like that. He has a very strong interest in musical theater, in addition to just choir music and football."

Neumann added that the Salem football team's exuberant show of support for Walch was unique and a pretty big deal.

"I've been here 17 years as the choir director and I can't say for absolute certainty," she said. "I'm not always aware of who is in the

audience during a concert, because I'm on stage. But this is the first time ... that a full team was there to support a teammate who is in choir."

**Brings people together**

According to Neumann, it is a goal of the P-CEP special education department to make sure students with autism or other developmental disorders have the chance to grow and bond with other students through choir programs.

"It's a class during the day where they are next to people they otherwise might not have another class with," Neumann said. "We have seniors and freshmen in the same room, athletes and non-athletic students in the same room."

"In terms of having somebody that's autism spectrum in there, I've seen it really, really work wonders in terms of helping them figure out how to communicate, artistically, and really feel good about it. Everybody loves music, to some degree."

"So giving them a chance to sing and study music, find out more about how to create it and perform it with excellence has really done great things for many autistic students in the choir program over the years."

*tsmith@hometownlife.com  
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# Parental guidance: Mom's fave inspires Mercy actor

**Brad Kadrich**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK —  
MICHIGAN

Julia Twigg grew up hearing about and watching, "Anne of Green Gables," the 1908 novel (later play) by Lucy Maud Montgomery, because her mother loved the story.

So when the Mercy High School senior saw the school's drama program was producing "Anne" for its fall show, she did something she'd never done in her high school drama career: Tried for (and got) a speaking part.

And not just any speaking part; she's playing Anne.

"Anne of Green Gables" has always been my mother's favorite story," said Twigg, a transfer student from the International Academy. "I figured I'd go out of my senior year with a bang and I managed to get the lead. It still blows my mind."

The story follows the adventures of Anne Shirley, a 11-year-old orphan who mistakenly is sent to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert on their farm in the fictional town of Avonlea on Prince Edward Island.

The premise takes the audience on Anne's journey of connecting with Matthew and Marilla, the school and the town.

It's about growth (Anne's and Marilla's), loss and adjustment and its family tones were attractive to Mercy's longtime director Kathy Sill, who also liked the facts the two main leads are good roles for female actors at the all-girls school.

"We decided we wanted to do two family-ori-



Mathew Cuthbert (Tommy Wiaduck) picks up orphan Anne Shirley (Julia Twigg) and brings her to the farm in a horse-drawn wagon. Anne is overwhelmed with the sights along the way to the farm. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Anne Shirley (Julia Twigg) and neighbor Dianna Barry (Annie Acho Tartoni) become bosom friends. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ented plays this year," said Sill, who pointed out the next production will be "Mary Poppins." "We're always looking for stories with strong female leads. This show has tremendous female leads."

The other lead character is Marilla Cuthbert, played by senior Cara Forfinski, last seen in "42nd Street." Forfinski said she relished the role because Marilla is, in many ways, a polar opposite to Forfinski herself.

Marilla, especially in the beginning, is a more negative personality than Forfinski, a challenge the actor found exciting.

"I'd like to think I'm a nice person. ... It's hard to look at someone I like and be harsh to them," Forfinski said. "That's what I like about her. She's the opposite of me."

Marilla's growth and change — she's forced to adapt to a little girl rather than the boy she wanted, she loses her brother — are also traits Forfinski enjoys bringing to the

stage.

"She realized all the challenges Anne puts her through are teaching her something," Forfinski said. "(Marilla) gets thrown through life and Anne teaches her she can love again."

But nowhere is the change as noticeable as with Anne, who overcomes low self-esteem issues to establish herself in the town and, more importantly, with Marilla.

The growth, Twigg said, mirrors her own.

"It's a really interesting character," said Twigg, mostly a crew member except for an on-stage, non-speaking role in "Night of January 16th" two years ago. "I see a lot of myself in her. It's interesting to see where she started and how she's grown and it shows me how I've grown, too. She's coming out of her shell at the same time I'm coming out of mine."

Production started with auditions in late

August and rehearsals started right after that, Sill said. There are 26 students in the cast, including a half-dozen boys from Detroit Catholic High School in Novi.

The biggest challenges so far, Sill said, have been technical issues brought on by the simultaneous staging set built for the play. All of the play's locations — the front porch, the kitchen, Anne's bedroom and even a school room — are on the stage throughout.

"It's challenging for the lighting, in particular," Sill said. "There's a lot of attention to technical work in this show."

"Anne of Green Gables" plays in the Mercy High School auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday Nov. 10-11, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling the drama office at 248-893-3572 or at the door.

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I am an American We are One Nation

# TIRELESSLY WORKING TO HOUSE THE HOMELESS

Lisa Lee has empathy for society's most vulnerable individuals

**MIKE HIGDON**  
RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about the American profiled here and more average Americans doing exceptional things, visit [onation.usatoday.com](http://onation.usatoday.com).

In January, the Truckee River threatened to overflow its banks and flood parts of Reno, Nevada. While businesses covered their doors with plastic wrap and sandbags, Lisa Lee rallied local police forces, nonprofits and volunteers to warn people living in homeless camps along the riverbanks.

Lee and about 40 people walked the icy banks to tell people about the city's emergency shelters. She waited for shuttles to retrieve people and their belongings before moving down the rocky embankments in search of another hidden tent.

Once the flooding subsided, most people moved back to their spots along the river or in nearby parks. But Lee didn't stop after the crisis ended. She even found permanent housing for some of the people she met that day.

She walks trails every week in search of people who need help. She doesn't force them to go to the city's homeless shelter, but instead tells people what services are available. She frequently helps people use those services to find a permanent place to live.

Her empathy for people on the street and her approach to service comes from her experience living on the street as a teenager. She ran away to Seattle in 1994 and eventually became homeless and addicted to heroin.

"I got clean and housed when I took a job in Dutch Harbor, Alaska," Lee said. "I went up there on methadone and someone stole my methadone from my room, so I kicked methadone cold turkey."

Lee's boss in Alaska challenged her to



Lisa Lee is a psychiatric case manager and off-campus Crossroads coordinator at Alta Vista Mental Health in Reno, Nev. MIKE HIGDON/USA TODAY NETWORK

push herself, saying women can do anything except touch the large and dangerous fish processing machines. But she learned to use them anyway.

