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Neighborhood program getting attention

City workers using 50-point checklist for revitalization

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Crews have been working in the P.D. Graham Elementary School neighborhood as a new Westland program focusing on

residential areas gets underway.

Working through the Neighborhood Services Department, city workers have a 50-point checklist aimed at revitalizing each neighborhood. The check-

list includes street sweeping, tree trimming, replacing and straightening street signs, fixing streetlight outages, surveying road conditions for immediate or future repairs, jetting and cleaning sewers and catch basins. For trees, that means limbs obstructing roadways, sidewalks, signage

or street lights will be trimmed.

"The tree trimming probably was the most visible work they did," said Westland Mayor William Wild, as crews worked in the Cherry Hill/John Hix area. "We did kind of a soft launch to figure out what is the most effective way to do it,

how many bodies do we need. The good weather has been helpful."

New reflective stop signs were being installed in the area. The last work in each neighborhood will be street sweeping.

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UBER DRIVER FINDS SUCCESS IN NON-TRADITIONAL LINE OF WORK

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Jeff Fleshner gets to travel by helping others get where they want to go.

The Taylor resident and IT professional at Madonna University in Livonia decided he wanted to make some extra cash two years ago and figured becoming an Uber driver was the way to go.

Now, with his van rocking 100,000 more miles than it did two years ago, Fleshner has done more than 5,000 rides for the service. The cash he gets from that allows him to take several vacations a year, something he wasn't able to do before.

"In the last year, we've gone to Philadelphia and Chicago twice — all of it paid for by what I made on Uber," he said. "I would just drive and put that money in an account."

"When I started driving for Uber, anytime I wanted to do something, I had money."

Uber, a ride-sharing ser-

vice, connects riders and drivers using personal vehicles through the Uber app. The system collects fares from the riders and distributes them to drivers after taking a commission and other fees.

Fleshner and other ride-sharing drivers are following some new structures when it comes to driving in Michigan. A law passed last year took effect in March, making such drivers subject to the same regulations as taxi and limousine companies. That means drivers must be 19 years old; have a valid driver's license issued from Michigan or another state; not have more than four moving violations or one major violation within the last three years; not be a listed sex offender; and not have any felony convictions within the last five years. Several other states have similar laws on the books.

"As transportation options continue to increase, we look

See UBER, Page A3



The Uber tag in the window means that Jeff Fleshner is ready for business.

Jeff Fleshner drives for Uber as a second job.

'I never give up:' Senate Coney Island owner celebrates business milestone

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

It's not uncommon to find George Dimopoulos at Senate Coney Island in Northville Township at 4 a.m. some mornings.

The Novi resident and owner of the restaurant spares no expense when it comes to serving his loyal customers. That's why he's there sometimes seven days a week, donning an apron and helping customers get what they need. Especially

once the warmer weather arrives.

"Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are very busy for me," he said. "After May 1, my business going booming crazy."

But that doesn't keep the

smile off of his face, especially during May. That's because Senate Coney Island, first opened by Dimopoulos's uncle, is celebrating its 80th anniversary this month, a testament to the planning and business sense Dimopoulos and his fam-

ily members has had. It's such a special occasion, all the restaurants are offering \$1 coney dogs throughout the month of May. It's a deal, he said, that plenty of people are taking

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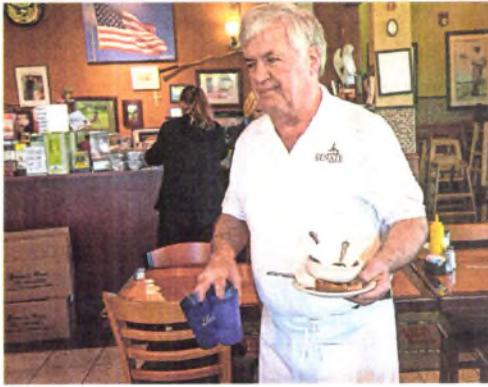
SENATE

Continued from Page A1

advantage of.

"We're selling three times the hot dogs," he said. "I can't believe it. People are eating four, five, six hot dogs."

The first Senate opened in 1937 on Michigan Avenue in Detroit. Restaurants have opened and closed throughout the years and, currently, Senate operates restaurants in Northville Township, Livonia, Dearborn and Taylor, as well as a franchise location in South Lyon. In 1969, Dimopoulos immigrated to the United States from his native Greece and came to Detroit, where his family had set up roots and began working in the restaurant business. It was a natural fit for him: he served as a cook during his time in



George Dimopoulos clears tables.

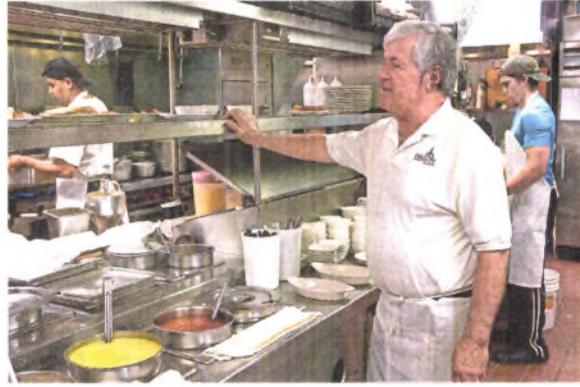
the Greek army.

While the traditional Greek food and specialties may get the customers in the door, it seems the friendliness of Dimopoulos is keeping them. Go into the Northville Township restaurant and it's likely you'll find some community group hold-

ing its gathering there. It's because Dimopoulos wants to make his restaurants more than just a place to get food: he wants to make them gathering places.

One such group is Doorkeepers, a non-denominational Christian ministry group for men. It meets at the Northville Township Senate Coney Island several times a month for the past five years. Dimopoulos puts out a breakfast buffet, something that's deeply appreciated by the members who attend.

"We would have come



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM
George Dimopoulos says that you won't find canned soups or packaged hash browned potatoes at his restaurants. They cook from scratch.

earlier, but we didn't," said Kev McKenna, a Livonia resident and member of Doorkeepers. "George gives (to) us out of the goodness of his heart."

Perseverance

It's never easy to keep up in the restaurant business, as Dimopoulos will tell you. All one has to do is look at Plymouth Road in Livonia, where Senate Coney Island has operated since 1985 at Plymouth and Stark. Plenty of restaurants along the road have opened and closed. Senate has remained.

"I never give up. I

never want to give up," he said. "Keep going. That's my philosophy."

That perseverance was recognized earlier this month during a ceremony at the Livonia restaurant. Dimopoulos was honored by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and leadership from Livonia and Northville Township, who gathered to celebrate his family's success and to indulge in a hot dog covered in chili, mustard and onions.

"Thank you so much for what you've done for our city," Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright said. "You've done so much, we can't thank you

enough."

And while the day isn't here yet, Dimopoulos said he's eventually looking forward to coming into the restaurant only a few days a week instead of almost every day. A retirement, of sorts, that may include some golf and vacations. But not yet.

"I look forward to retiring someday," he said. "Not completely retire, because I just like to be here with people. I love it."

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PROGRAM

Continued from Page A1

"Where we need street repairs, we will do emergency repairs in the neighborhoods," Wild said. "We will look at how we handle local and major street funds."

The view looking at the city's list of road conditions is a lot different than standing in the middle of that street to see it up close, Wild said.

"A lot of it will be concrete paving repair. The response from the residents has been very good," he said.

Headed by Deputy

DPS Director Hassan Saab, the Neighborhood Services Department also has responsibility for ordinance enforcement and addressing blight in the city. Those duties were transferred from the Fire Department.

"We're getting squared up on our list of vacant homes, looking at the grass at the vacant homes. So far, it has all been positive," Wild said.

Over the last few years, Wild said the city shored up a lot of the municipal infrastructure. That includes a new city hall, fire station and opening the Jefferson-Barns Community Vital-

ity Center.

"Our city is 50 years. We are making our way through the city. Hopefully, it will improve property values, which is good for all," Wild said. "Westland is a bedroom community. All these different neighborhoods have not seen this kind of attention in the history of the city."

This program was talked about last year, he said, but the city was handling a lot of other projects. Now, he said, DPS is down to finishing up work on Central City Parkway and the Farmers Market Pavilion.

"I think prior elected officials managed the

decline of the city. When I became mayor, every area needed work," Wild said.

The administrative staffing in DPS — Saab and Director Ramzi E-Gharib, who are both engineers — provides the expertise needed for major infrastructure projects, he added.

"That wasn't true in the past. They have great expertise in water and sewer maintenance," Wild said.

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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, June 6, 2017, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

Petition 2017-05-01-02 submitted by Brian Duggan, on behalf of Soave/Oro Construction, L.L.C., pursuant to Section 23.01 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, requesting to rezone the property at 18761 Farmington Road, located on the west side of Farmington Road between Pickford and Clarita Roads in the Northeast ¼ of Section 9, from OS (Office Services) to R-1 (One Family Residential - 60' x 120' lots).

Petition 2017-05-01-03 submitted by Brian Duggan, on behalf of Soave/Oro Construction, L.L.C., pursuant to Section 23.01 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, requesting to rezone the properties at 18491, 18489, 18481, 18477, 18451, 18431, 18421, and 18363 Farmington Road, located on the west side of Farmington Road between Pickford and Curtis Roads in the Northeast ¼ of Section 9, from OS (Office Services) to R-1 (One Family Residential - 60' x 120' lots).

The above-mentioned petitions 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
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: May 21, 2017

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UBER

Continued from Page A1

forward to helping ensure the safety of all Michiganders who look for convenient and affordable ways to get around," CSCL Director Julia Dale said in a statement. "By vetting prospective companies, we're also helping protect those who want to earn extra income by providing rides."

Learn the surge

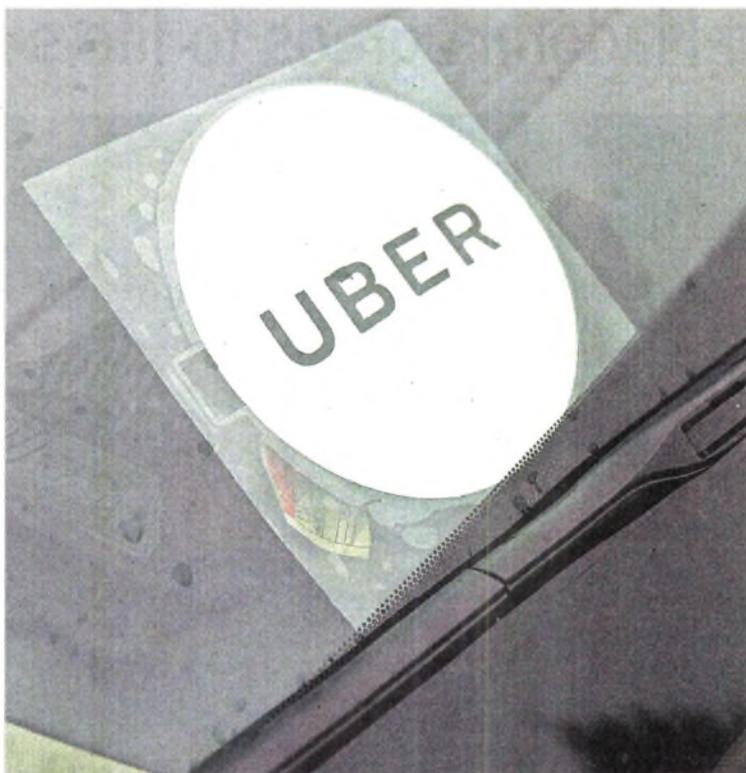
When it comes to driving, Fleshner will find himself typically in one of three cities: Detroit, Ann Arbor or East Lansing. That's where the best rates tend to come, especially on a weekend evening with a lot of people looking for a ride. Called a "surge," those instances tend to see rates begin to increase on a multiplying basis.

"A surge is caused when more riders have their app open in the area than drivers," he said. "That draws people that are close. Surges don't last long, except for Friday nights at 2 a.m."

That's why Fleshner loves driving from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. weekends in college towns. Not only that, but he'll routinely drive much shorter distances in that time than he would out in the suburbs like Livonia, resulting in a better paycheck.

He's had his share of bad experiences out of those 5,000 rides. The worst, he said are the "drunk, arguing couples." Fleshner recalled two such rides he gave to such couples, including one that was nearly 25 minutes and resulted in him pulling over to tell them both to knock it off.

"I got back on the road and five minutes in they were back at it again," he said.



Ready for rides.



Jeff Fleshner's cellphone connects him to Uber and clients.

While he's not ever used the service as a rider, Fleshner said he'll plan on driving for years to come as long as he's making money.

He makes enough money at Madonna University to pay his bills, but having that extra cash in his pocket is great for his traveling and for spoiling his grandchildren.

"I like it and I do it for a purpose. My grandkids benefit a lot from me driving," he said. "I'm not leaving much after I'm dead. Nobody's going to be fighting over my will."

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WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS

Radio stolen from vehicle

Westland police were called May 14 to the 29000 block of Manchester on the report of a radio stolen from a vehicle.

When police arrived, they spoke to a resident, who said someone had recently broken into their vehicle through a rear window and stole a radio and GPS system. No evidence was left at the scene and no suspect information was available.

Man seen going through vehicle

A resident who lives in the 38000 block of Capri Terrace filed a police report May 9 on the report of someone seen going through one of her vehicles.

