

# CANTON OBSERVER

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SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2014 • hometownlife.com



## IN MEMORY

Golf outing benefits scholarship fund honoring Salem, WMU grad

COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

# Judge rules Evans can stay on ballot

By Kurt Kuban  
Staff Writer

Wayne County Circuit Chief Judge Robert Colombo Jr. dismissed a lawsuit challenging the candidacy of Warren Evans, who is running to become Wayne County executive.

At the Friday morning hearing, which lasted about 10 minutes, Colombo cited several reasons for throwing out Can-

ton Township Trustee Tom Yack's lawsuit, which alleged county officials broke state election laws by allowing Evans to appear on the Aug. 5 primary ballot because he did not meet residency requirements. It is Yack's contention that Evans changed his residency from Salem Township in Washtenaw County to an apartment in Detroit just one day before the April 22 candidate filing deadline and wasn't a



Yack



Evans

Wayne County resident for 30 days prior to that deadline.

However, Colombo said the Wayne County Charter specifically says that executive can-

didates "must be a qualified elector" – meaning a legal voter – 30 days before the election and not the filing deadline.

In addition, Colombo ruled that the lawsuit, which was filed July 18, was filed too late in the election process, noting thousands of absentee ballots have already been turned in across the county. He noted that it would cost the county roughly \$300,000 to reprint

ballots, plus there is no way the county clerk's office would have the time to reprint them and get them to local clerks before the election – and would thus violate state law.

"The plaintiff could have and should have brought this lawsuit sooner than 18 days before the primary election," Colombo said. "There would be a significant cost incurred by

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Christine Wofford, flanked by daughter Olivia and brother Bruce Jonasz, tours Liverpool after seeing the Beatles as a child. In the background is the Rubber Soul oyster bar.

# LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Woman tours Liverpool 50 years after attending Beatles concert

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Fifty years after Christine Jonasz Wofford and a screaming mob welcomed the Beatles to Olympia Stadium in Detroit, she has finally traveled to the seaside town of Liverpool, England, where the Fab Four began.

She loves them yeah, yeah, yeah. Wofford, a Canton resident, was a 12-year-old student at St. Damian School in Westland when she and a friend witnessed the Beatles' invasion in 1964. She still has her ticket stub.

Wofford recalls riding her bike to the corner store to buy teen magazines sporting pictures of John, Paul, George and Ringo. She listened to their music on a transistor radio and



Olivia Wofford writes a message on the door of an abandoned house where Ringo Starr once lived.

bought their albums.

"I have always wanted to go see Liverpool," she said.

Wofford, her brother Bruce Jonasz of Novi and her 26-year-old daughter Olivia spent a week there this month, touring places where the Beatles grew up and performed. They also enjoyed a trip to the Brit-

ish Open golf tournament.

Liverpool was nothing like Wofford imagined.

"I expected dilapidated buildings, smokestacks and (long and) winding roads," she said. "It was fabulous."

Unlike her mother, Olivia didn't know much about the Beatles.

"It was really exciting for me," she said. "I now have a greater appreciation for the Beatles. I didn't really know much about their history, but they were a really talented group of people. I like the metaphors in their lyrics. I'm going to listen to more of their music now."

Wofford and her companions toured The Beatles Story, which is a museum at Albert Dock, and they took a Magical Mystery Tour named after the landmark album. The outing included a trip to Penny Lane, where they saw the barber shop mentioned in the hit song by the

See BEATLES, Page A2

# Man gets 4-20 years for home invasion

Other charges dropped following guilty plea

By Darrell Clem  
Staff Writer

Canton home intruder Michael Steven Toth has been sentenced to prison for four to 20 years after he confessed to forcing his way inside a house while two teen siblings hid in a closet and called 9-1-1 for help.

Toth, a 28-year-old Garden City man, learned his fate Wednesday when his sentence was handed down by Wayne County Circuit Judge Michael Hathaway. Toth received credit for 92 days he already spent in jail, court records show.

His sentencing came after he pleaded guilty to one count each of first- and second-degree home invasion.

Authorities agreed to dismiss other charges including home invasion, possession of burglary tools and larceny in a building.

Toth's decision to plead guilty averted a trial that had been scheduled to begin Monday in Hathaway's courtroom.

Charges came after Canton Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh said Toth broke into a home on Emerald Pines Drive, near Palmer and Lotz, while a Canton boy, 17, and his sister, 16, hid in a closet and called 9-1-1 for help. Police have commended the siblings for taking quick action when they heard an intruder using burglary tools to break in.

Toth was captured climbing out a window. Further investigation by Canton police led to charges against him for three home invasions.

Baugh lauded the teens as "great witnesses who remained calm." He also commended police officers for a

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# Win a Christmas in July gift

We invite readers of the *Observer* to try your luck at our holiday icon contest found in the Christmas in July special section delivered to subscribers with your Thursday, July 24, edition. Search carefully each page in the Christmas in July special section for the holiday icon pictured here. Then fill out the entry form found on page 4 or go online to

the Facebook link at hometownlife.com.

Winners can select from a long list of cool prizes, including a pair of tickets to see the legendary Tony Bennett in concert Friday, Aug. 15, at Freedom Hill Amphitheater in Sterling Heights. Other prizes include a paring and trimming knife set from Cutco Kitchen in Novi, a \$50 gift card from

Meijer, six gift certificates worth \$25 each for Schokolad Chocolate Factory in Northville (good at that location only) and three gift certificates from MassageLuXe Spa (each worth \$89) for a one-hour massage or LuXe facial plus 15-minute HydroLuXe massage. Certificates are good

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The League of American Orchestras recently announced the Michigan Philharmonic was awarded its fifth ASCAP award for Adventurous Programming.

## Orchestra wins national programming award

The Michigan Philharmonic begins its 2014-15 season with another prestigious national award.

The League of American Orchestras recently announced the Michigan Philharmonic was awarded its fifth ASCAP award, one of only 27 orchestras in the country to receive this award for Adventurous Programming. It's the 19th such award for Michigan Phil music director and conductor Nan Washburn.

Established in 1914, ASCAP is the first and leading U.S. performing rights organization representing the world's largest repertory, totaling more than 9 million copyrighted musical works of every style and genre from more than 500,000 songwriter, composer and music publisher members. The League of American Orchestras awards only a few select orchestras this coveted honor each year for programming and performing a wide variety of music from living composers.

The new season of the Michigan Philharmonic will continue its cutting-edge programming fea-

turing contemporary music by living American composers. The opening season concert Oct. 4, "Beethoven, Bridges and Blue Jeans," will feature a world premiere of *Bridges* by Victoria Bond. The final movement of this multi-media piece, commissioned by the Michigan Philharmonic, will feature the Mackinac Bridge.

In November, Detroit's Rick Robinson will be the featured composer with another world premiere, this time of Robinson's piece called *Pork 'n' Beans - a DE-troit Counterpoint*.

Additional composers will be highlighted in the January, March and April concerts with works by Nancy Bloomer Duessen, Frank Ticheli and Carter Pann.

This attention to new music and by living composers has been a hallmark of the Michigan Philharmonic.

"Our audiences love meeting the composers and learning more about their music, really making it come alive during the performances," said Beth Stewart, executive director of the Michigan Philharmonic.

### NEW DEAL FOR NAN

Music director and conductor Nan Washburn has signed a three-year contract renewal with the Michigan Philharmonic.

Now entering her 16th season, Washburn has won numerous state and national awards. In 2013, she was honored with the prestigious American Prize for Conducting. The award adds to the array of national recognition with which Washburn has been awarded during her career. Her diverse collection of accolades was further enhanced this past June, when she was awarded an ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music by the League of American Orchestras, the 19th time Washburn was honored with the award.

"We are thrilled to keep Nan with the Michigan Philharmonic," board President Don Soenen said. "Her unique and innovative programming has been a hallmark of the success for our orchestra and we look forward to many more award-winning seasons with Nan at the helm."

For tickets and information, call 734-451-2112 or visit [www.michiganphil.org](http://www.michiganphil.org).

## District calls non-homestead millage 'critical'

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education Trustee Mike Maloney calls himself "as big a tax hawk as anyone."

Despite his opposition to taxes as a whole, Maloney told a big crowd at Monday's Canton Republican Caucus meeting that the district's non-homestead millage renewal is "critical to our district." The millage was expected to generate \$25.2 million in the 2013-14 school year, some 17 percent of the general fund revenue.

"It's a significant piece of our revenue,"

Maloney said. "A loss of this revenue would be a significant bite on your local schools."

The non-homestead millage was approved by voters in 2004 and expires this month. According to Brodie Killian, the district's deputy superintendent for business and operations, the tax is applied to businesses and other non-principal property, such as apartment complexes, etc. The tax does not apply to homeowners.

"We're only able to levy it one more time," Killian said. "It's really important it passes."

If for some reason the vote fails in August, the district has time to get it back on the ballot for a second try in November. But Killian told Board of Education members earlier this year he hoped that wouldn't be necessary.

Research he's done on similar elections in other districts, he told board members, shows promise.

"The success rate of renewal elections are very nearly 100 percent," Killian said. "If we communicate it effectively, I would anticipate a successful election."

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# We are opening our doors to students in neighboring districts.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will be accepting 200 nonresident students under Section 105 in kindergarten, first grade and second grade. The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. on July 30. Applications can be completed on the district website at [www.pccs.k12.mi.us](http://www.pccs.k12.mi.us)

For additional information, please contact Community Relations at 734.416.2757 or [contact@pccsk12.com](mailto:contact@pccsk12.com)



## School district shuffles more staff members

Kimberly May, who has been an elementary school principal for more than a decade, including the last six years at Gallimore Elementary School in Canton, has been appointed director of state and federal programs for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

In her new role, May will oversee all of the district's state and federally funded and mandated programs, such as

Title I, Title III, Academic Interventions and Supports and Achievement Gap Accountability.

She will be succeeded as Gallimore principal by Megan Fenech, who has been an assistant principal at Salem High School for the last two years.

"Both Kim and Megan are well qualified for their new positions," said Dr. Michael Meissen, the district's superintendent. "Their appointments demonstrate our organi-

zational experience and depth and we are fortunate to have administrators of this caliber already working in our district."

May started in classroom teaching in 1996 with Detroit Public Schools and has had a series of positions of increasing responsibility,

such as reading coordinator for Inkster Public Schools, elementary academy director and curriculum coordinator for Edison Schools in Detroit and elementary school principal for Monroe Public Schools. She joined P-CCS as principal of Gallimore Elementary School in 2008.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University and has taken additional educational

course work at WSU and at Eastern Michigan University. She also has an educational specialist degree from WSU.

Fenech began her teaching career in 2003 as a science teacher at Grosse Pointe Community High School. She also has taught science at Redford Union and Plymouth high schools.

In her career, she also has been coordinator of the Smaller Learning Communities at Ply-

mouth High School, a curriculum author at the Henry Ford Learning Institute and K-12 math and science coordinator for P-CCS. For the last two years, she has been an assistant principal at Salem High School.

She earned her bachelor's and master's of arts degrees from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and she earned an education specialist degree from Oakland University.

## Marketing chief embraces P-C challenges

By Brad Kadrich  
Staff Writer

Bobb Vergiels thinks Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is the major leagues of school district assignments.

And if anyone knows what the big leagues look like, it's Vergiels.

In addition to his new job as Plymouth-Canton's director of communications, community relations and marketing, Vergiels just started his 11th season in baseball's major leagues as the stadium announcer for the Detroit Tigers at Comerica Park.

After more than six years in a similar position with the much-smaller Monroe Public Schools district, Vergiels is happy to have moved up to the 17,000-student Plymouth-Canton district.

"This is the premier school PR job in the state," Vergiels said. "I had done everything I was going to accomplish at Monroe and I'm a guy who needs a challenge."

**Challenges ahead**

That shouldn't be a problem. Plymouth-Canton officials are fac-

ing several of those at the moment. Among other things, the district is:

- » Trying to pass its non-homestead millage.
- » Getting ready to deliver on the 1:1 technology promise it made during the 2013 bond election.
- » Breaking ground on construction of a new middle school.
- » Trying to implement the school board's recent controversial decision to open the district to 200 K-2 students.

Vergiels should be able to help with that last one. Monroe is a totally open schools of choice district, so Vergiels has dealt with the issue before.

"A lot of the educational issues are the same," Vergiels said in comparing the districts. "People are always concerned about the size of classes and with the quality of the teachers." Monroe was Vergiels' first school district job. Before that, he spent 22 years in communications

positions at DTE Energy, where he had to deal with the controversial opening of the Fermi II nuclear power plant. The company used a community relations strategy that had employees going into the community, volunteering on boards and committees, even playing softball with residents around the plant.

By adding an educational program to teach people about the safety of the plant, Vergiels said DTE was able to turn around negative public opinion.

**Varied skills**

"When I was sent down there, public acceptance of Fermi was at about 20 percent," Vergiels said. "After our program to educate the public, acceptance rose to over 50 percent."

Vergiels has also been a reporter - he covered schools for the *Monroe Evening News* - and worked at a radio station. That varied experience gave Vergiels a skill set Superintendent Michael Meissen said will be very helpful to the district.

"He has experience

and expertise and he's demonstrated success as a school communications leader," Meissen said. "We are an organization trying to get better for 21st century learning. I think (Vergiels) has the experience in some of our challenges of the day."

In addition to his school duties, Vergiels has been the public address announcer for the Tigers since 2004 and he's also called athletic events for the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, among others. He said his announcing career evolved from time spent on the bench as a youth.

"I was a very non-gifted athlete, so I got to watch a lot of sports (from the bench)," Vergiels said with a chuckle. "I'd sit on the bench doing play-by-play. I'm pretty sure when my coach put me into the game, it was so he wouldn't have to listen to me."

**Trying again**

But Vergiels has parlayed his announcing

success into a benefit for his school. When he was in Monroe, he said, he'd periodically go into a classroom to read to students and inevitably they'd have him do his player introductions in the classroom.

"The kids got a kick out of it," he said.

Vergiels actually got the Plymouth-Canton job on his second try, having first interviewed a year ago. He didn't get the job, but selection committee members let him know "where I came up short," he said.

He went back to work and started working on those areas and, when former marketing chief Kate Dietrich left after only nine months, Vergiels finally got the gig.

"Plymouth-Canton has a great reputation as a quality district," Vergiels said. "Whenever we'd go to meetings, Plymouth-Canton always had a presence. So this is like stepping up to the big leagues."

### ON CAMPUS

**Michigan State**

**Stephanie Fogoros** of Canton, a 2012 graduate of Salem High School, has completed her sophomore year at MSU, receiving a certificate for a perfect 4.0 fall semester and an acceptance to the Michigan State Eli Broad College of Business, where she will pursue a degree in accounting.

Fogoros has been a member of the Honors College at Michigan State University since her freshman year, which serves academically talented and committed students. She completed a European Study Abroad program this past spring and is currently working a summer internship at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

**Miami University**

**Leah Powers** of Plymouth was among students from Miami University who received degrees during spring commencement exercises Saturday, May 17, in Yager Stadium.

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### Dems' picnic a chance to mingle with candidates

The Canton Democratic Club is offering voters a chance to mingle with political candidates and the club's members during a summer picnic scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, in Heritage Park in Canton.

The picnic occurs at the north pavilion No. 2, not far from Fire Station No. 1, off Canton Center between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

Visitors are welcome to attend and discuss campaign issues.

Those attending may bring an appetizer or dessert. Water and coffee will be provided.

# Canton police seek suspects in cases of stolen credit, debit cards

The Canton Police Department is seeking help identifying suspects in two alleged crimes.

» In the first case, police are looking for help identifying two men they believe used stolen credit cards to make purchases in Canton and Belleville.

» Canton police are also asking for help identifying a suspect wanted for questioning after a debit card stolen in Canton was used at a gas station in Ypsilanti.

Police have released surveillance photos of the suspect and the car he was driving.

Anyone who has information may make an anonymous tip by calling 734-394-5400.



Canton police are asking anyone who knows these suspects to call 734-394-5400.

## Summit Aquatic Center earns top safety rating

The Summit on the Park's Aquatic Center lifeguards and staff have again received a "high rating of exceeding" during a recent unannounced hidden camera audit performed by international aquatic safety expert Ellis & Associates, Inc.

Conducted four times each year on a random basis, these audits include vigilance awareness testing, emergency scenarios and evaluations on guarding techniques. In addition, these audits evaluate each lifeguard's response to simulated emergencies. Upon completion of the video surveillance, an Ellis & Associates audi-

tor tests the basic life support and rescue skills of the staff through simulated emergencies intended to measure the effectiveness of a facility's emergency action plan. The audit concludes with administrative, supervisory and facility evaluations.

In addition to the Ellis & Associates audits, Summit on the Park Aquatic Center staff perform varying types of internal audits covering CPR and first aid to the latest life-saving technology, methods and practices to dramatically reduce or eliminate water safety risks.