"I left Alaska completely ripped, smelling like fish, but totally different," Lee said. "I came back to the Lower 48 not knowing what I was going to do, but knowing I wasn't going back to drugs."

Now Lee is a case manager at Alta Vista Mental Health and also is working on her anthropology thesis at the University of Nevada, Reno. She's using her position and education to find and keep homeless communities together when re-housing them.

## ONE NATION

### Nominate an American

Who are your American heroes? Share stories and nominees at [onation.usatoday.com](http://onation.usatoday.com) or via email to [onenation@usatoday.com](mailto:onenation@usatoday.com) or post a video submission to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram (no longer than 2 minutes, please) with the hashtags #IAmAnAmerican #WeAreOneNation.

### Lisa Lee

**Location:** Reno, Nevada

**Age:** 41

**Profession:** Psychiatric case manager at Alta Vista Mental Health. Founder of a writing group for people experiencing homelessness.

**Mission:** To end the stigma around mental illness, substance abuse and homelessness.

## Q&A WITH LISA LEE

### What does it mean to you to be an American?

To be an American means freedom from persecution. It means to celebrate diversity, to respect the liberties of our fellow citizens and to fight for those liberties. For me, America is the "Mother of Exiles" as exemplified by the Statue of Liberty and the famous words of Emma Lazarus, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door." That to me, is what it means to be American.

### What moment touched and motivated you to launch this effort?

As a child, I had several experiences with houseless individuals that left an impact. Years later, at the age of 18, I experienced homelessness for almost a decade. After years of reinventing myself — housed and sober — I pursued undergraduate and graduate degrees in anthropology. All of these experiences have driven my passion to draw attention to income inequality, the fallacy of meritocracy, mental illness, substance abuse, the trauma-informed approach and the belief in empowering others to use their own voices to become advocates for themselves and their communities.

### What gives you hope or what concerns you?

The current political climate, globally, nationally and locally concern me. It feels as if the pendulum has shifted the world out of balance. Inequality is blatant; racial, economic, gender and ability inequality. We stand at the crossroads. I do have hope for the future. The youth fuel my hope for a chance at a sustainable and egalitarian world.

### What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

The eradication of stigma and homelessness. I would love to put myself out of a job, make mead and live off the land. For now, I'll keep plugging away at fighting for social justice, equality, inclusion and the right of everyone in America to have their basic needs met.

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Nov. 10, 28 @ 10am  
Dec. 5 @ 10am

**NOVI**

Novi Civic Center  
45175 Ten Mile Rd.  
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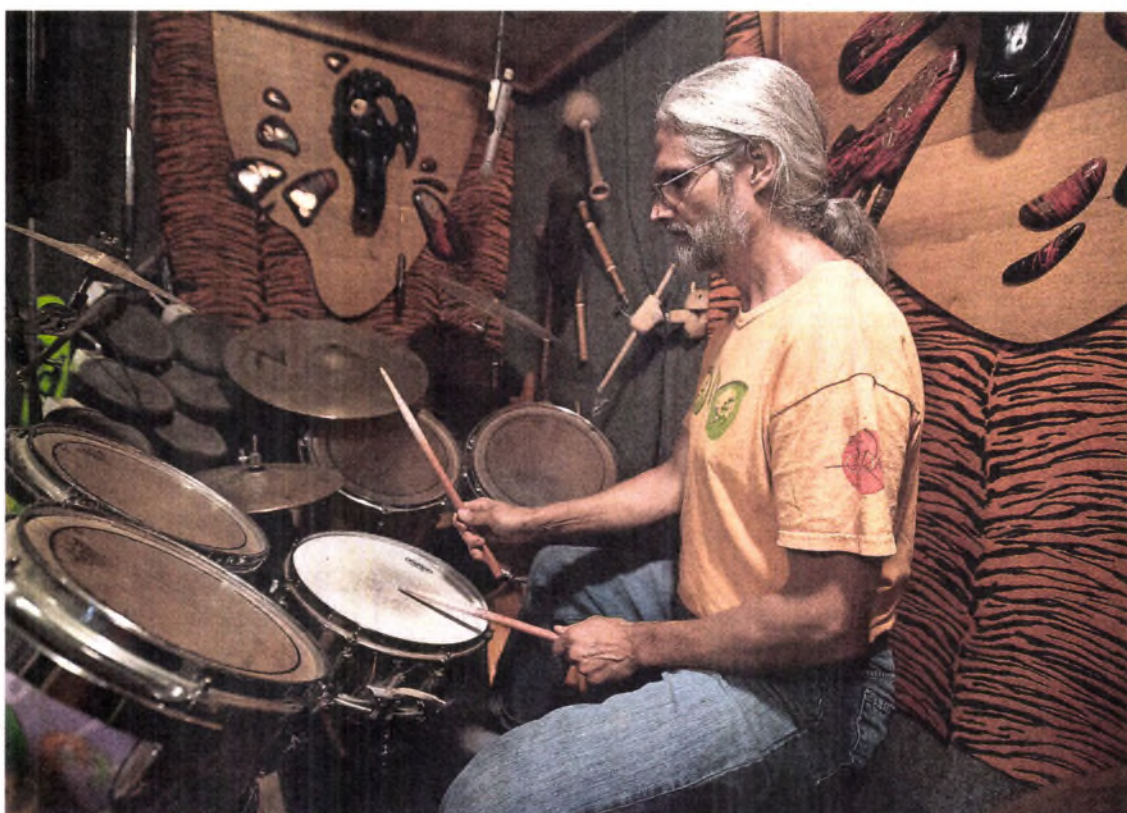
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Matt Schellenberg on drums in his basement studio. On the walls is artwork that he made himself. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

God is the back beat of modern-day Renaissance Man's multi-faceted life

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

God. Love. Rock and roll. Maybe even hockey with friends.

With apologies to early 1970s musical duo Teegarden and Van Winkle, all of those diverse pursuits — and more — are why Matt Schellenberg is a modern day Renaissance Man.

