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Annie Scholten sits with her family - husband Darrell and sons Lucas, 5, in red, Eli, 8, in blue and Logan, 4 - in their Williamston home Wednesday. Scholten was diagnosed with terminal cancer and was told she had less than a year to live. With the news, the Williamston community has rallied around to help the family.

FAMILY AND FAITH

WILLIAMSTON – Ann Scholten worries that her youngest son won’t remember her. Logan is 4 years old, and she is dying. Her middle son, 5-year-old Lucas, has a slight grasp of what’s happening. “My 5-year-old knows the terminology,” said Scholten, who is known as Annie by her friends. “You know, ‘Mom, are you dying?’ ‘Yeah, honey, I am.’ But the little one has no comprehension of what that actually means.” But for her 8-year-old stepson, Eli, it’s all too real. He knows what death is. He understands that the cancer she endured nine years ago has come back and is terminal. He sees the “Annie’s Army” T-shirts in the hallways and classrooms of Williamston’s Discovery Elementary School. He’s having “a rough time,” she said. “I don’t want him to focus on the negatives, or be scared or sad,” Annie said. “I want him to understand that I’m OK. God’s plan is bigger than us.” Along with her faith, the children are the

WILLIAMSTON RALLIES AROUND YOUNG MOTHER BATTLING TERMINAL CANCER

CURT SMITH LANSING STATE JOURNAL

reason Annie is “OK.” “Any extra day I get with them is amazing,” Annie said. The family Shih-Tzu Maltese, Charlie, was napping peacefully along her blanketed lap and legs. “Any extra day I can wake up and wait for them to get off the school bus is a day that I’m willing to have.” Annie said she first was diagnosed with sarcoma cancer nine years ago at the age of 21. She underwent a double mastectomy, as well as

chemotherapy and radiation treatments. The cancer seemed licked. She was told that if it stayed away 10 years, she was “good to go.” In August, after nine years and a few months, she learned it was back. And terminal. “It’s now in my lung,” she said. Two weeks ago doctors at the University of Michigan Medical Center gave her four months to live. That was it. She decided to end the treatments. But good news came Monday. “The tumor has shrunk 2 millimeters on the top and bottom, which isn’t a ton, but until now it wasn’t shrinking at all,” Annie said. “It was just growing and growing. So that’s good.” “It just means we’ll continue on the chemo regimen and it gives me some extra time.” It might get her another four or five months,

See FAMILY, Page 2A

Bill narrows sex offender exclusion zones

DAVID EGGERT ASSOCIATED PRESS LANSING - A federal judge’s ruling that struck down parts of Michigan’s sex offender registry law is prompting lawmakers to respond with changes that seek to reinstate and clarify unconstitutional provisions, including rules intended to keep offenders away from schools. The Senate approved legislation Wednesday, more than eight months after the decision left law enforcement scrambling. The bill, which the House will consider in 2016, would remove some reporting requirements for offenders on the country’s fourth-biggest sex offender list. It also would narrow a prohibition against loitering on or within 1,000 feet of school property to 300 feet and provide exceptions for offenders who have a child in school. “We need to protect our children from sex offenders,” said the measure’s sponsor, Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge. “I don’t care if they’re a pedophile or if they’re somebody that just flashes people. They don’t belong on a school ground.”

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TODAY’S FORECAST

High: 59 Low: 42 Rain Full forecast, 6D

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Family

Continued from Page 1A

she guessed. The doctors won't say. Annie and her husband, Darrell, are good friends with Jeff and Heather Gorsline. They're fellow members at Williamston Free Methodist Church, where Annie sings and plays with the band. The four of them are part of a church care group that formed Many Hands, a small non-profit that feeds needy elementary school children.

A new offshoot of that group is Annie's Army, a campaign raising money for the Scholten family. "We're fine-tuning what that project's going to look like," Jeff Gorsline said. "Helping families going through a terminal illness and making sure financially they're going to be OK."

An Annie's Army Facebook page is closing in on 1,900 likes. This fall, Williamston businesses covered their windows in pink to raise awareness about Annie and her fight

On a Friday in October, more than 700 pink balloons were released in her honor at a Williamston High School football game. Annie, Darrell, and Eli watched it all from midfield.

Money is arriving at the family home, much of it anonymously. One person whom she calls "Santa" is sending the family — including Annie's parents, Marlene and Tim Hardesty — to Disneyworld this month.

"I'll have to ride in a wheelchair around the parks," Annie said. "This



Annie Scholten helps her son Eli, 8, with his homework in their Williamston home Wednesday as youngest son Logan, 4, colors. Scholten was diagnosed with terminal cancer and was told she had less than a year to live. The Williamston community has rallied around to help the family.

will be our first family vacation, and what better vacation than to see my children's faces at Disneyworld?" They'll be back in time to celebrate Christmas together. Chemo treatments return the Monday after. "I never would have dreamed this would have been the support we would have received when I was first

diagnosed," Annie said. "To be able to have financial support, it really helps during a terminal diagnosis. It really makes you feel better about leaving the world and making sure your family's going to be OK." Contact Curt Smith at (517) 377-1226 or csmith@lsj.com. Follow him on Twitter @CurtSmithLSJ.