"Guest safety continues to be our top pri-

ority at the Summit on the Park's Aquatic Center, which makes these prestigious industry ratings for our aquatics staff even more important to us," said Brad Chiasson, recreation specialist.

"Safety audits like these ensure that our Aquatic Center staff is well-prepared to meet all of our guests' needs, as well as provide the highest degree of swimmer protection available in the aquatic industry."

To learn more about the Summit on the Park Aquatic Center's programs, classes and events, visit [www.summitonthepark.org](http://www.summitonthepark.org) or call 734-394-5460.

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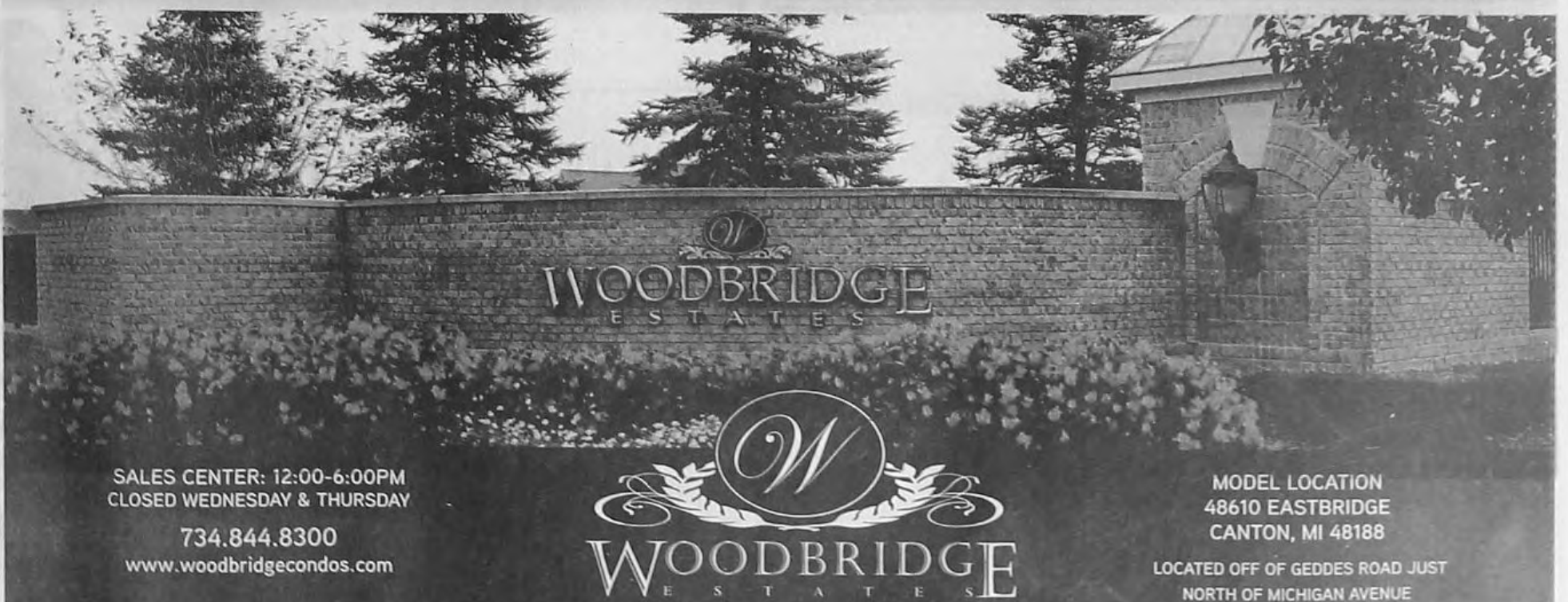
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LO-000204318

# County executive candidates discuss issues

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

Business owners and residents had the opportunity Thursday to see several of the Democratic candidates running for Wayne County executive in next month's primary election.

The Livonia Chamber of Commerce held a candidate forum Thursday night in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College. Of the candidates running, five were invited, with four appearing on stage, all Democrats: current state Rep. Phil Cavanagh, Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, Westland Mayor William Wild and incumbent Robert Ficano.

Former Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans was invited, but informed the chamber the morning of the event he would not be in attendance, said Dan West, president of the chamber.

Several issues were discussed at the forum, with much of the discussion circling back to the county's current financial status and the Wayne County Jail project in downtown Detroit, which has garnered a large amount of attention since work was halted.

Cavanagh said while some in the public are already looking toward moving the criminal justice center to the Mound Road facility that closed as a state prison, that's something that is not an automatic at this time, especially after the hundreds of millions of dollars that have already been invested in the new downtown facility.

"We, at this point, can't move to the Mound Road facility," he said. "I know maybe public opinion, the way the media has portrayed it, they have portrayed it as a failed jail project. It's a failed jail project because the commission and the executive took their eye off of it. Suddenly, it's over budget, so let's start suing people."

Ficano defended his track record of managing the jail project, saying he ordered building to stop when it came



William Wild answers questions at the Wayne County executive candidate forum. PHOTOS BY HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Kevin McNamara takes his turn with the mike.



Phil Cavanagh responds with his answers at the candidate forum.



Robert Ficano answers questions at the Wayne County executive candidate forum.

to light that the costs would be more than the original budgeted amounts for the county.

"I took a lot of heat, but I said, 'No, stop, we're going to sue you,'" he said. "Now there's a 200-page report, it's on our website, it's been given to the commission. And yes, we can finish it at Gratiot. That would be the best business decision to do, unless we go to Mound and the state helps us with the courts."

Wild said he'd like to get more details on the financial figures of the projects and said he questions some of the "business decisions" the county has made in recent years.

The projects he questioned included the Pinnacle Race Track in Huron Township, which closed after only a few years of operation.

"What you see out there, they've sold \$200 million worth in bonds. When you add the interest on it, it's a 30-year bond, it's actually \$530 million," he said. "What you see out there, we're on the hook for \$530 million, no matter if they do anything else to it or if they tear it down."

McNamara said the financing portion for the rest of the jail project is still undecided, but said completing the jail in its originally proposed location

would make it a state-of-the-art facility and model for other communities when it comes to a justice center.

"We would be the envy of the Midwest area. If we move to Mound, it will cost us roughly the same amount of money, but it will basically be a makeshift jail, a makeshift court system, nobody's even mentioned how we're going to handle juvenile justice in that area," he said. "We will need help from the state of Michigan in order to do it."

#### Other candidates

Other candidates running on the Democratic ticket for

the upcoming primary include: Adam Salam Adamski, Cindy Darrah, Russell George Leviska, Bettie Cook Scott, Sig-munt John Szczepkowski Jr. and Christopher Wojtowicz.

The winner of the Democratic primary will go on to face the winner of the Republican primary. The candidates running in that race include Fred A. Bolden, John Dalton and Daniel K. Wenderlich.

The primary election is Aug. 5, while the general election is Nov. 4.

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Matthew Holowiki downed 66 pierogi in 10 minutes to win the individual competition at the Polish festival in Sterling Heights.

## Plymouth eater is pierogi champion

The results are in from the annual Srodek's pierogi eating contest, held each year at the three-day Polish festival at the American Polish Century Club in Sterling Heights.

The Warren City Council ate its way to a second consecutive championship by a slim margin - 74-68 in five minutes, thanks in large part to Warren Councilman Cecil St. Pierre, who consumed a whopping 18 pierogi all by himself. In another heated contest, the Sterling Heights Fire Department, captained by John "The Bruiser" Blazait, beat the APCC Security All-Stars, led by Scott "The Wonderful" Wanzenski, again by a slim margin, 45-38.

But in the big individual pierogi contest, which is gaining a national reputation, Matthew Holowiki of Plymouth took first by downing an in-

credible 66 pierogi in just 10 minutes. Edward Delacruz of Wood Dale, Ill., finished a distant second at 48.

"It was incredible to watch Holowiki eat 66 pierogi in just 10 minutes," said Rodney Srodek, head of operations of Srodek's Campau Quality Sausage Co. in Hamtramck, which supplied all the pierogi. "It was pure carnage. Our annual pierogi contest is drawing professional eaters from around the country - one came from New Mexico a few years ago. Next year should be even more incredible."

Srodek's makes pierogi and Polish specialty foods for many of the big festivals in southeast Michigan, including the American Polish Century Club, Hamtramck Labor Day and Oktoberfest at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church.

## Trial in I-96 death set for next week

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

The trial of a man accused of striking and killing a pedestrian on Interstate 96 last fall will begin next week.

James Johnson, 24, of Redford is accused of hitting a man on I-96 in Livonia last fall as he was out of his vehicle inspecting it after it malfunctioned. A jury is expected to be selected starting at 9 a.m. Monday in Judge Timothy Kenny's courtroom in Detroit's Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

Livonia police have said Johnson was driving east-bound on the freeway near Middlebelt in November, when his vehicle veered off the road and struck 22-year-old Wayne resident Daniel Davis, who was out of his car inspecting his vehicle for

damage. Davis was declared dead from his injuries. Another victim who was hit, a 22-year-old Westland man, was injured and taken to a local hospital, police have said.

Johnson is charged with driving while license suspended causing death and driving while license suspended causing injury. If convicted, he could face up to 15 years in prison. A final conference in the case was held July 11 before Kenny in downtown Detroit.

While the incident took place in November, Johnson was not charged until March after prosecutors reviewed the case. He was arraigned in Livonia's 16th District Court and bound over to circuit court in the spring. Johnson is currently out of jail on bond awaiting trial.

### Police still searching for other suspect

Another pedestrian accident that took place earlier this spring has police still searching for a suspect.

Police said they are still looking for information pertaining to an accident involving a bicyclist May 19 at Newburgh and Schoolcraft. Police believe a vehicle struck the bicyclist, a 64-year-old Plymouth resident, while he was riding his bicycle. He was pronounced dead later after being taken to a local hospital.

Anyone with information regarding that incident is encouraged to call Livonia police at 734-466-2680.

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## Canton man convicted in federal health care fraud case

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

A Canton man who owns a health care business in Livonia has been convicted on several health care fraud charges in federal court in Detroit.

Vinod Patel, 41, was convicted late last week by a jury in U.S. District Court in Detroit on conspiracy to commit health care fraud and conspiracy to pay health care kickbacks, according to a news release.

Court records indicate Patel and his brother Babubhai Patel owned Livonia-based First Michigan Home Health Care Inc., 28182 Schoolcraft. The U.S. District Attorney's Office said Vinod Patel "routinely paid kickbacks to doctors, medical staff and patient

recruiters in exchange for referrals to First Michigan."

Documents also show Vinod Patel ran several corrupt pharmacies in the Saginaw and Bay City area, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

His brother, whom federal officials say was the mastermind behind a largely corrupt organization, is serving a 17-year federal prison sentence after being convicted in 2012 of running a chain of fraudulent pharmacies that illegally billed Medicare and Medicaid more than \$60 million and distributed more than 250,000 dosage units of oxycodone and 4 million dosage units of hydrocodone between 2006 and 2011.

"Babubhai Patel's criminal organization stole millions of dollars from the Medicare and Medicaid programs, depriving

these critical programs of needed revenue," U.S. Attorney Barbara L. McQuade said in a statement. "Dismantling organizations such as Patel's is a high priority for this office and we hope that prosecutions like this one will deter medical professionals and others from participating in schemes to enrich themselves at taxpayers' expense."

There was no word as to when sentencing would take place.

Vinod Patel was the 38th defendant convicted in federal court involved in this scheme. Federal officials say there is one more individual who was involved, but that person remains a fugitive.

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# Livonia theater group presents 'Godspell'

Paul's Players presents *Godspell*, a musical based on the gospel of Matthew with modern-day lyrics and music by Stephen Schwartz. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. July 30-31 and Aug. 1-2 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students.

"The music has been updated because the show recently had a new run on Broadway," director Pat Hutchison said. "It's a fun, family-friendly show and we've set our version on a sandy beach, so it's perfect for summertime."

Rachel Kain of Livonia is assistant director. A group of children from Livonia, Plymouth and Redford is also participating as part of a show choir which appears in group numbers throughout the show.

Tickets are available by calling 248-347-4134. Tickets will be

available at the door.

Paul's Players is a community theater group based in Livonia, and housed in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road. Its 2014-15 season is tentatively scheduled to include the plays *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Odd Couple* and the summer musical *Fiddler On the Roof*. It also hosts summer theater camps for middle school and elementary school aged children.

The group was founded in 2011 by Patricia Hutchison, a retired Livonia Public School music and drama teacher. Its mission is to provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate in drama and musical theater.

For more information about Paul's Players, contact Hutchison at 248-347-4134 or by email at paulsplayers@gmail.com.



The "Godspell" includes (top, from left) Clare Hermes, Clarenceville; Kat O'Donnell, Livonia; and Brian Welsh, Lincoln Park; (middle, from left) Quinn O'Donnell, Livonia; and Allison Range, Plymouth. and (bottom, from left) Joseph Debbs, Livonia; Pagarigan, Livonia; and Olivia Ryktarsyk, Livonia. Also in the cast are Max Trombley, Livonia; and Brian Wilson, Redford.

## Plymouth Salvation Army hosts 'Back 2 School Blitz'

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, in partnership with the Plymouth-Canton and Van Buren school districts as well as many local churches, service clubs and private donors, will launch a school supply drive Aug. 18-22, ending with a "back to school" blitz Aug. 22.

The drive seeks to collect new school supplies and backpacks for students K-12 for the upcoming school year for students in Plymouth, Canton, Belleville and Northville.

All assistance is provided by appointment only and families can call to set up an appointment to apply for assistance. Proof of residence and income will be required.

Volunteers will be on hand 1-6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22, at the Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main in Plymouth, to accept donations. The supplies will then be sorted and packed into backpacks for distribution to families Tuesday, Aug. 26.

Needed supplies include new backpacks (particularly for older students), binders, supply cases/bags, colored pencils, markers, wide ruled paper and one-subject note books, highlighters, pens (red, black and blue), rounded-tip scissors, No. 2 pencils, rulers, glue bottles, glue sticks, composition books and folders.

In addition to school supplies, the Army will be accepting donations of new socks and underwear and gently used clothing that will be distributed through the Plymouth Canton Community Clothing Bank, a partner of the Salvation Army throughout the year.

Monetary gifts will be used to purchase Payless gift cards that will be distributed to each child so they can purchase new school shoes.

"We are seeing and hearing of clients returning to work, albeit at a much lower rate or at reduced hours," said Laurie

Aren, director of family and community ministries at the Salvation Army Plymouth Corps. "We also know that many continue to struggle as unemployment benefits run out or as folks accept pay cuts to maintain their jobs. Preparing kids to go back to school can be very expensive so this is a practical way to support our families and students as they return to school."

"If your family is experiencing a financial hardship, please call us," Aren added. "This is such a generous community and there is no need for any child to go back to school without a backpack and new school supplies."

Volunteers are also needed to help sort and pack school supplies Aug. 25 and distribute school supplies Aug. 26. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact Sandy Kollinger at 734-453-5464 or send her an email at Sandra\_kollinger@usc.salvationarmy.org.

## United Way sponsors school supply drives

The Plymouth Community United Way is working with local partners to help low-income youths prepare for school this fall.

First up is a two-day school supply drive effort partnering with Canton Walmart stores, an effort to help make sure less fortunate children are ready to learn.

The first drive is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Walmart at 45555 Michigan Avenue. The second drive takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, at the Walmart at 39500 Ford Road.

"There are over 1,600 students in the area who could benefit from this drive," said Marie Morrow, PCUW president. "It is a good way to help youth get a head start in September."

Morrow suggests parents purchase a few extra school supplies while shopping for their children. Those who donate new supplies will be eligible to win a Walmart gift card.

Then, the Inn at St. John's gets into the drive by offering free golf to those who help.

From Aug. 11-15, golfers who donate a new backpack with at least four school supply items will be given a voucher for a complimentary 18-hole round of golf to be used at a later date.

"This is a great partnership with St. John's golf course," Morrow said. "It is a good way to help the youth and their families get a head start for school in September."

Backpacks and supplies should be brought to St. John's Pro Shop, 44045 Five Mile, Plymouth, to receive their free golf voucher.

For more information, visit [www.plymouthunitedway.org](http://www.plymouthunitedway.org), call 734-453-6879, ext. 7, or email [randi.williams@pcuw.org](mailto:randi.williams@pcuw.org).

New school supplies may also be dropped off at the PCUW office at 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, in Plymouth.



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# Diversity group names new president

Steve Spreitzer, who was recently recognized by the Hindu American Foundation with the Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Religious Pluralism, has been named president and CEO of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity Inclusion.



Spreitzer

Spreitzer has led the Michigan Roundtable on an interim basis for the past 10 months while former president and CEO Tom Costello spent the school year on a teaching sabbatical at his alma mater, Ohio University. Costello will be taking a permanent position teaching in the School of Communication Studies within the Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University.