Schellenberg plays hockey, but the 53-year-old also is a polished singer, songwriter and musician who records eclectic "prog rock" music in the basement of his Farmington Hills home.

On top of that, he takes annual mission trips to Budapest, Hungary. Handmade arts and crafts abound in his studio and he makes silk-screen tees with colorful designs about nature.

Amid all of those creative riffs is the back beat of his life.

"My relationship with Jesus Christ is the center of everything," Schellenberg said. "To me, I would call hockey a hobby, because it's a blast. It's a good way to keep in shape.

"Whereas the other things, the music and the artwork and stuff, I would say it's much more of a calling. There's definitely a message in the music. Like any artist, you're putting out stuff into

See SCHELLENBERG, Page B2



Matt Schellenberg watches his weekly 6:30 a.m. hockey game from the bench. He plays in three adult rec leagues. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

*"To me, I would call hockey a hobby, because it's a blast. ... Whereas the other things, the music and the artwork and stuff, I would say it's much more of a calling."*

MATT SCHELLENBERG

### PREP FOOTBALL

## Soccer experience is key to Graham's work

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Olivia Graham spent the first third of her senior year playing high school football and she didn't regret it one bit.

Graham was the kicker this fall at Birmingham Seaholm. She was just the second female football player the Maples have had in their long history, which dates back to the early '60s — the first being Amanda Stubbs in 1999.



Graham

While Stubbs never did kick in a game, Graham had multiple opportunities.

The soccer-style, right-footed kicker connected on 18 out of 21 extra-point attempts. In addition, she also hit the only two field goals she attempted — both from 25 yards out in the same game against district rival Birmingham Groves.

See GRAHAM, Page B3

### BOYS SOCCER

## 'Jackets' title bid falls short

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Detroit Country Day's tremendous run through the boys soccer state tournament came to a crushing halt in the cruelest of ways — a shootout.

Flint Powers Catholic, ranked No. 3 in the state, powered to victory Wednesday in a Division 3 semifinal with a 3-1 shootout advantage to register a 1-0 win. The teams had played through 80 minutes of regulation and two 10-minute overtime periods without a goal to force the shootout.

Chargers goalie Brendan Tilden, a four-year varsity player, was sensational on DCD's first two shootout shots, diving to his right to stop Justin Harris and to his left to thwart Elbert Yi. Country Day senior Kevin Huang scored on his attempt, but DCD's final shot by Gabe Abu-Akeel went over the net, which gave Powers the win.

Powers iced the victory on the chilly evening at Parker Middle School

See SOCCER, Page B3

### GIRLS HOCKEY

## Inaugural Livonia United squad officially takes to the ice

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

For two years, Janine Martinez worked overtime to launch a high school girls hockey program in Livonia.

That became reality Monday night at Devonaire Ice Arena, as Livonia United skated as a unit for the first official practice. Head coach Martinez, several adult volunteer instructors (including her husband Gus) and a dozen or so players took part in various drills and low-key, on-ice scrimmages.

The team, composed of players who attend either Churchill, Franklin or Stevenson high schools, will spend the next couple of weeks preparing for its

debut game in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League. That contest is at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13, at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia against Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett.

"The girls are really excited," said Martinez, a former referee for college women's hockey. "I wish, obviously, I had a few more players, but I'm hoping that this year will spark other girls for years to come and then each year just keep growing the program and keep going."

Among girls practicing Monday were Janine and Gus Martinez's daughter Corrin, a Stevenson sophomore.

See HOCKEY, Page B3



Getting in some scrimmage reps Monday at Devonaire Ice Arena are Livonia United players. In front of goalie Maddie Marciw is Mackenzie Compton, a freshman at Livonia Churchill. TIM SMITH

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PREP FOOTBALL

# Rice kicker Hajjar boots winning field goal in third OT

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

What a way to open the playoffs.

Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice and Birmingham Groves had so much fun in the rain Oct. 27 they decided to go three overtimes. The visiting Warriors emerged with a pulsating 24-21 Division 2 pre-district victory thanks to a 20-yard field goal by senior Christian Hajjar that ended the three-hour marathon.

For Rice, the emotional triumph avenged last year's 24-20 loss to Groves in the district title game.

"To beat Groves, the inter-city rival, it was great. I mean, there's nothing better," said junior quarterback Mariano Valenti, starting his first game since hyper-extending his knee in Week 4 against Catholic Central. "No one stopped talking about this game around school. They've been holding it over us, but we got 'em this time."

"We were motivated. It was awesome," he added. "I think we're going to make a run in the playoffs."

Brother Rice head coach Adam Korzeniewski said it was a game where his seniors were extra-motivated.

"For the seniors, definitely, I think so because that was a real good team we played," Korzeniewski said. "But I think just the opportunity to play a first-round playoff game and try and get a 'W' is the bigger thing."

The victory lifted Brother Rice to 7-3. Groves, which won a three-overtime game earlier this season against Farmington Harrison, ended its season with a 7-3 record.

Following are five takeaways from the game:

**THE OVERTIME SESSIONS**

Neither team scored in the first overtime.

Groves had first crack at



Junior quarterback Mariano Valenti threw for one touchdown and scored two others to lead Brother Rice. MARTY BUDNER

the end zone from the 10-yard line, but missed a fourth-down field goal. Rice picked up 9 yards on its first possession and elected to attempt a fourth-down field goal for the win. However, Hajjar's 19-yard attempt was blocked by Groves junior Damonte McCurdy, who exploded straight up the middle to knock down the ball and force a second OT.

Rice started the second extra session and went for it on fourth-and-one as junior QB Mario Valenti vaulted in on a quarterback sneak. Groves countered with a sensational fourth-down play to keep the game going. Tinsley hit a wide open Khalil Dawsey in the corner of the end zone on a 4-yard pass play and the teams

were tied at 21-21.

The Falcons started the third overtime and worked their way to the 2-yard line after three downs. Groves head coach Brendan Flaherty elected to go for the touchdown on fourth-and-two, but Groves running back Chaise Ford was stopped short of the goal line on an off-tackle play.

Rice was stopped after three downs at the 2-yard line. Hajjar then lined up for the kick and successfully booted the game-winning field goal.