She said her youngest son told her he saw someone going through her vehicle earlier in the day. She said her car was unlocked and had been gone through and was missing two credit cards that are no longer operational. She said she believes such break-ins were happening frequently at her apartment complex.

Catalytic converter taken

A resident who lives in the 7500 block of Drew Circle filed a police report May 8 regarding the theft of a catalytic converter.

The resident said the catalytic converter was taken sometime between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. that day. He said he parked the car that morning and began driving it that afternoon. While driving it, he discovered it was making a strange noise. After investigating, he

discovered the converter was missing.

Tires taken

Police were called May 11 to the 8200 block of Woodcrest on the report of a rim and tire taken from a vehicle.

The resident said it appeared someone had tried to take the three other rims and tires from the vehicle, but was unsuccessful. The vehicle was left resting on one landscaping block with a rim and tire missing. The resident also said there was some damage done to the passenger door.

Bicycle found

Police were called May 8 to the 30000 block of Hively on the report of a found bicycle.

The caller told police he found a BMX bicycle on his property in the driveway and no one was around. Police checked the bicycle's serial number, which resulted in no record of it being lost. The bicycle was tagged and brought back to the police station.

Vehicle mirror damaged

A resident who lives in the 1900 block of Venoy came into the police station the morning of May 12 to report some damage done to a vehicle mirror.

He said he parked the car the day before in front of his residence with all his mirrors intact. The next morning, he found the driver's side mirror on his vehicle dangling and damaged.

- Compiled from reports filed with the Westland Police Department.

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Local doctors send Madonna grads to life's next step

Livonia husband and wife physicians were the keynote speakers at Madonna University's 70th commencement ceremonies May 13 at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Stella Salgado Evangelista, M.D., spoke at the 10:30 a.m. graduation exercise for some 400 doctoral, master's and undergraduate nursing and health graduates. Jose Limjoco Evangelista, M.D., gave the address at the 2 p.m. ceremony to approximately 700 undergraduate students in the school of business and colleges of arts and humanities, education and natural and social sciences.

"We are honored the Evangelistas could share their secrets for success with our graduates this year and we are pleased to bestow on them honorary doctorates," Madonna President Michael A. Grandillo said. "Medical trail blazers, philanthropists and entrepreneurs, these accomplished doctors have achieved and led in a variety of endeavors and they are staunch supporters of Catholic higher education. The Madonna community is blessed to have them take part in this exciting day for our students."

The Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to Timothy W. Turner, who graduated in 1987 with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice. He went on to graduate from the Detroit Police Academy and to serve on the Wayne County S.W.A.T. team. He also worked as an undercover narcotics officer with the Michigan State Police Narcotics Cocaine Task Force.

Following his law enforcement service, Turner achieved an extraordinary 30-year career providing leadership, expertise and service in the insurance industry. Currently, he is chairman and CEO of RT Specialty, the wholesale brokerage operation of Ryan Specialty Group, a global specialty insurance organization.

The Evangelistas have worked to improve Filipino-American relations and to create jobs in Livonia and southeast

Michigan. In recognition of their exemplary contributions to ethnic diversity, they were inducted into the International Institute Hall of Fame in 1990, the first Filipinos and the first couple ever to be inducted.

Both received the Asian American Hall of Fame Award in Medicine and Government Service and were named one of 20 outstanding Filipino-Americans in the United States by the Fil-Am Image magazine of Washington, D.C. They are the proud parents of six successful children, who have blessed them with four grandchildren. Their unwavering commitment to the pursuit of excellence across many aspects of life is held together by their faith and love of God.

An honorary doctor of humane letters degree was conferred upon servant of humanity, Stella Salgado Evangelista, who graduated magna cum laude in 1963 from the Cebu Institute of Technology and received a doctorate of medicine from the University of Santo Tomas in 1968. From 1983-93, she was chief of pediatrics at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. She also served as president of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America from 1993-94.

She was the first woman elected to the presidency and the first Filipino and first Asian to be appointed to the Michigan State Board of Medicine, serving two terms from 1986-93. Stella Evangelista served as executive director and later president of the University of Santo Tomas Medical Association Alumni Foundation. A former member of the Michigan State Board of Pharmacy, she became a member of the Congressional Asian American Pacific Caucus.

An honorary doctor of international relations degree was bestowed upon Jose Evangelista, who has spent the last 13 years serving as honorary consul general of the Philippines, the highest ranking Philippine official in the state of Michigan. He also is a former chief of staff at St. Mary Hospital in



Christina Harris of Livonia earned her degree in business administration, with high honors.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY



Tim Turner was honored as the university's distinguished alumnus.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY



Madonna President Michael A. Grandillo, Ph.D., and Eileen M. Ashley, board chairperson, confer honorary doctorates upon Livonia physicians Stella Salgado Evangelista and Jose Limjoco Evangelista.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY

Livonia and a past president of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America.

Since 1986 he has been the CEO of the J.S. Evangelista Development LLC, a construction and



Leah London of Ecorse and her mother Victoria Watts of Inkster earned a master's in nursing and a master's in pastoral ministry, respectively.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY

development company based in West Bloomfield. He also is president and CEO of the Royal Management Co. From 1994 to 2000, he served on

the board of the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation of the U.S. Department of Education.

WAYNE POLICE BRIEFS

Car stolen

Wayne police were called the afternoon of May 13 to a residence in the 35800 block of Michigan Avenue on the report of a stolen vehicle.

Police spoke to the victim, who said he parked his car in the parking lot earlier that morning and locked it. When he returned about 12 hours later, he found the vehicle missing. He said he had both sets of keys and was not behind in any payments on the

vehicle.

Amazon account hacked

A resident who lives in the 4100 block of Third filed a police report May 10, claiming they had been the victim of a fraud.

The resident said she noticed her phone would not sync to her email. The victim's husband was checking their Amazon account and noticed a camera in their shopping cart. He deleted it, but noticed another shipping address in Miami, Fla., listed on their account. They deleted the credit

cards attached to the account and tried to reset the password, but the service would not allow for it. They contacted Amazon, which tried to get the account straightened out. Later, they received a notification from a credit monitoring agency that listed suspicious activity on their accounts.

ID theft

A resident who lives in the 4000 block of Hayes filed a police report May 10 about an identity theft that had taken place.

The resident said they found out someone had opened a U-verse account

in Detroit in their name. They said they called U-verse, though the company would not release the address where service was because of security concerns. The resident then wanted to file a police report and press charges.

Phone taken

A victim who said she was in the 4300 block of Wayne back on May 1 filed a police report over her cellphone, which had gone missing.

She said she was at a friend's house with her phone plugged into a radio playing music. She then went to the store with her friend and came back 20 minutes later to find her phone missing. She said she had a friend track where her phone was and had an address of where it was at that time.

— Compiled from reports filed with the Wayne Police Department



Steve Kay, principal/CTE director (from left), Victoria Batko, Sarah Marshall, EMT/firefighter instructor Cary Thompson and Zachary MacLean, Electronics/Robotics/Alternative Energy instructor.

COURTESY WAYNE-WESTLAND SCHOOLS

Students breaking traditions at career technical center

Two students from the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center were honored at the Michigan Department of Education's 2017 Breaking Traditions Awards ceremony, along with 27 other high school students from the state.

Victoria Batko is a senior at John Glenn High School and a student in the electronics/robotics/alternative energy program at the Career-Technical Center.

Sarah Marshall is a

senior at Wayne Memorial High School and a student in the firefighter program at the Career-Technical Center.

The Breaking Traditions ceremony honors the accomplishments of Michigan students who are enrolled in a career and technical education program and are training for a nontraditional career for their gender.

The students received a trophy and a certificate at the ceremony May 11 at the Library of Michigan in Lansing.

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF WAYNE NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate File No. 2017-827549-DE In Re The Estate of ROLLAND R. O'HARE, deceased Date of Birth: 09/19/1925

TO ALL CREDITORS: Notice to Creditors: The decedent, ROLLAND R. O'HARE, who lived at 8162 E. Jefferson Avenue, Apt. 17A, Detroit, Michigan 48214, died April 15, 2017. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Allan J. O'Hare, 4141 68th Street, Apt. 2, Woodside, New York 11377 or Heather O'Hare Thomas, 4320 Hope Valley Drive, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278, named Co-Personal Representatives, or to both the probate court at WAYNE COUNTY PROBATE COURT, 1007 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226 and the named Co-Personal Representatives within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 05/11/2017

Attorney Name: Bar No. Laura Ann Schreiner P 56533 800 West Long Lake Road, Suite 160 Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302-2057 (248) 642-1066

Personal Representative Name: Allan J. O'Hare and Heather O'Hare Thomas 41-41 68th Street, Apt. 2, Woodside, NY 11377 and 4320 Hope Valley Drive, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Publish: 05/21/17 LC-0000320543 1x4

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Request for Public Bid

American Montessori Academy will be seeking public bids for the renovation of a 3rd - 8th grade facility in Westland, MI. Bid documents will be available beginning May 31st, 2017. All bids must be received sealed by 4:15 PM on June 13th, 2017. Bids will be opened starting at 4:15 PM, on June 13th at American Montessori Academy, located at 14800 Middlebelt Rd, Livonia, MI 48154. Bids must be accompanied by a sworn & notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder & any member of the board or superintendent of the Academy. Bidders shall supply a 5% bid bond. For an RFP, you may view at: <http://www.bid4michigan.com>.

Published: May 21, 2017 LC 6066323728 2x2

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Clint McDermott (left), research and development manager for Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America Inc., presents to Greg Ososky, automotive technical instructor of LCTC, a Mitsubishi Endeavor that will be used for instructional purposes.

Mitsubishi donates vehicle to Livonia technical center

Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America Inc. recently donated a Mitsubishi Endeavor, a cross-utility vehicle built by Mitsubishi Motors, to the Livonia Career Technical Center. The LCTC is a high school program that provides automotive repair curriculum to junior and senior students.

The vehicle was previously used to demonstrate various Mitsubishi Electric technologies to customers, including engine components,

starters, alternators, exhaust gas recirculation valves, radios and more.

The Endeavor was presented by Clint McDermott, research and development manager, Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America Inc., and accepted by Greg Ososky, automotive technical instructor, LCTC. The LCTC will immediately place the crossover SUV into service as a "test vehicle" to teach students about automotive fuse maintenance and technology.

"On behalf of the students and staff at the Livonia Career Tech Center, I would like to thank Mitsubishi Electric for the donation of the vehicle to the automotive technology program," Ososky said. "It has caused a lot of excitement and the students are very eager to begin working on it."

LCTC currently offers automotive programs that focus on disassembly, inspection, diagnostic testing, repair and reassembly.

Olga's has grand reopening ceremony

Olga's Kitchen, known for its signature, grilled-to-order secret recipe Olga Bread, recently celebrated the grand reopening of its Laurel Park Place Mall restaurant following an extensive remodel. This is the first Olga's Kitchen mall location to undergo a full remodel.

"When we purchased Olga's Kitchen in late 2015, we knew the historic brand deserves better and more," said Mark Schostak, executive chairman of TEAM Schostak Family Restaurants and owner of Olga's Kitchen.

"We've been diligent in remodeling our Olga's Kitchen locations, including our Laurel Park Place Mall location, to create a warm, inviting atmosphere where guests can see their meal



Olga's Kitchen recently celebrated the grand reopening of its Laurel Park Place Mall restaurant following an extensive remodel.

cooked fresh and enjoy our menu featuring the favorites Detroiters have come to love."

TEAM Schostak, headquartered in Livonia, has a strong commitment to Olga's Kitchen's 47-year legacy, bringing back popular menu items and

buying high-quality ingredients and locally-sourced products whenever possible.

The Laurel Park Place Mall location is one of 25 Olga's Kitchen locations in Michigan and one in Illinois.

Kitten rescued from Little Caesars Arena

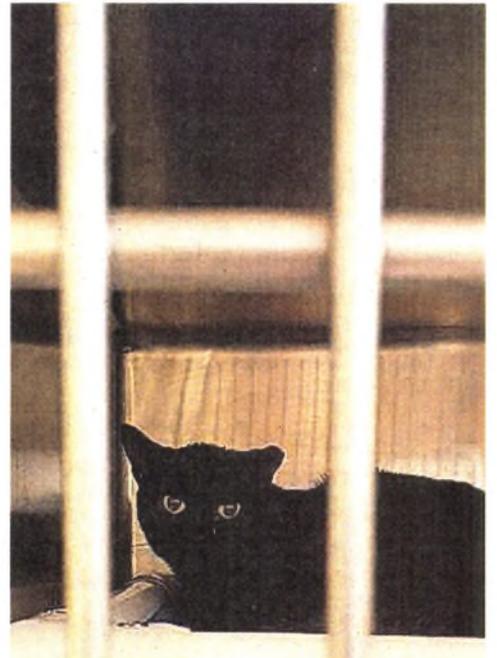
Detroit's highly anticipated Little Caesars Arena won't open until the fall, but a six-month-old kitten wanted in on the action early.

Construction workers noticed the feral black kitten wasn't wearing a hardhat. But they didn't just contact their supervisor — they wanted to save her. So they reached out to a "Trap-Neuter-Return" volunteer — someone who humanely catches outdoor cats in live traps; takes them to a veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated and ear-tipped for identification; and releases them back to the area they know.

Of course, "Little Squeesars," named after the area where she was found, couldn't safely be returned to the construction site. She was taken to a Detroit area shelter. The shelter kept the kitten for a month, then informed the volunteer they would be euthanizing the kitten.