Serving the Roundtable since 1996 in a range of capacities, including managing interfaith programs and Walk2gether Michigan (Walk as One) and as the director of programs, Spreitzer has a long history and very rich range of relationships.

"I am grateful and humbled by the opportunity to continue this important work," Spreitzer said. "I look forward to working with our board, staff and supporters to help to make the places we work and live, places where all people are welcome and treated fairly."

Reuben Munday, board chair of the Michigan Roundtable, commended Spreitzer's previous efforts for the organization.

"We are delighted that Steve has agreed to continue to lead the work of the Roundtable," Munday said. "He has a proven record in our community as a champion for social justice."

## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### DAY OF SERVICE

**Date/Time:** Saturday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m.  
**Location:** Canton Gurdwara Sahib, Singh Sabah, 3310 Canton Center, Canton  
**Details:** The Canton Gurdwara gathers for a Day of Seva (service) to pack meals for children. The event is intended to remember and honor the victims in the Aug. 5, 2012, mass shooting at Oak Creek, Wisc. Organizers are looking for at least 150 volunteers to help pack 20,000 meals in partnership with Kids Against Hunger. The event also hopes to raise \$6,000 to pay for the food. Register at <http://bit.ly/DetroitDayofSeva>.  
**Contact:** For more information, contact [DetroitDayofSeva@sikhcoalition.org](mailto:DetroitDayofSeva@sikhcoalition.org)

### CROP WALK MEETING

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, Aug. 13, 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Living Peace Church, 684 Deer St., Plymouth

**Details:** All area churches, temples and mosques in Canton and Plymouth are invited to send a representative to this meeting regarding the CROP walk to be held Sunday, Oct. 12, in Plymouth. CROP Hunger walks bring the whole community together in a common mission: helping hungry people at home and around the world.  
**Contact:** For more information contact Gary or Becky Copenhaver at [bgcopenhaver@yahoo.com](mailto:bgcopenhaver@yahoo.com) or 734-981-6023.

### MEDICARE/MEDICAID COUNSELING

**Date/Time:** Aug. 6, 1-3 p.m.  
**Location:** United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, Ste. 250, Canton

**Details:** United Home Health Services offers free individual counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program) counselor who will help you understand: Medicare/Medicaid eligibility, transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare, plan options, assistance programs, drug Insurance, and Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse identification and reporting. Medicare plan enrollment and subsidy application assistance also provided.  
**Contact:** Heather Pinage, 734 727-2063. Specify you are requesting an appointment for the United Home Health location. For MMAP information visit [www.mmapinc.org/pages/about.html](http://www.mmapinc.org/pages/about.html)

### FALL FEST CRAFTERS

**Date/Time:** Craft show is during Plymouth Fall Festival, Sept. 5-7  
**Location:** Downtown Plymouth

**Details:** It's not too late to send in an application for a booth in the Plymouth Fall Festival Craft Show. Only a few spots remain for talented crafters. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at [www.plymouthfallfestival.com](http://www.plymouthfallfestival.com).  
**Contact:** For more information, contact Colleen Brown at [craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com](mailto:craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com)



On ice

In a sure sign fall is coming faster than anyone would like, city of Plymouth "ice technicians," led by Ron Baase, were busy this week putting the ice back in and getting it painted at the Plymouth Cultural Center. While it was summer outside, the crew worked on ice that was 17 degrees at the PCC. The work ensured the arena would be ready for the "on ice" season beginning Aug. 4.

mouth Fall Festival Craft Show. Only a few spots remain for talented crafters. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at [www.plymouthfallfestival.com](http://www.plymouthfallfestival.com).  
**Contact:** For more information, contact Colleen Brown at [craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com](mailto:craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com)

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Dates/Times:** July 30 through Aug. 1, 6-8 p.m.

**Location:** West Wayne Free Will Baptist Church, 4040 John Hix Road, Wayne

**Details:** The West Wayne Free Will Baptist Church is now offering Vacation Bible School followed by Family Fun Day. The classes will be held

Wednesday, July 30, through Friday, Aug. 1. Family Fun Day takes place from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2. The theme is "Jesus is the Reason." The classes will be provided for children up to the age of 18. There will be a nursery for the babies, along with the classes for the other children. Activities will include singing, snacks and crafts.  
**Contact:** Call 734-728-6266 for directions or further information.

### LIBRARY MUSIC SERIES

**Time/Location:** Each Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main

**Dates:** July 30, The Film Score Grows Up -

After World War II, films and film music become darker and more realistic.

Aug. 20, The Classical Film Score, Lost and Found - Big changes in films and scores in the '50s, but it all comes back again in the '70s.

**Details:** The Plymouth District Library will host music professor Karl Schmidt for a four-part series this summer. Schmidt will present music and video excerpts from films such as *The Jazz Singer* (1927), *Gone With the Wind* (1939), *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946) and *High Noon* (1952), as well as a study of political and social changes that influenced all forms of art, including films. This music series is made possible through the Michigan Opera Theatre's Department of Community Programs and the Friends of the Plymouth District Library.  
**Contact:** Call 734-453-0750.

### BLOOD DRIVES

**Dates/Times/Locations:**

Monday, July 28, 1:30-7:15 p.m., Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon, Canton

Tuesday, July 29, noon to 5:45 p.m., Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Drive, Canton

Tuesday, July 29, noon to 5:45 p.m., Super Bowl Lanes, 45100 Ford Road, Canton

Wednesday, July 30, noon to 5:45 p.m., Canton Municipal Office

**Details:** The American Red Cross sponsors the above blood drives in the local community. Appointments can be made, and walk-ins are welcome.  
**Contact:** Call 800-REDCROSS to make an appointment

### CRAFTERS NEEDED

**Date/Time:** Oct. 18

**Location:** West Middle School, 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

**Details:** The Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society hosts its annual juried Craft Show. Proceeds from the show provide scholarships for young people who are pursuing a career in education and mini-grants for educators in the district.  
**Contact:** For more information, contact Debbie Cortellini at [deb-cortellini@comcast.net](mailto:deb-cortellini@comcast.net) or 734-451-1525.

**BNI MEETING**  
**Date/Time:** Each Thursday, 7-8:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Red Olive Restaurant, 1051 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth  
**Details:** The BNI Northville-The \$1 million Referral Chapter meets every Thursday morning.  
**Contact:** For more information, visit [www.NorthvilleBNI.com](http://www.NorthvilleBNI.com)

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# Honest Abe: Local man a proud Lincoln lookalike

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

Ron Carley has used his impeccable likeness to one of the country's most-loved presidents to create quite a stir when he's out in public.

His likeness even helped him to get into Opening Day at Comerica Park earlier this year through posing for photos with Tigers fans.

"I went without a ticket, \$40 in my pocket. And I went with somebody who has tickets. And I said, 'I'm just going to stand around and take pictures,'" he said. "I went into this one bar, the owner buys me a beer, he's taking pictures. I got a few tips, I got enough money, probably \$80, to get into the game."

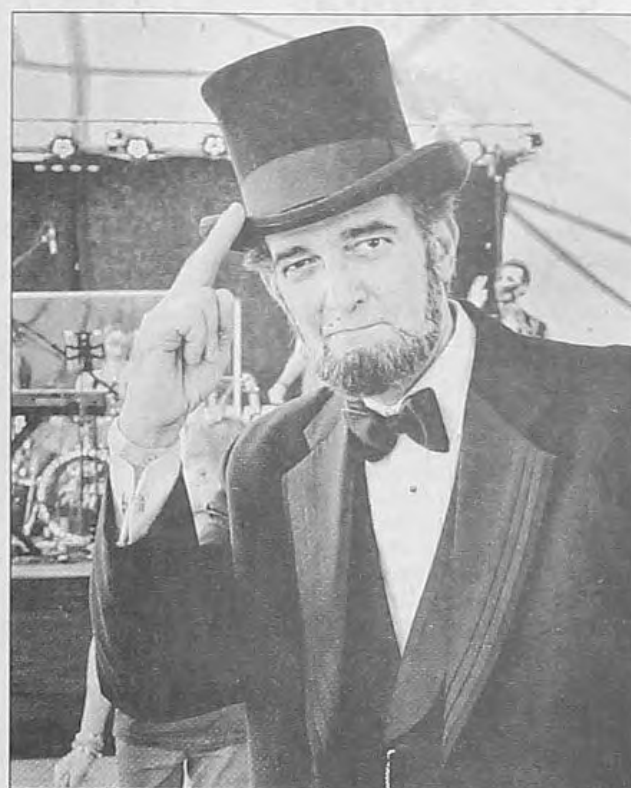
Carley, 61, of Livonia discovered his likeness to Abraham Lincoln several years ago and began portraying the 16th president shortly after. Standing at 6-foot-4 with a face that's structured like Lincoln's, Carley, who grew up in Redford, has taken the opportunity to make appearances around the area.

He's shown up at events such as the Livonia Spree and the Plymouth Fourth of July festivities dressed as Honest Abe, complete with the suit and stovepipe hat.

"He was probably the most admired president we've ever had," Carley said. "I kind of take on his persona."



Honest Abe Lincoln, played by Ron Carley of Livonia, greets the crowd at the Plymouth Good Morning USA parade. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Ron Carley, here at Livonia Spree, has portrayed Abraham Lincoln for about 18 months. He's from Livonia.

He got the idea of becoming Lincoln after a Halloween party, when someone pointed out his likeness. Later, he was approached by Canton resident Bill Dunn at their church in Canton. Dunn, a member of the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table of Michigan, a group that discusses the Civil War each month, noticed Carley's likeness to Lincoln and invited him to join the group.

Dunn said he notices Carley change demeanor when he puts on the stovepipe hat.

"He gets all Lincolnized, he's a little bit more extroverted," he said. "It's a good learning

curve for him."

Since Carley has gotten involved with the Civil War group members, he's traveled with them to several historical sites tied to Lincoln, such as Ford's Theatre, the Garrett Farmhouse where John Wilkes Booth died and the Lincoln Memorial.

At these sites, especially the Lincoln Memorial, he was immediately surrounded by people looking for a photo with him, a request Carley gladly accepts.

"I went up there, dressed up like I was. I got mobbed," he said. "I was up there for about a half hour."

Dunn said photo-

graphs with Carley at historical sites can lead to delays on the trips since there are so many requests.

"They were just running up and having their pictures taken with Ron," he said. "We almost had to do an intervention to get him on the bus."

### A new career?

Carley hopes his likeness will become more than just appearances at local events; he hopes to become a professional Lincoln presenter. While he has worked several decades for an auto parts shop in Westland, Carley said doing more Lincoln gigs is definitely on his radar.

He's on his way, having done some appearances at a local Lincoln Motor Co. dealership. Entering into the Lincoln car brand is an aspiration of his, one he hopes to achieve in the next few years by portraying the icon in television commercials.

He's shown up at auto events at Cobo Center this year, including the North American International Auto Show and Autorama, and was pegged to do several radio interviews with local stations based on his Lincoln attire.

"I went to have fun," he said. "It seems like my group of people that like me are car guys."

The experience has piqued an interest in American history for Carley as well. While he enjoyed studying history before, that has heightened since he began portraying Lincoln.

"Since I became Lincoln, I've been reading. So I'm learning a lot," he said. "I'd almost go and pay to do this."

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734-678-6728

# Volunteers needed for fourth annual Cruisin' Hines

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

In 2011, Don Nicholson was blown away by the response to his inaugural Hines Drive cruise. Cruisin' Hines attracted more than 24,000 classic car owners and hot rodders who spent the day driving from Ann Arbor Trail in Westland to Outer Drive in Dearborn.

That number more than doubled by year three and Nicholson is expecting an even bigger crowd for this year's Cruisin' Hines, set to start at 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 24.

"We had over 50,000 cars last year; the response was phenomenal," the Westland resident said. "The car count has continued to grow by huge numbers every year. This year we have been hearing from car clubs and individuals coming from far away."

But the problem Nicholson has faced since the first year is how to get the cars onto the parkway efficiently. Making cruisers register slowed the process the first year, so he dumped that for the second year and it still remained a slow process. Last year, he moved the cruise entrance to Merriman, thinking access

from a four-lane road would help. It was "a hindrance," he said.

### New entrance

So for the fourth installment, he's moved the entrance to Ford Road in Dearborn to use the long approach to Hines Drive as the staging area. Spectators will still be able to access the park at Ann Arbor Trail, Merriman and the Warrendale entrance near Telegraph.

"It'll give us a more efficient entrance and we knew that even opening one entrance at each end, the majority would still enter near Nankin Mills," Nicholson said. "So we would not have fixed anything, just spread out our manpower."

"Hopefully that will end that problem. It's a good problem to have when you have so many people come to an event," he added.

The popularity of the cruise is due in part to its inclusion in the Autopaloza lineup, which promotes car cruises, races and car shows in southeast Michigan that is promoted not only throughout the state, but around the U.S. and the world. Last year, the event had people come from seven states and

two provinces and even had a couple from Germany plan their vacation around the cruise, Nicholson said.

### Volunteers needed

And with the cruises popularity growing - it's Nicholson's goal to make it the biggest such event in Wayne County - he's in need of volunteers to help. Last year, he had 20 volunteers, but this year, knowing how participation has doubled each year the past three years, he's looking for 50 volunteers.

Volunteers will help put up banners and mark areas for car clubs and vendors and work at the spectator entrances and main gate. Shifts will start as early as 1 a.m. "In addition to being part of a great event," volunteers will receive a free T-shirt and will be provided with food and water throughout the day, Nicholson said.

"I hope to have enough so volunteers only have to work four-hour shifts," he added.

Nicholson will hold a volunteer meeting before the cruise. People interested in being involved can contact him at Don@DonNicholson.net or by calling 734-658-5296.

The cruise also has added new sponsors, Rory Gamble and UAW Region 1A.

"They are a big part of all of our events," Nicholson said. "With our

commitment to the history of the automobile and the local car people, the UAW was the perfect partnership to work with. The UAW members are our customer base. We

look forward to adding the UAW 1A logo to our growing list of great organizations."

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Twitter: @SusanMarieMason

## PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPT. 734 354-3232 NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that on 08/01/2014, at 10:00a.m., Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170, a public auction of the following:

			Starting Bid
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1991	Buick Riviera	1G4EZ13L8MU409123	900.00
1999	Oldsmobile Intrigue	1G3NK52T8XC382825	685.00
2002	Jeep Grand Cherokee	1J4GW48S32C113592	685.00
2001	Honda Accord	1HGCG56621A144924	1015.00

Publish: July 27, 2014

LO-0000206399 2x2

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2000	SUBARU	STATION WAGON	SW	4S3BH665XY6611539	14-3440
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# County offices get energy monitoring system

A pilot program aimed at improving energy use and reducing utility costs at Wayne County's historic Guardian Building took another step forward with the successful installation of the Energy Operation Center.

The more than \$1 million project, funded entirely by the Korea Micro-Energy Grid consortium, uses a high-tech "smart grid" system to control operating systems. Along with other capital improvements and technological advances, it is estimated to save 10-15 percent on the building's utility expenses, approximately \$200,000 annually, beginning in August.

With the Energy Operation Center installed, K-MEG officials will monitor the systems in the coming weeks and make adjustments as needed before officially calling the work finished.

The Guardian Building monitoring is one of three pilot programs in buildings initiated by K-MEG across the United States.

## Monitors systems

K-MEG, a consortium of 80 Korean companies, constructed the Energy Operation Center to run its various control/automation systems on the 16th floor of the Guardian Building. From that



Project manager Trey Lim from Smart and Green Controls in Plymouth discusses the K-MEG project at its unveiling.

location, K-MEG can monitor energy systems, air flow usage and utility output in the Guardian Building. Other features include a Building Energy Management Systems, Advanced Monitoring Infrastructure, environmental sensors and sensor network.

"Wayne County was honored to be part of the pilot program agreement with K-MEG," Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said. "The technological enhancements will improve the operational efficiency of the Guardian Building.

"It's a win for our general operating budget and the taxpayers in Wayne County," he added. "We continue to look for and use the latest technologies, so we can reduce our overhead in the short term, while making us more efficient in the long run."

Samsung C&T, KT Corp., Nara Controls, Ecosian and S&G Controls are among the 80 companies making up K-MEG and are involved in the Guardian Building project.

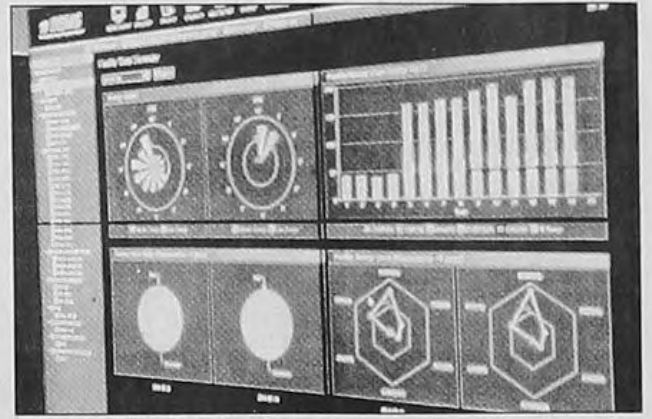
Completed in 1929, the Guardian Building was

purchased in 2007 by Wayne County, which relocated its offices there from the Old Wayne County Building.

