

WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER



PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON TIPS OFF
SPORTS, B1

Forum held on school closing plans

Parents, educators voice opinions on options

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Concerns, suggestions and even some tears were shown Tuesday night as parents and community members gathered to discuss the potential closing of several Livonia schools.

The first of two public forums were held Tuesday night

at Riley Upper Elementary School for the community to give feedback on the recommendations brought forward to move the Livonia Public Schools buildings into the future with roughly 1,700 less students than it had six years ago.

Attendees sat through an abbreviated presentation first, similar to what the school board viewed last week when it revealed the potential options, before breaking into

smaller groups led by school board officials designed to allow for more personal feedback.

The top four considerations being looked at by the LPS school board would include closing Cass Elementary, 34633 Munger, and possibly closing Garfield Elementary, 10218 Arthur. Those students would be moved to other schools in the area, though which ones



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Cass Elementary parent Matthew Gage has a daughter at the school. Ethan Cork attends Cass. His mom Gina Colosimo is at right.

See SCHOOLS, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Garden City High School's pom pon squads performed in the parade.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Garden City High School Marching Band performed during the procession.

Here comes Santa: Parade draws 'thousands'

Jill Halpin
Correspondent

A sea of happy and smiling faces greeted a large brigade of marching bands, Ghostbusters, "Star Wars" characters and more at the 56th annual Santaland Parade last Saturday.

Crowds lined Ford Road to cheer Santa and their favorite local residents atop elaborate floats, all decorated in keeping with the parade's theme, "It's a Gingerbread Thing."

The parade, a long-running Garden City tradition was a success, said Santaland Parade Committee member Dan York, who estimated the crowd to be "in the thousands."

"It went extraordinarily well," York said, adding that despite a spot of wet weather earlier in the day, the rain cleared up to make way for a few rays of sunshine.

York mentioned that although the parade was staged from a new location due to construction on the Garden City High School parking lot, participants adjusted well to change. "It went off without a hitch," he said.

Parade-goers cheered as marching bands from Garden City High School, Taylor Kennedy High School and Livonia Franklin High School passed by and laughed as members of the Great Lakes Ghostbusters sprayed foam out of their guns. They also applauded the Garden City Youth Athletic Association's float, which took first place in the float contest. Nabbing second place in the contest was the Garden City Soccer Club's float, which featured gingerbread men playing soccer. Local building contractors The Buccilli Group took third place



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Garden City fire trucks added color and sirens to the parade.

with a gingerbread house float. Other parade participants included The Great Lakes Garrison Star Wars costuming group, mascots from local professional sports teams, including the Detroit Tigers' Paws, the Detroit Lions' Roary, the Detroit Pistons' Hooper, and "W" the mascot from Wayne State University. The Wayne State Warriors cheerleading squad, Stan the Fireman, the Royal Arch Masons, the Amer-

See PARADE, Page A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Redford Township Unicycle Club wheeled down the road.



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INDEX

Crossword Puzzle B6
Homes B5
Jobs B5
Obituaries A7
Services B5
Sports B1
Wheels B5

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PARADE

Continued from Page A1

ican Legion Riders, the GCHS Cougars cheerleaders and pom pon squad, the Garden City Middle School pom pon squad, the Redford Lawnmower Brigade and the Harmony Acres Arabian Horses also marched in the parade. Garden City native Nolan Finley, the editorial page editor of The Detroit News, was the parade's grand marshal.

Following the parade, a meet and greet with Santa provided an additional highlight for the event. Also Saturday, the Garden City Business

Alliance held its second annual Business Expo.

The event featured close to 50 local vendors highlighting their offerings to the community, said Kelly Partin, co-founder of the GCBA.

"We had a very good turnout. Our vendors said traffic was steady and they were pleased," Partin said.

Partin lauded the efforts of GCBA co-founder Kelly Perkins, as well as member Barbara McConnell, owner of Michigan Massage Professionals in Garden City. The Garden City Santaland Parade is available for viewing in high definition on YouTube and is also currently playing on the city channel.



Tiffany Mullins and 2-year-old Joy march with the group from Garden City Hospital.



Isabell Lonser is a student at Memorial Elementary.

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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SCHOOLS

Continued from Page A1

would depend on what decisions the school board would make. The Western Wayne Skills Center, 8075 Ritz in Westland, would also be considered when it comes to moving as well.

Several aspects have been examined when deciding which, if any, schools would be closed, said district superintendent Andrea Oquist to those in attendance. Those aspects included the impact on the local community, the people in and surrounding the school, the impact on the facility and the impact on the finances.

"It is not lost upon us that we're talking about our kids, your kids," she said.

In the group sessions, done anonymously, some discussions surrounded around the impact on



In a breakout session, School Board trustee Colleen Burton talks about the process and shared that her own kids attended Marshall at the time it closed.

closing schools and moving students around. Several participants in one session talked about the impact on school programs, how the children that would need to be moved would be affected and what would happen if the school population eventually re-bounds in Livonia and

northern Westland.

"It's a great fix for right now as long as everything stays," a participant said. "I wouldn't be surprised if you have a few more kids than what you're expecting."

Several Cass parents were outside the school before the forum began, handing out fliers with

points about trying to keep Cass open and instead close Garfield, moving those students to Randolph Elementary School and other programs to other schools, such as Hayes, Kennedy and Grant schools. Several parents have put together a proposal for the board to instead go with that plan, keeping Cass open.

Edmund Quiambao, who has one child who currently attends Cass, said many parents have collaborated together to craft the proposed plan, which was sent to the board.

"I think we just want the board to know that some residents of Livonia were able to put together this information that clearly presents a different case for consideration," he said. "We don't even have the kind of 42-person committee that they had."

Steve Archibald, assistant superintendent for secondary programs and district services, said the option to close just Garfield was looked at briefly by the committee charged with coming up with considerations, but there would be issues with funding enough Title I support services. Closing an additional school, he said, would help mitigate some of that loss.

"With that program, all the students at Garfield Elementary School receive the academic Title I support services," Archibald said. "If those students are split up between Randolph and Kennedy, there will be no Title I support services that will follow the students that go to Kennedy."

Second forum

A second community forum in the identical format to discuss these plans is set to take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, at Frost Middle School, 14041 Stark. More details on the plan can be found on the district's website, livoniapublicschools.org.

The board is expected to take in feedback and hopefully vote on a decision to move forward by the end of December.

Quiambao said it's his hope, as well as many other Cass parents' hopes, that the district at least look at some other options besides closing Cass, especially since closing schools is never an easy thing for a community to do.

"Nobody wants any schools to close in Livonia," Quiambao said. "And we sure as heck don't want two."

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Sonic Drive-In restaurant opens in Livonia

Sonic celebrated the grand opening of its first Sonic Drive-In in Livonia Nov. 30.

The new Livonia SONIC is located at 29622 Seven Mile Road, west of Middlebelt. The drive-in will be open daily from 6 a.m. to midnight and includes an indoor dining room.

"We can't wait to open our drive-in and introduce Sonic's unique menu offerings and drink combinations to the Livonia community," said Sonic franchisee Fred Rafou, owner of SDI Livonia LLC. "Our new crew members have been busy training for the opening day, and it's going to be quite the party. We welcome the community to stop by and experience all that Sonic has to offer!"

Sonic, which specializes in made-to-order fast food, is known for its specialty menu items and personal carhop service. A variety of 1.3 million unique drink combinations make Sonic your Ultimate Drink Stop. Favorite menu items include toaster sandwiches (sandwiches served on thick Texas Toast), foot-long quarter-pound chili cheese cones (hot dogs with chili and cheese), tots and a variety of premium desserts, made with real ice cream.



COURTESY OF SONIC DRIVE-IN
The Sonic Drive-In logo.

'A Christmas Carol' playing at Livonia Franklin High School

Don't let the holiday season pass by without paying a visit with the Cratchit family during a special performance by the Franklin Players of the timeless classic "A Christmas Carol."

Set to take the stage at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, "A Christmas Carol" tells the story of the Cratchit family who, despite being poor, prepares for a hearty Christmas celebration.

Mr. Scrooge, who is Mr. Cratchit's greedy and cold-hearted boss, orders his humble employee to work on Christmas day. But that evening before Christmas, Old Ebenezer Scrooge is haunted by the ghost of his deceased business partner, who shows him the error of his ways. When Christmas day dawns, Scrooge is a changed man who fervently spreads joy where he once delivered ill will.

"A Christmas Carol," directed by Colleen Meyer and Steven V. Rice, will be performed at Franklin High School's new Performing Arts Center, 31000 Joy, between Middlebelt and Merriman, in Livonia. Tickets are \$10 at the door; general seating.

Cast members include:

Luke Melville, as Ebenezer Scrooge; Thomas Caprara, as Bob Cratchit; Erin Phelps, as Mrs Cratchit; Ashton Williams, as Peter; Susan Smith, as Tiny Tim; Kegan Elinsky, as Belinda; Corissa Johnson, as Martha; Lee Brown, as Edward; Hannah Johns, as Elizabeth; Luke Jachman, as Jacob Marley / Dick; Alyssa Facione, as Ghost of Christmas Past;



The Christmas spirit lives on at the Fezziwig party.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



The Selling of Scrooge's belongings. From left: Charwoman, played by Myra Glasford; Joe, played by Kayla Harris; Laundress, played by Riley Courter; and Undertaker, played by Bailey Hanson.

Joshua Gordon, as Ghost of Christmas Present; Colin Tracy, as Ghost of Christmas Future / Fred;

Amelia Modes, as Charity Woman; Caleb Bonno, as Young Ebenezer; Alyssa Prater, as Beth;



Charity Woman, played by Amelia Modes, asks Scrooge, played by Luke Melville, for donations to help the needy.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Lara Schuch, as Rebecca; Catrina Laughlin, as Emma; Willow Hokett, as Mrs. Fezziwig; Jaylen Reames, as Mr. Fezziwig; Alexandra Voss, as Charlotte; Alexia Nel-

son, as Fan / Fiddler; Grace Forte, as Fiddler; Kayla Harris, as Joe; Myra Glasford, as Charwoman; Riley Courter, as Laundress; and Bailey Hanson, as Undertaker.

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS



On Thursday December 1st, Friday December 2nd, and Saturday December 3rd of this week, Showroom Of Elegance will give away,

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GOING OUT OF BUSINESS



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
Toys were donated as a part of the "No Child Without a Christmas" campaign for the Goodfellows.



WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
Toys filled this SWAT truck last weekend at the Target in Westland.

Westland police 'fill the SWAT truck' with gifts

The Westland Police Department is proud to announce that its "Stuff a SWAT Truck" event was a huge success.

The event was held Sunday at the Westland Target, 35401 Warren. Donations from the event are going to help the Westland Goodfellows "No Child Without a Christmas" campaign.

The turnout was incredible, police said. The police department loaded not only the SWAT truck, but also

another box truck, received \$315 worth of donations and Target donated a \$150 gift card to the Westland Goodfellows.

Westland Goodfellows president Heather Hatfield-Clear sent the following email to the police department after the event: "I just wanted to reach out to you and tell you how impressed I was with your staff's event yesterday at Target. I think everyone had a really good time and I am speech-

less at the number of toys that they collected. I'm sure you have seen the pictures ... but WOW!!! I can't thank everyone enough for their idea and support ... and sticking it out for six hours in the brisk weather. Thanks again and we look forward to our continued partnership with WLPD."

The Westland Police Department would like to express its sincere appreciation for all of those who donated to this event.

Westland police briefs: Windows damaged at home

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Westland police were dispatched the afternoon of Nov. 17 on the report of damage to a residence in the 2300 block of Stieber.

When police arrived, they spoke to the resident, who said she had left her house earlier that day. When she came back an hour later, she found the outer living room window broken. Police checked the area for evidence but did not find anything. The resident said she didn't know of anyone who would have damaged her window.

Car window smashed

Police were called the evening of Nov. 17 to a home in the 33400 block of Lancashire Drive on the report of a vehicle window being damaged.