"I couldn't let that happen," the volunteer said. "These compassionate construction workers reached out to save her; how could I let them down by letting the kitten they'd rescued be put down?"

The volunteer contacted the Humane Society of Huron Valley, whose community cat coordinator found a safe, outdoor location for Little Squeesars. "Returning unsocial cats to their original



"Little Squeesars" was rescued from the new Little Caesars Arena in Detroit.

location, where they were thriving, is a really important part of TNR," said Cheryl Szkutnicki, HSHV's community cat coordinator. "But in cases where there is demolition or other direct threats like animal cruelty, we look for relocation options."

Little Squeesars isn't the first animal this year to be saved by concerned construction workers. Last month, HSHV responded to a call about five baby foxes on a demolition

site in Dexter. "As we just saw with the family of foxes, demolition and construction creates danger and displacement for animals that live outdoors. When private companies, compassionate individuals and humane organizations work together, we can often find positive solutions," says Tanya Hildendorf, HSHV's president and CEO. "Sometimes it takes a little creativity and extra effort. But it's always worth it."

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Garden City Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on a request to establish a fast food restaurant with a drive-through facility at the property located at 33011 Ford Road. Fast food restaurants with a drive-through facility are a special land use in the C-2 Community Business District.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

Publish: Sunday, May 21, 2017

LD-0000120728 3x2.5

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN COMMERCIAL GRADE TREADMILLS

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, June 6th, 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 COMMERCIAL GRADE TREADMILLS, 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.

Edward Davis
Superintendent, Parks & Rec

Dennis K. Wright
Mayor

Publish: May 21, 2017

LD-0000120884 3x4

LD-0000119210



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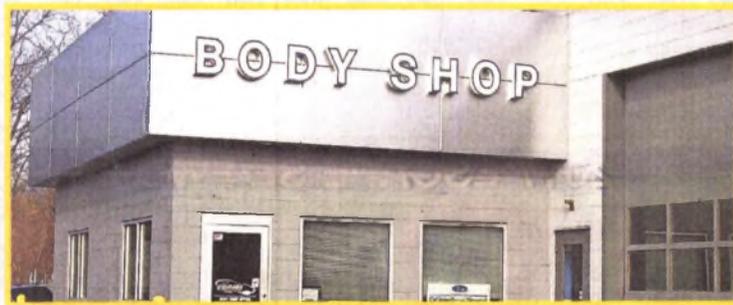
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WAYNE COUNTY EVENTS

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com.

Senior luncheon

The next free luncheon at Salem National Lutheran Church in Westland will be at 11 a.m. May 24. The church is at 32430 Ann Arbor Trail.

Festival of Song

The Langford Men's Chorus will be in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 36375 Joy Road, Westland.

The internationally renowned chorus will present its third concert in the 2017 Festival of Song series. The concert repertoire includes music from many genres, such as spirituals, classical compositions, Broadway and doo-wop.

Advance tickets are \$15 and will be available at the church. Tickets on the day of the concert are \$18. Tickets can also be ordered at langfordmenschorus.org

For more information, email dhcatherman@aol.com or call 248-478-1336.

DIA coming to Plymouth

The Detroit Institute of Art will be visiting PARC-Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex to give an enlightening and educative presentation as part of the Inside/Out Plymouth program.

The Behind the Seen: Art Talk "Picturing Music" will be given by Cynthia Patrick at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 23. The evening also includes special performances by the Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and the MSOT Children's Chorus, which will immediately follow the presentation. For more information, call 734-937-4090.

Senior luncheon

The next free luncheon at Salem National Lutheran Church in Westland will be at 11 a.m. May 24. The church is at 32430 Ann Arbor Trail.

Angels for Isabelle and Elliott fundraiser

A fundraising event to raise money to cover costs of medical care for two young Plymouth residents — Elliott, age 3, who has autism, and Isabelle, age 2, who has stage 4 cancer and Sotos syndrome — is being held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 4, at Summit in the Park in Canton.

The event is \$15 for adults 13 and up, \$10 for children 12 and under. Tickets are presale only at www.eventbrite.com/vevent?eid=33881167484 or in the Facebook event page facebook.com/events/1900331323584096.

The event features a full breakfast buffet in a beautiful setting, white linens and china. There will be a live DJ, live music from a local band, magician Steven Skindell performing, costumed Disney princesses from the local Plymouth Canton theater group for photos, face painting, a 50/50 cash raffle, and a prize-based raffle with over fifty different prizes donated by local businesses. All prizes are on display on Facebook page www.facebook.com/angelsforisabelleandelliott/.

Sounds of the Spirit

Music of the Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist and Native American faiths will be featured at Sounds of the Spirit, an

interfaith event set for 3-6 p.m. Sunday, June 11, in Plymouth.

Presented by the InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit, this is the second in a series of musical presentations and panel discussions to increase respect and understanding among diverse faiths, cultures and races.

Sounds of the Spirit will be hosted by Mata Tripta Ji Gurdwara Sahib, located at 40600 Schoolcraft Road in Plymouth.

The program includes music performed on the traditional instruments of these faiths: Native Drumming, Mary Voves; Sikh Krtaan, Yashpreet Matharu and Manjot Matharu; Soka Gakkai International (SGI) Nichiren Buddhist Music, Carolyn Ferrari; Hindu Devotional on the Veena, Parashar Athmakuri and Deekshita Athmakuri accompanied by Rajasekhar Athmakuri on mrudangam; Sacred Wave Gong Immersion, Christopher Davis.

The event is open to the public with a cost of \$10 per person; children under 10 are free. To register in advance, visit tinyurl.com/soundsofthespirit2. Tickets, which include refreshments, also can be purchased at the door for \$13.

Crohn's & Colitis support group

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Michigan Chapter holds a monthly support group for patients and caregivers affected by Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

The Farmington Hills IBD Support Group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at Beaumont Hospital, Ziegler A & Center, Class-

rooms A & B at 28050 Grand River Ave. in Farmington Hills.

The next meeting is Thursday, May 25. This group will take the summer off and not meet in June, July or August 2017. For more information, call 248-737-0900, ext. 2 or email michigan@crohnscolitisfoundation.org.

21st annual Kidney Walk

For the past 21 years, more than 70,000 metro Detroit walkers and supporters have teamed up to raise more than \$6 million for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's annual Kidney Walk and this year the goal is to raise \$600,000 more to fight kidney disease Sunday, May 21, at the Detroit Zoo. Walk day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the walk kicks off at 8:45 a.m.

Participants can register on-site on the day of the walk or online before the walk date. For more information, go to www.nkfm.org/walks or call Lisa Schutz Jelic at the NKFM at 800-482-1455, ext. 210.

Registration is \$25 per person (over the age of 12) and \$10 per child for ages 3-12 and includes parking, zoo admission and activities. Kids under the age of 2 years old are free. Additional fundraising beyond the registration fee is encouraged. Participants who raise \$100 or more receive a Kidney Walk T-shirt.

Good News Day Camp

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia is hosting Good News Day Camp, a Christian, full-day camp for ages 5 through completing sixth grade, starting June 19-23.

Activities include

opening and closing worship and praise, singing, games, arts and crafts, nature activities, Bible study, large group activities, snacks and more. Early-bird registration is \$65 for the first child in the family, \$60 for the second child, and \$55 for each additional child. After May 28, registration is \$70 per child.

Contact Judy Cook at 248-442-8822 or judy@emmanuel-livonia.org for more information. Deadline to register is Monday, June 12. Emmanuel Lutheran is at 34567 Seven Mile Road.

Canton artist featured at Westland exhibit

Award-winning Canton artist Sharon Lee Dillenbeck will exhibit her unique impressionistic style watercolors and oil paintings in a solo exhibition at Westland's Gallery at City Hall during the month of June. Over 60 works of her delicately rendered original art will include florals, landscapes, seascapes, family portraits, O'Keefe-like pieces, oriental and still life; the largest collection of her works ever on display.

Dillenbeck is well known in the community as owner of D&M Art Studio, which she founded over 30 years ago and art collectors look forward to visiting her booth at Plymouth's Art in the Park every summer to buy her much coveted work. D&M offers art classes for people of all ages and skill level in a variety of mediums, has summer art camps for kids, sells art supplies and is an art gallery showcasing work by Dillenbeck and many pieces by her talented students, past and present.

Everyone is invited to attend her free reception, which is set for 4-7 p.m. Friday, June 16. Guests can purchase her original hanging works of art and during the reception there will also be matted originals, note cards, any adult who brings a child will receive a free art class for their little artist at D&M Art Studio in Canton. Plus there will be free face painting for the kids. Light refreshments will be served.

This exhibition, sponsored by the Three Cities Art Club, will be on display from June 1-30 at the Gallery at City Hall in Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road. For more information, call Dillenbeck at 734-673-2002 or Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939.

Tapped In The 'Ville

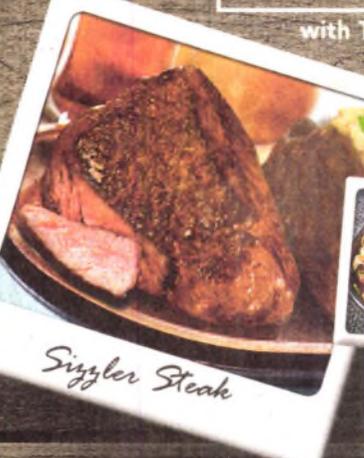
Tickets are on sale for Tapped in the 'Ville, Northville's inaugural craft beer festival. The festival will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 24, at Millennium Park. Tickets can be purchased at www.northville.org or at the chamber office. A limited number will be available on the day of the event. The festival will also include food trucks, live entertainment and a corn hole tournament.

The \$30 admission ticket includes 10 three-ounce tasting tickets, a 12-ounce festival mug and optional registration for the corn hole tournament.

Participating breweries include Arbor Brewing, Founders Brewing Co., Dragonmead Brewery, Great Lakes Brewing, North Center Brewing Co., Griffin Claw Brewing Co., Oskar Blues Brewing, Roak Brewing Co., Saugatuck Brewing Co. and Shiner Beers.

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Local vet takes job at state poultry ranch

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

When it comes to raising chickens, Alex Strauch is the man.

The North Farmington High School graduate has accepted a position as staff veterinarian with Herbruck's Poultry Ranch, which is the largest chicken farm in Michigan and the 13th largest in the country. Strauch, 27, will be responsible for the welfare of millions of poultry whose eggs supply clients such as McDonald's restaurants, Costco and Meijer stores.

He starts his new job Monday.

"We service every McDonald's east of the Mississippi for their eggs," Strauch said. "Every time you get that Egg McMuffin for breakfast, we're the ones who supplied the eggs."

Located in Saranac, the poultry ranch has more than 7 million

chickens. They're divided into different sites — conventional, organic, cage-free housing, a brown egg-laying site — and each site has its own farming goal to cater to the various markets.

Strauch will be responsible for reviewing the many protocols necessary to ensure the flock's health, such as lighting or vaccine programs. He'll be consulted on nutritional programs and will handle any troubleshooting issues that might crop up.

"When everything is running like a well-oiled machine, life can be easy," he said. "But you always have to be prepared."

Strauch, who was homecoming king of his senior class at North Farmington, earned a four-year degree in zoology at Michigan State University prior to attending veterinary medical school. He was a four-year member of the

school's rugby team and pledged Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

Peacocks and crocodile hunters

His family lives in Bloomfield Hills. But growing up, Strauch lived right across the street from the Detroit Zoo.

"I could literally hear the peacocks and the seals barking," he said. "And I loved Steve Irwin growing up — he really sparked my love of animals."

In his last year of veterinary school, he took a course on poultry medicine that included trips to turkey operations, duck operations — and a visit to Herbruck's, a family business that was founded in 1958.

"We had just wrapped up a great tour and the vice president of poultry operation said they were thinking of adding a full-time staff vet, because they were expanding,"

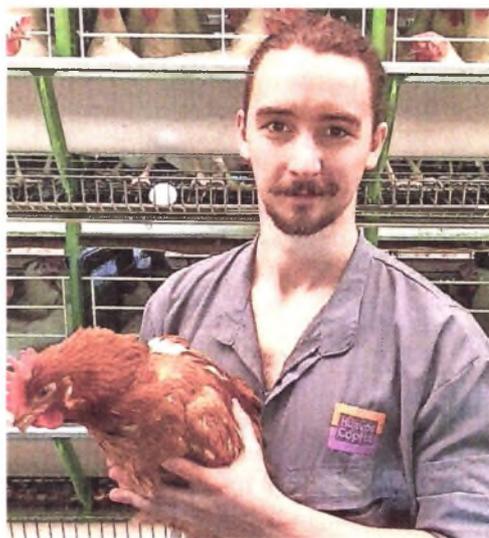
Strauch said. "Right before we filed into the van, I gave him a business card and said, 'I'm your guy' and, two weeks later, I got a call. The business card actually worked."

Make no mistake — Strauch knows his chickens. He recently returned from a trip to South America, where he spent three weeks studying management operations on a poultry ranch in Chile.

Serve the bird

Asked about the biggest challenges in managing millions of chickens, Strauch said it's trying to cater to an ever-changing marketplace demand.

"The consumer base is demanding certain growing and housing demands for chickens and we're doing our best to cater to those concerns," he said. "At the same time, we have to make sure we're not compromising the



Local veterinarian Dr. Alex Strauch has accepted a job at the largest poultry ranch in Michigan.

health of our birds."