Video
» www.facebook.com/Anniesarmy
» williamston/videos/981857018545527/
On The Web
» **Annie's Army:** www.anniesarmy.com/
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SUNDAY'S LOTTERY

► Midday Daily-3: 436	\$2.55 million
► Evening Daily-3: 325	► Powerball: 2, 14, 19, 30, 62
► Midday Daily-4: 5208	Power Ball: 22
► Evening Daily-4: 7245	Power Play: 2X
► Fantasy 5: 8, 15, 16, 30, 33	Wednesday's jackpot: \$180 million
Jackpot: \$148,000	
► Keno: 2, 7, 11, 12, 14, 21, 22, 25, 27, 32, 33, 37, 46, 53, 54, 57, 60, 62, 68, 70, 75, 77	
► Poker Lotto: 10♦, 4♠, 3♥, 10♠, 5♥	
Saturday's results	
► Classic Lotto 47: 6, 11, 28, 30, 31, 40	
Six-Number winners: None	
Wednesday's jackpot:	FOR LOTTERY RESULTS 24 HOURS A DAY, CALL 335-5640

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

The Lansing State Journal strives to provide accurate and fair reporting. It is our policy to correct substantive errors of fact. If you think we may have published incorrect information, please call 377-1174 or email corrections@lsj.com.

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Longtime staffer to lead Delta library

RACHEL GRECO
LANSING STATE JOURNAL

DELTA TWP. - Mary Rzepczynski, a 15-year veteran Delta Township District Library employee, will take over as the library's director in January. Township officials selected and interviewed four candidates for the job on Tuesday out of a pool of 17 applicants. Former director Cherry Hamrick retired in September. Rzepczynski, the library's assistant director since 2008, has been serving as interim director since October. Delta Township District Library Chair Marie Papciak said the applicants hailed from all over the country but during the interviews it was clear Rzepczynski was the right person for the job. Papciak said her experience — Rzepczynski's been on staff since 2000 — makes her the ideal suc-



Mary Rzepczynski

cessor to Hamrick, who was credited with overseeing the construction of the township's current \$7.2 million library building in 2008. "She knows the job and you can't take that away from somebody whose been there so many years and knows the work," said Papciak. Delta Township Supervisor Ken Fletcher sat in on each of the interviews and was very impressed with Rzepczynski. "Everyone was in agreement that Mary was the strongest candidate of everyone interviewed," he said. "She has experience and it shows." Rzepczynski said she's honored to be at the helm of the library's 26-member staff.

"I live in Delta Township so this library and this community mean so much to me," she said. "I'm really pleased and grateful for the opportunity." The salary range for the director position is \$65,848 to \$85,605, Papciak said. Rzepczynski's salary hasn't been set yet, Fletcher said. She's expected to step into the position next month. Fletcher said officials have not yet decided whether or not they will fill the assistant director position. "Part of that is giving Mary the opportunity to assess and make a recommendation about that," he said. About 16,000 people visit the Delta Township library every month and 32,000 people have library cards there. Contact Rachel Greco at (517) 528-2075 or rgreco@lsj.com. Follow her on Twitter @GrecoatLSJ.

Offender

Continued from Page 1A

In March, U.S. District Judge Robert Cleland declared portions of the law unconstitutional in a lawsuit filed by six people who are on the registry for life, including some who were older teens who had sex with underage teens. He said the loitering definition is so vague that offenders are unable to determine if they can attend a parent-teacher conference. How the 1,000-foot limit is measured is unclear, he said, limiting registrants' movement more than necessary. For now, Michigan is only barred from enforcing the exclusion zones against the six plaintiffs, though the ruling could help other registrants facing charges. Cleland also nullified some reporting rules as vague, such as requiring offenders to immediately report to law enforcement in person after getting a new email address, instant message account or "any other designations used in Internet communications or postings." Parts of the ruling apply to all 42,000 offenders on the registry. The Senate legislation would:

- Keep intact 1,000-foot school zones where offenders cannot work or live, with clarifications such as the boundary being the school property line.
 - Bar registrants from loitering on or within 300 feet — not 1,000 feet — of "clearly marked and identified" schools, playing fields and other school property.
 - Create a legal presumption that offenders are not in violation when transporting their children to and from school, attending a school-sanctioned event or meeting with a school employee regarding their children.
 - Redefine the term "loiter" to mean "knowingly and intentionally" entering and remaining in a student safety zone.
 - Revise or delete reporting requirements called into question by the judge, who has ordered additional briefing on other challenges to the law.
- While the bill won approval on a 37-1 vote, it is opposed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, which initiated the lawsuit. Sen. Steve Bieda, D-Warren, voted for the legislation but said the loitering definition is "incredibly broad." "Anyone in the buffer zone for any reason other than a very narrow list in the bill, such as picking

up kids, would be subject to a crime," he said. "Going to a store, visiting a parent at their home — this is beyond rational." Jones, however, said the bill would "withstand federal scrutiny." Under the law, registrants pay an annual \$50 fee. They are divided among three tiers, must verify their address in person one to three times a year and have to quickly report job, vehicle and other changes. The registry has come under criticism from those who say so many people are on it that the list does not distinguish the truly dangerous. The five men and one woman who sued have children. Two, who were 18 and 19 at the time, were sentenced for having sexual relationships with 14-year-olds. Another, who was 23, is still with his victim, who was under 16 when she met him at a nightclub that was supposed to be restricted to those age 18 and older. "There's a ton of cleanup we need to do on the registry," ACLU legislative director Shelli Weisberg said. "Overall, we need to take a step back and look at, given the resources spent on the registry, is it fulfilling the needs for which it was originally identified?"

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