Police noted damage to the vehicle parked in the street when they got there. They spoke to the vehicle's owner, who said the car had been parked there for several hours. A neighbor called police to

report the damage. The owner said she didn't know who would have done the damage, but said it was the second time it had happened in the past month.

Wallet taken from vehicle

A resident in the 35100 block of School came into the police station Nov. 16 to file a report that someone had taken items from her vehicle.

She said she had parked her car in front of her residence the day before and believes it was unlocked during that time. When she returned to the car the next day, she discovered her wallet was missing from inside the vehicle. The wallet contained several items, including personal identification and credit cards. She said she canceled the credit card.

Car mirror damaged

A motorist who had left his vehicle parked in the 33000 block of Hampshire came into the police station Nov. 21 to report damage to a mirror on his

truck. He said he left the car in the street at his son's home while he went on vacation. When he returned, his son told him he noticed some damage done to the driver and passenger side mirrors. The son said he did not know who would have done it.

Radio stolen from vehicle

A resident in the 100 block of East Tami Circle came into the police department Nov. 20 to report the theft of her vehicle's radio.

She said she parked the car in the parking lot the night before. When she returned to it the next day, she found someone had broken into her vehicle and stole the factory radio from the car. She said she was unsure of how someone accessed the car, as she believed the doors were locked. No other damage was reported.

— Compiled from reports filed with the Westland Police Department.

Livonia police briefs: Cops chase shoplifting suspect

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Livonia police were called Saturday afternoon to CVS, 19120 Middlebelt, on the report of a man who had taken several nutritional supplements from the store.

Police arrived and found the suspect outside before pursuing him on foot. He was seen running near several stores in the area, including Jimmy John's and Cricket Wireless, crossing Seven Mile. The suspect was seen getting into a vehicle nearby, when police opened the door and tried to arrest the suspect.

Reports show the suspects resisted, so police had to take him to the ground to arrest. He was detained and placed in a police vehicle. When speaking to a store employee, they told police they saw the suspect concealing several cases of nutritional supplement drinks and leaving without paying for them.

They said they thought they saw them possibly concealed in a trash bin nearby Toys R Us. When police looked in that area, they were able to locate the drinks.

Items taken from Von Maur

Police were called Monday afternoon to Von Maur, 37500 Six Mile, on the report of a retail fraud that had taken place.

An employee told police the suspect was seen selecting several items, including a purse and scarf. She was seen going into a fitting room, where the scarf was concealed in the purse. She then picked out two other scarves and then later tried to leave the store without paying. She was stopped and detained until police arrived and arrested her. She was taken to the police station for processing.

Vehicle damaged

Police were called Saturday evening to a

residence in the 37600 block of Newburgh Park Circle on the report of a vehicle that had been damaged.

When police arrived, they spoke to the driver, who said he had parked and locked the car in front of the residence. He later found the driver side window smashed out.

Damage also appeared on the driver door handle. Nothing appeared missing from the vehicle, as the only disturbance was a backpack that had been moved. No suspect information was available.

Car window smashed

A resident who lives in the 31700 block of Bretton came into the police station Saturday afternoon to report some damage done to his vehicle.

He said he parked his car in the driveway the day before around noon. He came out the next day and found a broken window. No property was taken and there were no suspects.

— Compiled from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.



Santa

is Coming to Our Livonia Branch

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CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 23 11/21/16

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Cicirelli Bryant, Coleman, Hammons, Herzberg, Johnson, Kehrer
207: Appr. application for Spec. License from State of Michigan to allow JORY Children's 3/4/17.
- Matching funds proposal for purchase /installation of playground structure at Jaycee Park; amt. not to ex. \$20,000.
- Adopted proclamation recognizing S. Gaddy-Bollinger.
208: Minutes of regular meeting on 11/7/16.
209: SLU for prop. Retail Pharmacy, 8653 N. Newburgh Rd. w/contingencies.
210: SLU for prop. Crossfit Gym, 38217 Abruzzi w/contingencies.
211: Conf. appt. of W. Ziemba to EDC/TIFA for 4 yr. term to exp. 12/4/20.
212: Appr. checklist: \$ 1,839,401.04.
Mtg. adj. at 8:08 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout
Council President

Richard LeBlanc
City Clerk

Publish: December 1, 2016



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Where do Christmas trees come from? Michigan!

Kathleen Lavey
Lansing State Journal

The weather was unseasonably warm Friday at Korson's Tree Farm, but the work at hand was aimed at a perfect Dec. 25.

Against a gently rolling landscape planted with thousands of Fraser firs, Scotch pines and other varieties of Christmas trees, workers picked up trees bundled tightly with twine for shipping and layered them carefully end-to-end on a flatbed semi-trailer.

Lift, place, adjust.
Lift, place, adjust.

Each tree was color-coded with spray paint on the cut ends to signify its destination: Michigan, Indiana, Missouri.

It took two men to lift one of the trees, a monster two feet longer and almost twice the circumference of the others.

"When you see a tree that looks like that after it's been baled, that's a big tree," said Jessica Korson, who co-owns Korson's Tree Farm with her husband, Rex. He was in charge of loading and too busy to talk right then. Fourteen trucks filled with trees had gone out the day before. Another had just left.

The centerpiece of holiday decor comes straight from Korson's and other wholesale Christmas tree farms like it. Michigan is the nation's third-biggest producer of wholesale trees (behind Oregon and North Carolina) and crunch time is now as they hustle to get trees onto lots in Michigan and across the Midwest.

As the workers loaded trucks outside, a wreath assembly line was hopping inside a red-painted pole barn. A fresh evergreen scent permeated the air as workers with sap-stained hands fastened sprigs of spruce or fir onto wire forms from dinner-plate size to 4 feet across.

"We have days that are really hectic, but we have days that are really fun," said Sue Jurado, who was standing at a table in the barn, dipping pine cones in an electric skillet full of hot glue and attaching them to fresh wreaths as fast as she could.

Before the season is out, Korson's will ship up to 50,000 trees and 16,000 wreaths, garlands and centerpieces to volunteer groups, retail lots and garden centers as far away as Colorado and Florida. They're among 560 Christmas tree growers in Michigan and one of the largest. Only 10 growers plant more than 500 acres of trees, according to the Michigan Christmas Tree Association. Korson's plants 1,000.

Michigan tree farmers harvested just over 1.7 million trees in 2012, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, making it the third-largest grower in the country. No. 1 Oregon cut 6.4 million trees and North Carolina produced nearly 4.3 million.

There are Christmas tree farms across Michigan, said Marsha Gray, executive director of the



DAVE WASINGER | LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Korson's grows 10 species of evergreen trees. Seven of them are sold as Christmas trees. Others are sold as landscape trees in spring, summer and fall.

Christmas Tree Association, but there's a concentration of wholesale operations on the west side of the state around Greenville, Lake City and Cadillac. There are fewer farms than you'd think in the Upper Peninsula.

"If they have an early, big snow, they can have a hard time getting trees out of the field," Gray said.

Korson's farm was founded in 1973 by Rex's parents, Wayne and Vicki. Rex and Jessica Korson bought the farm in 2003. Rex Korson had prepared by earning a marketing degree at Michigan State University while working at his parents' farm and at Tannenbaum Farms in Okemos.

Korson's grows 10 species of evergreen trees. Seven of them — Fraser fir, balsam fir, Douglas fir, concolor fir, Scotch pine, blue spruce and Black Hills spruce — are sold as Christmas trees. Others are sold as landscape trees in spring, summer and fall.

That diversity of trees is unique to Michigan, Gray said.

"Most of the large growing regions, they grow two or three varieties of tree," she said. Michigan grows a dozen on a wholesale level.

"That makes it nice for Michigan consumers, because they have lots of choices," Gray said.

Some people prefer the pale blue-green, short-needled blue spruce. Or the classic Scotch pine, dark green and capable of supporting heavy ornaments. The Fraser fir earns its popularity in part because it holds its needles for a long time.

Rex Korson and his crew will plant about 1,000 trees per acre, then nurture them for an average of seven years before cutting them. Crews don't cut a whole

field at once. Instead, they go through fields marking trees that are ready for market. Trees are then sawed down, and mechanically shaken to remove loose needles, loose bark and any debris caught in branches. They're put through a baler to be wrapped with twine for shipping.

After trees are cut, the greens crew follows along, taking every scrap of evergreen left behind. Using hand shears, they snip them into sprigs that can be bound together into wreaths or fashioned into centerpieces.

Seasonal workers who are paid by the piece can make a 12-inch wreath in less than 5 minutes. A commercial-size 48-inch wreath comes together in half an hour.

While Jurado and others decorate wreaths, workers on another side of the barn feed evergreen sprigs into a machine that binds them with wire and spools the roping into fresh-scented 25- and 50-foot coils, bound to be hung on porches, doorways and fences.

Korson's ships a lot of trees and evergreen products to volunteer groups or Boy Scout troops using holiday sales as a fund-raiser. The goal: get at least one load to every client before Thanksgiving, then resupply big customers as needed. They also open their own retail location in Auburn Hills on Friday.

Thanksgiving weekend is the typical kickoff for fresh tree sales, Gray said.

"It's busy, but not overwhelming," she said, although it's getting bigger each year. "The first weekend in December, that's massive. The busiest Christmas tree weekend out there."

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DAVE WASINGER | LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Before the season is out, Korson's will ship up to 50,000 trees and 16,000 wreaths, garlands and centerpieces to volunteer groups.

Christmas in the Country

28th Annual

Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday, December 3rd

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

150 Booths
Admission \$3.00
or \$2.00 and a
Can of Food for
ACTIVE FAITH

South Lyon High School
Eleven Mile & Pontiac Trail

**CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 22 11/7/16**

Presiding: President Pro-Tem Ciciirelli Bryant
Present: Coleman, Hammons, Herzberg, Johnson, Kehrler
2011: Minutes of regular meeting on 10/17/16.
- Traffic Control Order 2016-12: Install (2) "Handicapped Child In Area" signs on Avondale btwn. Henry Ruff & Shotka.
- Bid for Water & Sewer System Maintenance Svcs.; 2 yr. contract w/Liqui-Force.
- Bid for Portable Valve Operator to low bidder, USA Blue Book, amt. not to exceed \$6,450.
- Appr. Contract w/Quadrant 2 Education for Management JBCVC Learning Center; amt. \$38,000.
- Appr. Westland Wayfinding & Signage Design Proposal from OHM; amt. not to exceed \$21,000.
- Intro. Manpower Budget Amendment 2017-03; Increase 2 positions, add Sergeants.
- Waive procedure, declaring an emergency, due to time constraints, to allow the Intro & Adoption of Manpower Budget Amendment 2017-03 in the same meeting; Increase 2 positions, add Sergeants.
- Adopt Manpower Budget Amendment 2017-03; Increase 2 positions, add Sergeants.
- Placement of 2016 Winter Hazard/Board-Up Fees on 2016 Winter tax bills.
202: Conf. appt. of D. Adams as City's FOIA Coordinator.
203: Conf. appt. of A. Spisak to Planning Commission for 3 yr. term to exp. 1/5/19.
204: Conf. appt. of M. Diehl to EDC/TIFA for 4 yr. term to exp. 1/15/20.
205: Appr. checklist: \$ 4,108,623.00.
Mtg. adj. 8:34 at p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.
Christine Ciciirelli Bryant
Council President Pro-Tem

Richard LeBlanc
City Clerk

Mother-daughter resolution prompts giving

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

Greta McKee of Novi has set a new standard for new year's resolutions.

As 2016 rounds the bend, Greta, a fifth-grader at Thornton Creek Elementary, is wrapping up a resolution project she and her mother Erika began in January: To aid a worthy cause each month of the year by donating time and talent.

The project had Greta making fleece blankets for sick children, raising money to buy bottled water for people in Flint, participating in two charity fundraising races, visiting patients at a Veterans Affairs hospital and helping out at a Special Olympics soccer tournament. She's also made comfort packages for children at an area shelter, enlisting girls on her soccer team to help her with that project and served food to homeless people in Detroit.