## Old building sold

The Wayne County Commission recently approved the sale of the Old Wayne County Building and a nearby 120-space parking lot to New York developers, who plan to renovate and lease the historic structure for \$13.4 million.

The sellers are Wayne County, the Wayne County Economic Development Corp. and the Old



The control board of the Energy Operation Center is located on the 16th floor of the Guardian Building.

Wayne County Building Limited Partnership. The buyer is 600 Randolph SN LLC of Great Neck, N.Y.

Wayne County will receive nearly \$2.7 million, which the Wayne County Commission could apply toward the county's budget deficit.

The New York developers are an undisclosed family that has purchased and developed more than \$250 million in real estate in Manhattan, plus projects elsewhere, over the past few years. The Old Wayne County Building is its first purchase in Detroit, said Moshe Oppenheim, an attorney representing the family.

The developers plan to spend between \$4 million and \$5 million on structural improvements and another \$5 million to

\$10 million on tenant build-out. Wayne County owns the parking lot at 400 E. Fort St., adjacent to the building. The county, through the EDC, owns the land on which the building sits at 600 Randolph. The partnership owns the building.

The Old Wayne County Building was constructed between 1897 and 1902 and received a National Register of Historic Places designation in 1975. Wayne County operations were moved in December 2009 from the building after the county purchased the Guardian Building.

Under terms of the sale agreement, all litigation between the county and partnership that transpired since the county left the building will be dropped.

# W-W hosts info meeting on tax request

By Sue Mason  
Staff Writer

Six Wayne-Westland schools will be holding informational sessions for parents and voters about the Wayne County RESA education enhancement millage which will on the Tuesday, Aug. 5, primary ballot.

Voters in school districts throughout Wayne

County are being asked to approve a 2-mill tax levy for six years.

This is the first time since the passage of Proposal A in 1994 that such a request has been brought to voters in Wayne County.

It is the only additional millage that state law allows to generate additional operating funds for school districts under Proposal A.

Only Wayne County RESA can seek the tax levy, which required the approval of school district boards representing more than 50 percent of K-12 students in the county to put it before voters.

If approved, the 2 mills will be assessed on all taxpayers in the county, then distributed on a per-student basis to each public K-12 school district in Wayne County. The Education Achievement Authority, charter schools and Wayne RESA will not receive any of the revenue.

The informational meetings will be:  
» 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 29, at Stevenson Middle School, 38501

Palmer Road, west of Newburgh, in Westland and at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St., at Glenwood, in Wayne.

» 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, at John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, in Westland.

» 8 a.m. Thursday, July 31, at Marshall Upper Elementary School, 35100 Bayview, east of Wayne Road, in Westland.

» 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 4, at Franklin Middle School, 33555 Annapolis, west of Venoy, in Wayne.

» 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4, at Edison Elementary School, 34505 Hunter, east of Wayne

Road, in Westland.

School officials have said that Wayne-Westland would be a receiver district if the millage is approved, meaning that the tax levy would collect \$3.8 million, but put \$4.7 million into the district's general fund, based on enrollment.

Officials also are saying that the millage would cost the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$50,000 approximately \$100 per year, which equates to less than \$4.16 a month.

The new revenue would be a boost for the district, which saw its state school aid slashed by Gov. Rick Snyder, who several years ago eliminated an \$8 million reve-

nue enhancement tied to millage loss due to Proposal A. The decision cut the district's per-pupil payment by more than \$900 and put it near the bottom of districts in per-student money from the state.

The district plans to use the new revenue to maintain student programs - academic, student technology, athletics and extracurricular activities - for school bus replacement, update curriculum materials and maintain facilities and equipment.

More information can be found on the district's website at wwcsd.net.

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# Five file to run for Schoolcraft board seats

By Karen Smith  
Staff Writer

Bob Breslin, 75, of Northville is a Ford Motor Co. retiree who believes Schoolcraft College can reduce costs and lower tuition.

Howard Petty, 59, of Livonia is a professor at the University of Michigan Medical School. He believes education is the catalyst for economic development in Michigan and that community colleges like Schoolcraft have a key role in provid-

ing real-world experiential learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics while keeping tuition affordable.

Both filed Tuesday to run for seats on the Schoolcraft College board in the Nov. 4 general election.

They join incumbents Brian Broderick, board chair; Joan Gebhardt, treasurer; and Terry Gilligan, trustee, in vying for three, six-year terms ending Dec. 31, 2020.

Breslin, who retired

from Ford in 2001 as manager of quality control, said Schoolcraft has a record to be proud of, but he thinks it can do better in reducing costs and lowering tuition.

"Schoolcraft can be an example to other colleges on how to stem the cost of education. It should fill this role and I want to help do that," he said.

Petty, who also ran in 2010 for the Schoolcraft board, said he is excited by the prospect of bringing his lifetime of experience in Michigan bacca-

laureate and post-graduate education to Schoolcraft to help prepare students for successful careers.

Broderick, 47, of Plymouth, an attorney who is executive director of the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools, said he is seeking a fourth term because there is still work to be done.

Gebhardt, 64, of Livonia is a retired educator with 10 years experience as a classroom teacher and 21 years as a princi-

pal. She also served as a former Wayne County commissioner, constituent staff person to the speaker of the state House of Representatives and as an adjunct at Madonna University.

Gebhardt was first appointed to fill the remainder of a term, then elected. She has served for 7½ years.

Gilligan, 51, of Livonia is a business agent for Pipefitters Local 636. He has been a trustee for two years.

He said he is running

for re-election because he brings a unique perspective to the board. He said he is the only trustee (or candidate) who has a child currently attending Schoolcraft.

"I enjoy having the opportunity to serve the community as the college is evolving as one of the best educational values in the area - as we strive to be not only a two-year but also a four-year college opportunity," he said.

ksmith@hometownlife.com

# Be cautious with early withdrawal from IRA

**Q: Dear Rick: I'm divorced and have been living with my significant other for the past seven years. We have a home, but it is in his name only. My daughter from my first marriage wants to buy a home, but she needs some assistance with the down payment. I want to give her the \$10,000 that she needs for the down payment. Her Realtor suggested that I take the money from my traditional IRA. She said that although I'm in my early 50s, I can withdraw the money without cost because it's for the purchase of a home. My significant other says the Realtor is wrong and that it's going to cost me thousands in taxes and penalties. The only other place I can get the money from is from my 401(k); however, I already have an outstanding loan and I can't borrow any more. Who is right?**

**A:** Both the Realtor and your significant other are incorrect.

However, the Realtor is correct in that there is an exception to the rule



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

regarding withdrawals from an IRA prior to 59½. One of those exceptions deals with first-time home buyers.

The way the law is written, this provision doesn't just apply to the owner of the IRA, but also immediate family. Therefore, you would be able to withdraw the money from your IRA and use that to assist your daughter.

The maximum that you can withdraw under this provision is \$10,000. However, this withdrawal is not tax-free.

What confuses people is the difference between taxes and early withdrawal (10 percent before age 59½) penalty. The penalty is waived when you withdraw money from an IRA and use it for the purchase of a home. Taxes are not waived.

Therefore, when your significant other tells you it will cost you money, he is correct. However, he is

not correct when it comes to penalties.

When you withdraw money from an IRA, whether it's prior to 59½ or after 59½, that money is always subject to income tax. In your situation, when you withdraw \$10,000, it will be taxed at your ordinary income bracket. If your ordinary income bracket is 28 percent, you will pay \$2,800 in federal taxes. There also is Michigan tax.

Even though the penalty would be waived, between state and federal taxes, you are going to pay around \$3,000.

One issue to consider is whether you're jeopardizing your retirement in order to assist your daughter's purchase of the home. I know this is difficult, however, it is something to consider.

I believe that you cannot put your retirement at risk. Before you make a withdrawal, you have to make sure that you are going to have more than enough for your retirement. I hate to tell people to be selfish, but this is the one time that you have to be selfish.

Be very cautious about using money from your IRA. After all, you already have an outstanding loan in your

401(k).

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

assetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).

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# Inspire Theatre leaves 'No Stone Unturned'

Fresh off its successful run of *Steel Magnolias*, Inspire Theatre allows no grass to grow beneath its feet or *No Stone Unturned* as it amps up for its summer spectacle of the same name.

Written by local playwrights Joe Davis and Len Fisher, *No Stone Unturned* is a farcical takeoff of the murder mysteries of the 1940s. Spade Stone is a struggling private investigator with too few cases and one too many girlfriends. The trouble starts when the beautiful film star Lola Winkelman walks in and offers Stone and his partner, Patrick O'Malley, \$2,000 to find her missing sister.

The show times are 3 p.m. Sunday, July 27, and 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 1-2. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door, online at [inspiretheatre.com](http://inspiretheatre.com) or reserved ahead of time by calling 734-751-7057.

*No Stone Unturned* was originally written as an untitled after dinner sketch. After

losing its lease in the spring of 2013, Inspire Theatre began looking for material that had no scene changes and could rely on few props and set pieces. IT costumer LaDonna Davis approached her son Joe, a local comedian who does stand-up. Also the executive producer of Motor City Improv, he wrote a funny sketch about a down on his luck private investigator for his mother.

Davis passed the sketch on to Fisher, artistic director of Inspire Theatre. Fisher thought the sketch was great, just too short for a play. After securing a building in Westland, Fisher revisited the sketch and began adding characters, plot twists and more action. Calling the untitled play *Joe* in honor of its original author, Fisher searched for a more suitable name. *No Stone Unturned* seemed like a logical choice, given its lead character's name, Slade Stone.

Playing the part of Stone is John Donnelly of Redford, who



Bobbi Gladden of Livonia, Courtney Nixon of Farmington Hills and Deanna Lee of Redford are appearing in Inspire Theatre's "No Stone Unturned."

is in his first leading role with Inspire Theatre. Donnelly, a fixture with Inspire Theatre since his first show in 2006, is more than just an actor with IT. He assists in the behind the scenes activity, such as set construction and theater maintenance.

Mark Steinhauer of Livonia plays the product spokesman

Dr. Chesterton. Steinhauer has been in numerous shows around western Wayne County, mostly with The Park Players of Detroit. He readily admits however, that his wife is the talent in the family. Also of Livonia, are retired police detective Bill Petersen and Bobbi Gladden. Petersen, who is usually cast as a cop, finds

himself as the great inventor, Leopold Johnson, for this outing. Gladden plays the blonde receptionist to Stone. Billy Whitehouse of Rochester and Toni Hammond and Courtney Nixon of Farmington Hills round out the cast.

Fisher is fond of saying that Nixon was with IT even before it was IT. Inspire Theatre was formally established in 2005. Nixon was part of Fisher's productions of *Godspell* and *A Christmas Carol* in 2004. Since 2005, IT has performed in borrowed and rented spaces in churches in Westland and Dearborn before finding permanent housing in the warehouse district of Westland. The 5,000-square-foot space at 5767 Executive Dr., is shared by First Impressions Acting, led by local film actress Tonya Dallas of Belleville.

First Impressions teaches children and adults to act for television and film. Dallas and Fisher met when Dallas was cast in another Fisher creation, *KORK-TV*, in 2010.

## Man accused in referee's death due in court this week

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

The man accused in the death of a referee in Livonia last month is scheduled to return to court later this week.

Bassel Saad, 36, of Dearborn is slated to return to Livonia's 16th District Court at 1 p.m. Wednesday before Judge Sean Kavanagh for a preliminary examination in the case.

Saad is charged with second-degree murder in the death of 44-year-old Westland resident John Bieniewicz, who died earlier this month after being assaulted during a soccer match June 29 at Mies Park in Livonia. Police say Saad assaulted Bieniewicz while Bie-

niewicz was in the process of ejecting Saad from the match. After the incident, police said Saad fled the scene. He turned himself in at the Livonia police station the next day.

Saad was originally charged with assault after the incident, but those charges were enhanced to second-degree murder a week after Bieniewicz died. He was arraigned on the new charges July 10 by 16th District Judge Kathleen McCann, just hours before Bieniewicz's funeral in nearby Redford. If convicted, Saad faces up to life in prison.

As of Friday afternoon, Saad remained locked up in the Wayne County Jail on a \$1 million

cash or surety bond.

Several fundraisers are scheduled to take place to benefit Bieniewicz's family in the coming weeks. An all-you-can-eat pasta dinner will take place Wednesday at Doc's Sports Retreat, 19265 Victor Parkway, in Livonia, complete with prizes and raffles. Tickets cost \$10 at the door.

A golf outing, sponsored by the John Bieniewicz Foundation, will take place Aug. 22 at Cattails Golf Club, 57737 Nine Mile, in Lyon Township. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. and the cost is \$75. More information can be found at [johnbieniewicz-foundation.org](http://johnbieniewicz-foundation.org).

[dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com)  
734-678-6728

## Retailer donating backpacks to students

Residents in Canton are about to benefit from a national backpack giveaway campaign.

The Cellular Connection, in a joint effort with its customers, announced it will be donating 100,000 backpacks full of school supplies to children through its School Rocks Backpack Giveaway. Last year, the company donated 60,000 backpacks.

More than 350 participating TCC stores are inviting local families to bring their children to the store between noon and 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, to pick up a backpack filled with pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders, glue and more. One backpack per child present will be given

away on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

The participating store in Canton is located at 46540 Michigan Ave. Each participating TCC store will donate between 75 and 300 backpacks. All leftover backpacks will be donated to local schools.

"The backpack giveaway is a huge part of TCC's 'Culture of Good' movement that's all about making a positive impact on employees while benefiting the world," said Scott Moorehead, president and CEO of TCC. "It's how our company gives back to every community where we do business and it involves every employee at every level. We're honored to have the ability

to give back to those who need it."

Canton residents have also joined the cause. Since the beginning of March, TCC customers have been given the option to round their purchases up to the nearest dollar, with the difference going directly toward the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway.

In 2013, the National Retail Federation predicted the average person with children in grades K-12 would spend \$86 on school supplies such as notebooks, pencils and backpacks.

On top of that, nearly 16 million children in the U.S. live in poverty.

To learn more about TCC, visit [www.ecellularconnection.com](http://www.ecellularconnection.com).

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# Plymouth native retraces World War II mission



Plymouth native Sarah Holmes is retracing Operation Frankton with the Pilgrim Bandits charity.

Amputee servicemen and veterans brought together by the Pilgrim Bandits Charity, from New Milton in England, retraced a daring World War II commando raid - Operation Frankton. Plymouth native Sarah Holmes, 46, joined the expedition. She is the great niece of Cpl. George Sheard, who lost his life during the original mission.

The Pilgrim Bandits expedition was designed to honor all the fallen of World War II and commemorate the huge achievement and the war-winning contribution made by all those that took part in Operation Frankton. At the same time, the adventure was designed to provide a demanding,

confidence-building excursion for severely injured serving soldiers, veterans and a small number of fee-paying members of the public who are contributing to the cost of the expedition.

"Admiral Louis Mountbatten was chief of combined operations at the time. He increased the number of Mark II canoes (a.k.a. Cockles) from the original three to six," said Mike Witt, CEO of Pilgrim Bandits.

"It was thanks to his foresight that the mission was such a success. Whilst we can in no way re-enact Operation Frankton, we can retrace the miles of slog and pay homage to those 34 brave men that

made up the detachment."

Witt said those retracing the path would receive "no special treatment."

"It's a hard-core, grueling trip designed to commemorate and highlight the sacrifice of so many," Witt said. "If all goes according to plan, we will arrive in Blaye, where the original members ditched their clippers for the escape route on D-Day."

Holmes, head of implementation for Communis, also a sponsor of the mission, is a former member of the Women's Royal Naval Service and honorary secretary on behalf of the Frankton Families.

Holmes called being part of the trip an "ab-

solute honor."

"Being able to honor my very brave uncle, all his brave colleagues and all those that fought in all conflicts is a huge privilege," Holmes said. "This will be a huge test for me physically, mentally and, for me, particularly emotional. My uncle's body was never recovered, so by releasing these memorial pebbles at each of the points where the original crew members are thought to have been lost will be a tribute of remembrance and pride on behalf of all the Frankton families."

For more information, visit [www.pilgrim-bandits.org](http://www.pilgrim-bandits.org).

## Owner of dogs that killed jogger could face charges

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

Charges could be filed against a dog owner after a Livonia man was killed last week after being attacked by a pair of dogs in Lapeer County near his workplace.

Metamora Township Police Chief David Mallett said 46-year-old Craig Sytsma was declared dead Wednesday after being attacked by a pair of dogs while jogging along Thomas Road in the township just north of the Oakland County border.