At the end of the day, Strauch said it's his mission to raise a healthy chicken.

"I'm going to follow the science," he said. "I'm going to base my decisions on research

rather than my emotions to make sure we're doing the right thing and serving the bird. That's the take-home message at Herbruck's — serve the bird."

grossman@hometownlife.com

How to deal with unexpected loss of income

Q: I have a problem I hope you can help me with. I have talked to a couple of people, but I don't trust them. I am 55 and recently unexpectedly unemployed. I get severance pay, but that ends at the end of September. I am going to try to find another job, but I doubt I'll find one. My question deals with our finances. The problem comes after my severance ends. My wife's salary alone won't cover our living expenses. If I don't get a job, I figure we'll need about \$2,000 a month to cover our expenses. I'm only concerned about the



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

next five years, as when I'm 60, I will get a nearly \$3,000 a month pension from a previous job. To cover my shortfall, I am thinking about withdrawing money from my IRA. I have nearly \$100,000 in my IRA. Option 2 is to have my wife take a 401(k) loan and to charge the rest. Our charge card only charges us 9 percent. Option 3, my least favorite, is to use a home equity loan. Our

house is paid off and we've been approved to borrow about \$95,000 based upon my wife's salary alone.

A: I'm sorry to hear about your job situation. My advice is to stay positive in your search for a job. Remember, you're not looking for a career at this point in time. You're just looking for a job and there is a difference between the two. In addition, you don't necessarily have to get a full-time job, you can also think about working part time. Even working part time will help.

In reviewing your situation and knowing that at most you have a

five-year period that needs to be covered, I actually believe that option 3 is your best option. Not only are rates currently low for home equity loans and mortgages, but the interest is also tax-deductible. After taxes, the money is going to cost you 3 percent or less. Compare that to the cost of the other two options. With option 1, because you are younger than 59½, when you withdraw money from your IRA, in addition to the taxes, you will also have to pay a 10-percent penalty. With option 2, even though your charge card interest rate is lower than most other charge

cards, the interest is still very high and it is not tax-deductible. In addition, let's not forget that there is also a cost to borrowing from your 401(k) plan.

I am cognizant that most home equity loans have adjustable-rate interest, which means that as interest rates rise, the cost of borrowing on a home equity loan will also rise. However, keep in mind that as interest rates rise, we'll also see increases in the rates charged by other lenders, including charge card companies.

I believe that using the home equity loan gives someone the most flexibility. After all, if something changes in the future, you can also go back to either of the oth-

er options, but you won't necessarily have the same flexibility with them.

It definitely pays to shop around for a home equity loan. Not all home equity loans are the same and there can certainly be major differences with regard to cost. My advice — go online, learn a little about home equity loans and then start shopping around for the one that best suits your situation. In shopping, don't forget to look at your credit union, as it can be very competitive with costs and rates.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. If you would like him to respond to questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Canton cops seek help identifying suspect in tire damage

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Canton police need the public's help identifying a suspect accused of puncturing a tire as he casually walked by a vehicle near Cherry Hill and Lotz.

"It's one guy, one incident, one sharp object

and an unknown motive," Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said.

Patty Esselink, the police department's community relations coordinator, issued a press release identifying the suspect only as a white male who was walking down Charterhouse Drive when the incident

happened the afternoon of May 12.

The release said the man "walks alongside a vehicle parked in the roadway and intentionally punctures the tire" before continuing southbound on Charterhouse, just west of the Canton-Westland border.

Anyone who has in-

formation is asked to call police at 734-394-5423.

dclcm@hometownlife.com
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CANTON POLICE
Canton police need help identifying this man.



I am an American We are One Nation

HELPING YOUNG WOMEN FIND VOICES

Mentor program uses writing for empowerment and to pave way to future

CHRIS WOODYARD
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.

LOS ANGELES - To Keren Taylor, there's no greater feeling than hearing an inner voice emerge from a shy young woman reaching into her soul to talk about herself through song lyrics, poetry or dramatic dialogue.

Taylor is the founder of WriteGirl, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that connects teenage girls with mentors with the goal of empowering them to express themselves in whatever genre suits them — poetry, journals, screenwriting, playwriting or another form. In 16 years, WriteGirl has grown to include 300 young women, all paired with mentors.

The goal is to be there for the girls, through thick and thin. "There might be a storm raging, but we are here to be fierce protectors of these young women and their future. It's not easy but sure feels good," Taylor says.

She says her mission began when she was working as a singer and songwriter in New York. Invited to speak about her craft in school classroom, she realized that she could connect to youths through different forms of writing in ways that traditional essays never could.

"Kids did not like to write at all. The light bulb came on when they saw they could write a song," Taylor says.

The focus isn't necessarily on correct grammar and spelling. Rather, Taylor says she and her mentors focus on content — trying to draw out pent-up feelings so girls can express themselves in a world where often they are overshadowed in classrooms by boys.

"I have great respect for what teachers have to go through, but we are outside of that system," Taylor says. "We found that students thrive when they write about things they know. ... They are given the freedom without pressure



ROBERT HANASHIRO/USA TODAY NETWORK

For Keren Taylor, founder of the mentoring organization WriteGirl, the goal is to be there for the girls in the program through thick and thin. "It's not easy but sure feels good," Taylor says.

or competition."

WriteGirl says it has a 100 percent success rate in getting women to apply to college. The program is expanding to include boys and is reaching past schools into correctional facilities. WriteGirl programs are starting in other cities.

What makes Taylor most proud? When program graduates "want to give back. When they graduate from college, they want to be of service."

ONE NATION NOMINATE AN AMERICAN

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

Keren Taylor

Location: Los Angeles

Age: 53

Profession: Community leader

Mission: To help young women

Q&A WITH KEREN TAYLOR

What does it mean to you to be an American?

To me, being an American means to be part of a diverse and vast country, as full of possibilities and imperfections as I am. It comes with responsibility, this citizenship of America — a responsibility to uphold and advance the country's founding principles of equality, justice and freedom. In my own way, I know I am doing my best to do my part on that front, in my own community, with hundreds of volunteers helping and contributing to this organization, WriteGirl, that I started 16 years ago!

What moment motivated you to launch this effort?

Teen girls in Los Angeles and other cities are faced with incredible challenges. ... To give them a place where they are supported by other women, and encouraged and inspired, is really something that lets me sleep at night, to know that we're helping teen girls feel like their voice matters. So I think the work that I did previously as a songwriter, as a writer, nothing has been as powerful as the kind of work I am doing now.

What gives you hope and what concerns you?

We really help girls write about their families, their neighborhood, their culture, and what they see is that they have much more in common with other teen girls than they realized. And sometimes we have them even reading the work of other girls outside of Los Angeles to get that cross-pollination. I think it's really important that people really look at their own stories and not be only looking outward to a story that's being told to them by others. Because our story is what makes us American, our own personal stories.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

What I love is bringing people together who otherwise might not meet and (giving) them the chance to see the things they have in common. Los Angeles is full of people who are passionate about a lot of different things, so to be able to have that dialogue happen and to be able to bridge their various views and perspectives is really a terrific thing.

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Big changes proposed for The Inn at St. John's

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Massive changes topping \$100 million are looming for The Inn at St. John's, an upscale Plymouth Township landmark and former Catholic seminary that offers a luxury hotel, golfing, gourmet dining and hosts events such as weddings, charity galas and corporate meetings.

Officials and developers have revealed a far-reaching makeover they say should position St. John's for the future. The property, southeast of Five Mile and Sheldon, dates back to 1948 and is owned by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Consider the changes:

» The 27-hole golf course would be reduced to 18 holes.

» Real estate company Toll Brothers aims to build 174 multi-family townhouses using a portion of the golf course. Mike Noles, the company's senior vice president of land development, said the homes are expected to start in the \$300,000 range and sell for as much as \$500,000.

» The monastery retreat center would be converted to 120 hotel rooms, doubling the number of guest rooms on the St. John's site.

» A three-acre parcel on the southwest corner of the property would be developed, possibly as a restaurant, retail shops, medical offices, an assisted living center or



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Far-reaching changes are proposed for the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township.

luxury apartments — depending on what appears feasible.

"We'll see what the market will support," said Leo Gonzalez, president of Plymouth-based Commercial Real Estate Services.

Gonzalez and others involved in the project rolled out proposed changes for the 175-acre site during a Plymouth Township Board of Trustees session May 2. The board is expected to vote as early as May 9 to give

the project the go-ahead by amending an earlier planned unit development agreement.

"I think it's a very good thing for Plymouth Township," Supervisor Kurt Heise said. "It shows that we are a very desirable community and that we're a destination residence for people looking for a unique living experience."

"I think this project is going to increase the profile of Plymouth Township and make us

even more desirable," he added. "I think we will attract new residents who want to possibly retire here and make Plymouth Township their home."

Noles said at least a portion of the new townhouses will be marketed to empty-nesters, residents who no longer have children at home.

Ned McGrath, archdiocese director of communications, said a decision to sell and develop a portion of the land will generate revenue that, in turn, can be used for other improvements.

"This is seen as an opportunity resulting from a purchase proposal and is seen as a way to build on St. John's financial and spiritual success," McGrath said.

He said it's too early to say when the project could start, but officials are "working hard toward a 2018 start date."

The current project aside, McGrath said there are no more immediate changes to announce.

"Due to the nature of the business, keeping the property current is always a challenge. The goal is to keep St. John's the very best," he said. "While there are no changes to be announced at this time, management is well aware of competitive trends. There is no plan to change the status of the chapel at St. John's or wedding ministry there."

Gonzalez said the

popularity of St. John's as a place for large weddings, receptions and other events points to the need for more hotel rooms.

Lyle Winn, senior project engineer with Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc., said the project would usher in some traffic-related changes, such as improving traffic lights, turn lanes and driveways at St. John's. Winn also said a popular St. John's event, the Concours d'Elégance, an annual show featuring some of the world's top classic automobiles, is being taken into consideration.

"It's very much in our discussions," he said.

Township Clerk Jerry Vorva said changes will allow St. John's to lure bigger conventions and other events. He also said the decision to reduce the

golf course from 27 holes to 18 makes sense.

"Golf is not as popular as it used to be," he said. "Getting rid of one of the nine holes is probably a good business move."

The Plymouth Township Planning Commission already has approved the St. John's proposal.

Township Trustee Bob Doroshewitz lauded the project, saying a decision to double the number of hotel rooms makes St. John's and the surrounding area a better destination. He said clusters of hotels can accommodate bigger events.

"I think it's a great project," he said, adding later, "I have no concerns at all with it."

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Dobreff



John L. John L. Dobreff, WWII veteran and loving father, died on May 15 at the age of 92. He was born in West Frankfort, Illinois. John was a loving husband to Betty Louise White (1/18/1924-12/17/2013). He served in the US Navy and was stationed on the LCIL 493, the first ship to transport troops to Omaha Beach (D Day). He is survived by son John (Michelle) Dobreff and daughter Brenda Stricklin. Services will be held at UH Funeral Home in Westland. Visitation Thursday(5/18) 5-9pm with a funeral on Friday(5/19) 10am. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhfh.com.

Leitch



Phyllis Emery Leitch formerly of Farmington Hills, Michigan and Salem, South Carolina departed this life on Monday May 15th, 2017 in Greenwood, South Carolina. Born in Detroit on August 8th, 1931 to Percy Lloyd and Georgiana Emery, Phyllis graduated from Redford High School in 1949. She studied music performance (clarinet and piano) at Michigan State University from 1950-1952 when she left to marry Dr. Jack Leitch.

Married to Jack for 56 years, their adventures together included being stationed in France with the United States Army for two years, raising three children born in three different decades (along with 4 golden retrievers and two cats, much to Jack's chagrin), and traveling the world, including a trip to Russia for their 50th anniversary. They had a playful rivalry of alma maters (Jack, a Michigan Wolverine and Phyllis, a Michigan State Spartan) but collectively enjoyed season tickets to University of Michigan Football for years. Most fall weekends were spent tailgating in Ann Arbor with Phyllis rooting for the Maize and Blue every game except one per year where she'd gleefully dress in Spartan Green and White, telling Jack to "deal with it."

She was a member of the Tuesday Musicales of Detroit, the Farmington Musicales, the Four Octave Club, the Friends of Four Hands, and the Keyboard Kaleidoscope of Farmington. She was a piano soloist with the Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra of Detroit in 1968, playing Rachmaninoff. In 1990, she enrolled at Wayne State University, finishing her degree in piano performance in 1993. After relocating with Jack to Salem, South Carolina in 1994 Phyllis founded the Piano Connection (a duo piano group) and the Kaleidoscope Piano Quartet.

Upon Jack's death in 2011, Phyllis moved to Wesley Commons in Greenwood, South Carolina. She became a member of "The Accidentals", a piano quartet and she accompanied the Wesley Commons Chorus.

She is survived by her children: Patricia Luper of Houston, TX; John Leitch and his wife Jessica of Phoenix, AZ; and Marianne Breneman and her husband Brian, of Raleigh, NC. Three grandsons: Jason Burke and his wife Jamie; Timothy Burke of Houston, TX and Nicholas Leitch of Phoenix, AZ. Three great-grandchildren: Carter, Madi, and Kennedy Burke of Houston, TX. Three brothers: Jack Emery of Georgetown, TX; Allan (Peggy) Emery of Ann Arbor, MI; and Donald Emery of Greeneville, TN. Also survived by her close companion Ted Armstrong of Greenwood, SC.