**RICE'S SECOND-HALF DOMINANCE**

Brother Rice trailed 14-7 at halftime, but had a decided second-half advantage.

The Warriors ran 39 plays in the final two quarters — 34 in

Groves territory. On their first three possessions, however, they were stopped by the determined Groves defense on fourth-down plays. They finally scored on their fourth possession, when Valenti pounded his way in on a 1-yard quarterback sneak with 3:59 left in the fourth quarter. Hajjar's extra point tied the game at 14-14.

Rice had an opportunity late in the fourth quarter inside Groves territory again, but Valenti's pass was intercepted by Joshua Salter, which eventually led to the overtime.

Brother Rice scored first in the opening quarter on a 9-yard pass from Valenti to Matt Torey.

"Our defense just buckled down in the second half and we just kept getting great field position and we could not do anything in the red zone," said Korzeniewski, whose team had three other comeback victories this year. "We couldn't make plays. And (Groves) had a lot to do with it, don't get me wrong. They are coached well and they took away some of the things that we were hoping to be able to do."

"With this group, I did not doubt they could do it," he added. "This team just fights to the end. But it was a heck of a game. Both teams played their butts off. They have pride, too."

**FORD DRIVES FALCONS**

Ford was the first-half story for Groves, tri-champion of the OAA White Division along with Farmington Harrison and Oak Park.

The senior halfback finished the game with 172 yards rushing, 152 of which came in the first two quarters. In the first 12 minutes, he rushed for 150 yards including runs of 42, 25 and 83 yards. The 83-yarder on the final play of the first quarter resulted in his team's second touchdown.

Groves' first touchdown came on the possession just before that, when quarterback

Colton Tinsley hit wide open sophomore Eli Turner with a 51-yard pass play right down the middle of the field.

Groves mustered 212 yards total offense in the first half. The second half was a different story. Not counting overtime, the Falcons ran just 17 plays for minus-3 yards over the final two quarters.

"It was a good game all-around, but they played good defense in the second half and we had a tough time putting points on the board," Flaherty said. "They just stepped up and we kind of stalled a bit. We couldn't catch a break."

"Chaise had those long runs in the first half. We got a break and he caught a couple seams and that was it," he added. "We just couldn't find a way to get points in that second half. But we had a successful season and I'm extremely proud of them. We just came up a little short today."

Defensively for Groves, senior linebacker Zak Abdulwasi had seven tackles and junior Jacob Edelman had four tackles, including a sack. McCurdy had an outstanding game. Besides the blocked field goal, the junior defensive back had five tackles and three important pass breakups.

**THE SERIES HISTORY**

This was the 12th meeting between Groves and Rice. The Warriors now lead the series, 9-3.

The last eight games have been in the district round of the state playoffs, where Rice owns a 7-1 edge.

The teams met in the final game of the regular season from 1962-65, with Groves winning the first two games and Rice the next two games.

It was the first ever playoff game for Korzeniewski, a former assistant coach both at Brother Rice under Al Fracassa and at Seaholm under Jim DeWald.

## PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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# CARTER SOLOMON

CROSS COUNTRY SOPHOMORE PLYMOUTH WILDCATS

It's been quite a season for Plymouth's varsity boys cross country team on the courses and in the Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week poll.

For the second time this season, a member of the Wildcats won the poll as sophomore Carter Solomon collected 6,134 votes (42.9 percent) to easily grab the number one spot. In Week 7, teammate Ethan Byrnes was the poll winner. Solomon outdistanced Birmingham Seaholm senior cross country runner Emily Rooney (4,266 votes, 29.86 percent) and Livonia Franklin junior cross country runner Erin Seibert (2,746 votes, 19.22 percent).

**WHAT HE DID:** Solomon spearheaded Plymouth to its first-ever Division 1 regional champion-

ship in boys cross country on Oct. 28 at Willow Metropark in New Boston. His time of 15:29.2 was good for second overall and led an impressive

pack of six Wildcats in the first nine spots.

"Finishing second was another improvement from last year, which was also very exciting," Solomon noted.

"... Going to states as a team was our top goal coming into this season, and completing that task provided a feeling of accomplishment."

**WHAT HE SAID ABOUT BEING NAMED ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:**

"When I received the text from my coach that I had won, I was quite joyous and blessed because I knew my friends and family went out of their way to vote for me. I was happy to win this week after coming off a new park record the previous weekend, which to me was a huge milestone," Solomon continued.



TO VOTE FOR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK, GO TO [WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM/SPORTS](http://WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM/SPORTS)



PREP VOLLEYBALL

# Churchill sweeps way to district final match

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Friday promised to be buzz-worthy at Livonia Churchill, and not just because there was a football district final between the Chargers and Livonia Franklin scheduled that night.

Earlier in the day, the Class A volleyball district final was slated to take place between host Churchill and Dearborn. The Chargers swept Westland John Glenn (25-14, 25-15, 25-18) Wednesday to advance to the deciding match. Results were not available as of press time.

"The (Churchill) volleyball program has a long history of being successful during the state tournament, so I think the girls want to make sure that they uphold that tradition," first-year Chargers head coach Kristin Clutter said. "They also want to make the school proud. They know that the football game will be more exciting Friday if we leave here with a win."

Clutter was looking forward to facing the Pioneers, too. She coached Dearborn before taking the Churchill job during the summer. "I know that team very well, because I coached there last year, so I know most of the players, most of the girls," said Clutter, whose team improved to 33-16. "They're well-coached. We're going to have to make sure we are ready physically and mentally to play that game."

"Their teams are always consistently aggressive. They're good defensive teams."

Against the Rockets, top performers included senior outside hitter Annabelle Dunn (16 kills, .469 attacking percentage, four aces), setter Grace Vaeth (39 assists), libero Jessica Maladecki (16 digs) and outside hitter Molly Chantres (12 kills, four aces).



Livonia Churchill volleyball players Grace Vaeth (front left), Annabelle Dunn and teammates greet Westland John Glenn players such as Carley Loving (far left) following Wednesday's district contest. TIM SMITH

"We're pretty confident," Chantres said. "I think if we come out and play like we did tonight and play our game, then district finals will definitely be ours. We're hoping. We played together as a team and we worked hard off of every ball."