Mallett said Sytsma worked at Eltro Services, a surface engineering facility in neighboring Oxford Township, and appeared to be out on a run when he was attacked. Police were called at about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. Mallett said it appeared the dogs had been in a yard or possibly tied up earlier in the day, but were loose later on.

"Somehow, they must have gotten free from that area," he said. "I think this guy was just running down the road minding his own business."

Sytsma, who police could not identify at the scene because he carried no identification, was found on the ground near the road. An area resident who fired shots from a firearm to scare the dogs had come to aid him, Mallett said.

Police were initially called to the area on reports of gunshots when they found Sytsma. Later on in the investigation, it was determined two dogs attacked him, Mallett said. The dogs were identified by the Lapeer County Animal Shelter as cane corsos.

Sytsma was taken to McLaren Lapeer Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. Police did not identify Sytsma until the following morning, when a co-worker at his place of employment noticed Sytsma's vehicle at the business, but could not locate him. He was later identified by

family members.

A message was left at the Lapeer County Medical Examiner's Office seeking comment.

A LinkedIn profile page for Sytsma shows he had worked at Eltro Services for nearly 10 years. It states he graduated with a bachelor's degree from Michigan Technological University in 1992.

A message seeking comment from Eltro Services was not returned by press time.

The dogs were taken into custody and are currently in quarantine at the Lapeer County Animal Shelter. Mallett said the Lapeer County prosecutor is deciding



Craig Sytsma, 46, shown with his 2-year-old granddaughter Leylah Sytsma, died Wednesday evening after he was attacked by a pair of cane corsos while jogging.

FAMILY PHOTO

on what the next step for the dogs and the dogs' owner is. He said it is possible the dogs could

be euthanized.

"We have been in touch with the prosecutor since (Wednesday) evening and he has taken interest in the case," Mallett said.

Under state law, a dog owner can be charged with involuntary manslaughter if their animal kills a person that has not provoked the animal.

There was no word on whether any charges would be filed in the case. Mallett said officers are still investigating and will forward a report to the prosecutor at a later date.

[dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com)  
734-678-6728

## Access to I-96 from I-275 closed until Monday morning

Bridge work being done as part of the Interstate 96 reconstruction project has closed eastbound access to the freeway from I-275 this weekend.

The Michigan Department of Transportation put out information Wednesday stating that the eastbound freeway, which has been open to the Newburgh exit during construction, will not be accessible either by northbound or southbound I-275 from 4 a.m. Saturday to 5 a.m. Monday.

The closure, which resulted in the Newburgh exit ramp being

closed as well, is required for crews to do demolition work on the Schoolcraft bridge on the west side of the freeway. During the closure, the entrance ramp to westbound I-96 from Newburgh will remain open.

State officials recommend taking Ann Arbor Road or Six Mile as detours during the closure.

The \$148 million reconstruction project of the freeway, which spans seven miles between Telegraph in Redford and Newburgh in Livonia, is scheduled to wrap up no later than October.



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11:10, 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30  
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SEX TAPE (R)  
FRI-MON/WED 11:20, 1:45, 4:40,  
7:05, 9:20 FRI/SAT LS 11:40  
TUE 11:20, 1:45, 4:40  
PLANES: FIRE AND RESCUE (PG)  
11:30, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00  
FRI/SAT LS 11:55  
THE PURGE: ANARCHY (R)  
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35  
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DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES  
(PG-13) 12:00, 3:00, 6:20, 9:10  
FRI/SAT LS 11:05

# Car club watches cruise shrink

By Joanne Maliszewski  
Staff Writer

Farmington's Cruis'n the Grand has been wildly successful for years. But the past couple of seasons have been tough for the Grand River Cruisers Car Club, which hosts the weekly spring and summer event.

Club members are asking for the public's help in spreading the awareness of the cruise and attending the gathering of hot rods and classic cars in the Village Commons parking lot anytime after 5 p.m. each Monday.

"It was nice when we could fill up the place — some 100-175 cars," said Harvey Ettinger, a cruise organizer and member of the Grand River Cruisers Car Club.

Ettinger and his fellow club members aren't sure what the problem might be. Increased competition — meaning more car cruises, including a new one in Livonia — could be at the center of the decline in attendance. Of course, people are always busy. Weather is another issue.

"This year, we haven't had a lot of beautiful Mondays," Ettinger said, adding that last year had a lot of rainy Mondays, as well.

Club members want the public to know that there is much more to hosting a car cruise than meets the eye. The club has to pay insurance costs, a state license and an ad in the *Cruise News*. It's not that club members expect to make a profit. On the contrary, the club traditionally has donated any proceeds from the cruises to local charities. In the past, donations have been



A visit to Cruis'n the Grand is about camaraderie and chance to see some hot rods and classic cars. PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

made to the Farmington High School marching band, Salvation Army, Carnival of Care and Farmington Area Goodfellows.

The proceeds come from the weekly 50/50 raffle offered by the club. Cruisers who bring their autos receive two free tickets and are eligible for door

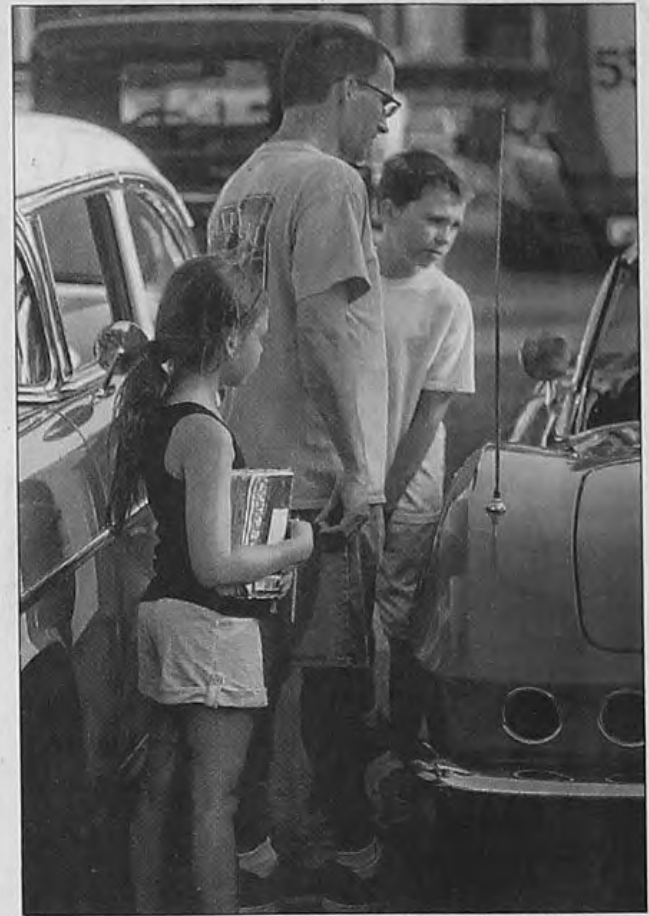
prizes, which are purchased with proceeds from the raffle.

"On a good night, we can receive \$50 to \$70," Ettinger said.

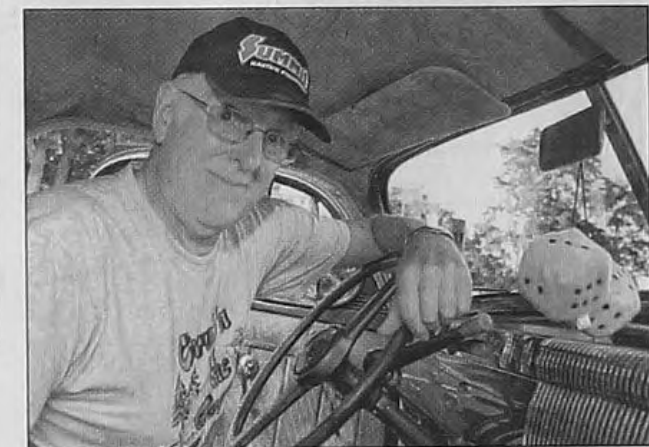
Two bands also provide entertainment on different nights: the Whatnots and the Farmington School of Rock band, which will perform at the Aug. 4

cruise. Club members have also invited local restaurants to participate and make car buffs and spectators aware of what Farmington has to offer. No takers, except Bellacino's, which offers cruisers and participants a 10-percent discount during the cruise.

Cruisers and participants are invited to



Jim Brandon, his son Tommy, 11, and daughter Katie, 9, look over the interior of a 1955 red Corvette.



Harvey Ettinger poses in his 1940 Nash Ambassador.

bring their chairs or a blanket and sit in the shade and enjoy the camaraderie. "We don't charge car owners or the public," Ettinger said.

The Cruis'n the Grand starts at 5 p.m.

each Monday and ends at dusk. The public and car buffs are invited. For more information, contact Ettinger at 248-476-7487.

jmaliszews@hometownlife.com  
248-396-6620



Samantha Prince, 17, of Novi has been interested in car cruises since she was a child when she attended with her grandfather. Behind her is friend Shannon Parr, 17, of Milford.

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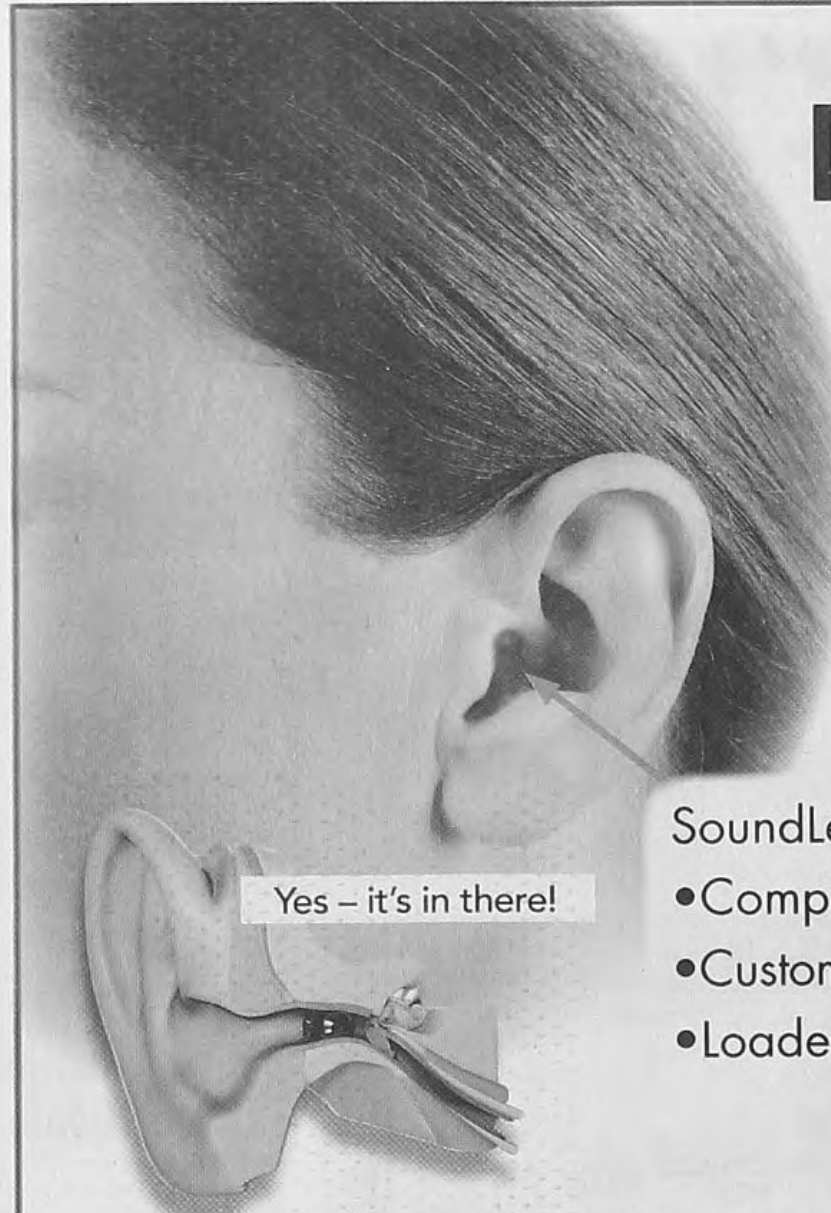
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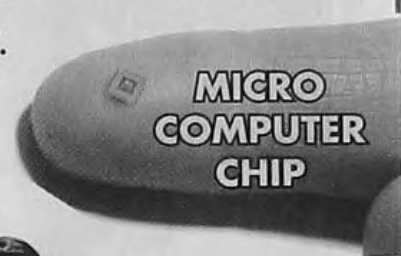
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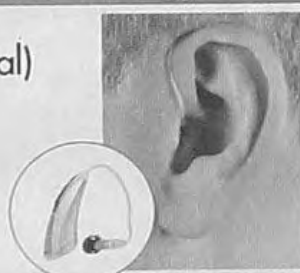
Dr. Rowe received her bachelor degrees in linguistics from the University of Michigan in 1990, and Michigan State University in audiology and speech science in 1995. In 1999 she completed her master's degree in speech and audiology from Michigan State University. She began her career as a medically based clinical audiologist in 1999, all while completing her doctorate in audiology from The University of Florida.

Dr. Rowe has 15 years of prior clinical experience. She's eager to attend to the needs of her patients and become a greater part of the community she grew up with by offering a complete variety of audiologic needs.

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## Van Gorp hired to lead Chargers

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

and boys coaching positions earlier this year.

In addition to competing in the 100-yard backstroke and the 200-yard individual medley for the Chargers, Van Gorp served as an assistant to Rieder after she graduated.

Van Gorp currently helps coach the Newburgh Swim Club in Livonia and has worked as a lifeguard at West-

ern Golf and Country Club in Redford Township.

"When I found out I got the job, I was thrilled and a little nervous," Van Gorp said. "But like Aaron (Rieder) told me, the only time you're nervous about something is when you care. I'm looking forward to putting the team in the best possible position to be successful."

Van Gorp said that she anticipates a smooth transition, thanks in part to Rieder's offer to assist.

"Aaron knows the girls

coming back and he said he'd help me in any way he can," she said. "I've talked to the captains and their parents and I'm looking forward to getting together with the entire team as the season approaches. I know we have 12 girls returning, but I'm not sure yet how many new swimmers we'll have."

A resident of Westland, Van Gorp works full time as a new business professional for AAA Life Insurance Co. in Livonia.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Van Gorp

The future of the Livonia Churchill girls swimming and diving program has been handed to someone who has a memorable past with the Chargers.

Lisa Van Gorp, a former swimmer and assistant coach at Churchill, was named the Chargers' new coach late last month.

She will succeed longtime coach Aaron Rieder, who resigned from the school's girls

## They'll get to go to Iowa

An article ran in the July 17 *Observer* sports section about the Intensity Track Club needing to raise \$3,000 to make the trip to the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games in Iowa.

Somebody noticed and came through for the team, which is composed primarily of athletes from Wayne Memorial High School.

Intensity coach Jamal Johnson (also Wayne coach) said an anonymous person donated more than enough money for the group of eight to go to Drake University in Des Moines from today through Saturday, Aug. 2.

## Salem wrestling rummage sale

The Salem Wrestling Booster club is hosting a rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 2-3 at the Plymouth Elks Club. All proceeds will support the Rocks wrestling team. Available to buy will be power tools, furniture and kitchen items.

The Plymouth Elks is located at 41700 Ann Arbor Rd. Call 734-453-1780 or e-mail Lee Gross, lgross58@gmail.com, for more information.

## Victory for Hall

Canton Victory Hockey Association welcomes Dan Hall, head coach of the new 2005 Squirr A team in Canton.

Hall has been developing young hockey players locally for many years. A Canton native and current resident, Hall has worked with the PCHA Mighty Mini Mites, Squirt and Pee-wee ranks before coming to Canton as an assistant coach for the Canton Crossfire Bantam team last season.

In addition to his head coaching role, Hall continues to serve as an off-ice official with the National Hockey League, where he will be entering his fifth season this fall.

## Plymouth's Pilon first

The Michigan Publix Seniors Golf Association held its ninth of 15 tournaments July 10 at the Polo Fields - Washtenaw Golf Club in Ypsilanti.

Tom Pilon of Plymouth who shot a 1-over par 73 for the low round of the day and took first place in his flight.

The tournament produced 27 winners from a handicapped field of 108 players (50 years and older).

The first-place prize winners by flight were (gross/net) Flight A: Tom Pilon, Plymouth (73/66); Flight B: Mark Iovan, West Bloomfield (75/64); Flight C Tie: Chuck Hirschert, Hartland (89/69); Roger Roley, Livonia (85/69); Allan Toswell, Shelby Twp. (88/69); Eric Williams, Royal Oak (90/69); Flight D: Richard Retman, Harrison Twp. (86/59).

For more information, visit [www.mpsga.org](http://www.mpsga.org) or call 734-207-7888.