Donations in memory of Phyllis may be made to HospiceCare of the Piedmont, 408 West Alexander Ave, Greenwood, SC 29646 or online at hospicepiedmont.org

Real estate agent buys bikes for kids in need

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com

Milford Realtor Donna Charlick bought a bike for each of her 52 closings last year.

She gave them to Community Sharing, the Milford-area outreach center, and watched the lucky winners of its bike giveaway contest pick up their prizes May 3-4.

"I live in Highland and it has been on my heart to do something with Community Sharing, because it benefits the people in the community I live in and work with," said Charlick, an agent for Re/Max Classic. "I've been following Community Sharing for several years. I drive by and know people who donate their time there. It is right in my community and that was important."

With the help of her husband Bart, Charlick bought a variety of bikes in different sizes and for both boys and girls in December last year, thinking Community Sharing might give them away as Christmas gifts.

But Community Sharing volunteers had another idea.

"We thought spring would be a great time for the bikes and the kids would have an opportunity to get out on them immediately," said Susan Militello, a Community Sharing case-worker who coordinated the bike giveaway. "I'm glad we ended up doing it in the spring, because the kids can get on them now."

Clients were invited to participate in the contest by dropping one entry per child into one of several containers labeled with an age range and gender. Community Sharing received 146 entries for the bike contest. The organization bought helmets and locks for each winner.

"The parents were enthusiastic. We had a couple say it was their son's birthday in two days and he'd been wanting a bike. The other



LINDA BUSEN

Bart and Donna Charlick with some of the bikes they donated to Community Sharing.

nice thing that ended up happening was that we ended up with multiple winners in two families. I was real happy about that. It worked out so nice," Militello said, adding that three children in each of the two

families received bikes.

Charlick was happy to help.

"It was fun when I got the call and was asked to come and see the recipients. I told them I wanted to stay in the background. The kids were

pretty shy," she said. "It just made me feel happy and joyful that someone was getting something their family couldn't provide for them. It made me feel good."

sdargay@hometownlife.com

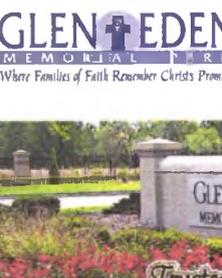
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Young



Loretta age 90 of Plymouth, passed away May 15, Beloved wife of the late Harold Young. Survived by 2 children, Janet (Richard) Wears and Leanne Young; 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Dearest sister of Paul Toupin. Visitation at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth on Thursday, May 18 from 3pm to 8pm. Funeral Service at Schrader-Howell 11am Friday, May 19. For full obituary and to share memories, visit www.schrader-howell.com



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PREP BOYS HOCKEY

Team Michigan makes noise at tournament

Opportunity knocking louder for area high school players thanks to strong showing at CCM-NIT in Minnesota

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

For years, major junior circuits such as the Ontario Hockey League were the preferred pipeline for hockey players with big-league aspirations.

Some played college hockey or went to leagues such as the North American Hockey League in hopes of getting noticed by NHL scouts.

High school hockey? Barely

a blip.

But the perception of prep pucks is changing, attitudes are coming around and folks in important positions are watching. Consider the recent CCM High School National Invitational Tournament at Plymouth (Minn.) Ice Center, where Team Michigan brought two teams (one with seniors, the other juniors).

Out of eight teams, Michigan Seniors made it to the finals before losing to Wisconsin Seniors, 3-1. The Michigan Juniors squad reached the third-/fourth-place contest for the first time. Both teams played four games in four days, in front of many scouts and coaches.

Big-league buzz

"The amount of scouts in the stands at the games, people don't believe it unless they're there," said Michigan Seniors

See HOCKEY, Page B7



Players and coaches of the Michigan Seniors hockey team enjoy some bonding time during the recent 2017 CCM-NIT in Minnesota.

Churchill offense not enough in 12-11 loss

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

On a day when Livonia Churchill's bats were ringing hits around the diamond, the Chargers could not stem the Walled Lake Central tide in a 12-11 defeat Wednesday.

In the Kensington Lakes Activities Association baseball crossover, Churchill came up short despite enjoying an 11-hit attack against the Vikings.

Spearheading the Chargers were Jake Osen (2-for-5, homer, two runs), Joe Wozniak (1-for-4, three runs) and Chris Sergison (2-for-5, two runs, three RBIs).

Osen took the loss in relief of starter Drew Alsobrooks, pitching two innings.

PLYMOUTH 10-10, CATHOLIC CENTRAL 1-6: On Wednesday, the visiting Wildcats swept a twinbill behind the pitching of Evan Good in the opener and Josh Janovsky in the nightcap.

WAYNE 11, PINCKNEY 10: Justin Johnson had a walk off two-out hit in the bottom of the seventh for the Zebras.

Collecting two hits each for Wayne were Johnson, Devin Puckett, Gio Ramirez, and Jalen Adams.

Ramirez pitched in relief and earned the victory. **CLARENCEVILLE 18, THURSTON 2:** Livonia Clarenceville (11-7, 8-1) scored eight times in the second inning and added 10 more in the third en route to a WWAC Red Division win May 17 over host

See BASEBALL, Page B2



TOM BEAUDOIN

Wednesday wasn't a good day for Redford Thurston, but senior catcher Dimitri Snell had reason to smile after doubling against Livonia Clarenceville.

COLLEGE SIGNING



DAVE CUMMINS

Getting in position for a rebound during a 2016-17 game is Livonia Churchill's Annie Yost.

YOST GETTING HER CHANCE

Churchill honor student to have opportunity to play Division I hoops at Central

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Annie Yost made up for lost time and she has a spot on a Division I women's basketball team as her reward.

The Livonia Churchill senior forward recently signed to play at Central Michigan University, but she didn't even

know she wanted to take that route when her junior year ended.

"What Annie was able to accomplish in such a short period of time is amazing," Chargers varsity girls basketball coach K'Len Morris said. "She really didn't have her heart set on playing college basketball until the end of her

junior year.

"Once she put her mind to it, Annie became a gym rat and started putting in the work that she needed to put in and everything else just followed suit."

Yost, who stands 6-3, was going to college regardless of basketball or not. She holds a 4.1 grade-point average and

wants to pursue an engineering degree.

Pursuing rebounds and put-backs weren't exactly at the top of her wish list until senior year rolled around. During 2016-17, she overcame an ankle injury to post several double-double performances

See YOST, Page B2

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Madonna names new head coach

Steinbarger takes over reins for Crusaders

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Madonna University announced in a press release that Rachel Steinbarger has been hired as its new women's basketball coach.

Steinbarger comes to MU after helping the University of Great Falls in Montana advance to the quarterfinals of the NAIA tournament for the

second straight year under head coach Erin Legel.

Steinbarger replaces Carl Graves, who stepped down following 11 seasons after posting a 166-162 record with the Crusaders, including three Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference runner-up finishes and 11 consecutive trips to the WHAC playoffs.

Steinbarger will also serve as an MU senior women's administrator in addition to her duties as women's basketball coach. She will also act as the liaison to the Student-Athlete

Advisory Committee, assist in student-athlete eligibility and conduct student-athlete exit interviews.

She begins her dual role June 5.

"I am beyond excited and thrilled to have the opportunity to be part of such a great university like Madonna," Steinbarger said via email in the MU press release. "Having the opportunity to be a head coach in the NAIA has always been a dream and I am thankful God



MU SPORTS INFORMATION

Rachel Steinbarger takes over the Madonna University women's basketball program.

See COACH, Page B2

BOYS GOLF

Plymouth keeps rolling with KLAA victories

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

The golf juggernaut that is the Plymouth Wildcats continued to roll Wednesday at par-35 Fox Hills Golf Course, topping two opponents in a double dual match.

Plymouth defeated campus rival Salem 155-163 and took care of Livonia Stevenson 155-159.

For the Wildcats, who remain undefeated in the KLAA standings with the association tournament set for Tuesday at Bay Point Country Club in Walled Lake, stellar performances were turned in by Justin Kapke (37), Ian Smith (38) and Jack Boczar (39).

But Plymouth's outstanding depth also extended to Matt Decker and Josh Wein, both registering 41 for the day, as well as 43 by Joe Fontana.

Stevenson (3-5) actually boasted the top individual performers, with medalist Connor Jakacki scoring 35, his best score of the season.

Contributing a stellar 37 for the Spartans was Trevor Lopus.

Salem split its matches, falling to Plymouth but defeating Canton 163-176.

The Rocks (3-5) were paced by Matt Schaumburger, who shot 38.

Other Salem finishers included Bryce Henderson (39), Shawn Weldon (41), Jack McCarthy (45), Justin Polce (46) and Josh German (49).

Canton golfers were led by Patrick McDougall, who finished with 43.

Rounding out the scorecard for the Chiefs were Alex Heyde (44), D.J. Jablonski (44),



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Justin Kapke, shown from last season, was one of several Plymouth standouts Wednesday at Fox Hills.

Suhas Potluri (45), Dominic Dimaya (46) and Josh Balldry (52).

KLAA CONTESTS: On Monday at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia, the host Churchill Chargers defeated Livonia Stevenson, 164-168, and Salem, 164-173.

Other matches at the par-35 course were won by the Rocks (173-188 over Livonia Franklin) and Spartans (168-188 over Franklin).

In the Churchill-Stevenson

match-up, the Chargers were led by medalist Logan Welch (38) and John Doyle (39). Other finishers were Davis Coughlin (43), Peyton Elkins (44), Aaron Walton (47) and Rob Gulick (55).

For Stevenson, scorers included Connor Jakacki (40), Craig Jakacki (42) and Trevor Lopus and Griffin Matick (43 each). Rounding out the card were Easton Schlatterbeck and Jacob Anderson, with 45 and 46, respectively.

Salem (2-4) was led by Josh German, who shot a team-best 42. Helping the cause for the Rocks were Justin Polce (43), Shawn Weldon (44), Jack McCarthy (44), Bryce Henderson (45) and Robbie Hermes (47).

CANTON TRI-MATCH: On Monday at Tanglewood Golf Course, Canton (176) defeated South Lyon and South Lyon East (both with 189).

Individual scorers for Canton included Suhas Potluri (42, co-medalist), Dominic Dimaya

(44), D.J. Jablonski (44), Josh Bauldry (46), Alex Heyde (47) and Patrick McDougall (50).

PLYMOUTH PREVAILS: Plymouth defeated South Lyon East and South Lyon in a nine-hole crossover Tuesday at Tanglewood.

The undefeated Wildcats were led by Justin Kapke, who was medalist with 39. Other Plymouth finishers included Jack Boczar (41), Ian Smith (41), Josh Wein (42) and Matt Decker (43).

EAST LANSING CLASSIC: On May 13, the Wildcats came in third at the 36-hole East Lansing Classic at Forest Akers East and West courses, trailing Novi Detroit Catholic Central and Notre Dame Prep.

Senior Jack Boczar was second overall individually with a 70-74—144 scoreline.

Other Plymouth performers included Ian Smith (77-78—155), Justin Kapke (80-77—157), Josh Wein-Matt Decker (80-78—158) and Timmy Baldwin-Joe Fontana (84-79—163).

RU WINS: On May 15, senior Evan Albright took medalist honors with even-par 36 as host Redford Union (7-3, 5-3) posted a 184-232 WWAC victory over Romulus at Glenhurst G.C.

Other scores for RU included seniors Ben Hawn (42) and Jesse Suiter (46), along with sophomore Gasper Havier (60).

STEVENSON 162, SOUTH LYON 172: On May 12, the Spartans won at Fox Creek. Leading the Spartans was medalist Connor Jakacki, with 37.

Trevor Lopus (41) and Craig Jakacki and Easton Schlatterbeck (42 each) also scored for Stevenson.

YOST

Continued from Page B1

while leading Churchill to a solid season.

And with some encouragement along the way, Yost — who has an academic scholarship at CMU, having been accepted into the honors program — finally went to the university for a tryout.

She then passed the audition, as John Lennon once said.

"I have full tuition for my academics," said Yost, whose parents are Kitty and Tom Yost of Livonia. "I'm just walking on the team. I went down there for a visit and tryout and they told me I was on the team."

Yost added with a laugh that she already chose a uniform number and received a packet from the team for summer training.

"I've been here for a long time and I've had really good coaches like K'Len," Yost said. "He got in touch with a lot of coaches for me. I've been working really hard here and I know Division I basketball is going to be way harder."

"But I just think the Churchill program definitely taught me about hard work."

With the Chippewas, Yost will need to hold her own against physical post players in the Mid-American Confer-

ence. Hence, her plans on being a regular visitor to the gym in the next few months.

"I mean, there's going to be some people taller than me," she said. "But I am definitely going to have to adjust because of the speed of the game. ... I think I'll be able to get to the next level."

Morris has no doubts about that.