In November, Greta had her hair cut for Pantene's Beautiful Lengths program, which provides wigs for women who've lost their hair while fighting cancer. In December, she's leading fellow students at Thornton Creek in writing letters for Operation Gratitude, which will send them to military personnel, veterans and first responders.

What started early last year with what Erika McKee called "a conversation" about new year's resolutions has, for Greta, turned into an exciting endeavor that's still gaining momentum.

"After we started, I really got into it and I kind of wish we did more than one every month," Greta said recently. Greta said she gets satisfaction out of helping others.

The pair are planning to carry the resolution



In January, and again in March, Greta made fleece blankets for sick children.



Greta McKee reacts to getting about 9 inches of her hair cut off at Salon Enigma in Farmington Hills. Looking on is her friend Charlotte Mills; the stylist is Denise Cook. Greta donated the hair to be made into wigs for women battling cancer.

into next year and want to get others to join them (Greta has already gotten friends interested, in addition to schoolmates and fellow soccer players). They've even set up a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gretasmnthlypledge, to document their project.

Greta's biggest effort came in August, when she was part of the youth crew that supported walkers during the area's Susan G. Komen 3-Day, which raises money to fight breast cancer. It's an event in which Erika McKee has long participated — this year was her 13th 3-Day — as a tribute to her mother, Deanne Nelson of Northville Township, a 15-year breast cancer survivor.

"I think it's the closest one to me," because of her grandmother and a neighbor who has also

survived breast cancer, Greta said of the Komen.

"This year, it was especially neat that she got to be right there with us," Erika McKee said. Greta's brother Daniel, 17, also participated, walking the 3-Day for the second time. In May, the three raised about \$5,000 for the 3-Day by hosting a silent auction.

It was the walk, Greta said, that inspired her to get her locks cut to further help women facing cancer. "When I got to the 3-Day, it really kind of came to me," she said.

Visiting the VA hospital, where Greta called the action during horse-racing games based on throwing dice, was another favorite. "It was really cool and I liked seeing all the men," she said.

"She was great with them," her mother said. "She was amazing. She

was calling the horse races and smiling. When they joked with her, she joked right back. I was really proud of her, to see how comfortable she was."

Erika McKee said she and Greta's monthly "adventures" have given them important time together and that the gratitude returned to them offers them as much, or maybe more, than they've given.

"We're giving our time, but getting so much more," she said. "Because we're walking away (with) just a heart full of love."

In addition to her mother and brother, Greta lives with her father Dave and sister Caitlin.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kellogg Park is the setting for the Worldwide Candle Lighting, sponsored by the Livonia Chapter of Compassionate Friends, set for 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11.

Compassionate Friends to host annual vigil

The 20th annual Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting, which unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandchildren who left too soon, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

As candles are lit at 7 p.m., hundreds of thousands of people commemorate and honor all children gone too soon. Now believed to be the largest mass candle-lighting on the globe, the annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone

to time zone. Started in the United States in 1997 as a small Internet observance, the event has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance.

Hundreds of formal candle-lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle-lightings are conducted in homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

Starting in New Zealand, candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are started in another, creating a virtual 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world. The local chapter of

The Compassionate Friends sponsors the Kellogg Park ceremony. The event will include a candlelight vigil, reading of the children's names, a PowerPoint presentation of the children's names, poetry and songs.

Families will gather near memory trees specially decorated with the names of the children who have died too soon. Families and families are invited to the remembrance. For more information or to register a child's name to be included, call 734-778-0800 or email tfccandlelight@yahoo.com.

Candles will be provided and an ornament will be placed on the memory trees in the park when you register a child's name. You do not have to attend to register a child.

Livonia citizens police academy returning

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

For the second straight year, Livonia residents wanting an inside look at the work of the city's police officers will have the opportunity to do so.

The Livonia police citizens academy will return Feb. 22 at the police station, 15050 Farmington, for those who apply and are accepted. Applications are currently available on the police department's website, livoniapd.com.

The academy will walk residents through workings of the department on a weekly basis, concluding with a reception and award ceremony in early May. It's the second straight year for the academy, which returned in 2015 after a several-year hiatus as city funding recovered from the recession.

"It's been really good for the community, and equally as good for the members of the Livonia Police Department," said Police Chief Curtis Caid. "We're excited to continue the program."

Those interested in applying to take part in the academy can download an application and turn it in to the police



FILE PHOTO

Livonia resident Martha Breen presents Sgt. Ron Warra with a gift as thanks for his work with the previous citizens police academy at the banquet held in May. A second citizens police academy will take place starting in February.

department no later than Jan. 6, 2017. Space is limited and is reserved for Livonia residents or those who work in the city. A background check will also be run to determine eligibility and acceptance into the program is dependent on passing the background check.

The academy will consist of many of the same aspects last year's course did, including learning about the different bureaus within the police department, emergency preparedness and learning about the K-9 program. Attendees will also have the opportunity to possibly shoot at the department's firing range and can also opt to partic-

ipate in a ride-along with an officer on patrol.

Wayne County Circuit Judge Timothy Kenny, a Livonia resident, is expected to speak to the attendees of the academy as well, Caid said.

The academy is just one way the police department wants to extend its thanks and to the community, especially after the support it has received the past several months.

"We want to do what we can to show our appreciation to the residents," Caid said. "This is only one opportunity to do that."

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Livonia Greenleaf Commission seeks nominees for award

Do you know a Livonia-based business or organization that is demonstrating leadership in sustainability initiatives? Now is the time to let the rest of the community know.

To increase awareness of more sustainable business and volunteer organization practices in Livonia, the Greenleaf Commission on Sustainability and the Livonia Chamber of Commerce will award its third annual City of Livonia Greenleaf Award. The goal of the Greenleaf Award is to recognize businesses or volunteer organizations that have demonstrated leadership in making Livonia a resil-

ient and sustainable community. Awards will be presented at the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership and Awards Celebration on Feb. 9, 2017.

Businesses or volunteer organizations can nominate others or themselves for the Greenleaf Award. The nominations will be judged on a number of criteria, including recycling, waste reduction and energy efficiency or water conservation efforts. Other measures to be evaluated are whether the business or organization adheres to or goes beyond environmental regulations for their industry. Does it have

goals to maintain and improve sustainability, and is it involved in sustainability groups within its industry?

Nominations for the Greenleaf award are now open, and close Dec. 31, 2016. Greenleaf Award applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. Nomination forms are located on the Livonia Chamber of Commerce website (www.livonia.org) or on the City of Livonia Greenleaf Sustainability website (www.ci.livonia.mi.us/). For more information about the Greenleaf Award, contact Jim Baringhaus at jbaringhaus@gmail.com.

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Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

BUCHANAN



LOIS EVELYN 85, passed away peacefully Monday, November 28, 2016 at home surrounded by her family. She was born July 20, 1931, in Merrill, Oregon, daughter to the late Dean Arthur and Minnie Pearl Mitchell Spencer. Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday December 2, 2016 at Concord Bible Church, 711 Williamsburg Ct. NE Concord, NC 28025. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens. The family will visit prior to the service from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Lois is survived by her husband Paul James Buchanan, two sons, Art Buchanan, wife Connie; Jim Buchanan, wife Leslie; seven daughters, Judy Arend, husband Don; Pam Yerkes; Connie Wakefield, husband Tom; Sandy Marano; Cheryl Brane; Laurie Reeder, and husband Daniel; a sister Ruth Hylton; twenty five grandchildren, and fourteen great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Concord Bible Church, 711 Williamsburg Ct. NE Concord, NC 28025 or Novant Health Hospice PO Box 33549 Charlotte, NC 28233-3549. Gordon Funeral Service & Crematory is caring for the Buchanan family. Online condolences may be made at www.gordonfuneralservice.com.

COLOGNE



DIANA LYNN age 63, a lifetime resident of Detroit and member of Jehovah's Witness church, died Tuesday, November 23, 2016. Diana was born to parents Sam and Lois Dukes of Detroit on October 17, 1953. Surviving are her sisters, Susan J. (Jack) Witek, Sharon L. Fairchild, Judith A. (William) Farmer, and Christine M. (Kirk) Sewell and numerous nieces and nephews. Diana had a creative nature and she enjoyed and appreciated the natural world, she especially enjoyed the Great Lakes and the Detroit River. She had a passion for the humane treatment of animals. Throughout her life she provided home and lifelong companionship to dogs, American Pitt Bulls in particular. Memorial services Saturday, December 3, 1:00 p.m. at "Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses", 26801 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial donations may be directed to an animal advocacy group of donor's choice. Arrangements entrusted to Heeneey-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, (248) 474-5200. www.heeneey-sundquist.com

GARRISON

SARAH "SALLY" SHAW passed away peacefully on November 27, 2016. Sally was born on December 21, 1942 at Grace Hospital in Detroit, MI. Beloved wife of Walter Cole Conrad. Daughter of the late Robert L. Garrison and Valda A. Garrison. Sally graduated from Seaholm H.S., Michigan State University and Wayne State University. She worked in the Ferndale Public Schools for over 36 years as an elementary teacher, teacher coordinator of the Ferndale Open Classroom and a district consultant. She was a devoted member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (Education Honor Society) for 46 years serving in many capacities including Michigan State President, Michigan's Executive Secretary, International Membership Comm. Chair and received several honors including Michigan State Woman of Distinction in 1999. Sally was also a member of St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook since 1965. She began acting in numerous productions and over the years became Casting Chair, Membership Advisory Committee Chair, served on the Board of Directors and as President. Sally will always be remembered for her strength, courage, positivity, her enjoyment of gourmet cooking and entertaining her family and friends, and the love and generosity she had for her family. Besides her loving husband Cole, Sally is survived by her dear brother, Robert L. Garrison, Jr. (Jennifer), nieces Laura Beatty (Robert), Kathy Thorburn (Patrick), Charlotte Garrison, Allison Conrad, nephews Greg & Rob Garrison, great-nephews/niece, Haden, Miles, Ella and Odin, brother-in-law David Conrad (Sherry), uncle, Dr. Roger F. Spring (Yvonne). A private service will take place on Mackinac Island at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Sally has requested donations can be made to Alzheimers Disease Research, 15825 Shady Grove Rd., Suite 140, Rockville MD 20850 or St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook, PO Box 59, Birmingham MI 48009 or Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation, PO Box 1589, Austin TX 78767.

GOSHORN



ANDREA KAY Age 63, a longtime resident of Farmington Hills, formerly of Northville, passed away November 26, 2016. She was born January 16, 1953; daughter of Andrew and Gennell (nee Rowd) Torok. She graduated from Northville High School; Class of 1972. Andrea was united in marriage to Kevin R. Goshorn on June 3, 1978; they spent 38 loving years devoted to one another. Andrea worked as a Hair Stylist for over 40 years; she was currently working at Fox Run. She was a member of Farmington Elks Lodge #1986 where she served as a former First Lady. She was also a member of the VFW Post 4012 in Northville. Andrea was a wonderful cook; her dishes were always made from scratch and in large amounts. The Hungarian Stuffed she made was a family favorite. She enjoyed doing arts and crafts and collecting candles and lanterns, which were organized based on color and size. She also enjoyed listening to music and dancing. Andrea had an impeccable eye for design; she loved decorating her home and changing the entire décor, down to the smallest detail, for each season. She was incredibly good hearted, generous, and always went out of her way to help in any way she could. Andrea cherished her family; she loved spending time with them, especially her grandchildren. Andrea is survived by her loving husband, Kevin R. Goshorn; her children, Chad (Lydia) Goshorn, Casti (Marty) Croll, and Colby Goshorn; her grandchildren, Zachary, Ethan, Reece, and Lucas; and her dear friend, Phyllis Mirling. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Gayle Torok. Memorial Visitation will be held Thursday, December 1, 2016 from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service and Lodge of Sorrows beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Elks National Foundation, 2750 North Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614 or American Diabetes Association, 300 Galleria Offcentre, Ste. 111, Southfield, MI 48034.