Former Redford Thurston football player and graduate Travis Farkas prepares to launch a long pass during an alumni team practice Thursday afternoon. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT

# REVISTING GRIDIRON GLORY DAYS

Former Thurston football players regroup to play one more full-contact contest

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

In a couple of weeks, 37-year-old Jerry Karpiuk will do what millions of middle-aged former high school football players across America would love to do — pull on the pads and fasten the chin strap for one more hard-hitting, memory-making game on the gridiron.

At 7 p.m. Aug. 9, Karpiuk will join 24 other former Redford Thurston football players as they take on an alumni team from Harper Woods High School in a full-contact contest on the Thurston football field.

The showdown — which will double as a fundraiser for the Thurston and Harper Woods athletic programs — will be orchestrated by Alumni Football USA, a company that helps organize hundreds of alumni football games every year throughout the country.

"I watched my brother-in-law play in a game like this in Trenton last summer and I thought to myself,



Among the 25 Redford Thurston alumni players who will take on Harper Woods are (front row, from left) Darius Robinson (class of 2009), Clinton Boyd (2010) and Dre Alexander (2009) and (back row, from left) Ron Jones (1995), Matthew Koskie (1997), Travis Farkas (2002) and Josh Bobbish (2010).

See GRIDIRON, Page B3



Canton's Donnie Trosper follows through after teeing off during the Memorial Junior tournament this week at Longaberger Golf Club in Nashport, Ohio.

## Canton's Trosper nets junior golf crown

Canton High School alum Donnie Trosper fired a final-round 3-under 69 and tournament total 7-under 209 to take the champion title Wednesday in the boys division at the Memorial Junior.

Lexie Toth of Dublin, Ohio, carded a final-round even-par 72 for a tournament total 3-over 219 to take the top spot in the girls division.


The Memorial Junior was

held at Longaberger Golf Club in Nashport, Ohio.

Trosper, who won the 2014 Coca-Cola Junior Championship at Boyne Highlands, went wire-to-wire at the Memorial Junior to secure his second AJGA victory.


In his final round, Trosper carded six birdies and got up-and-down on his last three

See TROSPER, Page B4



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## Thunder make noise in Myrtle Beach

The Livonia City Thunder 14U travel baseball team registered an impressive 5-1 record at the Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach, S.C., the week of July 6-11. The Thunder's only loss was a 6-3 setback to a team from Illinois. Team members include (front row, from left) Mike Jaafar, Craig Jakacki, Joe Kubshesky, Connor Jakacki, George Ferguson and coach Joe Jakacki and (back row, from left) coach Bob Renner, Nick Renner, Mike Harding, Spencer Weber, Connor Beck, Jake Beaune, Parker Graham and coach Dave Kubshesky. Also on the team is Ryan Francek.

# Ex-Thurston standout Kemutambah signs to play basketball at Lourdes

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

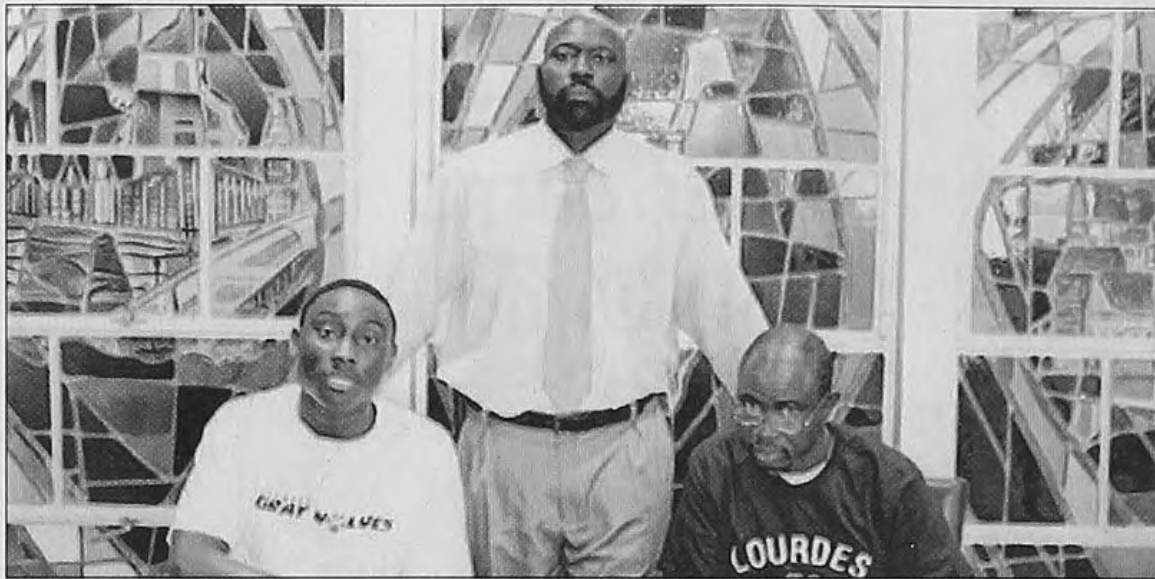
Not long after after he signed a letter of intent to play collegiate basketball for Lourdes University late last month, Redford Thurston graduate Otis Kemutambah Jr. enjoyed a celebratory dinner with dad Otis Sr. at a coney island restaurant.

Given the high-flying 6-foot-5 forward's around-the-rim skills, a trip to Dunkin' Donuts may have been more appropriate.

Kemutambah parlayed a super-productive two-year basketball career at Thurston (he attended Romulus his freshman year before transferring to University of Detroit-Jesuit the following season) into a next-level opportunity at Lourdes, an NAIA school in Sylvania, Ohio.

Fueled by an always-revving engine and top-notch jumping abilities, Kemutambah averaged 15 points and 10 rebounds per game during his senior year for the Eagles.

"Otis is an athletic wing who can defend multiple positions and is a good rebounder," said Lourdes head coach Andre Smith, whose team went 22-10 during the 2013-14 campaign. "He had a good senior season and displayed he can also score. Otis will compete every night on every play. We



Redford Thurston graduate Otis Kemutambah Jr. (seated at left) is pictured with Lourdes University head coach Andre Smith (standing) and his dad Otis Sr. as he signed a letter of intent to play basketball for the Gray Wolves beginning in the fall. LOURDES UNIVERSITY

**"Otis is an athletic wing who can defend multiple positions and is a good rebounder. ... We look forward to him joining the program and contributing."**

ANDRE SMITH, Lourdes head coach

look forward to him joining the program and contributing."

Prior to his official visit to Lourdes in mid-April, Kemutambah was being courted by several college hoops programs, including Wayne State, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Adrian and Albion. How-

ever, the trip to the Gray Wolves' campus sealed the deal for the personable young man.

"Lourdes offered the major I wanted to pursue (occupational therapy) and I connected right away with the coach," Kemutambah said. "I met my future teammates and they

were all cool and it's a winning program. I liked everything about it."

Kemutambah is excited about his chance to play on the wing as a small forward for the Gray Wolves after two seasons of posting up down low for the Eagles.

"I played around the rim a

lot at Thurston because we didn't have a lot of height, but I think I have the skills to play the three spot," he said.

"I have a pretty good mid-range jump shot right now. I can shoot the three, but that's what I'm going to be working on the most to improve this summer."

Following his stellar senior season at Thurston, Kemutambah was flooded with impressive accolades, including first team selections to the all-Observer team and the Western Wayne Athletic Conference Blue Division squad.

"Coach Smith didn't actually come out and tell me I'd be playing a lot as a freshman, but if I work hard and keep improving, I feel like I can contribute right away," Kemutambah said.

The former Eagle plans to spend the remainder of the summer working out at Lourdes, along with his future teammates.

"I'll be in the weight room four days a week and on Saturday and Sunday I'll play in their open gyms," he said. "I'm excited about the chance to play college basketball."

Thurston compiled a 35-11 record and two Class A district championships during Kemutambah's two-year stint at the school.

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# Redford's VanEck notches 180-yard ace at Glenhurst

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

A few seconds after Redford Township's Bill VanEck struck his tee shot on the 180-yard second hole July 11 at Glenhurst Golf Course, he lost sight of the ball.

"I hit it pretty well and I said to my partner, 'Shouldn't I see it rolling across the back of the green by now?'" VanEck said. "He said, 'You'd see it rolling across the back of the green if it hadn't gone in the hole.'"

Using a No. 2 rescue club, VanEck registered his second career hole-in-one while playing with partner Rick Burk in the Friday night St. Valentine's

League. Bill Woodington and Mike Terry also witnessed the memorable shot.

The 60-year-old VanEck's first ace came nearly six years ago on the No. 9 hole at Glenhurst.

"When I got my first hole-in-one, they were rebuilding some greens at Glenhurst, so the ninth hole was only about 62 yards from the tee," he said. "When I saw it go in I was screaming and hollering. I didn't actually see this last one go in the hole, so I didn't get nearly as excited. But once I saw the ball in the hole, it kind of hit me and it was very exciting."

VanEck said his most recent ace landed about 40 yards

short of the green before rolling the rest of the way and finding a home in the cup.

"The tee is actually level with the green, but there is a valley that separates the tee from the green," he said.

"When I checked out the distance on my GPS, it said it was 180 yards away. That's how far I usually hit my rescue club, so I pulled it out of my bag and swung away."

"It's the longest par-3 on the course. I'm usually happy if I just hit the green because the wind is usually blowing pretty good and blowing the ball across the fairway."

VanEck notified Titleist — the brand of ball he plays — after each of his aces.

"The first time they sent me a sleeve of balls, a plaque to put my hole-in-one ball in, a T-shirt and a towel," he said. "This time they sent me a nice pewter hole-in-one tag that I can hang on my bag."

VanEck, who has been playing golf for 35 years, fired a 46 for his nine-hole round.

## Another Glenhurst ace

On July 13, 71-year-old Farmington Hills resident Thomas Capel aced the 146-yard 17th hole at Glenhurst Golf Course. Capel used his driver to record his second career hole-in-one.

A veteran of 40 years on the links, Capel carded an 81.

ewright@hometownlife.com



Redford's Bill VanEck poses next to the pin on the No. 2 hole at Glenhurst Golf Course, the site of his second career hole-in-one earlier this month.

# Garden City cheerleader earns coveted honor at MSU camp

By Ed Wright  
Staff Writer

Garden City cheerleader Ashley Bowden has done everything she can to earn a once-in-a-lifetime trip to London, England.

Now the personable senior from Westland needs a helping hand from the community to make the across-the-ocean excursion happen.

Earlier this month, while competing with her teammates at a three-day camp on the campus of Michigan State University, Bowden was selected to join the Universal Cheerleading Association's All-American Team that will have the opportunity to experience a week-long tour of London beginning Dec. 26.

Only 12 percent of the eligible cheerleaders are chosen for the tour, so Bowden's achievement is definitely something to cheer about.

"Getting selected for the tour is something I've been dreaming about and working toward since I was a freshman," Bowden said. "They only select a couple of girls from each of the camps, so I've very honored to have been picked."

However, each of the cheerleaders selected must raise \$3,425 to pay for the trip, which is where members of the Observerland community can pitch in.

Bowden has set up an account at [www.fundme.com](http://www.fundme.com), a website that helps people raise funds for worthwhile causes. Bowden has until Oct. 22 to raise the necessary funds.

To make a financial pledge, visit the website and type in "Ashley Bowden" in the search bar at the top of the page. You will then be



Garden City senior cheerleader Ashley Bowden recently earned a trip to London, England, after performing at a Universal Cheerleading Association camp at Michigan State University.

directed to the page she has established.

Of all the sights Bowden anxiously anticipates visiting in London, Buckingham Palace tops her list.

ewright@hometownlife.com

## MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER

# Crusaders land local prep standouts

Madonna University men's soccer coach Mark Zathay announced four new recruits for his squad in preparation for the 2014 season.

Zathay has signed Strahinja Ljubevic, Ryan Schifano, Hayden Steinmen and Jeff Wielczopolski to letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers at MU this fall.

"I am excited about our recruiting class thus far," Zathay said. "I feel like last year I kind of got in late and passed the open window and we did what we could with the resources we had and the timing and I thought it worked out pretty well."

"I am excited about this year. I felt like I had more time to put a group together and we have more impact players coming in."

A forward, Ljubevic (Farmington Hills/Walled Lake Central) comes to Madonna after a record-setting career at Walled Lake Central. Ljubevic finished third in the Vikings' record book for goals in a single season and second in the single-season points list.

A two-time all-district and all-Kensington Lakes Activities Association selection, Ljubevic earned all-state honors as a senior last fall while leading Central to its second straight district title.

"Strahinja is going to be an impact kid for us," Zathay said. "He's a dangerous attacking player who comes from a good pedigree. He possesses a tremendous vision and skill and we are going to rely on him early."

Schifano (Livonia Stevenson) is one of two Livonia products Zathay signed. A forward, Schifano played under former MU assistant

coach Ken Shingledecker in his final two seasons as a Spartan while earning all-district, all-region, all-area and all-state honors as a senior.

He led Stevenson to three straight Livonia city championships while serving as a team captain.

"Ryan is a neat kid and I used to coach him on the club side," Zathay said. "A local product out of Stevenson, he's good on the ball, but will have to adjust to the speed of the college game. I know he will do that. He's a great kid from a great family and we are happy to have him."

Steinman is the second Livonian. A defender, Steinman earned a pair of all-KLAA and all-district selections as a junior and senior before capping his career at Livonia Franklin with all-region and all-state honors last fall under former Crusader and current Franklin coach Vic Rodopoulos.

"Hayden is another local player out of Franklin with great physical assets," Zathay said. "He's a warrior in the back line with a great work rate and passion. He's going to be a good player for us, for sure."

Rounding out the quartet is Wielczopolski, a Canadian goalkeeper. Wielczopolski (Windsor, Ontario/Holy Name Catholic) led his team to a Windsor Essex County Secondary School Athletic Association championship in 2013, posting a shutout in the finals and earning the Knights a spot in the provincial championship.

The 2014 season kicks off for the Crusaders with an exhibition match Aug. 12 at Jackson Community College.

## SPORTS TRYOUTS

### 14U Livonia Longhorns

The 2015 14U Livonia Longhorns travel baseball team will be holding tryouts from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 9-10 at Bicentennial Field No. 8 in Livonia.

The team plays 20-24 games in the KVBSA, plus three or four tournaments. For more information, contact head coach Joe Bush at 734-306-4189.

### 10U Livonia City Thunder

The Livonia City Thunder travel baseball organization has announced the addition of a 10U team beginning with the 2015 season.

The head coach of the 10U team will be Phil Henriksen.

Tryouts will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, and 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3.

All tryouts will be at Bicentennial field No. 5 in Livonia. Players are asked to arrive 15-30

minutes early for registration.

The season will be composed of entry into the KVBSA (15-18 games) and into six to eight competitive weekend tournaments.

For more information, contact Henriksen at [s8henriksen@yahoo.com](mailto:s8henriksen@yahoo.com).

### 11U Livonia Stars travel baseball

Head coach Matt Fournier will be holding tryouts for the 11U Livonia Stars travel baseball team 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3, and Sunday, Aug. 10, at the Livonia Franklin High School baseball field.

This will be a travel team that will be playing games in the KVBSA and three or four tournaments.

Players can not turn 12 before May 1, 2015, in order to be eligible.

For more information, contact Fournier at [mattfournier22@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mattfournier22@sbcglobal.net) or at 734-968-0499.

## GRIDIRON

Continued from Page B1

"Wow, that would be fun!" Karpiuk said, when asked to recall how the plan for the game was hatched. "I still play hockey and you can play baseball, basketball and softball at my age, but it's really hard to find a full-contact football game."

A short time after Karpiuk contacted Alumni Football USA founder and president Bob Cazet, the wheels were put in motion for the Aug. 9 clash.

"They secure the field, take care of all the liability issues, supply the uniforms and equipment and get the referees," Karpiuk said. "All we have to do is show up and be ready to play."

### Prime-time preparation

Judging by the former Eagles' practice schedule, they'll be more than ready. The team has been holding twice-a-week, two- to three-hour padless practice sessions since early May at Thurston.

The alumni teams are not allowed to wear pads until the official equipment is distributed just a few hours before the game.

"We used to pass out the equipment a week before the game, but we found that most

of the injuries were happening during the practices in the days leading up to the game," Cazet said. "All the players get their equipment a few hours before the game, so they have enough time to get used to hitting again."

"There are still injuries, but they're usually repeat injuries. For instance, if you hurt your ankle sliding into second base during a slow-pitch softball game, your ankle may get sore during the football game. But first-time injuries are rare."

### Never a dull moment

Cazet said the alumni games his company stages are packed with entertaining plays.

"Some of these guys may be 20 pounds heavier than they were in high school, so they may have lost a step, but they still like to hit," he said. "Once they get the pads on, something comes over them. It's like they're back in high school again."