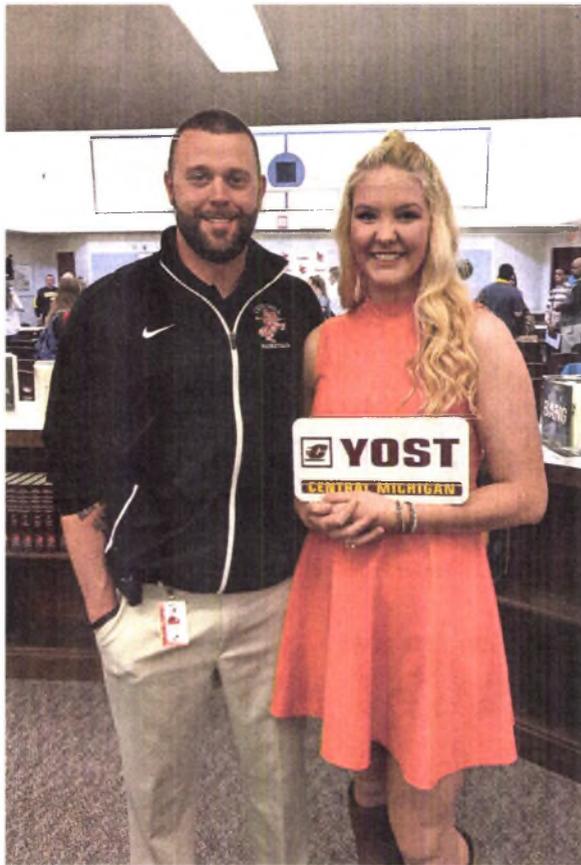
"Annie is a very quiet kid, but when she puts her mind to something, she has the work ethic to be very successful at whatever she wants to do," Morris said. "As long as she keeps her drive and work ethic, I think Annie is going to have a great career at CMU."

"I think the coaches there are going to be very happy with their decision to bring Annie on board."

Yost said she was honored to be one of three Churchill players signing to play college basketball. Shae Smith will play at Concordia University, while Kennedy Carrier is slated to go to Schoolcraft College.

"It just says the girls at Churchill work real hard," Yost said. "We didn't have the best record and stuff. I just think the girls are really dedicated and really love the sport and wanted to play at the next level because they enjoy it."

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LIVONIA CHURCHILL ATHLETICS

Livonia Churchill girls basketball coach K'Len Morris and Annie Yost relish the senior forward's chance to play at Central Michigan University.

COACH

Continued from Page B1

has blessed me with this opportunity."

Prior to her stint at Great Falls, Steinbarger spent a year at Lancaster Bible (Pa.) College, where she posted a 24-6 record, a program record that still stands, to go along with an NEAC South Division title in her only year as head coach. She was named NEAC Coach of the Year after a third-place finish in the National Christian College Athletic Association Division II Tournament.

Steinbarger began her coaching career as an assistant coach at Franklin (Ind.) College, where she finished with a two-year record of 35-18 while placing second both seasons in the Heartland Conference.

Steinbarger was a four-year starter and a co-captain while competing for Indiana Wesleyan University. IWU finished 115-26 record during her career and advanced to the NAIA tournament all four years, including two quarterfinal appearances and one final four.

She was an active member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and participated in three school-sponsored mission trips during her undergraduate career. She holds a master's degree from Liberty (Va.) University in Christian ministries with an emphasis in leadership and a bachelor's degree in sports and recreation management from Indiana Wesleyan.

Madonna's last postseason appearance in the NAIA tournament came under Marylou Jansen during the 2002-03 season.

"(Steinbarger) has proven that she can win at multiple levels and we feel she can take the women's basketball program to the next level," MU athletic director Scott Kennell said in the release. "Her student first approach and defensive philosophy are qualities that we feel will move the program forward. Rachel's success both playing and coaching prove she knows what it takes to get to the national tournament and our hope is that she can make Madonna a perennial contender."

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BASEBALL

Continued from Page B1

Redford Thurston.

The Trojans, who took over sole possession of first place, collected 12 hits, led by Justin Kelley, who had three, including a pair of doubles and four RBIs. Senior Bobby Jaber contributed two hits and two RBIs, while David Means had monster bases-clearing double.

Other hits came from Matt Drain, Nick Snage, Kam Maciver, Chase Carter, Demond Scrutons and winning pitcher Austin Portwood, who earned his first victory of the year, combining on a three-inning one-hitter with Nick Bisaro.

"We're grinding out at-bats and laying off bad pitches," Clarenceville coach Craig Cotter said. "We are also playing pretty good defense. That's a great combination to have."

REDFORD UNION 10-18, ANNAPOLIS 0-6: On May 17, Redford Union (13-7, 4-5) took both ends of a WWAC Blue Division doubleheader from visiting Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

The Panthers took the opener as winning pitcher Brendan Kerchof improved to 5-1.

Top hitters for RU included Tyler Collard (3-for-4), Jakob Bowles (2-for-2), Jacob Gagnon (2-for-2) and Trevor Hamilton (two RBIs).

In Game 2, Collard went 4-for-6, while winning pitcher Hamilton (2-2) and Hamilton both went 3-for-4 with three RBIs in a run-rule victory. Kerchof also went 2-for-3.

BELLEVILLE 7, REDFORD UNION 6: On May 15, host Redford Union (11-7, 2-5) fell to the Tigers in a WWAC Blue Division encounter in nine

innings.

The Panthers rallied from two down in the seventh to send the game to extra innings. They also rallied from a 6-5 deficit with a run in the eighth, but came up one run short.

"So many big hits for us," RU coach Bob Miller said.

PARKWAY CHRISTIAN 6, PCA 5: On Tuesday, Plymouth Christian Academy lost a tough contest to defending Class D state champion Parkway Christian.

Eagles starting pitcher Josh Mason gave up just one run the first three innings, but coach Joe Bottorff had to make a pitching change due to MH-SAA pitch count rules and the wheels then fell off.

Elijah Grit collected two hits for PCA, with Matt Cusumano, Phillip Morby, Nathan Bishop, Josh Mason and Adam Albert each collecting one single.

"I was encouraged by the effort," PCA head coach Joe Bottorff said. "The guys were not intimidated by the opponent and played with confidence."

FRANKLIN 6, SALEM 3: A five-run seventh inning was the difference Monday at Salem.

Leading the offense for the Patriots were Harrison Merrill (1-for-4, two RBIs), Colin Metzler (1-for-2, two runs), Johnny DiPonio (1-for-3, run), Cal Fournier (1-for-4, run, RBI), Jon Montie (double) and Ryan Cramer (1-for-4, RBI).

Going the distance for the Patriots was Cramer, who scattered seven hits and struck out six.

For the Rocks, Jake Seipenko and Noah Haran each went 2-for-3, with Seipenko doubling home two runs in the fifth to break a 1-1 tie.

Sean McCormack, Danny Diaz and Luke Hindt each registered one hit.

Salem starting pitcher Matt Brooks took a tough-luck loss. He gave up one earned run in six innings and fanned nine.

NOVI 4, CHURCHILL 1: Livonia Churchill starting pitcher Joe Wozniak, who recently signed to

pitch at Madonna, suffered a hard-luck loss Monday.

Wozniak went six innings and gave up just two earned runs. At the plate, he singled and had two walks.

Drew Alsobrooks went 1-for-3 and scored the Chargers' lone run.

PLYMOUTH 6, STEVENSON 1: Evan Good tallied two hits Monday for the Wildcats and Brendan Lacorato pitched a complete game for the win.

Chris Tanderey notched two hits in two at-bats for the Spartans, while Dan Bos went 2-for-3.

CLARENCEVILLE 16, FORDSON 0: Livonia Clarenceville (10-7, 7-1) broke a scoreless deadlock with four runs in the fourth inning and went on to earn a WWAC Red Division win Monday over host Dearborn Fordson.

Sophomore Nick Snage led the Trojans' 12-hit attack, going 4-for-5 with a double and two RBIs. Senior third baseman Zack Richards went 2-for-5 with two RBIs. Nick Bisaro and Matt Drain added two hits apiece. Kam Maciver also added a key RBI single and freshman Tavian Cruz added a triple.

"We just could not get it going the first couple of innings," Clarenceville coach Craig Cotter said. "We struck out six times in the first three innings and, when we did get on base, we ran the bases poorly."

Senior Bobby Jaber threw five scoreless innings, allowing only two hits and a walk for his second win of the year. Maciver pitched a scoreless sixth.

"Bobby got roughed up his last two outings," Cotter said. "Today's performance was a nice boost for Bobby's confidence."

REDFORD UNION 6-3, ROMULUS 5-0: On May 13, host Redford Union (11-6) won both ends of a doubleheader against the Eagles in a WWAC crossover.

The Panthers rallied from a 5-0 deficit to win the opener, thanks to Larry Elliott's walk-off RBI single. Jakob Bowles was the winning pitcher.

RU completed the sweep in the nightcap as Brendan Kerchof pitched the shutout, while Trevor Hamilton added two run single.

STEVENSON 0-7, W.L. NORTHERN 4-5: Livonia Stevenson split a May 13 doubleheader.

After being blanked in the opener, the Spartans (23-6, 19-8) bounced back in Game 2. Devin Dunn was the catalyst, with a 5-for-5 game, scoring twice and driving in three runs.

Nate Waigora (2-for-4, run), Connor Beck (1-for-3, run, RBI) and Joe Kubeshesky (1-for-3, run) also were Stevenson contributors.

Beck was the starter and winner, with freshman Waligora getting the final four outs for the save.

FRANKLIN 7, NOTRE DAME PREP 5: The Patriots earned a win May 13, with extra-base hits by Jon Montie (1-for-3, two runs), Trey Gorman (1-for-2, two RBIs) and Kyle Wollam (2-for-3, two runs, RBI) leading the way.

Ryan Cramer went 2-for-3, scored a run and drove in two. Other RBIs were collected by Johnny DiPonio (1-for-2) and Colin Metzler.

Earning the win for Franklin was starting pitcher Harrison Merrill, who gave up one earned run in 5 1/3 innings. Wollam earned the save.

CLARENCEVILLE 9, THURSTON 6: Senior Nick Schiffman's two-run double in the bottom of the fourth inning broke a 5-5 deadlock May 11 and host Livonia Clarenceville (9-7, 6-1) went on to earn a WWAC Red Division win over visiting Redford Thurston.

Freshman Tavian Cruz got his first win on the mound, while Zack Richards came in a closed the game with a save allowing just one run over the final three innings for the Trojans.

Clarenceville's Brad Trout contributed two hits and two RBIs, while Bobby Jaber added two hits. Demond Scrutons and Nick Snage both added hits in the win.

BOYS GOLF

Shamrocks rule Oakland County, league

CC's Piot and Skinner lead way as medalists

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Novi Detroit Catholic Central golf team added two more important pieces of hardware to its trophy case this week by winning Wednesday's Oakland County Division 1 tournament after earning its first Catholic League championship since 2014 two days earlier.

The Shamrocks, two-time defending MHSAA Division 1 state champions, had four players break 75 — led by Michigan State signee James Piot, who shot 69 to repeat as medalist — in the Oakland County tourney held at Pontiac Country Club.

The Shamrocks posted a four-player total of 284 to lead the 23-school field. Clarkston (302), Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (306), Birmingham Seaholm (309) and Orchard Lake St. Mary's (310) rounded out the top five.

"James played a very solid round again today," CC coach Mike Anderson said. "Playing conditions were very difficult. The wind was swirling most of the round with gusts up to 30 mph. Driving the ball in play and controlling your distances on your approach shots was a necessity. James has won this event the last two years. This is a good course for him. It's very demanding off of the tee and he drives the ball very well."

Other CC scorers included Sean Niles, second (70); Sean Sooch, third (71); and Dyllan Skinner, tied for sixth (74). Georgia Tech signee Ben Smith



GREGORY JOHNSON

Catholic Central's James Piot took medalist honors at the Oakland County Division I Tournament with 69.

also earned a top 10 finish with a 75.

Novi, meanwhile, placed 10th with 330, led by Derek DuBois (80), Michael Uille and Ryan Welch (83 each) and Aakash Jajoo and Chris Fisher (84 each).

White Lake Lake placed 21st with 360 as Ben Cohen tied for sixth with 74.

Other scorers for the Eagles included Jesse Smothers (90), Justin Renhart (97) and Spencer Sienkiewicz (99). Jacob Brown added 104.

League champions

Senior Dyllan Skinner earned medalist honors with 69 as CC captured the Catholic League championship May 15 at the Oakland University's Katke Cousins Golf Course.

The Shamrocks shot 290 to win by a whopping 30 strokes, followed by Birmingham Brother Rice (320), Cranbrook (328), Orchard Lake St. Mary's (329), Warren DeLaSalle (331), defending champion University of Detroit-Jesuit (334), Dearborn

Divine Child (349) and Macomb Lutheran North (375).

Skinner was followed by Sooch and Piot with 73 each, while Sam Holland added 75. Niles and Smith shot 76 and 78, respectively.

"Dyllan battled back after a slow team start, but was able to get many of the strokes back when he played three par-5s in four holes," CC assistant coach Jimmy Dewling said. "He had two eagles and a birdie in that stretch. It was during this stretch that the team gained its

momentum back."

Skinner, one of six seniors for the Shamrocks, has been a pleasant surprise so far this season.

"After averaging 79 last year, he is just under 74 this year and has been a real 'X' factor for our team," Dewling said. "His off-season work has paid off for him individually and has made our team that much more competitive."

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College signs Burk



LUTHERAN WESTLAND ATHLETICS

Lutheran Westland senior Zach Burk signs his national letter of intent to play college basketball at Division III Concordia University of Chicago. Shown are (front, from left) Zach Burk, mom Paula Burk and dad Jerry Burk and (standing, from left) Warriors coach/athletic director Kevin Wade, coach Keith Brown and brother Andrew Burk.