Share condolences at casterlinefuneralhome.com

ROCCO



ROBERT FRANCIS Age 73, November 28, 2016. Visitation Sunday, Dec. 4 from 3-8 p.m. with Services at 7 p.m. at Charles Stip Funeral Home, 18425 Beech Daly Rd., Redford Michigan 48240.

SHIFFER



PATTY HEGWOOD of Waxahachie, Texas passed away, Wednesday November 23, 2016 at her home after a long illness. Funeral Services will be held Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in the Great Boze Memorial Chapel of Wayne Boze Funeral Home in Waxahachie, Texas. Visitation with the family will be held Friday, December 2, from 6-8 p.m. at Wayne Boze Funeral Home in Waxahachie, Texas. Interment will follow funeral service at Waxahachie City Cemetery in Waxahachie, Texas. Patty was born on September 30, 1955 in Hobbs, New Mexico to Horace and Nelllove (Sparger) Hegwood. Patty grew up in Eunice, New Mexico and graduated from High School in Hobbs, New Mexico. Patty went on and received her Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University. Becoming a Special Needs Teacher, she worked many years at Ector County Independent School District in Odessa, Texas. Followed by a number of years at Plymouth Canton School District in Michigan. Patty met James in Odessa, Texas and were married on December 27, 1980 in Odessa, Texas. Patty and James were married for 35 years and 11 months. Together, they retired and moved to Waxahachie in June 2016 to be near their daughter and son. Patty was an Educator devoted to Special Needs. Patty will be greatly missed. Patty was preceded in death by her parents, Horace E. and Nelllove (Sparger) Hegwood. Patty is survived by her husband, James N. Shiffer, her son, Scott E. Shiffer and wife Lindsay of Midlothian, Texas. Her daughter, Lucy Nichole Ginning and husband, Ryan of Waxahachie. One sister, Janet Isham and husband, Roger, of Kirtland, New Mexico. Seven grandchildren; Maren, Adelynn, Hannah, Emma Shiffer, Payge and Hunter McKee and Christopher Gunning. Survived by a host of friends and peers in the Educational Field.

TANDOC



JESUS R. "JESSE" age 72 of West Bloomfield (MI), passed away in his hometown of San Fabian, Pangasinan in the Philippines on November 10, 2016. He was born July 31, 1944 in Manila, the son of Dr. Jose and Aurora (de los Reyes) Tandoc. He is survived by his wife, 2 siblings, 3 sons, and 7 grandchildren. Caring husband of Lucy (Jumagao) Tandoc for 49 years. Beloved brother of Dr. Rosemarie Tansiongco of Colorado Springs (CO) and Dr. Jose Tandoc of Laguna Woods (CA). Loving father of Jeff (Emelie) Tandoc of Chicago (IL), Jerome (Danielle) Tandoc of Okemos (MI), and James (Sara) Tandoc of Clinton Township (MI). Proud grandfather (Lolo) to Jesse, Isaiah, Ainsley, Olivia, Eden, Aurora, and Lucas. Jesse was a graduate of Mapua Institute of Technology and was a licensed Professional Engineer. He had a wonderful 34 year career with General Motors and retired in 2007 to travel and donated his time and services to his hometown community of San Fabian. Funeral services were held at San Fabian Church in Pangasinan, Philippines on Nov 16, 2016. Donations may be made to the charity of your choice.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WAYNE COUNTY

Westland youth athletics meeting

Westland Youth Athletic Association's annual general membership meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, at 6050 N. Farmington Road, Westland.

Three Cities Art Club reception

Three Cities Art Club will host its Call for Artists Exhibition Reception from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at the Westland Gallery at City Hall, 36300 Warren, Westland. Artists have submitted 109 pieces for review. A juror will choose 65 pieces for the exhibit, which features original art and photographs. The exhibit runs through Jan. 31, 2017.

Jingle Bells Batman Smells

Barefoot Productions Theatre brings to the stage author Barbara Parks' character Junie B Jones and the holiday spirit in "Jingle Bells Batman Smells." The show is at 7 p.m. Dec. 2, Dec. 3, Dec. 9, Dec. 10 and 2 p.m. Dec. 4 and Dec. 11. The cast is from Livonia, Westland, Canton, Plymouth, Redford and Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at www.justgobarefoot.com or 734-404-6889. Barefoot Productions Theatre is at 240 N. Main St., Plymouth.

Spirit of the Season

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra presents the annual holiday concert "Spirit of the Season" at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Louis Schmidt Auditorium - Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. The concert is sponsored by a generous grant from the Ford Fund.

The first half of the concert will feature Angie Hahn's Academy of Dance performing excerpts from Peter Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet. The second half of the program will include members of the Livonia Youth Symphony sitting in with the LSO musicians performing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Sleigh Ride" by LeRoy Anderson, "The Bells of Christmas" by B. Krogstad, "Festive Sounds of Hanukkah" by B. Holcombe, "Christmas Song"



Mr. Scary breaks up a fight in Barefoot Production's "Jingle Bells Batman Smells." From left, Lauren Berryman, Gary Turnquist and Samantha Lowry.

by M. Torme and "Minor Alterations" by D. Lovrien. T

Tickets are \$20 for adults and students (6 years and up) \$10. Tickets are available at Livonia's Main Library on Five Mile Road or at the door. Group tickets of 10 or more are available for \$15 each by calling 313.538.2536. For further information or to reserve tickets visit the LSO online at www.livonia-symphony.org. For more information, call 734-421-1111, the LSO 24 hour music line.

Christmas tour

Livonia's 28th annual Christmas Walk/Home Tour, sponsored by the Friends of Greenmead, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. Tickets are \$10 or \$9 in advance and are available at Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia City Hall (Community Resources, 5th Floor), all Livonia public libraries, or from any member of the Friends of Greenmead. The tour will feature four private homes, St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church, and the Simmons/Hill House and the A.J. Geer store on the Greenmead grounds. (Start your walk at Greenmead.) All proceeds benefit the restoration of Greenmead Historical Park. For more information, call 248-477-7375.

After work with the Rep

State Rep. Leslie Love, D-Detroit, will host her "After Work with the Rep" to provide people with 9-to-5 work schedules an opportunity to meet with her and get legislative updates. This is the final legislative update of the year. The

event is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, at Michno's Cafe, 25524 Five Mile Road in Redford Township. Refreshments will be provided.

Special Santa visits

For children and families living with autism, there will be a Special Needs Santa from 9-11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at Laurel Park Mall, 37700 West Six Mile Road, Livonia. Steve Bockmann, the event organizer, whose own son has autism, is available for comment before or during the event. Steve has been organizing this event for several years. During this time, children can visit with Santa in a light-sensitive environment. There will be no mall music, and photos will be taken without a camera flash. This is a intended to provide a comfortable time for children with special needs to visit Santa.

Livonia tree lighting

The city of Livonia hosts its annual Tree Lighting and Caroling Celebration at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at City Hall. Mayor Dennis K. Wright will be joined on the steps of City Hall by Santa and Mrs. Claus and the youngsters who won the "December is Special to Me Because..." essay contest as they press the button igniting the colorful holiday display on the lawn of the City campus.

The event kicks off with members of the Livonia Civic Chorus leading the singing of traditional holiday carols in the lobby of City Hall. After the ceremony, everyone is invited to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Civic Center Library. There, children

of all ages can enjoy hot chocolate, crafts and a performance by Cirque Amongus.

The event is sponsored by the Livonia Rotary Club, Friends of the Barn, Livonia Libraries, Livonia Civic Chorus and Busch's Fresh Food Market. For more information, call 734-466-2900.

P-CCS orchestra concert

The P-CCS Orchestras will present their annual Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7 in the Gloria Logan Auditorium in Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton. It features performances by over 400 student musicians in grades 6-12. Four orchestras will take the stage over the course of the evening, performing a wide variety of music along with some holiday favorites. Suggested donation of \$3 per person or \$5 per family at the door. All donations are used to support the P-CCS Orchestras. For more information, call the Orchestra Office at 734-416-2909.

Park Players perform

The Park Players Theatre Company presents "Almost, Maine" by John Cariani at 7 p.m. Dec. 9, Dec. 10, Dec. 16 and Dec. 17 in The Allen DuBois Little Theatre at Canton High School. Tickets are \$10 and available at www.ptptc.book-tix.com or at the door beginning one hour before each performance.

Breakfast with Santa

The St. Robert's Mens Club will host Breakfast with Santa from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, in the gym, 27101 W. Chicago Road at Inkster, Redford. The event offers All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast; Santa's Big Raffle: 1st Prize: Big Sled of Toys; 2nd Prize: 20" Bicycle and \$1 instant pictures with Santa. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$2 for ages 2-12; and free for children under 2. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Wayne County General Hospital reunion

All retired and former employees from Wayne County General Hospital

are invited to attend the 32nd annual reunion in the party room at the Hibachi Buffet and Grill, 6539 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The event is set for 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13. Buffet price with without drink is \$12.75 and with a drink \$14.59. Reservations are not required.

Holiday decorating contest

"All American Holiday Decorating Contest" is underway and runs until midnight Saturday, Dec. 24. Residents can visit the city of Westland website to nominate themselves or a friend in one or all of the three categories: Best Traditional Display, Most Creative Display and Over the Top Display. Nominees will be asked to enter a picture with their submission.

You can also enter the contest by posting your picture publicly on Twitter or Instagram, tagging @CityofWestland and using the hashtag #westlandholidaypride. Anyone can go onto the website, view the entries and vote for the holiday decorating display they think should win. Voting will close at midnight on Christmas Eve. Winners will be announced and awarded with prizes at the first council meeting of the New Year on Monday, Jan. 9.

Youth Christmas concert

The Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestras of Michigan will host its Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 at William F. Weber Performing Arts Center at Thurston High School, 26255 Schoolcraft, Redford. Tickets are \$7 at the door, \$3 senior citizens. The LYSO is a nonprofit youth organization celebrating its 57th year in Livonia. It is comprised of school-age string players, winds, brass and percussionists, and dedicated parent volunteers.

Art of Giving sale

The Farber Soul Center hosts the "Art of Giving Holiday Sale" at the center, 5586 Drake Road in West Bloomfield, from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8. A "donor preview" runs from 5-6 p.m. with the sale starting at 6 p.m. Soul Studio's inaugural holiday sale is an art lover's shopping event, featuring amazing art and merchandise for your gift season. The studio will be filled with unique and original works of art, prints, ceramics and weavings.

Get a first look at new works for sale and a sneak preview at current works under construction.

In addition to selected new artworks, you'll find a remarkable assortment of new Soul Studio products and merchandise including prints, posters, greeting cards, tee shirts, water bottles, sketchbooks, tote bags, and more — all featuring the artwork of more than 50 studio artists.

Ladywood SK fundraiser

Ladywood High School will host a community wide 5K to raise funds for scholarships at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. The 5K includes an exclusive route and beautiful scenery on the grounds behind Ladywood High School in Livonia. Registration cost for the run/walk is \$30 for adults, \$25 for students, \$15 for kids 12 and under, and free for kids 5 and under.

To register online, print a paper registration or learn more about the SK, visit tinyurl.com/gpcbo3c. For business sponsorship opportunities, call Dawn Conn at 734-591-1544 x237.

Livonia Towne Club

The Livonia Towne Club, a nonprofit women's organization bringing together women for social interaction meets the fourth Thursday of each month September through May (except in November and December when it's held on the second Thursday).

The club meets for lunch and a program at different restaurants in Livonia and surrounding areas. The program could be an informative speaker, bingo, fashion show, music entertainment and more. The next luncheon is Dec. 2 with entertainment from a local accordion musician. For more information, call Vicki at 734-591-3254.

Franklin High library teen book fair

The high school library will have a book fair Dec. 9-13 at Barnes & Noble, 17111 Haggerty, Northville Township. Teens are encouraged to participate in the Harry Potter Magical Holiday Ball dressed in a favorite character and dance until they drop. The store and cafe will be open. A percentage of Barnes & Noble sales will benefit the Franklin High School library. If you can't make it and wish to donate, visit bn.com/bookfairs. Enter Bookfair ID12026894 at checkout.