Mary Claire Yost added that the Chargers "played with a lot of energy and got it done" and that minimizing the damage caused by John Glenn senior outside hitter Carley Loving was key.

"We were worried about Carley, but we got it together," Yost said.

Churchill opened the districts with a 3-0 win Oct. 30 against Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

**Stevenson district**

**LIVONIA STEVENSON 3, REDFORD THURSTON:** Audrey Lackey and Claire Beaudoin both tallied 13 digs Wednesday to spark the district host Spartans to a 25-4, 25-9, 25-16 victory in a Class A semifinal match-up. Chipping in 10 kills was Libby Cleaveland, while

Koryl Parmenter registered eight kills. Beaudoin and Julia Bice had five aces each. The Spartans advanced to the district final, scheduled for Friday.

**LIVONIA STEVENSON 3, REDFORD UNION 0:**

On Oct. 30 in a district opener, the Spartans rolled to three straight 25-14 wins. Sparking Stevenson were Erin Pietruszka (16 assists, 13 aces), Eliza Alushi (6 digs), Abby Cleaveland, Libby Cleaveland and Koryn Parmenter (six kills each).

**Novi district**

**NOVI 3, PLYMOUTH 1:**

On Oct. 30 in a district opener, Plymouth fell short despite solid performances from Kenna White (12 kills, 25 digs), Hannah Ramer (eight kills), libero Maddie Kirchoff (16 digs) and all-conference player Lauren Wheeler (35 assists, nine digs, three aces). It was senior Wheeler's final high school contest. Plymouth won the first set by a 25-23 score, but Novi roared back with 25-17, 25-20 and 26-24 victories.

GIRLS GOLF

# Another memorable season for Plymouth

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

The spotlight of the Division 1 girls golf state finals didn't stop Plymouth from enjoying a solid two-day performance.

Led by senior Erin Johnson's 81-76-157 scoreline, the Wildcats finished fifth among a highly competitive field at Grand Valley State University's The Meadows Golf Course.

Plymouth started out with 341, but rebounded nicely with a 328 score Oct. 21 and finished with a total of 669. Winning the championship was Traverse City West (626), followed by Brighton (648), Saline (649), Northville (664) and the Wildcats.

"Our golfers work as hard as anybody and we played our best golf on the biggest stage," veteran Plymouth coach Dan Young wrote in an email. "Very proud to have coached this group."

Johnson enjoyed a stellar showing at what will be her future golf course, as she has committed to play golf at Grand Valley State University.

"She's had an incredible career and will be an outstanding college play-



Plymouth's varsity girls golf team finished in fifth place at the Division 1 state finals. Top left is Rachel Stibel. Bottom (from left) are Sara Vohra, Erin Johnson and Shae Zydeck. At top right is Maire Sullivan.

er," Young said.

Johnson narrowly missed finishing in the top 10.

The Wildcats received other strong performances, including junior Shae Zydeck (81-77-158) and senior Sara Vohra (87-80-167).

Young said Vohra had "her best round of her career on Saturday."

Plymouth scorers also included juniors Maire Sullivan (92-95-187) and Rachel Stibel (110-105-215), both who "gained valuable experience" at The Meadows.

It was another excel-

lent season for the Wildcats, who earned the KLAAs Central Division championship with a 4-0 dual match record.

Overall medalist was Traverse City West junior Anika Dy, with a 3-under 141.

Also in the top 10 teams was Livonia Franklin (700), with Sophia Wygonik registering a 79-82-161 score line as the Patriots had a respectable showing at their first finals appearance.

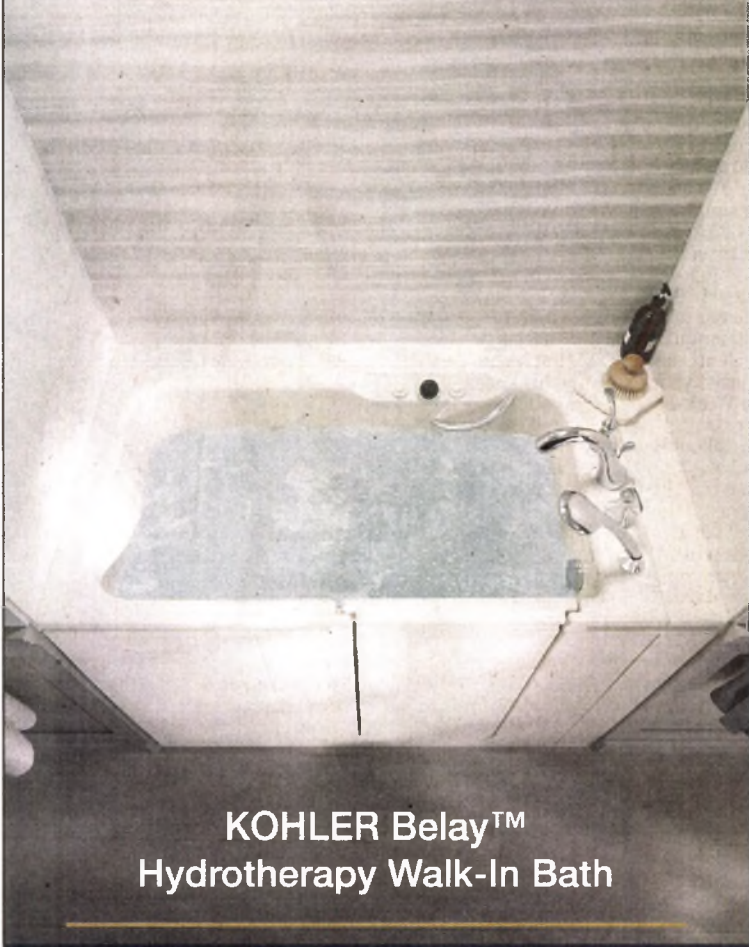
Other Franklin performers were Sofia Cueva (87-83-170), Summer Horen (87-97-184), Stephanie Cueva (92-93-185) and Olivia Napier (96-97-193).

Among the area individual qualifiers were Novi's Abby Livingston (86-80-166), Livonia Stevenson's Anna Vento (84-83-167) and Livonia Churchill's Ashley Harlock (81-92-173) and Paige Peterson (110-83-193).