One game in Michigan last summer provided fans with an unforgettable moment.

"One of the teams had a 61-year-old center and a 61-year-old quarterback," Cazet said. "ESPN was there to do a piece on it. The two guys went out there together for one drive. They started at their own 20 and drove the ball down the field to the opponents' half-yard line — it was like a



Redford Thurston alumni football player Josh Bobbish hauls in a pass in front of Clinton Boyd on the Thurston football field.  
ED WRIGHT

17-play drive — but they fumbled the snap and the other team recovered. Even though they didn't end up scoring, it was a pretty amazing thing to watch."

Travis Farkas last played in a game on the Thurston football field in fall 2001, but the still-fit 2002 grad was flinging dead-on spirals to teammates during an hour-long practice Thursday night.

"I'm excited about playing in a real game again; all of the

guys out here are," Farkas said. "We all signed up for positions we wanted to play, but we all have secondary positions we can fill in at. Most of the guys will get to play the positions they played in high school, but not always. I'll be playing some quarterback, even though I never played quarterback in high school."

The Eagles printed up a playbook for the big game, but Farkas admitted it's not overly thick.

"We'll keep the offense as simple as we can," he said, smiling. "I'm sure we'll try a couple trick plays, but nothing too fancy."

### Greater cause

While the game will serve as an opportunity for the players to relive their high school glory days, it will also raise much-needed funds for the participating high schools' athletic departments.

The schools will receive \$5 of every \$10 ticket sold prior to Aug. 9. For more information on how to purchase tickets, visit the team's Facebook page by conducting a search for "Redford Thurston Alumni Football Game."

Tickets can also be purchased at the gate the night of the game, but all of the money will go directly to Alumni Football USA.

Each player was required to pay \$100 and sign an injury waiver before participating, but that is a small price to pay for being able to step onto a football field and play for real just one more time, Karpiuk emphasized.

"I'm sure my adrenaline by going 100 miles an hour the day of the game," he said. "What former high school football player wouldn't want a chance to play another game?"

ewright@hometownlife.com



# Golf outing benefits WMU scholarship fund in memory of young Plymouth woman

By Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Molly and Mark Burgett still celebrate the birthday of their late daughter, Alexandra.

They open gifts at Christmas that bear her name as the giver.

And for the past two years the Plymouth couple has continued to share their daughter's love of tailgating by celebrating homecoming at Western Michigan University, where Alex was awarded a posthumous degree in 2012.

But the Burgetts have always wanted to do more, to give back in Alex's name. This year, two years after the WMU senior was killed in an auto accident, they plan to raise scholarship funds through a golf outing.

The event is set for 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, at Washtenaw Country Club, 2955 Packard Road, Ypsilanti. It includes a shotgun start, dinner, music by the Dale Hicks Band and a silent auction.

Tickets are \$140 for golf and dinner, \$80 for golf only and \$60 for dinner only. Hole sponsorships are \$100 and business sponsorships are \$250.

"We wanted to try to do something last year, but we weren't ready. It was too soon," said Molly Burgett. "The process of doing it is so all-consuming of your emotional strength. Even now sometimes I want to just quit, but it's becoming easier. We've gone to grief counseling and we have made a lot of friends who lost their children. It's a closely knit group."

## Athletic, busy

Alex, a 2007 Salem High School graduate, was the second of three daughters. She played tennis and was the volleyball statistician while in high school and enjoyed recreational soccer.

"She was a huge football fan (at WMU) and she loved to tailgate and get together with friends. She was always busy," Burgett said.

Alex was enrolled in the College of Health and Human Services, pursuing a degree in



Alex (left), Lauren, Molly, Mark, and Madeline Burgett of Plymouth

interdisciplinary health sciences.

"She worked with a non-profit company in Kalamazoo and went into group homes and worked with children that had shaken baby syndrome and cared for people with special needs," her mother said. "She had two internships she had signed up for. One was with Muscular Dystrophy in Grand Rapids and the other was with Residential Opportunity Inc."

She never got a chance to start her internship. Another motorist crossed the center line and hit her car head on in May 2012, Burgett said. The car spun and was hit by another vehicle.

"Everyone was fine except Alex," Burgett said. Her daughter was 22 when she died a week after the accident.

## Helping others

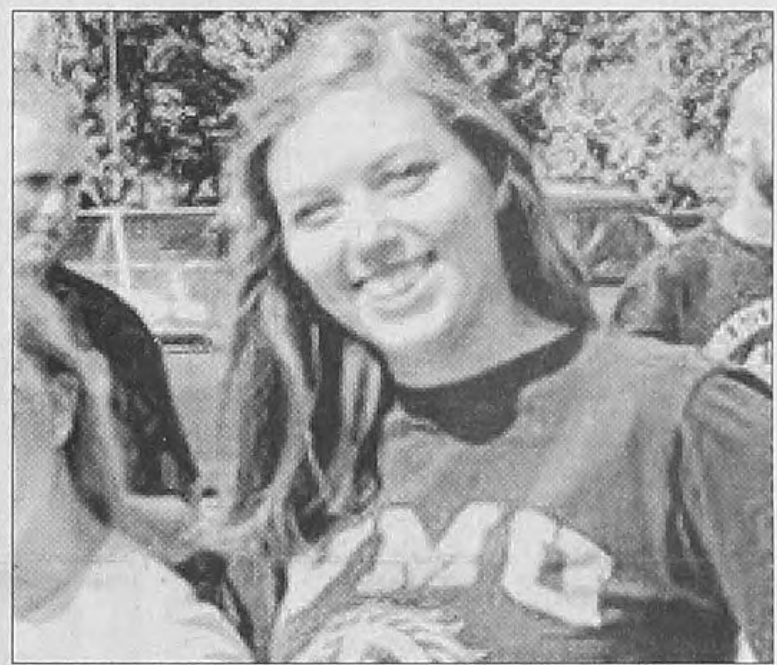
The family donated several of Alex's organs for transplant. A 14-year-old girl received her heart.

"We've met the young girl who has her heart. In fact, she and her family are coming to the golf outing."

Money raised at the event will go to the Alex Burgett Scholarship Fund to help students in financial need at WMU.

"The reason we're doing this is we want to carry on her legacy and keep her memory alive and because Western was so great with us," Burgett said, explaining that the university held a separate ceremony for Alex's posthumous graduation. "They had a ceremony just for us."

For more information about the golf outing, call 734-454-5739. Or email markburgett@yahoo.com.



Alex Burgett graduated posthumously from Western Michigan University. Her family plans a golf outing to raise money for a scholarship in her memory.

## Learn about lint: Plugged dryer vent line needs repair

I received an email from Kit who informed me that the heating element in the electric dryer needed replacing and I was asked if the dryer sheet which covered the interior vent could have caused this problem. My reply was right to the point with a resounding YES. Those sheets which are sold by the millions can certainly be a leading cause for electric elements in clothes dryers to overheat and burden a consumer with a costly repair. They are used to prevent static cling and give your clothes a fragrance associated with laundry fresh. They should be removed after every use or simply not used at all.

Inside the dryer drum there is a grate on the outer wall which allows the air to move through to the vent line exhaust. If the sheet covers that grate, the air will have a difficult time getting out of the



Joe  
Gagnon

APPLIANCE  
DOCTOR

drum and the heating element will short cycle continuously and the element will overheat causing it to break. In simple engineering lingo it means that all components in a clothes dryer take a severe beating when air doesn't move through a dryer the way it was designed.

That lack of proper air movement is certain to takes years off the life span of a clothes dryer. Take a homeowner's complaint of the dryer taking too long to dry a load of clothes. I can tell you that 95 percent of these calls are attributed to a dryer vent line that is plugged up with lint or the vent line itself is kinked. I

urge every person reading this to investigate the vent line and make sure it is absolutely clean. Get a leaf blower, disconnect the vent line and blow the line to the outside. This should be done every six months and I guarantee you will save money on each load that you dry and your dryer will last a long time.

## Glasses that shine

I continue to get inquiries from consumers about the dishwasher leaving glasses with a white film that won't come off. It's worth repeating some of what I've written before.

Just a few years ago, the detergent manufacturers removed the phosphates from their products. This was another one of those moves to save the environment and one where consumers didn't have a clue it was happening. There is

a product out there that will take care of this problem and I know that it is available at the Meijer stores. It is called Lemi Shine and works very well.

I know some people add TSP to their container of detergent and that works just as well, but may be against the law. What law, I don't know, but I discovered this problem by living the experience myself. My darling Valorie told me that our new dishwasher was not doing the job. I pulled some glasses from the cupboard and they were covered with this white film. I took those glasses and boiled them in a large pot of water and there is no way I could get that film removed.

I researched the subject and found out that Gordon Foods was selling a detergent that still contained phosphates. I purchased several big boxes until they ran out of stock and then switched to the Lemi

Shine. I would never admit to ever using a half cup of TSP because that is against the law. To that point, it should be unlawful for a detergent manufacturer to make this switch without properly informing the public that buys their products. I know that many Americans purchased a new dishwasher because of this problem and they didn't even need a new one. Those people spend millions of dollars on advertising to get you to buy their product but they don't have the heart to properly educate you on a simple change to their formula. Shame on them. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can email your problems and questions on appliances to [appldr@twmi.rr.com](mailto:appldr@twmi.rr.com).

## Citizens with special needs benefit from Gentle Teaching method

In my work, over the past 30 years with individuals who have mental and physical challenges of developmental disabilities, I have met some of the happiest people that I have known.

Developmental disabilities may include Down syndrome, autism, birth injuries causing mental impairments, to name a few.

In part, in response to the closing of Michigan's state institutions, communities now include "special needs citizens" in supervised group homes, family homes, and supportive independent living facilities. In Oakland County, such folks reside under the care of the Oakland-Macomb Regional Center. The facility services more than 5,000 indi-



Len  
McCulloch

OUR MENTAL HEALTH

viduals who need physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational and socialization therapy, family support, and medical/psychiatric management.

## Gentle Teaching

Gentle Teaching is a method of relating to other people aspired to by a Dr. John McGee for more than 30 years. The Oakland-Macomb Center is staffed with professionals trained in this method.

The principals of Gentle Teaching focus on four essential areas. These principals are

safety, being cared about, being able to be caring, and being engaged in the world.

Caregivers of the developmentally disabled not only need to ensure that those they serve are safe but also that they feel cared about. This can lead to the development of feelings of caring for others and to active engagement with their immediate surroundings and their world at large. These four components of Gentle Teaching are paramount in establishing trust, socialization, behavioral management, and building of self-esteem in people who are lacking the personal resources to supply themselves with these basic elements of survival.

Tricia Tate, a social worker with the Oakland-Macomb

Regional Center, said "Our approach to providing services is rooted in the philosophy of Gentle Teaching which promotes human interdependence, community and companionship."

She told me "This is a positive, simple practice that reminds us to treat others how we ourselves want to be treated. It is an approach that emphasizes the importance of people being connected with one another. By helping to create an environment of caring and safety, we can then build on that and help bring more meaning and positive relationships into the lives we serve."

## Special methods, special people

How wonderful it is that members of our community are able to be regarded as deserving of treatment which embraces the practices of Gentle Teaching.

If you have family members who have the special needs of those with developmental disabilities consider calling the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center and ask for the Gentle Teaching Institute. The number is 248-276-8000.

Len McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, traumatic stress, addiction, and social work. He can be reached at 248-474-2763, Ext.22.







# Start early for good oral health habits

**Y**ou may wonder whether it's important to take care of your child's first teeth, which will fall out in early childhood. However, healthy adult teeth start with healthy teeth during childhood. That's why starting infants off with good oral care can help protect their teeth for decades to come.

A baby's 20 primary teeth are already present in the jaw at birth. Baby teeth that begin coming through the gums around six months help set the stage for future smiles by keeping space in the jaw for adult teeth. The American Dental Association recommends that parents take children to a dentist no later than their first birthday and then at intervals recommended by their dentist.

To help ensure you are well prepared to provide your little one a lifetime of good dental health, the experts at Ameritas offer this information about the leading oral health concerns for youngsters:

» **Cavities.** Early childhood caries (cavities) is the No. 1 chronic disease affecting young children. It is five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever. Tooth pain keeps many children home from school or distracts them from learning.

Consumption of sugary foods, soda, juice or energy drinks increases the risk for tooth decay and gum disease, so minimizing these items is an important aspect of dental health. It's also important to always brush teeth twice daily for two minutes and floss once a day.

Another option to protect children's teeth is sealants, which act as barriers to cavity-prone areas. They are applied to the chewing surfaces of the molars after the teeth erupt and are completely above the gum. Both primary and permanent teeth can benefit from sealants.

» **Sports injuries.** Mouth



Good oral health habits start in early childhood. GETTY IMAGES/FICKR RF

guards can help protect children from a dental emergency. They should be worn whenever children participate in sports and recreational activities. Mouth guards cushion blows that can otherwise cause broken teeth, injuries to the lips and face, and even jaw fractures. Mouth guards are available at many retail stores or may be custom-made by a dentist.

» **Jaw and bite problems.**

Malocclusion, or bad bite, is a condition in which the teeth are crowded, crooked, out of alignment or the jaws don't meet properly. This may become particularly noticeable between ages 6-12, when a child's permanent teeth are developing.

If not treated early, a bad bite can make it difficult to keep teeth and gums clean where teeth are crooked or crowded, increasing the risk

for cavities and gum disease. Bad bites can also affect proper jaw development, making protruding teeth at risk for chips and fractures. It can also affect eating and speaking, and make some teeth more likely to wear abnormally or faster than those that are properly aligned.

Teaching children good oral hygiene habits early is a simple way to create a lifetime of happy, healthy smiles. Remem-

ber, modeling your own good oral hygiene habits not only reinforces your advice, it improves your own dental health.

For more information on children's dental health, visit the dental section at [www.ameritasinsight.com](http://www.ameritasinsight.com), where you also can find out how recent health care reforms affect dental insurance.

*Courtesy of Family Features*

## Summer Tips for Your High School Athletes From A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. Szczeciński  
Sports Medicine

As summer begins to wind down, many high school student athletes are busy preparing for the upcoming competition of a new school year. Likewise, "Dr. Stan" Szczeciński, Clinical Director of GCH's Center for Sports Medicine, believes parents should be actively involved as they collectively enter one of the most important chapters in their children's lives. Here, Dr. Stan offers a few valuable tips to ensure a safer and more productive season for your young athlete.

The first thing I tell every parent is to show an interest in your teen's activities, attend games and actively participate. It may seem rather obvious, but while many teens are trying to separate themselves from their parents, it is still important the child knows you care. Everyone can benefit from positive reinforcement, even when they say they don't want or need it.

Get to know the coaches, other players and parents. I've often heard that the quality of a person's life is determined by the quality of their relationships. This has proven to be true over and over, especially in team sports. Knowing who the coach is, as well as who the other parents, is the first step to building a mutually supportive community.

Encourage sleep and emphasize good nutrition. Many student athletes do not get enough sleep on daily basis, which can have a negative impact on recovery and performance. Athletes should be getting at least seven hours of sleep a night, but eight is better. Supportive parents should acknowledge their teen's need for sleep, encouraging the performance-enhancing benefits of getting a good night's rest. Teenagers are also often addicted to sugar in some shape or form. As with sleep, parents can challenge everyone (including themselves) to keep a personal food journal for one week, while monitoring body weight, mood and energy levels and recording it at the end of the day. Recording the effect of Apple Jacks vs. a vegetable omelet can help motivate an athlete to take action. Also, make sure your athlete is drinking plenty of water or sports drinks for hydration.

Get a physical and functional movement screening for your student athlete. Most athletic programs require a pre-participation physical examination prior to the start of a season. If a teenager has had a history of previous injury or physical inactivity, one of the best investments parents can make is to schedule a functional movement screening with a certified fitness professional. This type of physical examination will evaluate blood pressure, height, and weight, administer a functional movement screening to examine dynamic balance, stability, and range of motion, to identify where an athlete may be developing compensatory movement patterns.

Have a Baseline Concussion Test performed by a qualified medical professional before the season begins. The testing allows for a normal or pre-injury test comparison in the event an athlete receives an injury during the season. This testing becomes especially important for athletes who participate in contact sports such as football, soccer, and rugby, because of the potential for receiving blows to the head.

Read more about the importance of Baseline Testing online, in the 2014 Summer Issue of GCH's Health Generations magazine at [GCH.org](http://GCH.org). If you would like to schedule an appointment with Dr. Stan at the GCH Center for Sports Medicine, call 734.261.3778.