Table with columns: AMOUNT, YEAR, MAKE, MODEL, COLOR, VIN. Contains vehicle auction data for Garden City Police Department.

NOTICE OF MEETING
The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Wayne Masonic Temple Association, a Michigan non-profit corporation, shall be held at the office of the corporation at 37137 Palmer Rd., Westland, Michigan on Tuesday December 13, 2016 at 6:00 PM for the purpose of election of directors and such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID
Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland - Jefferson Barns Community Center, located at 32150 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186, on December 15th, 2016 @ 10:30am. (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following: DEMOLITION SERVICES

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID
Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland - Jefferson Barns Community Center, located at 32150 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186, on December 15th, 2016 @ 11:00am, (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following: ABATEMENT SERVICES

Medical identification theft is latest concern

Technology was meant to make our lives easier. In many ways it has, but it also has made life more complex. In the old days, to protect our sensitive information from ending up in the wrong hands, they told us to make sure that when we charge something we tear up our carbons. Unfortunately, just like carbon is long gone, so is the simplicity of protecting our sensitive information. I bring this up because there is a new type of identity theft that has been rapidly growing as of late — medical identity theft.

Medical identity theft is on the rise, with more than two million cases reported; that number is growing every year. Medical identity theft is where someone obtains your medical insurance information and uses it to see a doctor, obtain prescription medications or even obtain medical devices. Medical identity theft cannot only cause you problems with your finances, but it can cause you health issues as the crooks' own medical treatment, history and diagnosis can be mixed up with your electronic health records, potentially complicating your health care for years to come.

Medical identity crooks not only have been known to file false insurance claims, but also to fraudulently acquire government benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid. In addition, the crooks sell your medical information on the black market, where it is used to create new medical identities from your information.

Unfortunately, medical identity theft is even more difficult to detect and deal with than fi-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

nancial identity theft. The laws that protect consumers are not specifically designed to deal with medical identity theft and that can cause some issues.

Just like with financial identity theft, where you always have to be on guard, the same thing applies to medical identity theft. Some of the same rules that apply to financial identity theft apply to medical identity theft, in that you have to be extremely cautious as to who you allow to access your medical information and protect your passwords and sensitive information at all times. In addition, there are a couple of things that you can do.

First, under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, you are legally entitled to a copy of your medical and billings records. It's a good idea to occasionally obtain these records and review them. In addition, when you receive those explanations of benefit letters, it is important to review them just like you would review a financial statement. Furthermore, it is important to review all letters and other forms of correspondence you may receive from your health insurer or health care provider. You need to review these documents for accuracy and, if there is a problem, you need to notify someone immediately.

One last note, just like you shouldn't post in your Facebook or social media that you're going on vacation, you also

don't want to post on social media anything about any up and coming medical procedure. We don't want to give the crooks any inroads.

Technology may have made our lives simpler in certain areas, but it's also made it more complex. We cannot put our heads in the sand; we have to accept that in today's world, we have to be more vigilant. It's now not only protecting financial records, but also medical records. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Vehicles at Livonia gyms broken into

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Livonia police continue to warn those who spend time at any of the city's gyms to be careful with leaving valuables in their cars after several were broken into recently.

At least four vehicles were broken into at two separate fitness areas from Saturday into Monday. Two vehicles broken into were at the LA Fitness at 30273 Plymouth.

The first took place Saturday evening at the gym near the Wonderland Village shopping center. Police were called to the gym after a 33-year-old Redford resident came out to her vehicle to find one of the windows smashed.

The woman told police she had put her purse on the rear floorboard behind the passenger seat. She locked the doors and went in-

side for about 30 minutes. When she came out, she found one of the rear windows smashed and her purse stolen. The purse contained several items, including Canadian currency, perfume, debit card, passport and driver's license. A laptop computer, which was on the front seat, remained untouched.

The second incident at LA Fitness on Plymouth took place Monday evening. Police were called to the gym after a 24-year-old Redford resident found a car window smashed.

She said she spent about 30 minutes inside before coming out and finding the window smashed out. She said her purse had been left on the front seat in open view and had been taken. It contained several items, including cash, a driver's license, social security card, credit cards and her CPL ID.

She said she called and canceled the credit cards.

The second gym to see vehicles broken into was near the Fit Zone at 16112 Middlebelt. Two patrons of the gym, one from Redford and another from Detroit, came out to find their vehicles each had a window destroyed.

One of the patrons said nothing appeared missing from her vehicle, while the other said her purse containing some cash and her iPad had been taken. They said they both were in the gym for an hour earlier that evening before they came out.

Several vehicles parked outside a few gyms in the city were broken into earlier this fall. Anyone with information regarding any of these cases can contact Livonia police at 734-466-2470.

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SPORTS

PREP BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Churchill set to compete in tough KLAA South

Senior center Yost returns after all-league season

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

K'Len Morris learned a lot about the KLAA South Division last season, his first as head coach of Livonia Churchill's girls basketball team. He already knows it's a very talented and competitive group of teams, but the Chargers (10-14 overall in 2015-16) expect to hang right in there with rivals such as Canton and Wayne Memorial.

"I think we have one of the most competitive divisions in the state," Morris said. "Nobody can take a day off in our league and every game will have meaning. Wayne should be one of the best teams in the state and Canton is always tough. I also think Coach (Ryan) Ballard at Plymouth is doing a great job with his girls and will have them playing at a very high level this year. (Westland John) Glenn is always athletic and well coached as well." The Chargers, whose post-season ended in regionals against Southfield-Lathrup,

will be spearheaded by senior center Annie Yost, who made first-team all-KLAA last season. "Annie is a force in the paint and should be one of the more dominate players in the league this year." Yost will need to stir the drink for the Chargers to have a winning season. Sophomore guard Maria Targosz, who started a few contests as a ninth-grader, will give Morris options. "Maria is a versatile player that we can use at multiple positions and



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO
Livonia Churchill center Annie Yost (No. 20) defends against a Canton player during a 2015-16 girls basketball contest.

See CHARGERS, Page B3

PREP FOOTBALL



CC quarterback Dillon Dejong (middle) hands off to Cameron Ryan (right).

SALKWAN GEORGES | DETROIT FREE PRESS

CC denied in state championship game

Shamrocks nearly pull off perfect season

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Saturday's MHSAA Division 1 football state championship game at Ford Field was billed as the ultimate chess match. It was Novi Detroit Catholic Central's smash-mouth, ball control offensive approach coupled with bruising defense that allowed just over 10 points per game against the speedy, high-powered and big play attack of Detroit Cass Tech. But when the game ended, all the pieces on the board were gobbled by the Technicians, who completed a perfect 14-0 season by pulling away in the second half for a convincing 49-20 win. It was the Technicians' third state title in school history and all have come at the expense of

the Shamrocks, who lost to Cass Tech in 2012 (36-21) and in 2011 (49-13). "We got it put to us pretty good," said CC coach Tom Mach, whose team finished 13-1. "We didn't expect that, but I thought our kids played gutsy and when the other team wins, they play better football." It seemed whatever move the Shamrocks made defensively, Cass Tech had an answer as senior quarterback Rodney Hall tied a state finals record with five touchdown passes. "He's a real big quarterback, great player, very dangerous after he makes a move and he takes off running," said Mach, who was making his 17th state finals appearance. "He's an accurate passer. He causes you



SALKWAN GEORGES | DETROIT FREE PRESS
CC's Jack Morris celebrates after returning an interception 35 yards for a TD.

See FOOTBALL, Page B2

PREP BASKETBALL

Golchuk scores 1,000th point in defeat

Redford Union, Thurston roll to big victories

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Samantha Golchuk tallied a game-high 23 points and broke the career 1,000-point barrier in the process Tuesday night, but it wasn't enough as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran dropped its season girls basketball opener, 52-30, at Novi Franklin Road Christian.

The senior guard scored all nine of Huron Valley's points in the second quarter and also added nine steals in the loss.

Daria Boboc, a 6-foot-2 senior center, scored 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to power the victorious Warriors, who led 23-14 at halftime and 41-20 after three quarters. Channele Lochrie also added 13 points, while Haley Thrift chipped in with seven for Franklin Road, which out-rebounded the Hawks, 53-29.

Huron Valley shot only 21 percent from the field and 50 percent from the foul line. "Overall for our first game, I saw some good things," Huron Valley coach Kris Ruth said. "We were definitely out-sized tonight. They had three girls over 6 feet, but I thought our girls fought hard on defense. We had some great looks at the basket on the offensive side. We just need to finish."

Panthers cruise

Redford Union bolted out to a 22-0 first quarter lead and never looked back en route to a season-opening 59-8 victory Tuesday night over visiting Taylor Prep. Johnnae Steel led the way for RU with 16 points, while Cassidy Sandelin added 12 for the victorious Panthers, who led 33-2 at halftime and 49-4 after three quarters.

Karisa Lee led the Tigers with six points. "It was a good win for us tonight," RU coach Scott Purdy said. "We still had turnovers that we need to fix and didn't execute the offense that well, but we're looking to improve. I thought we played well tonight and everybody contributed. It was an overall good performance from all nine players."

RU returns to action at 6 p.m. Friday at home vs. Southfield Bradford Acad.

See HOOPS, Page B3

Tasty week of holiday action for NTDP

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Home cooking for the Thanksgiving holiday worked out well for the U.S. National Team Development Program's Under-18 hockey team. The results were as tasty as turkey, pumpkin pie and all the trimmings as the U18 squad won all three games of a

holiday week home stand at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth by a combined score of 17-9. "I think it's fun to get more games in a week; it's new," said U18 goalie Dylan St. Cyr of Northville, the No. 1 star in Sunday afternoon's 3-1 win over the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "Usually, we only get the two games on a

weekend. It's definitely more taxing on the body, but we handled it well." With St. Cyr showing big-time compete level and post-to-post movement despite his 5-8 frame, he turned aside 24 Pointers shots to help the U.S. win all three games during the home stand. The U.S. opened the stretch with an 8-5 win Nov. 23 over

Muskegon (United States Hockey League) and followed up with Saturday's 6-3 victory over the University of St. Thomas. **Net presence** "I think the victories are nice," head coach John Wroblewski said. "I'm more a be-

See HOCKEY, Page B2

FOOTBALL

Continued from Page B1

a lot of trouble besides all the other trouble he causes you." CC hung for a half, trailing by only seven, 21-14.

"There's no guarantees," Mach said. "That's the whole point. Sometimes, you have to adapt and I thought we had done a pretty good job by halftime. It was 21-14 and I thought we were on our way there. A couple plays here and a couple of plays there ... it's their speed. There's just some things you just can't do about that."

The Shamrocks came out for the second half with a surprise onside kick, but Cass Tech's Willie Reid recovered at the Shamrocks' 42.

And on the first play of the second half, Hall hit Donovan Parker on a slant for a 42-yard TD to put the Technicians up 28-14 just 14 seconds into the third quarter.

"We planned that during the week if we needed to use it," Mach said of the onside kick. "We didn't know if we'd be in position to use it, but we thought it was a good opportunity right then. I think we needed a little push right there. Actually, our guy had it and their young man took it away from them. It was close."

The Technicians added two more TDs before the quarter ended. The left-handed Hall hit Donovan Peoples-Jones on a 49-yard TD pass, followed by a 2-yard run by Parker after the Shamrocks coughed the ball up at their own 18. (The fumble was recovered by Dyontae Johnson).

After stopping CC on a fourth-and-three, the Technicians invoked a running clock after going 51 yards on seven plays with Hall hitting Peoples-Jones on a roll-out for a 13-yard TD pass with 10:08 remaining in the game to make it 49-14.

The Shamrocks then got their lone TD of the second half with only 47 seconds remaining on a 1-yard run by Matt Young. (Jacob Nichols' PAT was no good.)