Staff writer Brad Emons contributed to this report.

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\$100 Visa Gift Card fulfilled by Protect Your Home through third-party provider, Mpell, upon installation of a security system. Shipping and Handling Fee applies. \$99 Customer Installation Charge. Up to 15 sensors free for pre-wired homes or up to 7 wireless sensors free. No substitutions allowed. Labor charges may apply. \$99 Customer Installation Charge. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$671.76) for California. Form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account. Offer applies to homeowners only. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees may be required. Satisfactory credit history required. Termination Fee applies. Certain restrictions may apply. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Other rate plans available. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The \$27.99 Offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP). Quality Service Plan (QSP) is ADT's Extended Limited Warranty. ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services, which help you manage your home environment and family lifestyle, require the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarm system with monitored burglary service and a compatible computer, cell phone or PDA with Internet and email access. These ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services/Equipment. All ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services are not available with the various levels of ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services. All ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services features you desire. Installation starts at \$399. Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purchase and/or activation of an ADT security system with monitored Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert devices. Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert services are an additional charge. Quality Service Plan (QSP) is ADT's Extended Limited Warranty. 36-month monitoring contract required from \$58.99 per month. (\$2,123.64), including Quality Service Plan (QSP). Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. Prices subject to change. Prices may vary by market. Some insurance companies offer discounts on Homeowner's Insurance. Please consult your insurance company. Local permit fees may be required. Satisfactory credit history required. Additional monitoring fees required for some services. Photos are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect the exact product/service actually provided. Licenses: AL-17-1104, AK-35221, AZ-ROC217517, AR-2008-0014, CA-AC06320, CT-ELC.0193944-15, DE-07-212, FL-EC13003427, DC-602513000006, GA-LVA205395, HI-CT30946, ID-ELE-SC-39312, IL-127.001042, IN-City of Indianapolis: LAC-000156, IA-AC-0036, KY-City of Louisville: 483, LA-F1082, LA-F1914, LA-F1915, ME-LM50017382, MD-107-1626, MA-1355C, MI-3601205773, MN-TS01807, MS-15007958, MO-City of St. Louis: CC354, St. Louis County: 79853, MT-247, NE-14451, NV-68518, City of Las Vegas: 3000002944, NJ-34BF00021800, NM-353366, NY-Licensed by the N.Y.S. Dept. of State UID#12000317691, #12000286451, NC-1622-CSA, OH-53891446, City of Cincinnati: AC86, OK-1048, OR-170997, Pennsylvania Home Improvement Contractor Registration Number: PA22999, RI-3582, SC-BAC5630, SD-1025-7001-ET, TN-C1520, TX-B13734, ACR-3492, UT-6422596-6501, VT-ES-2382, VA-115120, WA-602588694/PROTEYH934RS, WV-042433, WI-City of Milwaukee: PAS-0002790, WY-LV-G-21499. 3750 Priority Way South Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46240 ©2016 DEFENDERS, Inc. dba Protect Your Home

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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Appeal 17-03 - Applicant Al Saad, Twins Investment Properties, 25645 Grand River Ave., Redford MI 48240

Requests a variance to erect a 100' x 14" Flagpole

Zoning Ordinance 152N, Article XIX, Section 19.01 limits maximum height of structures in C-2 General Commercial zone to 40 feet. Applicant is requesting a variance of 60' for the purpose of erecting said flagpole.

This appeal will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Redford Township Hall board room, 15145 Beech Daly Road, on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Written comments must indicate the above appeal number and will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., November 8, 2017. No comments will be accepted over the telephone.

Jennifer Lawson, Chairperson Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Publish: November 5, 2017

LO-000020046 3x5

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN SENIOR CENTER CHAIRS

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until 2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, November 21st, 2017 at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

Instructions and specifications may be obtained by registering with the

Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at

www.mitn.info

All Addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Faxed bids in response to this request will not be accepted.

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN SENIOR CENTER CHAIRS, name of vendor and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

No vendor may withdraw their bid within 120 calendar days after the date set for opening thereof.

The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein. Acceptance of any bid does not constitute a binding agreement until a written Contract is signed by both parties.

Linda McCann Director, Community Resources

Dennis K. Wright Mayor

Publish: November 5, 2017

LO-000233411 3x5

CITY OF LIVONIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR MYSTIC CREEK SITE CONDOMINIUMS STREET LIGHTING PROJECT

TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the proposed ASSESSMENT ROLL for the MYSTIC CREEK SITE CONDOMINIUMS STREET LIGHTING PROJECT, located east of Wayne Road and south of Curtis Road, in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 9, has been duly filed in the Office of the City Clerk and is now open for public examination and inspection.

The City Council has adopted a resolution setting the evening of WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M. in the auditorium at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan as the time and place for reviewing the said Roll and hearing all objections or suggestions relative thereto.

At this meeting any persons deeming themselves aggrieved by the Special Assessment Roll, may file their objections thereto in writing with the City Clerk prior to the close of such hearing, which written objections shall specify in what respect they deem themselves aggrieved.

The amount of the assessment of any individual property owner may be determined prior to the hearing by inquiry at the Office of the City Clerk, where such Roll may be personally examined.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that appearance and protest at this hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the State Tax Tribunal if an appeal should be desired. A property owner or party of interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment or may file his or her appearance by letter delivered to the City Clerk by the time and date of the hearing and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. The property owner or any person having an interest in the property subject to the proposed special assessments may file written appeal of the special assessment with the State Tax Tribunal within thirty-five days after confirmation of the special assessment roll if that special assessment was protested at this hearing.

SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK

Publish: November 5, 2017

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# the job network

YOUR LOCAL JOB LISTING FROM LIVONIA OBSERVER

## How to answer "what is your desired salary?"



GETTY IMAGES

BY PETER JONES  
 THEJOBNETWORK

Without a doubt, the "What is your desired salary?" question is one of the hardest to answer — either on a job application or in an interview situation. An online application doesn't usually offer a box to tick for "I'd be willing to negotiate, within reason."

**Don't just make something up.**

If you're faced with a drop-down application box, remember that you have two tools available to you. First, do your research. Find out what the industry standard would be for that role in that geographical area, and ask for that (or a little higher or lower depending on your particular skills and experience). This is vital for not

being weeded out based on asking for far too little or far too much.