GIRLS SOCCER

Novi nails down top seed in KLAACentral

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Senior night couldn't have worked out better Tuesday for the Novi girls soccer team.

The host Wildcats clinched a share of the KLAACentral Division title and the top seed in the upcoming Kensington Conference championship final with a 3-0 win over South Lyon at Meadows Stadium.

All three goals for Novi (9-4-3, 7-3) were scored by seniors. Annie Fisher scored what proved to be the game-winner with an unassisted goal with 31:15 left in the first half.

Fisher scored her second of the game with 32:21 left in the second half, with Gracie Backus and Bailey Baumbick drawing assists.

Vera Razburgai put it away with goal from Emmie Takada with 23:56 remaining.

Novi outshot the Lions (5-7-2, 3-7) by a 9-1 margin as goalkeeper Rileigh Nielson

and Callie Rich combined on the shutout.

With the win and co-division champ Livonia Stevenson (13-1-4, 6-1-3) tying Northville, 3-3, the Wildcats clinch the Central's top seed (21 points).

Novi earned the top seed based on goal aggregate, 4-3, after splitting its two division games against the Spartans, who won the first meeting, 2-1, but lost the second, 3-1.

"It is always nice to win on senior night, but tonight was extra special with the team clinching a share of the KLAACentral Division championship with the win," Novi coach Todd Pheiffer said.

"The girls continued to play some great soccer tonight, limiting South Lyon to only a few scoring opportunities. It was a great team effort on both sides of the ball and hopefully we will continue to get even better as we get ready for the state tournament in a couple of weeks."

NORTHVILLE 3, STEVENSON 3: The Mustangs (8-6-4, 5-3-2) played spoiler in the KLAACentral Division race Tuesday at Tom Holzer Field by tying visiting Livonia Stevenson (13-1-4, 6-1-3).

With 17 minutes to play, Northville's Sarah Noonan got inside the 6-yard box and scored, off an assist from Megan Krygiel, to give the Mustangs a 3-1 lead.

But the Division 1 No. 4-ranked Spartans roared back, scoring on a pair of penalty kicks by Audrey Kopitz with 6:49 and 3:13 remaining. The first foul was called on Northville goalkeeper Carrie Castiglione, while the second was a trip in the box.

After a scoreless opening half, Northville's Tara Noonan made it 1-0 on a 22-yard strike from Noonan. Nine minutes later, Sydney Schembri made it 2-0 off an assist from Noonan.

But Stevenson's Abby Werthman cut the deficit to 2-1 just 90 seconds later, off an assist from Kopitz. Castiglione made three saves, while Stevenson keepers Mackenzie Fifer and Haley Demers combined for six.

DEARBORN 8, REDFORD UNION 0: Goalkeeper Hailey Peace made four saves as Redford Union (3-9-1, 2-5) fell May 17 to the host Pioneers (11-8) in a WWAC match.

GARDEN CITY 2, DEARBORN 1: The Cougars scored twice in the second half to earn their first WWAC win against Dearborn in three years and remain in the hunt for a share of the conference title.

After Dearborn went up 1-0 on a penalty kick early in the second half, Alyssa Metcalf chipped in Brooke Collins's feed to tie the contest.

Garden City (8-6-1 overall, 6-1 WWAC) took the lead in the final 10 minutes, when Collins (15 goals, four assists) lofted a shot from about 30 yards into the back of the Dearborn net.

By the last several minutes, head coach Jeff Szypula was faced with a shorthanded situation due to red cards. The Cougars, down two players, managed to hold off the Pioneers.

"Resiliency and pride for what we are doing makes this one of the greatest groups I have had

the honor to coach," Szypula said. "Alexis Horvath, Konopatzki, Faith Staley, Lauren Phillips, Kaylie McNally, Angie Dimopoulos and Metcalf all had phenomenal games defensively."

Garden City's senior night/community soccer night will be at 7 p.m. Monday against Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

CLARENCEVILLE 7, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 4: Michelle Marzio had all seven goals as visiting Livonia Clarenceville (2-10) won a non-conference match.

CaMaria Kelley and Jordan Lay both added an assist, while Myla Hoskins-King, Nickendra Thomas and Mel Lind stood out on the offensive and defensive ends as the Trojans broke a 3-3 halftime deadlock with four second-half goals.

The Clarenceville defense was led by Paola Gonzalez and Leilana Vasquez, while goalkeeper Allison Lay made 16 saves. Back-up Breanna Ford stopped all six shots.

"We came into the game tonight knowing it was going to be a tight, hard-fought game," Clarenceville coach Amanda Truitt said. "We communicated better, played with aggression and heart and passed well, resulting in a lot of scoring opportunities."

Mackenzie Salenik scored a hat trick for the Warriors.

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN 9, CLARENCEVILLE 1: On May 12, host Oakland Christian scored five goals in the second half to down Livonia Clarenceville (1-10) in a non-conference encounter.

Michelle Marzio had the lone goal for the Trojans, who trailed 4-1 at halftime.

"We came into the game knowing to communicate more to improve our game, which we did," Clarenceville coach Amanda Truitt said. "We played aggressive as a whole and had great plays and passes throughout the game."

Truitt singled out the offensive play of Allie Snaga, Myla Hoskins-King and Rena Ngo, while defensive standouts were Nickendra Thomas, CaMaria Kelley, Breanna Ford and Jordan Lay. Clarenceville goalie Allison Lay made 12 saves.

PREP SOFTBALL

Plymouth cranks up offense

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

The bats were booming Wednesday for Plymouth's varsity softball team as the Wildcats posted an 11-2 victory over Walled Lake Northern.

Plymouth was led at the plate by Alexis D'Alexander, who singled twice and tripled in three at-bats.

Haley Gagnon also had a big day (3-for-4, two RBIs), while Whitney Holden (2-for-4, two RBIs) and Arie Bartholomew (2-for-4, two RBIs) also helped the cause.

In the circle was Jenny Bressler and she went the distance, giving up just two runs and five hits.

Bressler was helped by strong defense from Mikayla Rose (six putouts) and Angela Schmidt, who made a clutch, backhanded catch.

Next for Plymouth is this weekend's Canton Challenge at the Canton Softball Center, followed by the final home game at 4:30 p.m. Monday against Stoney Creek.

SALEM 9, CHURCHILL 7: The visiting Rocks won their 20th game of the season Monday behind strong hitting throughout the lineup.

Maddy Rosiewicz went 4-for-4 to lead Salem. She tripled and homered to provide extra-base power.

Also with excellent days at the plate were Morgan Overaitis (double, triple), Jordan Hazel (two doubles), Emily Stewart and Rae Campbell (two singles each).

Sophomore pitcher Campbell earned the victory for the Rocks.

FRANKLIN 10, NOVI 9: On Monday, Livonia Franklin (10-5) edged Novi behind big games from Brooke Garbarino (3-for-3, two doubles, three RBIs), Hailey Bennett (two hits, three RBIs) and Olivia Napier (two hits).

Getting the win in the circle for the Patriots was Ashley Couch.

THURSTON 13, CLARENCEVILLE 11: On May 11, Ronay Peguies went 3-for-4 with a homer, triple, double and four RBIs as Redford Thurston (3-6, 3-3) rallied for seven runs in the top of the seventh inning to beat host Livonia Clarenceville in a WWAC Red Division clash.

Top hitters for the Eagles included Ivory Mamo (3-for-5, homer, three RBIs), Andrielle Davis (2-for-2, three walks, two RBIs), Laura Korff (triple) and Angel Williams (triple).

Pitcher Sydney Taylor notched her third win of the season.

"We've had a strange season so far," Thurston coach Scott Gray said. "With nine of the 14 players being underclassmen, we've had our fair share of growing pains, losing games to Redford Union and (Dearborn Heights) Crestwood by one run and Romulus (13-8). We have had some close games with some good teams, splitting our home-and-home with (Dearborn) Fordson."

Meanwhile, the Trojans (3-13, 2-6) racked up a total of 21 hits, led by junior first baseman Ashley Kato, exchange student Yuzu Nakano and sophomore pitcher Emily Schmidt, who took the loss, with three each.

Clarenceville sophomore catcher Skyler Srock, playing center fielder due to a broken finger, made a spectacular diving catch.

"It was truly an ESPN moment," Clarenceville first-year coach Ed Young said.

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Build relationships with these 5 co-workers

BY MATT TARPEY
CAREERBUILDER

No matter what kind of an office culture your company may strive for, office politics are more than likely to persist. To successfully navigate the process, it helps to know the right people. Here are five people at your company you should start getting to know.

1. The influencer

If you want your projects, ideas and contributions to get traction, an internal influencer makes a valuable ally – particularly if you're new to the company or are more of an introvert. These are the workers who know everyone – including higher-ups in other teams and departments. They know what's going on around the company and are often vocal in their support or opposition to ideas during meetings.

2. Your boss's boss

Obviously you want a good relationship with your supervisor – it's hard to be effective and enjoy your work otherwise. However, not many workers establish a working relationship with their supervisor's boss, and therefore miss out on a lot of opportunities. Simply being comfortable talking openly with your boss's boss can improve your



GETTY IMAGES

chances of getting in on bigger multidepartment projects, drawing attention to your wins and setting yourself up for new responsibilities and even potential promotions. Just be careful not to cut your boss out of the conversation – it could all backfire if your boss feels you're going over his or her head or behind his or her back.

3. HR ally

When it comes to being knowledgeable about your company, HR is tough to beat. They handle recruiting and hiring for every part of the organization, manage payroll and benefits and help in navigating the overall corporate culture. Having a connection to HR is a great way to get better acquainted with corpo-

rate guidelines and policies, and to gain a new perspective on how your company works.

4. The IT person

Sometimes you're not focused on your long-term career trajectory. Like the times your full attention is consumed by an indecipherable computer problem that is slowing you down and ruining your day,

When this happens, it helps to have a friend in the IT department who can escalate your issue through the work queue – or maybe even do a little troubleshooting on-the-spot as a favor between friends.

Even if you don't reach BFF status, knowing some people in IT can make the whole process a lot smoother, faster and less stressful for everyone.

5. The intern

While it's possible someday you may end up working for someone who was once your intern, that's far from the only reason to be on friendly terms. Interns often report to more than one person at the company – sometimes they're fielding requests from entire teams. Knowing their names, talking to them for reasons other than just making a request of them, and just generally treating them like human beings worthy of respect and courtesy can have a huge impact on the effort they're inclined to put into a task when you do need something from them.

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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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Get in a trap	1 Hobgoblin
8 Diner dishes	2 — TURN (street sign)
15 Long tales	3 "Page Down" user, e.g.
20 One finding something	4 Most dapper
21 Mishmash	5 Eldest
22 Match	6 Musketeer
23 Additional examination	7 Those with nice thing
[3rd from the sun]	8 — gatherum
25 McLain of old baseball	9 Carnivore's Intake
28 Sioux tribe members	10 Couture magazine
27 Scene	11 Plabe
28 Tranquil	12 Naval acad grad
30 — Island (old immigration point)	13 — Fridays
32 Poker style	14 Meeting of penner
33 Eve's music	15 Made blue
38 Sends in, as payment	16 Tourists' aids
38 Run things	17 Non-Jewish
39 Result of a minor infraction in hockey [8th from the sun]	18 Funicelio of film
42 Specks in la Seine	19 Declare
43 Not be well	24 Home of Elaine, in Arthurian lore
44 "Sand" actor Elsevaz	29 Prior to, poetically
	30 Actor Dane
	31 Lollapalooza
	32 Reach by water, in a way
	33 Lay waste to
	34 Ocean off Ga. and Fla.
	35 U.S. architect I.M. —
	37 OS part: Abbr.
	39 Stunned with a gun
	40 Abbr. for those with only one given name
	41 Infield fly ball
	47 "A Mighty Fortress — God" (hymn)
	48 Gain back
	50 Gain maturity
	52 — Nevada
	53 52-Down, e.g.: Abbr.
	54 A martial art
	55 Flour-dollis
	56 Gig fraction
	57 Wild hog
	58 About
	59 Y facilities
	60 Tyke amuser
	62 "Eh, he goes go!"
	63 Confronted
	64 Mrs. in Nice
	65 Sprinter, e.g.
	66 Exhilarate (8lt)
	70 To and —
	71 Ar-tee Inkup
	72 Not dirty
	73 To a smaller degree
	74 Not obtuse
	78 Badgers' kin
	79 River or lake outing
	80 Various
	81 Ear-piercing
	82 Odessa loc.
	83 Emperor exiled to Elba
	84 "No deal!"
	85 Gap
	86 Cozy eatery
	87 Additional
	88 LP stat
	89 "Arabian Nights" hero
	90 Skin pigment
	92 Beatified Fr. woman
	93 Pres. initials
	97 Singer DiFranco
	98 Keanu of film
	103 Subtle
	105 Seth's eldest
	106 Deco artist
	107 Sand hill
	108 Raven's cry
	110 Smartphone
	112 A, in French
	113 Enthusiast
	114 R&B singer
	115 Mag workers

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

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

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- BUDDHIST
- CANON
- CATHOLIC
- CHRISTIAN
- CHURCH
- CLERGY
- CONGREGATION
- ENLIGHTENED
- FAITH
- FESTIVAL
- GNOSTIC
- GOO
- GUIDELINES
- HINDU
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- ISLAMIC
- JEWISH
- MINISTATE
- MINISTRY
- MONOTHEISM
- MOSQUE
- PEACE
- PHILOSOPHY
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- SECULAR
- SIXH
- SIN
- TEMPLE

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Crossword Answers

Word Search

Car Report

GENESIS G90 – THE BRAND, AND THE CAR – MAKE GOOD FIRST IMPRESSIONS AS VANGUARD OF HYUNDAI’S ASSAULT ON LUXURY



By Dale Buss

As Hyundai's success in the U.S. market grew several years ago, it also came with a dilemma: The company had to decide how far it could stretch its brand. And ultimately, the answer was

to create a new brand for its luxury offerings: Genesis.