Well before the late TD by CC, the outcome had become a moot point, but it didn't start out that way, at least during the first two quarters.

After CC went three-and-out on its first possession, Cass



SALWAN GEORGES | DETROIT FREE PRESS

Catholic Central's Isaac Darkangelo goes in for a touchdown against Cass Tech.

Tech wasted little time in scoring, going 45 yards in just four plays as Hall hit Teone Allen in the flat and the junior slot-back turned the corner and tight-roped down the sideline for a 33-yard TD with 8:38 left in the first quarter.

The Shamrocks got their offense rolling on their second possession with a 73-yard, 15-play drive that consumed 8:19. It was capped by Isaac Darkangelo's 1-yard TD run with 0:12 left. CC got a big first down on fourth-and-short thanks to a 5-yard run to the 1 by Darkangelo.

And with just five seconds to go in the first quarter, CC took its only lead of the game when defensive end Jack Morris snuffed out a Hall screen pass and raced 35 untouched for a TD interception return. Jacob Nichols added at PAT to make it 14-7.

But Cass Tech, getting good field position on the ensuing kickoff, drove 59 yards on eight plays as Hall hit Allen over the middle at the goal line for a 20-yard TD to tie the score at 14-14 with 9:17 to go in the first

half. After forcing CC to quick punt on fourth-and-three, Cass Tech took just three plays to score, as Donovan Johnson raced 60 yards for a TD with 4:39 left to make it 21-14.

"We came with a game plan," CC senior defensive end Jackson Ross said. "We really wanted to use our physicality kind of against them, but props to them. They did a really good job. They've got a lot of athletes. They got them the ball. They kind of faked us out a lot, (we) couldn't really tackle them and that's what really killed us. We couldn't really wrap them up. We couldn't get enough guys to the ball and they capitalized. Props to them."

CC played without starting quarterback Austin Brown, who was injured during the first half of CC's 17-0 state semifinal win Nov. 19 over Romeo. Brown, a sophomore, underwent surgery on Tuesday.

Mach, who used sophomore Marco Genrich to finish out the Romeo game, decided to turn to senior Dillon Dejong to start the state championship game.

"Obviously, if you lose your quarterback, it's going to be different things that you're going to try and do," Mach said. "He had a great year for us and did a great job all the way up to that point. Our quarterback that went in (Dejong) did a tremendous job, a gutsy job. He had to play quarterback in three days of practice and, all the sudden, he's playing in front of 30,000 people. I thought he did a fabulous job."

Cass Tech finished with 383 yards total offense as Peoples-Jones, the highly touted senior recruit, finished with six catches for 118 yards, while Hall was 10-of-18 passing for 220 with the one pick-six.

"Probably one of the best we've seen in our time," Mach said of Peoples-Jones. "And, of course, they have a couple of them. It's hard to stop them all."

"You don't understand how fast some of those guys are until you play them. You see them on film, it's one thing. You see them live and they take off, you're guys are missing tackles that you usually make. It's one of those things."

CC, using a full-house backfield, finished with 175 yards rushing, but had only 193 total yards.

Cass Tech coach Thomas Wilcher was pleased with the way his defense performed.

"I knew we had a good offense," said Wilcher, who just completed his 19th season. "I knew the offense was going to be clicking, but the most important thing is that I didn't want us to break down defensive-wise and that was the most important thing."

Meanwhile, the finish was bittersweet for the Shamrocks, who were denied their 11th state championship.

"We got to this point, we were undefeated until this point," said senior running back Nicholas Capatina, who finished with a team-best 85 yards rushing on 12 carries. "That's good and everything, but we didn't finish. And I think, that's good for the younger guys because they don't want to feel this next year. Hopefully, they'll get the job done."

bemons@hometownlife.com



RENA LAVERTY

Screening Pointers goalie Max Milosek is Scott Reedy (middle) of the U.S. He later scored the winning goal.



RENA LAVERTY

U.S. NTDP Under-18 goalie Dylan St. Cyr (Northville) sprawls to deny a chance by UW-Stevens Point forward Lawrence Cornelier.

HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

liever in the process, how we get to those victories.

"I thought, unfortunately, their play declined a little bit over the three games. I thought we were really good against Muskegon, I thought we were pretty good (Saturday). Today, I thought we were just average and Dylan St. Cyr was exceptional today."

St. Cyr shrugged off the praise, stressing that he just worked on staying focused — especially early in each period.

"I think my job as a goalie is just to give the team a chance to win," said St. Cyr, who is a verbal commit to play at Michigan next year. "Getting the first couple saves in the first definitely helped my confidence and in the second, as well."

"I always like to see that first puck in the beginning of a period to get my confidence up. I think I did that well today."

But through 40 minutes Sunday, the U.S. was not play-

ing like the high-flying squad that scored 14 goals the previous two games.

The U.S. did go up 1-0 midway through the first on an unassisted goal by Brighton's Logan Cockerill. He collected the puck in the neutral zone, zoomed into the opposing end and ripped a shot from between the circles over the blocker of Pointers goalie Max Milosek for his ninth of the year.

The Pointers drew even at 18:15, when Willem Nong-Lambert buried a shot at the right post past St. Cyr, just as a U.S. penalty expired.

St. Cyr then kept the contest tied throughout a busy second period, when he made 12 stops. He got over to deny a bid by Austin Kelly from the right circle and, late in the period, rejected a chance by Tanner Karty from the slot, also getting in front of the rebound.

On target

It took the U.S. only 31 seconds of the third period to go up to stay, however.

Center Evan Barratt slid a cross-crease feed to linemate Scott Reedy, who snapped a

shot into the Pointers net from near the right post. Also assisting was defenseman Quinn Hughes.

"We got off to a little bit of a slow start, but we found ourselves in the third and my linemates made a great play," said Reedy, who now has eight goals on the season (including USHL and college games). "Fortunately, I got up in the play and they found me back side and I put it five-hole."

St. Cyr made sure that lead held up, although an unassisted empty-netter at 19:20 by forward Brady Tkachuk (his 10th of the year) provided some insurance.

According to St. Cyr and Reedy, being able to reel off wins — especially with the potential of holiday distractions — is a good sign for the team moving forward.

"It shows how mentally strong we are. Having Thanksgiving break (and) being able to get three wins is pretty good, against some good teams," St. Cyr said. "Being able to stick together and play as good as we did was great."

"I look on the bright side and say pretty thankful that we were home, at least, we weren't traveling," Reedy said. "But we found a way to stay

focused and not be too side-tracked by Thanksgiving and the holidays. I think it was good for us to have that challenge."

Reedy, a 6-1 right wing from Prior Lake, Minn., noted that the team's scoring binge against Muskegon helped set the tone for the rest of the week.

"It's definitely a confidence-booster to put eight goals in any night," Reedy said. "So I think we built off that and I think that helped drive us in the next games."

Next up for the U18 squad is a home game at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, against Chicago of the USHL. It is the annual "Teddy Bear Toss" event.

U18 6, ST. THOMAS 3: After falling behind 2-1 in the second period Saturday, U.S. defenseman Tommy Miller (West Bloomfield) tied the score at 3:26, from Sean Dhooghe and Jacob Tortora.

The U.S. scored three more unanswered goals to take a 6-2 lead en route to the victory.

Also scoring were Dhooghe, Evan Barratt, Grant Mismash, Graham Slaggert and Scott Reedy (one goal, two assists).

U.S. goaltender Adam Scheel made 23 saves.

U18 8, MUSKEGON 5: Get-

ting their holiday celebration off and running Nov. 23, the U.S. jumped out to a 4-1 lead after one period, with defenseman Max Gildon scoring twice to put the home team in front to stay.

Also having big nights were forward Brady Tkachuk (two goals), Jacob Tortora (one goal, one assist) and defenseman Quinn Hughes, with four assists. Making 27 stops for the win was goalie Dylan St. Cyr.

OMAHA 6, U17 3: Saturday night's game for the NTDP Under-17 team was going well until the Lancers scored three times in the third period to break a 3-3 tie. Tyler Weiss, Oliver Wahlstrom and Trevor Janicke scored for the U.S.

USA-CANADA SHOW-DOWN: Tickets already are selling briskly for the women's hockey match-up Dec. 17 between the U.S. Women's National Team and Canada.

Game time is 4:30 p.m. at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. Tickets are \$15. Call the box office at 734-453-8400 or go to usahockeyarena.com for more information.

The contest is part of the Winter Champions Series.

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PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

It's Young's town now at Salem

As upbeat veteran coach takes over Rocks, he's glad to have trio of senior captains helping him

Tim Smith
Hometownlife.com

Dan Young jumped around the Salem High School gymnasium with unbounded joy and enthusiasm during his new team's practice.

There were uptempo drills and plenty of two-way conversations as the new Salem varsity girls basketball coach and his players get to know each other ahead of the 2016-17 season. The Rocks open Wednesday at Farmington Hills Mercy.

"I know we have really good teams we have to play against," Young said. "I don't know how we're going to stack up until we start playing them. We're going to focus on us and get good."

It's been two decades since Young coached high school girls basketball, although he was at the helm of boys hoop teams at Westland John Glenn as recently as 2013-14.

"I coached girls with Bob Blohm back when I was the Canton boys coach back in the 90s (when girls and boys seasons alternated)," Young said. "But I haven't coached girls since then."

"Coached a lot of ball, though. It's fun. The girls are great, they listen, they try to do what we ask them to do. It's a lot

of fun, I really enjoy it."

New and exciting

Just as excited about the new era in Salem girls basketball are senior co-captains Darby Scott, Jayna Lenders and Emily Stewart.

Those captains also are thrilled to have Young as their coach.

"He's a great coach, he's got a lot of history coaching," said Scott, who plays big for her diminutive size (5 foot, 2 inches) and can toggle between point guard and shooting guard. "It's just all different. We're just getting used to it, it's a good change."

"I'm really pumped, senior year, got two of my best friends by my side. I'm excited."

Young is back coaching high school basketball (most recently with the boys team at Westland John Glenn) after a two-year hiatus.

He stepped away from coaching basketball (he still coaches boys and girls golf at Plymouth) after 2013-14 to watch his son, Ryan compete for Salem's boys team.

But Young, also a football quarterback for the Rocks, broke a bone in his hip in 2015 and that effectively ended his cage career.

So Dan Young decided it was time to return to the gym.

"I loved coaching at



New Salem girls basketball coach Dan Young holds court with players during a recent practice.

Glenn and at Canton, places I've coached," Young said. "Kids are kids. Boys or girls, it doesn't matter. But this is a really good group. It's fun to work with kids."

Fresh start

And the 2016-17 Rocks are glad to have last season in the rear-view mirror.

During the season, the Rocks lost their trio of Petree sisters (Jala, Lasha and Mahrianna, to Ypsilanti Arbor Preparatory).

The remaining seven players battled the rest of the season (the team finished a respectable 11-10 overall and 5-5 in

the KLAA Central Division), and later it was decided to make a coaching change from Lindsay Klemmer to Young.

"I think it's made all of us mentally stronger, probably pushed us to be more confident with ourselves in what we do," Scott said. "Helps us move on from things that happened."

Concurring were Lenders and Stewart, who will start somewhere on the floor. Like Scott, they are versatile and Young is finalizing the pieces to his lineup puzzle.

"We're not really focused on our past, we're working on moving forward," Lenders said. "We

got a lot of young players who have a lot of potential. We're all just working on getting better, getting our fundamentals down before we get out here and have a great season."

Stewart said "having a fresh start is good for all of us. It's helping us through a lot. Dan is a lot more intense, he has a lot of (coaching) history, he has a lot of knowledge. He has a lot of passion, too. We could have a pretty good season."

Young said it is nice to have the captains there as he goes through his own learning process.

"They're doing a great job leading this group," Young said. "They're

going to have really good years. And from there we've got two juniors and five sophomores."

Juniors include Maddie Kemahan and Madalyn Simko. The roster also features five sophomores: Kate Mockaitis, Jaclyn Deprez, Jenna Sydlowski, Lyniah Wilson and Natalia Lewandowski.