Most companies have hiring policies that dictate they will pay new hires the midpoint of the stated salary range they are prepared to offer. Negotiation technique would suggest you ask for just a bit higher than the midpoint, in order not to be offered less than policy would get you.

**Use your application to explain your reasoning.**

A good use of your cover letter is to justify the number you selected. This is where you can add in that important sentence about being open to negotiation. Or explain, with numbers, why you feel a percentage increase from your former salary is called for — based on performance appraisals, market trends, new skills or experience, etc.

**How to figure out and verbalize what you want.**

There are different ways to go about this. You can ask for a flat salary number per year, which is usually negotiated and standard across a wide variety of industries and careers. Or, you might be looking for a job where you're asked to state what you would expect to make per hour. In both cases, it's important to ask for just a little more than you expect to be offered — usually 10-15 percent above what you really need to make.

In the case of hourly pay, make sure you've done the calculations to figure out exactly how much you need to make per hour to make ends meet. Most workers can expect to work about 2,000 hours per year. Don't forget to factor in sick days and vacation time — for which you will often not be compensated in an hourly

wage job. Don't accept a job for less unless you absolutely have to. And don't forget to ask about overtime and bonus pay, if applicable, so you can factor that into your calculations as well.

Sometimes you'll find yourself in a situation where you don't particularly care what you make for salary, as this number might be standard or nonnegotiable in your industry, but there are specific benefits you'd like to negotiate towards. If there are any deal breakers for you in the benefits package, make sure to focus on these when asked about your salary requirements.

**The bottom line.**

Make sure you know the minimum you need to make. You can always use that as your answer, "I can't accept this position for anything less than [AMOUNT]." And be prepared to hold to it. (These calculations are important and should be done with care.) If you prefer a softer touch, you can always answer, "I think [AMOUNT] would be a fair salary for this position."

*Peter Jones is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com, where this article was originally published. He investigates and writes about current strategies, tips, and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.*

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# SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Roman 102
  - 4 Took off on 8
  - 13 Comes into being
  - 19 Pal from way back
  - 21 TV sergeant played by Phil Silvers
  - 22 Put a new front on
  - 23 What a table had when Sitting Bull was sitting at it?
  - 25 1994 sci-fi action film
  - 26 Tailless cat
  - 27 Secretive govt. group
  - 28 Small city's package deliverer?
  - 30 Eight-armed mollusks
  - 33 London lav
  - 35 Muslim chief
  - 36 Marshy inlet near Boston?
  - 45 Atty.'s org.
  - 48 Bang, as a big toe
  - 49 Supper crumbs
  - 50 Long car
  - 51 Actor Max
  - 53 Spanish cheers
  - 55 Came — (Mexican steak dish)
  - 59 Vicinity
  - 60 Vigor, in music
  - 61 Coup d'état?
  - 65 As dry as —
  - 67 Prefix with tourism
  - 68 1998 Australian Open winner
  - 69 Fast at installing canoe stabilizers?
  - 78 Award in the ad business
  - 79 P. O. item
  - 80 Directive
  - 82 Unfeeling person's fake-out?
  - 91 Mid-voyage
  - 92 —deuce (card game)
  - 93 Streep of film
  - 94 Plum cousin
  - 95 Class fixture
  - 96 Ringo on drums
  - 98 With 103-Across, frozen dessert brand
  - 101 Cop in a drug bust
  - 103 See 98-Across
  - 104 Like an ogre wearing his facial disguise?
  - 110 Graf — (li-fated German warship)
  - 111 Notch shape
  - 112 Inner layer
  - 116 "My poetry is terrible compared to Maya's"?
  - 122 Hearing thing
  - 125 Dog in "Garfield"
  - 126 Setting
  - 127 Messed up during a film shoot?
  - 131 Really stuck
  - 132 "Paradise Lost" figure
  - 133 Mongoose cousins
  - 134 How china is often sold
  - 135 Noodles
  - 136 Alternative to Bloome's
  - 137 That ship
- DOWN**
- 1 Vodka drink, informally
  - 2 Hipbone-related
  - 3 "— buy that!"
  - 4 "La Cage — Folles"
  - 5 Alternative to a Word file
  - 6 Early utopia
  - 7 Colorants
  - 8 — Dhahi
  - 9 Vogue editor
  - 10 Actor —
  - 11 Give a bias
  - 12 Large wasp
  - 13 Stella — (beer)
  - 14 Renovates, for short
  - 15 "— one ..."
  - 16 Indian dress
  - 17 "Behold!" to Caesar
  - 18 Foreteller
  - 20 Plump and healthy-looking
  - 24 Soft rock
  - 29 "Still the King" cable channel
  - 31 Faux —
  - 32 Schoolyard rejoinder
  - 34 "Well now!"
  - 37 "Star Trek" helmsman
  - 38 \$5 bills, in slang
  - 39 Forest buck
  - 40 Shell nval in Canada
  - 41 Curious as —
  - 42 Cosmonaut
  - 43 Muffin top
  - 44 — Bator
  - 45 "SOS" band
  - 46 7/4 cocktail
  - 47 The vowels
  - 52 Rice-A —
  - 54 "Let it stand"
  - 56 Datebook entry. ABr.
  - 57 Elk cousin
  - 58 Intro drawing class, maybe
  - 62 "— bin ein Berliner"
  - 63 Carols
  - 64 Ship of myth
  - 66 Shoe brand
  - 70 Model Heidi
  - 71 French department
  - 72 Former queen of Jordan
  - 73 Gambling venue, briefly
  - 74 Website IDs
  - 75 Alum
  - 76 Ill-fated Ford
  - 77 Witherspoon of Hollywood
  - 81 Garden tool
  - 82 Wallet filter
  - 83 Play starter
  - 84 Main role
  - 85 Harp cousin
  - 86 NASDAQ cousin
  - 87 "In the Valley of —" (2007 film)
  - 88 Arm bone
  - 89 Beer top
  - 90 Not tame
  - 97 "Twillight" vampire —
  - 99 Small stream
  - 100 Prop- ending
  - 102 15-season CBS series
  - 105 About to bat, e.g.
  - 106 Division: ABr.
  - 107 Fortify
  - 108 Feat
  - 109 Bad-mouth
  - 113 Concepts
  - 114 Late inning
  - 115 Swan cousins
  - 116 Skater Kulik
  - 117 Olympus — (volcano on Mars)
  - 118 Big Ten gp.
  - 119 Klutzy sorts
  - 120 Folk wisdom
  - 121 "Vves" yeses
  - 123 \$\$\$ sources
  - 124 Emu cousin
  - 128 Raised rails
  - 129 Comic shrik
  - 130 This yr.'s 75-Downs