The Korean automaker began, as other Asian counterparts had done, with small cars that were inexpensive and helped get its hardware on American roads. But as Hyundai improved the reliability of its offerings and boosted its sales and share in the crucial U.S. market, the brand also stretched itself into more and more premium segments.

And by a few years ago, Hyundai had the experience in the U.S. market, the cachet with American buyers, and the top-shelf quality and reliability levels to do what would have been



Genesis G90 looks pretty good in some very exclusive settings.

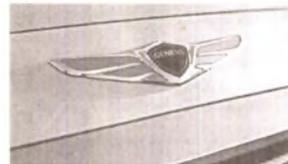
unthinkable just a decade ago: launch some really high-end nameplates. It came out with the Genesis sports sedan and the Equus top-end sedan.

But eventually, it didn't make

any sense for the Hyundai brain trust to try to sell econoboxes for under \$20,000 and luxury vehicles for three times that price under the same brand umbrella. And so last year, Genesis was born, taking the underpinnings of the Genesis and Equus and making its first two models, the sporty G80 and the luxurious G90, out of them.

It was a noble birth. One of the first offerings in this new, blue-blooded family sired by Hyundai is the Genesis G90 sedan. For about \$70,000, Genesis and its first vehicle aspire to provide proud owners with the style, clan and accoutrements of competitors in a class of cars — such as the Mercedes-Benz S-Class — that easily cross the \$100,000 mark.

Have they accomplished that? G90 checks an awful lot of boxes that buyers in this super-premium segment expect. It's the kind of car that looms as



A new luxury logo is in town.

a reward and an expectation for many of these consumers, and G90 comes through with flying colors in all of the important categories.

But in the end, of course, Genesis isn't Mercedes-Benz or BMW or Audi, so it can't quite fulfill the preconceptions of a European premium luxury sedan buyer. Nor is it Cadillac, with the performance credentials of the quintessential American luxury brand.

Nor is Genesis a Lexus, although that's probably the closest approximation of a brand proposition. Stylistically, too, G90 is reminiscent of

Lexus from a generation ago, before the Toyota-owned luxury brand began quickening its designs.

And for some buyers, what Genesis isn't, in and of itself, will be a disqualifier — no matter how fine the Genesis G90 is as a vehicle per se.

Turn to what Genesis G90 is and this becomes a more satisfying discussion. The vehicle comes only in fully loaded form, a welcoming configuration for buyers who don't want to bother checking out trim packages. It delivers an exceptional level of luxury for far less money than competitors, including a refined suspension that smoothes out the roughest pavement.

Buyers can select between a 3.3-liter, twin-turbo V-6 engine rated at 365 horsepower or a 5.0-liter V8 engine good for a whopping 420 horsepower. Both come mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission.

And the roominess of G90 is welcome in every nook and cranny, especially in the back seats, where there's the widest range of conditions in American sedans. And in V8 versions of G90, the accommodations in the rear get absolutely lavish.

Some critics believe that Genesis has taken some liberties with less-expensive materials in certain minor aspects of the interior than its rivals might. They say G90's steering is too sensitive on the highway and that its semi-autonomous technologies are less refined than some models.

And it's surely true that Genesis models will keep getting better over time, especially as its Hyundai parent is able to break off more resources for truly distinctive new models for its luxury brand.

But G90 is a very elegant, eminently drivable start.



The rear seat is a dream in the G90.

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GIRLS SOCCER ROUNDUP

Stevenson tops Canton in KLAA crossover

Central Division
champs win, 2-1Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Livonia Stevenson got out to a 2-1 lead in the first half of Thursday's KLAA girls soccer crossover game against Canton and the Spartans held on the rest of the way.

The No. 4-ranked Spartans, who won the KLAA Central Division championship, broke a 1-1 tie in the 14th minute of play on a goal by Kayla Gaciocch, assisted by Alyssa Benvenuti.

Stevenson (14-1-4) opened the scoring about seven minutes into the contest at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, when Maria Bayouk drilled the ball past Canton

goalie Sarah Hammond.

The Chiefs (13-3-0, No. 10, KLAA South co-champs with Plymouth) responded six minutes later when Hannah Lapko scored.

That set the state for Gaciocch's tally just a minute later. Both defenses held the fort the rest of the way.

GARDEN CITY 2, DEARBORN 1: The Cougars scored twice in the second half to earn their first WWAC win against Dearborn in three years and remain in the hunt for a share of the conference title.

After Dearborn went up 1-0 on a penalty kick early in the second half, Alyssa Metcalf chipped in Brooke Collins' feed to tie the contest.

Garden City (8-6-1 overall, 6-1 in the conference) took the lead in the final 10 minutes when Collins (15 goals, four assists) lofted a shot from

about 30 yards into the back of the Dearborn cage.

But in the last several minutes, head coach Jeff Szygula was faced with a shorthanded situation due to red cards. The Cougars, down two players, managed to hold off the Pioneers.

"Resiliency and pride for what we are doing makes this one of the greatest groups I have had the honor to coach," Szygula said. "Alexis Horvath, Konopatzki, Faith Staley, Lauren Phillips, Kaylie McNally, Angie Dimopoulos, and Metcalf all had phenomenal games defensively."

Garden City's senior night/community soccer night will be 7 p.m. Monday against Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

CLARENCEVILLE 7, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 4: Michelle Marzolo had all seven goals as Livonia Clarenceville (2-10)

won a non-conference match May 16 at Lutheran High Westland.

CaMaria Kelley and Jordan Lay each added an assist, while Myla Hoskins-King, Nickendra Thomas and Mel Lind stood out on the offensive and defensive ends as the Trojans broke a 3-all halftime deadlock with four second-half goals.

The Clarenceville defense was led by Paola Gonzalez and Leilana Vasquez, while goalkeeper Allison Lay made 16-of-20 saves. Back-up Breanna Ford stopped all six shots.

"We came into the game tonight knowing it was going to be a tight, hard-fought game," Clarenceville coach Amanda Truitt said. "We communicated better, played with aggression and heart, and passed well resulting in a lot of scoring opportunities."

Mackenzie Salenik scored a

hat trick for the Warriors.

OAKLAND CHRISTIAN 9, CLARENCEVILLE 1: On Friday, host Oakland Christian scored five goals in the second half to down Livonia Clarenceville (1-10) in a non-conference encounter.

Michelle Marzolo had the lone goal for the Trojans, who trailed 4-1 at halftime.

"We came into the game knowing to communicate more to improve our game, which we did," Clarenceville coach Amanda Truitt said. "We played aggressive as a whole and had great plays and passes throughout the game."

Truitt singled out the offensive play of Allie Snage, Myla Hoskins-King and Rena Ngo, while defensive standouts were Nickendra Thomas, CaMaria Kelley, Breanna Ford and Jordan Lay. Clarenceville goalie Allison Lay made 12 saves.

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

coach Ryan Ossenmacher, who also is Salem High School's varsity hockey coach. "The truth is, the top few rows are just filled with guys from the NHL, college and junior level."

One reason for the extra attention is the fact the NAHL draft is coming up in June; the USHL draft took place in early May, shortly after the tournament.

"I've had countless conversations the last week, two weeks since we got back, with different junior scouts," Ossenmacher said. "About our team, about our players and it's all positive."

"And that, obviously, comes with doing well when we're out there. But within a matter of going out there, we've had three kids drafted (by the USHL, we had a kid tender with Topeka and all around it was a really positive experience for everybody."

Brighton forward Adam Conquest and Detroit Country Day defenseman Connor McGinnis were drafted by USHL teams and Calumet's Rory Anderson was also picked.

Also certain to garner interest from scouts are players such as Salem senior forward Matt Schaumburger, Northville senior goalie Brett Miller and others.

"It's just a matter of understanding there's multiple paths for guys," Ossenmacher said. "There's not one magical path, that you take this path and it works."

"And so, for too often, guys have said that high school can't be a route for them. But the reality is, it can be a route for them and maybe very well be the better option for them."

Miller — a standout for the Michigan Seniors with a 1.50 goals-against average and .941 save percentage in two games — said competing against elite-level players from other states was an "unbelievable" experience.

"We're playing against some of the best kids across the country and the stands are filled with scouts from almost every league out there for four days in a row," Miller said. "Not only is it great to be able to showcase our individual talents, but to be able to represent the state of Michigan and high school hockey is an honor."

His best decision

Miller, who has been a stalwart between the pipes for the Northville Mustangs, also said playing high school hockey is the way to go for any players on the fence about which path to take.

"It was the best decision that I ever made to play for Northville," Miller said. "And to be fortunate enough to go to Minnesota twice with Team Michigan has had a huge impact for me, since I want to play junior hockey."

"High school hockey has been getting better each year and it's only going to keep improving."



Players celebrate a goal for the Michigan Juniors during the 2017 CCM-NIT. The squad included several players from Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Churchill.



Livonia Stevenson goalie Will Tragge, shown from the high school season, played for Michigan Juniors at the CCM-NIT.

Concurring was Livonia Stevenson and Michigan Juniors coach David Mitchell, whose roster in Minnesota included four players from Livonia — goalie Will Tragge, defenseman Jake Beaune, forward Julian Decina (all from Stevenson) and Churchill forward Tyler Haydu.

"I think that the success of Team Michigan is helping with the growth of high school hockey in Michigan," Mitchell said. "Hockey is unique in that players have so many good, viable options of where to play and we must continue to grow by developing players that can not only make Team Michigan, but succeed when there."

"The success of the four individuals from Livonia out in Minnesota gives younger players here in Livonia something

to shoot for in the future.

"These players, as well as others in the area playing high school hockey, are having a great deal of individual success, which will carry them to the next level and beyond."

Expectations

Ossenmacher and Mitchell took the cream of a very talented crop to Minnesota for the April 20-23 tourney, following a two-week training camp that began with 248 players from across Michigan.

Ultimately, the field was trimmed to 40 seniors and 40 juniors, with subsequent all-star games played to determine final rosters.

"It's a challenge, having that many kids," Ossenmacher said. "Every kid gets three games (during the camp, held at Chel-

sea Arctic Coliseum) and then we whittle it down to an all-star game."

"When you make the teams in a situation like this, you're always going to have people that think you made mistakes."

"And so one of the first conversations we have with our players is, 'Hey, your job is to prove us right. ... You're the guys we thought were the guys that were going to win this' and they go out there (Minnesota) with that intention."

The success of both Michigan teams provided plenty of proof that rosters were correctly chosen. But coaches and players alike stressed that playing high school hockey — from summer workouts through the state tourney — is an unforgettable experience that players might miss out by

playing AAA hockey.

"The biggest benefit for high school players compared to AAA is the high school coaches all work together to make the product better as a whole and really get involved to help move kids on to the next level," Miller wrote in his email. "It's awesome to play for your school with guys you see every day and have all your friends in the stands at Friday night games."

According to Ossenmacher, who played high school and college hockey, coaches "just need to continue to work hard and promote our kids and our kids need to move on. That is the best advertisement for high school hockey."

"There's a lot of other things that are great about high school hockey," he added. "The schedule, the idea of playing for your school. Those are all things that some people know about, some people don't. But the reality is, you can come play high school and move on."

Schaumburger, a high-scoring forward who is tendered to play this year with the Metro Jets (Utica, Mich.) of the North American Tier III Hockey League and Syracuse (NY) Stars of the U.S. Premier Hockey League, said he is continuing to keep his options open.

But he strongly recommends others go the high school route.

"I'm not sure where I'm going to be playing next year yet," Schaumburger said. "I would definitely encourage incoming freshman to try out for high school hockey because I have gotten so many opportunities and created many friendships through high school hockey."

"It is an unbelievable experience."

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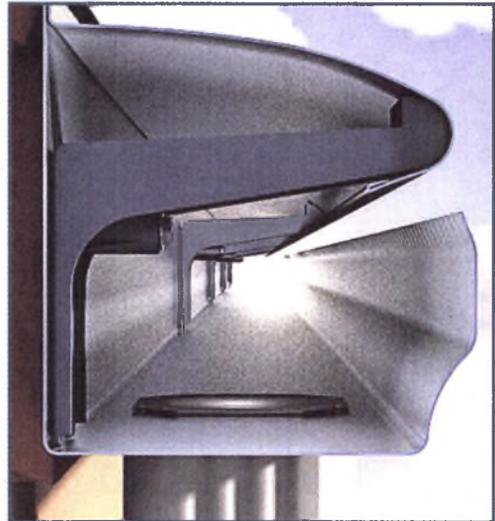
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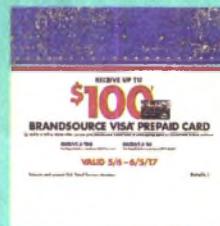
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