Time to grind

The personable coach said he is taking the same approach he does with Plymouth high school golf teams that annually go far in the postseason.

"Just like we talk about in golf, we're gonna just keep getting better," Young said. "We'll grind, have good chemistry and try to be good at the end of the year where it's playoff time. That's my goal."

So far, practices have focused on the nuts and bolts of good basketball.

"Defense, rebounding and trying to get good shots, not turn it over," Young stressed. "That's all we're working on right now is trying to play good D as a team, teach the defensive fundamentals, try to rebound missed shots."

"And then try to move the ball, we're trying to develop skill level on offense, so where anybody can score when they're open and in rhythm. And not turning the ball over, not giving the ball to the other team. That's our focus right now."

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Huron Valley Lutheran's Samantha Golchuk (left) scored her 1,000th point in a 52-30 loss to Franklin Road Christian.

HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

emy.

Thurston triumphs

Naudia Jackson scored a game-high 18 points Tuesday to propel host Redford Thurston (1-0) to a convincing 39-15 victory over Ferndale University High (0-2).

Megan Abela and Bryanna Burton chipped in with seven and five points for the victorious Eagles, who led from start to finish.

Asamaj Bost paced the Driving Eagles with 12 points.

Thurston returns to action at 7 p.m. Friday at home against Gibraltar Carlson.

Ladywood falls

On Tuesday, Julie Ayrault scored a game-high 19 points and Katie Snow added 15 as host Grosse Pointe North (1-0) pulled away in the second half for a 64-48 season-opening win over Livonia Ladywood (0-1).

The Norsemen led 34-31 at halftime and took control with a 15-5 third-quarter run. North outscored the Blazers 15-10 in the final period.

Maggie Shirk, who made 4 of 6 triples, paced the Blazers with 16 points to go along with five rebounds.

Other contributions for Ladywood came from Abbey Reppen (11 points, nine rebounds) and Brienne Rogers (10 points, six assists).

"Our energy and

effort was incredible all night long," Ladywood first-year coach Sam Lamb said. "We came out ready to play and were very aggressive early. North really stepped up the defensive intensity in the second half and we just weren't able to find open looks like we did early. North is one of the best teams in the top of the MAC (Macomb Area Conference) and they deserve a lot of credit for how they played in the second half."

Ladywood returns to action at 7 p.m. Thursday at Trenton.

Warriors prevail

Tuesday's season opener for host Lutheran Westland was triumphant, as the Warriors secured a 49-21

victory over Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

Senior Taylor Jones led the victors with 18 points and grabbed six rebounds.

Also contributing were Rachel Reddeman (eight points, six boards), Riley Day (six points) and Kelli Orme (five points, eight rebounds).

"First quarter was full of nerves for my girls but once we settled down we found our rhythm and really came together," coach Sandi Wade said. "Not bad for the first game, glad to have it under our belts with a W."

Nervous or not, Lutheran Westland still led 16-3 after the first, and opened up a 26-3 half-time advantage.

GOLF

Meadowbrook renovations completed

Pat Norton
Correspondent

Northville's Meadowbrook Country Club has announced that the golf course renovation work by Andy Staples Design has been completed.

The grow-in has been underway on all the greens, tees, fairways and roughs and, based on weather conditions over the next six months, the club is planning for a grand reopening in mid-May.

One of the area's historic private golf clubs, Meadowbrook Country Club embarked on a major renovation of its historic 1916 course to mark the milestone occasion of its 100th anniversary.

Originally designed by Scottish classic architect Willie Park Jr., with a later contribution by the renowned Donald Ross, Meadowbrook will soon unveil a refreshing new look thanks to Arizona-based Andy Staples Design.

"I am astounded at the quality of the grow-in and how well the place has established," said Staples, who is based in Scottsdale, Ariz. "There are 12-14 holes ready for play

already and the last holes are not far behind. With a friendly winter and a warm spring, we'll be open on time. I'm also blown away with the views across the property and how each hole now allows for strategic views from one hole to the next, taking advantage of the dramatic topography."

Among the membership, the greens are the most talked about aspects of this redesign. The intention was to make them difficult, but interesting. The architect's plan was to keep consistent speeds known as "Meadowbrook speed," rather than posting stimpmeter readings or discussing green speeds in terms of numbers.

"Our Pure Distinction greens will be some of the best in the metro area," club general manager Joe Marini said. "The club's decision to move ahead with this project is paying off and is positioning us as one of the leaders in how a renovation should be done. Our design team did a spectacular job."

For more information, visit www.meadowbrookcountryclub.com.

CHARGERS

Continued from Page B1

we are excited about her growth from her freshman year."

Helping the cause will be senior guard Ronnie Severin, junior guard Macey Reese and "scrappy and competitive" freshmen guards Kayla Osen and Vanessa Cummins.

"Ronnie was hurt last year but put in a lot of work in the summer and really worked on her

craft," Morris noted. "She should help us stretch the floor on offense."

Reese is a player whose progress Morris is optimistic about because "she didn't play at all last year and she is a skilled player that can also help us spread the floor."

The Chargers are scheduled to open the season at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6 at Dearborn.

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THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Livonia Stevenson's Julian Decina (right), shown going after the puck with Livonia Churchill's Joe Wozniak last week, scored the first goals of his varsity career at the Cranbrook holiday tourney.

PREP HOCKEY

Stevenson strong at Cranbrook tourney

Thanksgiving tournament goes to No. 1 Brighton Bulldogs

Tim Smith
Hometownlife.com

The annual Cranbrook Thanksgiving Tournament at Wallace Arena in Bloomfield Hills gave fans a chance to gorge on quality high school hockey.

Coming away with the tourney championship was Brighton, the No. 1-ranked team in Division 1, earning a 1-0 win Saturday against Livonia Stevenson (No. 2 in D2).

The Spartans opened the two-day extravaganza on the winning side of a 6-2 score against Cranbrook on Friday.

"For this team to play it third game in four days and to play the top team in the state like that, well, it's hard not to be proud of the effort we gave," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said about the loss to the Bulldogs.

"Brighton is so fast, they have some great players and are really well-coached, it was a great high school hockey game."

Brighton scored the contest's only goal in the first period, with Ben Peterson beating Stevenson goalie Will

Tragge (22 saves).

It was Tragge's first loss after three victories to open the season.

Unfortunately for the Spartans, Bulldogs netminder Logan Neaton was a little bit better. He stopped all 24 shots he saw.

In the victory against the tournament host Cranes, Julian Decina tallied two goals and two assists as the Spartans built a 4-0 lead and coasted from there.

Other Stevenson goals were recorded by Cody Ciesliga, Morgen Gray, Logan Dunham and Brendan Hall. For Decina, Gray, Ciesliga and Dunham the goals were career firsts with the Spartans.

"To play a team with the history of Cranbrook is an honor for sure, and to come into their place with a young team and play the way we did tonight, we are obviously pleased," Mitchell said. "We still have a ways to go and much room for improvement, but we seem to be getting better each time out, which is a good sign and a testament to the players."

Salem rocked

Salem, meanwhile, dropped a pair of games at the tournament and remained winless (0-3) entering Wednesday's KLA South Division opener against Livonia Franklin.

The Rocks went up 1-0 early Friday against Brighton, with Colin Goleniak notching his first of the season from Matt Schaumburger (back from an injury suffered against Trenton) and goalie Austin Goleniak.

But the No. 1 team in the state rallied in the third period to win going away.

The next day against the tourney host Cranes, the teams played a fairly even contest (Salem was outshot just 34-29) much of the way but Cranbrook skated to a 7-2 victory.

Marty Mills and Logan Sowa (on the power play) scored for Salem, with assists to Schaumburger, Colin Goleniak and Tyler German.

Salem also lost junior defenseman Sean McCormack to an arm injury; he is expected to be sidelined several weeks, coach Ryan Ossenmacher said.

BOYS HOCKEY

Early Rice outburst freezes CC, 5-1

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Despite being on the eve of Thanksgiving, Birmingham Brother Rice's hockey team started its holiday dinner a little early.

The Warriors brought their 'A' game to the table, carving up rival and three-time defending MHSAA Division 1 state champion Novi Detroit Catholic Central, 5-1, before a packed house Nov. 23 at USA Hockey Arena's Olympic Rink.

Three first-period goals by Rice (2-1) proved to be the proof in the pudding as host CC (1-3) dropped its third straight.

"It was awesome. The crowd got into it early and it was really fun to see," said Jack Clement, a third-year senior defenseman for the Warriors. "We just came out with a lot of energy. We have a lot of seniors on this team. They've been showing great leadership all year. We just came out and battled. We really battled from the get-go and it was really cool."

Just 1:12 into the opening period, Rice's Nick Dudley scored unassisted to make it 1-0. At the 8:38 mark of the first, Mitch Schultz scored from Michael McInerney and Ryan Giniel to give Rice a two-goal cushion.

"I'd have to go back and look at the film to see the goals against, but from my memory the goals that were scored ... one starts with a bad turnover in our own zone," CC second-year coach Brandon Kaleniecki said. "You just can't have it against a team like this and we have possession of the puck. Another one starts with an offensive zone face-off, which we talked about. So that one bothers the coach because we talked about it. We knew what they were going to do and we didn't execute what we needed to do. And, sure enough, back of



SCOTT CONFER

Catholic Central's Mitch Morris (left) tries to turn the corner on Rice defenseman Will McLellan.

the net and it's 2-0."

The Warriors' third goal of the period came at 13:31 on a power play as Clement beat CC starting goaltender Sean Finstrom, with assists going to Will Duncan and Dudley.

"They have a good power play; they moved it around," Kaleniecki said. "We kind of knew what they were looking to do. They found a way and got one through. So on that one, you kind of tip your hat to them and how well they played, too."

Meanwhile, the 3-0 start by the Warriors proved to be better than expected.

"The boys came out hard," Rice first-year coach Kenny Chaput said. "We had emphasized after (a 1-0 loss to Livonia Stevenson) that we had to get things to the net and they did a really good job of getting pucks to the net. It helps to get the lead and not play from behind. And it helped with confidence and everything getting those early goals."

Kaleniecki decided to shake things up entering the second period by making a goalie change as Joe Pernecky re-

placed Finstrom.

And the Shamrocks showed some life offensively, cutting the deficit to 3-1 when Nicco Zervos banged home a rebound after John Zielinski's shot caromed off the back boards.

After successfully killing off a penalty, Rice answered by converting on a two-on-none break as McInerney scored unassisted at the 10:17 mark to make it 4-1.

"We had a lot of momentum going early in that second period and we felt like the tide was turning," Kaleniecki said. "We felt like we were going in the right direction. I felt good, potentially, where we could go from that with the power play. We had a couple opportunities to get some good looks and we mishandled the puck, then make a poor pass. You name it, we did it. And then, sure enough, we turn it over and they get the two-on-none. That stuff will kill you. It took out a lot of steam out at that point when we were building some momentum, but they were a better hockey team by far tonight."

GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW - PART 2

Nucleus looks to propel Zebras in 2016-17 season

Tim Smith
Hometownlife.com

Last year was exciting for Wayne Memorial's varsity girls basketball team.

The Zebras, with a number of stellar athletes, enjoyed a 16-5 season and made it to the Class A district semifinals before losing steam.

That only stokes head coach Jarvis Mitchell when he talks about what the 2016-17 season could bring.

Mitchell said team co-captains Jayah Hicks and Clemson commit Camree Clegg will "lead us to get better every day."

Hicks, a sophomore, is set to play small forward. She averaged seven points last year.

Meanwhile, junior point guard Clegg tallied 24 points

and seven assists per contest and earned first-team all-state honors.

But wait, there's more talent.

The coach can't wait to see what sophomore guard Jeanae Terry can do, already rated by some insiders as one of the position's up-and-coming players.

Terry averaged 13 points, seven assists and five rebounds last season.

Looking to take care of business in and around the paint as the Zebras zip into KLA South Division action are Youngstown State commit Amara Chikwe up front (10 points, 13 rebounds per game last season) and Mya Garrett (12 points, eight rebounds).