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

## SUDOKU

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

**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!

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

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

### WORDS

- ALA
- ALVEOLUS
- AORTA
- APEX
- ARTERY
- BREATH
- BRIDGE
- BRONCHIAL
- CARDIAC
- CARTILAGE
- CELLS
- DILATE
- DUCT
- DYSPNEA
- EXPIRATION
- FAUCES
- GLOTTIS
- HYPERTENSION
- INHALE
- INSPIRATION
- LARYNX
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- NOSE
- NOSTRILS
- PALPITATION
- PHARYNX
- PULMONARY
- PULSE
- RESPIRATORY
- SAC
- SEPTUM
- SYNCOPE
- TRACHEA
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# Car Report

## ROOM FOR 2: GENERAL MOTORS MAKES \$5-MILLION DONATION TO THE HENRY FORD, JOINING RIVAL FORD AS MUSEUM PILLAR



By Dale Buss

General Motors has been turning lots of heads lately with its investments in innovation, even enjoying a new sheen on Wall Street for how it's transforming itself for the era

of automated driving. Add one more GM investment in innovation to the list: its \$5-million donation to The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. The company has forged a new partnership with the nonprofit organization that is so familiar to Michiganders, from families strolling its fascinating exhibits, to tourists who wonder at the eclectic collections, to generations of schoolchildren whose imagination has been spared by what they see there.

Yes, The Henry Ford was established by the founder of GM's most historic rival and will always emanate the persona of one of America's greatest industrialists.

But lately, under President and CEO Patricia Mooradian, it has steered itself into the center of discussion of national renewal through industrial and technological innovation.

"The Henry Ford is a national treasure," Mark Reuss, GM's head of global product development, purchasing and supply chain said upon announcing the donation to the National Historic Landmark in Dearborn that was founded by Henry Ford in 1929 to



display his personal collection and other treasures. "One that all of us who grew up [in metro Detroit] feel a lifelong personal connection with."

GM will sponsor the museum's rotating exhibit that will become known as the Gallery by General Motors. Reuss said that The Henry Ford will work with the automaker to promote STEM -- science, technology, engineering and math -- topics and STEM education.

For The Henry Ford, the donation is "a real gamechanger," Mooradian told me.

"It's clear that 'Henry Ford' is in our name. And while that's a tremendous asset, in the past it hasn't given everyone the right idea of what we are: an American history museum about innovation. Many times our name conjures visions of being a museum only of Ford vehicles or about Henry Ford the man."

Ultimately, GM's donation to The

Henry Ford may recall how GM took up residence in the Renaissance Center, Detroit's tallest building and the symbol of a long-delayed rebirth, in the late Nineties, decades after Henry Ford II had spearheaded construction of the complex as a big urban-renewal gambit in the 1970s.

Edsel Ford II, a trustee of The Henry Ford and son of Henry Ford II, and great-grandson of Henry Ford, lunched with Reuss a few years ago to first discuss the idea of GM's playing a bigger role in the institution.

"We know that Henry Ford and Ford Motor Co. have always been and will always be inextricably linked," Reuss said. "There's no getting around that. But the museum is a celebration of American innovation, particularly in the transportation space, and you can't tell that story without General Motors and Ford together."

But the linkage of GM and Ford

Motor through The Henry Ford is only one interesting aspect of the transaction. The very amount of the donation also is significant in that only a relative handful of people and organizations -- including Ford and the Ford family, of course -- have ever made such a sizeable gift to The Henry Ford.

Also, naming the flexible exhibit space The Gallery by General Motors will affix a prominent name to a part of the museum that has been used for a few temporary exhibits each year but never identified for a particular purpose. And GM's gift, Mooradian said, "will go directly to innovation programs, with STEM at their core."

The first exhibit in The Gallery by General Motors is "The Science Behind Pixar," examining how the Walt Disney-owned computer-animation film studio does its staff.

GM also is throwing in with The Henry Ford at an interesting time

in the institution's history. Long one of Michigan's most popular tourist attractions, and known for iconic exhibits such as the limousine in which John F. Kennedy was assassinated and R. Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxion "house of the future," Mooradian has led a transformation of The Henry Ford into an outreach, proactive force for American innovation for the future, not just a passive site for visiting American innovation of the past.

For example, a new generation of kids -- and this one, nationwide, not just buses of schoolchildren from across Michigan on a field trip -- has discovered The Henry Ford via its weekly Saturday-morning TV show on CBS, The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation with Mo Rocca. And the museum recently signed a deal with Pearson, the educational publishing giant, to develop content for educators, business audiences and others.



GM's Mark Reuss, left, and President Patricia Mooradian of The Henry Ford.

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The Metro Detroit Vegan Diners Meetup is hosting their annual ThanksLiving Potluck Dinner. It will be held in Auburn Hills on Sunday, November 19 at 2pm.  
Everyone is welcome! No need to be vegan to attend this free event. Enjoy a delicious buffet of plant-based foods. Seitan "turkey", coffee, tea and door prizes will be provided. There will be a brief presentation by Hope Bohanec, Projects Manager for United Poultry Concerns and author of, The Ultimate Betrayal: Is There Happy Meat? Bring your family and friends and meet others who are making changes to a healthier and more compassionate lifestyle.  
Every guest is asked to bring a dish prepared without any animal products or a \$10.00 donation in lieu of. If you aren't sure of what food you want to bring, we'll give you lots of suggestions when you RSVP.  
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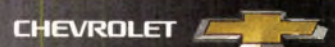
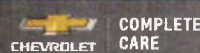
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