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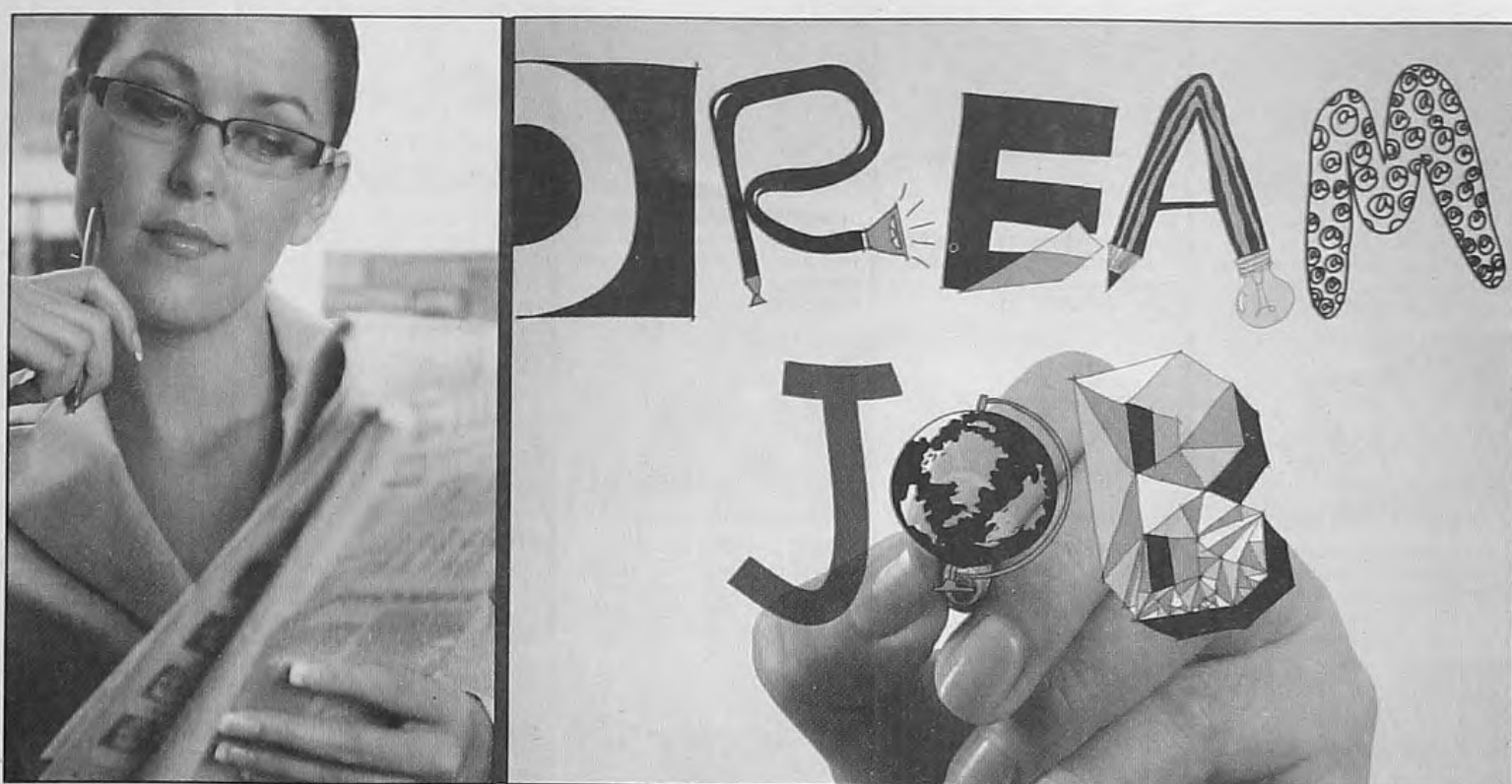
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By Justin Thompson, CareerBuilder Writer

"Looking for a job is a full-time job." It's a phrase we've all heard, and for the most part, it's true.

One of the most important things one can do while hunting for a new job is to set a schedule and stick with it.

So we asked job seekers for their tips on how they've dealt with the job search and what they've done to provide structure to their day.



A day in the life of an avid job seeker

The early bird:

Don't waste your days sleeping. Get up early and set "office hours."

Set the scene:

Be sure to remove yourself from all distractions when doing your job search. It's one thing to go to a coffee shop to do your research.

Get specific:

The "scattershot" method of applying for anything and everything usually leaves no one feeling good.

what areas you want to focus on, what skills you have and what skills you want to develop in a new job.

Follow up:

For many job seekers, the concern is the resume black hole. Because employers receive so many applications for each job opening, it helps to set follow-up calendar reminders so you know when to reach out to a company you've applied to if you haven't heard back.

Set output goals:

How many resumes do you want to send out per week? Make a number and stick to it, but be realistic.

miserable. Focus on a manageable goal.

Practice your pitch:

It's always important to sell your skills and your desired career opportunity in under a minute.

Research:

If you spend more time doing homework on companies you want to work for, you'll spend less time applying for jobs in which you may not have a real interest.

Sabotage:

If you're employed and want out of your current situation,

don't look for jobs while at your job. That's asking for trouble, and a pink slip is likely to follow. You'll have to make time outside of your job to dedicate to your job search.

Use every tool:

Use all the assets at your disposal; job boards, social media, recruiters, aggregators, etc.

Keep your humor:

Looking for a job is tiresome and can be truly depressing, but don't let it get the best of you. Remember that you are defined by more than your job or career.

Justin Thompson is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz.

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\$500 RCL Renewal Incentive available

Vin #2LEBL55269

**2014 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR**

**\$579**

36mo/31,500 mile lease = \$579 + tax  
Per Month, \$2916 Due at Delivery, Plus Tax,  
Title, Plates, No Sec Dep.  
\$500 RCL Renewal Incentive available

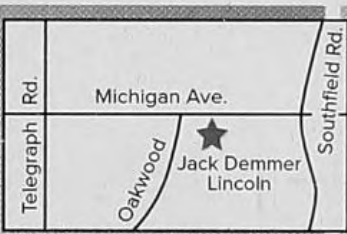
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**SERVICE**  
Monday-Friday  
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**\$500 EXTRA NOW... \$750 EXTRA ON YOUR TRADE IN!**  
With the purchase or lease of a new vehicle. 1998 or newer, less than 100,000 miles. All prior sales excluded. Offer expires 7-31-14

All payments are based on A/Z plan, plus tax, title, and plates. All payments include \$1000 Lincoln Owner Loyalty. Please see dealer for details. Expiration date 7-31-14

**WHEELS**

**Motorcycles/Minibikes**  
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2011 Triumph Speedmaster Red metallic, 4,500 miles, extra parts, mint condition! \$6,800.00.

Harley Davidson 2009 FLHX Street Glide - Red Hot Sunglo - Clean bike with many extras, sissy-bar w/backrest, luggage rack, chromed out... 37k must sell. \$16,500 or best offer, call Steve at (313) 350-4056.

**RV/Campers/Trailers**

5TH WHEEL HITCH, KING PIN STABILIZER, 5TH WHEEL TAIL GATE. \$300/OBO. 734-644-1884

**SHAMROCK 1999 BY FOREST RIVER:**  
AC, heat, microwave, awning, clean, excellent shape. \$4,000 obo. 313-408-9725

**Auto Misc.**

**WE PAY TOP DOLLAR For Clean USED CARS**  
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CHEVY 2003 SILVERADO: 1500, 85,000 miles, excel. cond., new tires, \$10,500. Call: (248) 478-8368

FORD 2003 F-150 Crew cab, 90,000 miles, excel. cond., new tires, \$10,500. Call: (248) 478-8368

FORD F150 2004 Pickup 85,000 miles, One Owner Brand New Michelin Tires \$4,900 Call 248-486-5840

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FORD F-150 XLT 2010 Super Crew Cab 4x4, Low Miles, \$26,988  
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FORD RANGER 2011 4x4, XLT, Super Cab, 19,000 Miles, \$23,988  
**NORTH BROS.** 855-667-9860

FORD RANGER XLT 2008 Super Cab, Blue, Call Now & Save! \$13,988.  
**NORTH BROS.** 855-667-9860

**Mini-Vans**

FORD FREESTAR 2005 All Power, Family Ready with 3rd Row! Save Now! \$7988  
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**HANDICAPPED VANS, USED BOUGHT & SOLD.** Mini & full size. I come to you. Call Date any day. 517-230-8865

**Sports Utility**

BUICK ENCLAVE 2012 Cashmere Leather Interior, Crystal Red, Only \$27,995.  
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BUICK RENDEZVOUS 2005 FWD, White/Tan Trim, Beige Cloth Interior, Clean! \$6,995  
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Chevy 2006 Equinox - black/gray int., V6, low miles, new tires, runs great, asking \$7,995. Call 248-396-5354

**CHEVY EQUINOX LS 2005** Black, Low Miles, 1 Owner, Great Condition. \$8995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

**CHEVY UPLANDER 2008 LS** Silver, All Power, Only 82,000 Miles, Dual Doors, 2 Available. \$9995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

FORD EDGE SEL 2008 45,000 Miles, Navigation, Leather, Loaded! \$21,988  
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FORD ESCAPE LIMITED 2005 4x4, Imer, fully loaded. \$7,599  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

FORD ESCAPE LIMITED 2005 4x4, Moon Roof, Leather Interior, 6 Disc CD. \$7599  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

FORD EXPLORER 2013 XLT, FWD, Silver, Low Miles, Save Thousands! \$30,988.  
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JEEP PATRIOT 2007 FWD, Low Miles, All Power Save Thousands! \$3,488  
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**Sports Utility**

FORD EXPLORER XLT 2003 4x4, Black with Graphite cloth interior, \$4,995.  
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GMC ENVY 2007 Moon Roof, Cloth Interior, 2WD, Power Options. \$9,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

GMC ENVY SLT 4X4 2002 1 Owner, Manager's Special This Week Only! \$6,995.  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

GMC TERRAIN SLE-1 2003 Silver with Black Interior, Certified, Low Miles, \$17,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

**MERCURY MOUNTAINEER PREMIER 2008** 2 Tone Leather, 4x4, Moon Roof, Navigation. \$9,995  
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**Sports & Imported**

Subaru 2002 WRX 5 SPD wagon, pearl blue, gauges, 175,500 miles, very good, \$5000. (248) 318-1229

**Antique & Classic Collector**

CORVETTE 1981 Many new component & exhaust parts upgraded front end. \$7000/best. 313.820.9711 734.536.2757

**Buick**

LACROSSE 2012 FWD, Touring, Silver, 1 owner, certified, 29,000 miles. \$27,995  
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LACROSSE CX 2006 Only 72,000 miles, Burgundy, Cloth Interior, Automatic. \$8,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

LeSABRE LIMITED 2000 1 Owner, 117,000 Miles, Clean Condition! Only \$5995.  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

**Chevrolet**

CAMARO Z-28 1998 CONVERTIBLE ONLY 12,000 MILES! White! Clean! \$13,995  
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CHEVY UPLANDER 2006 LT Extended - Low Miles 1 Owner, Great Condition! \$11,988  
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**Chevrolet**

COBALT 2008 2 Door LT, Blue, Low Miles. price to Sell! \$9,995  
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IMPALA LT 2009 1 Owner, Low Miles, 2 Available! Priced to Sell! \$13,995  
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MALIBU ZLT 2009 1 Owner, Only 25,000 Miles, Fully Loaded. \$13,995  
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300 TOURING Leather Interior, Kenwood CD, Loaded. \$8995.  
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CHRYSLER 200 2013 Limited, White, Premium Sound, Remote Start, 6,000 MILES! \$18,988.  
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TOWN & COUNTRY TOURING 2010 Black, 1 Owner, Dual Doors, Clean! \$14,995  
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**Dodge**

2000 RAM 1500 -Conversion Van, 40,000 original miles, excellent condition, \$7,000.00. 734.968.0975

DODGE AVENGER SE 2008 FWD, White, 2.4L, Automatic, CD, Gray Interior. \$8,995  
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DODGE CALIBER - 2007 FWD, 1 owner, Comfortable & Affordable \$9,988.  
**NORTH BROS.** 855-667-9860

DODGE DART 2013 SXT Rally, Orange with Black Interior, Low Miles! \$17,988.  
**NORTH BROS.** 855-667-96 80

**Ford**

FORD 500 2005 SEL, auto, air, full power, Fully inspected. \$7988.  
**NORTH BROS.** 855-667-9860

FORD FLEX 2013 Limited Interior, FWD, All Power Options, Fully Loaded! Ford Certified, \$29,888  
**NORTH BROS.** 855-667-9860

FORD FOCUS 2013 SE Red, Automatic, Great on Gas! Ford Certified! Call Now! \$17,988  
**NORTH BROS.** 855-667-9860

FORD FUSION 2012 SEL Only 3,000 MILES! Like Brand New. Ford Certified! \$19,988  
**NORTH BROS.** 855-667-9860

**Ford**

FORD FOCUS Titanium 2012 Great Gas Mileage, Sporty, Reliable, Made in Michigan! \$16,988.  
**NORTH BROS.** 855-667-9860

FORD FUSION 2013 FWD, SE, 14,000 Miles 1 Owner, Showroom Fresh! \$21,988  
**NORTH BROS.** 855-667-9860

FUSION 2011 SE FWD, Low Miles, 1 Owner, Power Options. Only \$13,995  
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**Honda**

PILOT EX 2003 1 Owner, Highway Miles Call Now! \$5,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC** 734-453-2500

**Jeep**

GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 2000 4x4, Leather Interior Moon Roof. \$5,995.  
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**Lincoln**

LINCOLN MKX 2010 Silver, FWD, Leather Interior, Fully Loaded, \$19,788.  
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MKZ 2012 AWD, leather, moon, chromes. Only 8900 miles, Showroom Perfect! \$23,888.  
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GRAND MARQUIS LS 2000 Only 74,000 Miles, Leather Interior, Moon Roof. \$5995  
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G6 CONVERTIBLE 2007 White, GT with Only 51,000 Miles! Summer Fun! \$11,595  
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### NEW 2014 Ford Escape SE



Buy for **\$19,478+**  
MSRP **\$26,445**

Featuring: SYNC with My Ford, Power Windows, Locks, Cruise Control.

30 at this price, 487 available.

**\$216\***

Zero down and \$502 due at signing

**24 month lease**

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

### NEW 2014 Ford Fusion SE Luxury



Buy for **\$19,042+**  
MSRP **\$27,110**

Featuring: Leather, Luxury Package, Sync with My Ford

10 at this price, 508 available.

**\$222\***

with zero down and \$475 due at signing

**24 month lease**

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

### NEW 2014 Ford Flex SEL



Buy for **\$27,460+**  
MSRP **\$35,565**

Featuring: Leather, Blis, SYNC with My Ford Touch, Remote Start.

3 at this price, 70 available.

**\$283\***

with zero down and \$648 due at signing

**36 month lease**

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

### NEW 2014 Ford Edge SEL



Buy for **\$26,276+**  
MSRP **\$34,815**

Featuring: Leather, Sync with My Ford Touch, Rear View Camera, Heated Power Seats.

3 at this price, 100 available.

**\$293\***

with zero down and \$606 due at signing

**36 month lease**

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

### NEW 2014 Ford Focus SE



Buy for **\$15,313+**  
MSRP **\$23,540**

Featuring: Leather Appearance Package, Sync and Sound Package.

8 at this price, 191 available.

**\$177\***

with zero down and \$431 due at signing

**24 month lease**

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

### NEW 2014 Ford F150 4x4 Supercab XLT Luxury



Buy for **\$30,314+**  
MSRP **\$38,770**

Featuring: Leather, Chrome Pkg., Sync with my Ford, Rear View Camera.

3 at this price, 244 available.

**\$293\***

with zero down and \$628 due at signing

**24 month lease**

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

### NEW 2014 Ford Transit Connect XLT Wagon



Buy for **\$21,123+**  
MSRP **\$26,025**

Featuring: SYNC with My Ford, Power Windows, Cruise Control.

3 at this price, 26 available

**\$271\***

with zero down and \$488 due at signing

**24 month lease**

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

### NEW 2015 Ford Explorer XLT



Buy for **\$29,641+**  
MSRP **\$37,015**

Featuring: Leather, SYNC with My Ford Touch, Premium Audio, Keyless Entry, Reverse Sensing.

3 at this price, 114 available.

**\$349\***

with zero down and \$533 due at signing

**36 month lease**

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

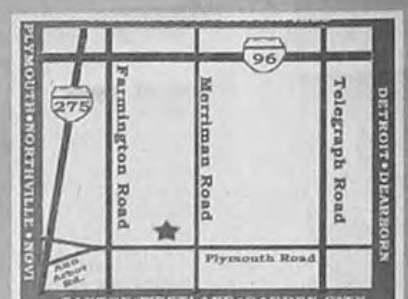
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\*All payments and prices are for qualifying A/Z planners. For qualifying non (not new) A/Z planners an additional \$800 to \$1500 down would be required to keep the payments or price the same. 10,500 miles per year. To buy for price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. All factory rebates assigned to the dealer including previous lease and may require Ford Credit financing. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicles. Subject to availability. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. All offers expire 7/31/2014