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THOMAS BEAUDOIN

One of last season's standouts for Wayne Memorial was point guard Camree Clegg (right). She is back for another season with the Zebras.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Franklin spiker signs with Blue Devils

Tim Smith
Hometownlife.com

Throughout the recent high school girls volleyball season, setter Melissa Ferrier had much to do with many offensive surges by Livonia Franklin.

Her enthusiasm and energetic play were among the reasons cited by Franklin head coach Kellsey Poston, who praised the senior's efforts all season.

The hard work and positive attitude, along with strong on-court presence, were noticed by Lawrence Technological University volleyball coaches Larry Wyatt, Ed Ruhl and Tim Price, too.

The Southfield-based Blue Devils will be the college volleyball home for Ferrier, who last week signed her national letter of intent.

"At the beginning of the season I pushed Melissa very hard because I saw a lot of

potential and knew the kind of player she could become," Poston said. "I think she was even surprised at how good she became at the end of the season."

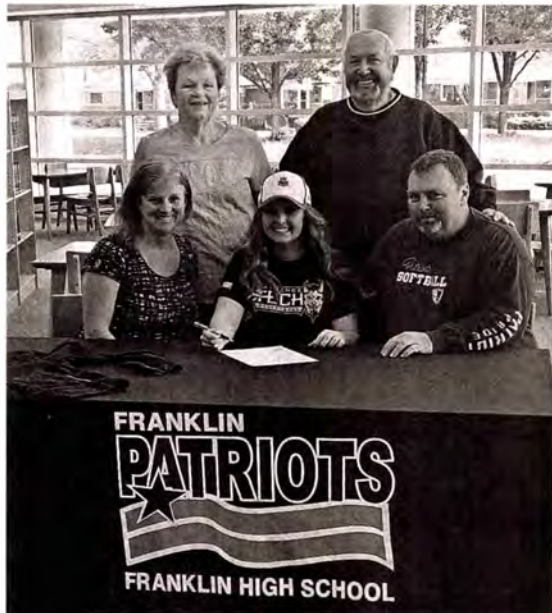
"She was the backbone of our team. Whenever she was on the floor the girls just played better because of her energy. I know with some more experience she's just going to get even better at (Lawrence Tech)."

Also sharing the big moment in the Franklin gymnasium were her parents (Steve and Ann Ferrier) and grandparents (Don and Ann Ferrier).

Franklin's regular season included a mark of 4-6 in the KLA South Division, according to the conference website.

The Patriots then lost in the Class A district opener against Livonia Stevenson.

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SUBMITTED

Livonia Franklin senior Melissa Ferrier (seated, middle) signs her national letter of intent to play college volleyball at Lawrence Tech. Also pictured are parents Steve and Ann Ferrier (seated) and grandparents Don and Ann Ferrier (standing).

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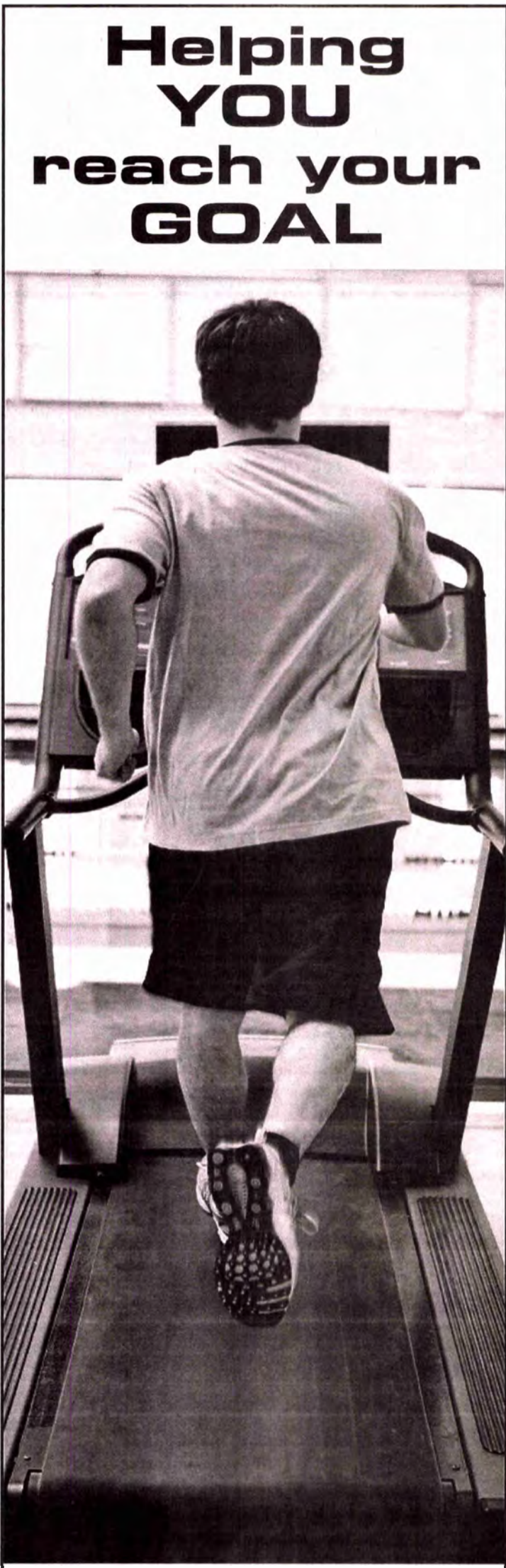
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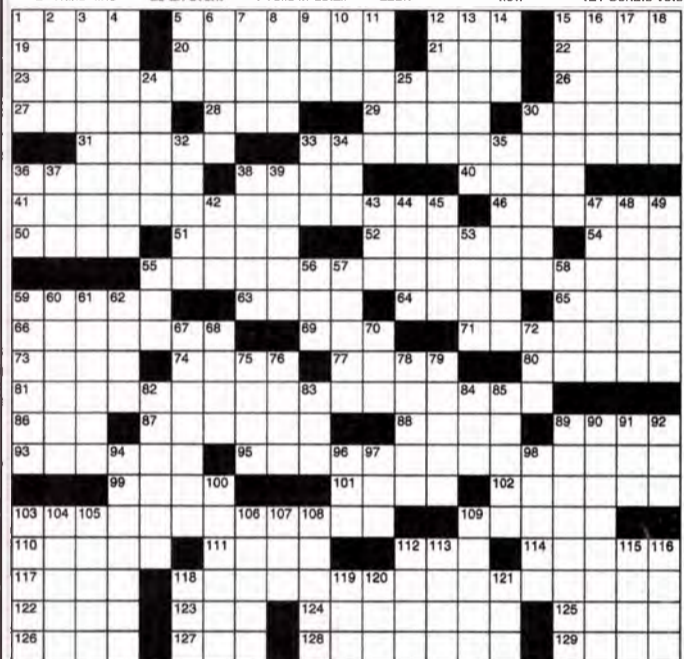
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

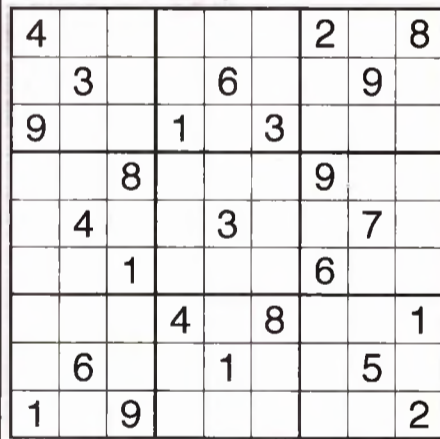
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Roman god with a bow | 1 Johnson of "Laugh-In" | 5 Ex-Giant Ott | 38 Golf's Sam |
| 6 Knotted craft | 2 Comic actor Jay | 6 Gazetteer shellmate | 39 — of one's own medicine |
| 12 Move like a kangaroo | 3 Elates | 7 Hew | 42 Dog cry |
| 15 Overquick | 4 Tells in detail | 8 Falling-out model | 43 Naval vessel abbr. |
| 18 Be a wanderer | | 9 Masquerade | |
| 20 Moral | | 10 —jongg | |
| 21 Actress | | 11 Chosen few | |
| 22 Comical Kelt | | 12 Papa Doc's place | |
| 23 Jack London novel | | 13 See | |
| 26 Dumbfound | | 14 Inflate falsely | |
| 27 Flynn of films | | 15 Hero, often in — | |
| 28 Prosa (to) | | 16 Top-floor storage site | |
| 29 Big name in credit cards | | 17 Reeked | |
| 30 Cake cooler | | 18 With | |
| 31 Writer Verne | | 56-Down, surfs like a pro | |
| 33 Easy targets to attack | | 24 God, in Islam | |
| 38 Lacking a musical key | | 25 Clever type | |
| 38 Writer | | 30 Most lazy | |
| 39 Bellow with a Nobel | | 32 "St. — Fire" (1985 film) | |
| 40 Mystery novelist — Stanley Gardner | | 33 Hero in a deli | |
| 41 Relative of soul | | 34 Fluish, say | |
| 46 Infuse with oxygen | | 35 Shown with explicit detail | |
| 50 Sphagnum, e.g. | | 36 It has biceps | |
| 51 Cookie with a "Thins" line | | 37 However, informally | |
| | | 52 One-masted sailboats | |
| | | 54 Chic, '60s-style | |
| | | 55 Really, really quick | |
| | | 59 Drive off | |
| | | 63 Pretty low grades | |
| | | 64 "That is — ask" | |
| | | 65 "Picnic" playwright William | |
| | | 66 With | |
| | | 13-Down, giant in internet service | |
| | | 69 Sports org. with the eight teams featured in this puzzle | |
| | | 71 Trip to a rain forest, maybe | |
| | | 73 Vicious | |
| | | 74 Eban of Israel | |
| | | 77 Foreboding | |
| | | 80 Shimon of Israel | |
| | | 81 2011 Jim Carrey comedy | |
| | | 86 Head sweller | |
| | | 87 Tie up again, as shoes | |
| | | 88 Don't skip, as an event | |
| | | 89 Oaf's cry | |
| | | 93 Waters off Eritrea | |
| | | 95 2007-13 pickup truck model | |
| | | 99 Clearasil treats it | |
| | | 101 Designer Saarinen | |
| | | 102 Old TV tube | |
| | | 103 Be engulfed in fire | |
| | | 109 Aie | |
| | | 110 Writer Bret Easton — | |
| | | 111 Know — fact | |
| | | 112 Actor's help | |
| | | 114 The blahs | |
| | | 117 Rake feature | |
| | | 118 Hawaiians and Tongans | |
| | | 122 Tennis' Lendi | |
| | | 123 TV producer | |
| | | 124 In a very angry way | |
| | | 125 Filmdom's — Lund Laszlo | |
| | | 126 Bird setting | |
| | | 127 Sinuous fish | |
| | | 128 Lilily | |
| | | 129 Gambol | |



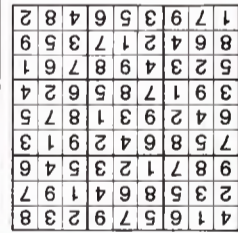
For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smccllellan@mchigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU



Here's How It Works:

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



COUNTRY STAR WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

ALABAMA
ALDEAN
ATKINS
BLACK
BROOKS
BRYAN
CHESNUTT
CROW
DIXIE CHICKS
DUNN
HAYES
HILL
HOUGH
JACKSON
JONES
JUDDS
KEITH
LADY ANTEBELLUM
LAMBERT
LONESTAR
LOVELESS
LYNN
LYNNARD SKYRND
MANDRELL
MATTHEWS
MCBRIDE
MCBREERY
MCENTIRE
MESSINA
MOORE
NELSON
PATILEY
PARTON
PICKLER
PRESLEY
ROGERS
RUCKER
SHELTON
TRITT
UNDERWOOD
VAUGHN
WILLIAMS
WILSON
WOMACK
YEARWOOD

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

