



LOCAL PLAYERS COMING HOME FOR ANNUAL GLI

SPORTS, B1

WAYNE-WESTLAND

OBSERVER

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Christmas comes early for students

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Christmas arrived early for the students at Hicks Elementary School in Inkster.

On the last day of school before the two-week holiday break, students got lunch and presents at a surprise event in the cafeteria/gym.

"You guys have been so good this year, Santa made a visit to Hicks," Principal Amy Gee told the students as they sat down for lunch.

When they first entered the gym, the students were pretty quiet — some stared at the decorations and stacks of



Brielle Ballard, 5, is excited to open her presents.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

wrapped gifts with their mouths open. Pretty quickly, the students got over their surprise and began cheering with delight.

Like any good Christmas morning, many of the kids and staff were decked out in their best pajamas — it was also pajama day at Hicks.

Calling the event "Miracle on Helen Street," using the school's location, Gee organized the party to send off students on a high note for their break. The gifts and meals were all donated — the mountain of gifts were wrapped by volunteers, too.

"I'm very, very happy. I'm

overwhelmed. I've been crying my eyes out," said Gee, who was working the microphone and keeping the party — students came through in their usual three lunch periods — on schedule.

Teachers and central office staff were helping out with the party, including Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent Michele Harmala. So were a contingent of Michigan State Police troopers who work in Inkster through the Secure Cities Partnership.

State Trooper Micah Keller learned about the "Miracle on

See SURPRISE, Page A2

SANTA PLEASE?

Area youngsters share their wishes

The Observer asked kids from our readership area to share their wishes from Santa. Here's what they offered, just as they wrote it:

Dear Santa,

How are the Reindeer? How are you? I wot the hot wheels flir. My mom wants jewelry. My Dad was a now botiy. My sister wos the Somr Chip.

P.S. wake me up.

Love, Marley Farhat

Dear Santa,

How are you? Can you take breaks? Can you do what ever you want? Can you git me a kory mushen? Can you git me a baby dol? Can you git my mama macup?

Love, Skylah Scott

Dear Santa,

How aer you? How aer the elves? Can you bring my dad tools and my mom some jewel-ry? I want a BBS.

Love, Griffin Whiteside.

P.S. Wake me up wan you git thre!

Dera Santa,

How are you doing? Can you bring a hoch amal for Bella Wade? Can you bring me a hoch amal like Bella pleeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeees!

Have a safe trip,

Love, Sophia Wade

P.S. I'm going to springkl deer food on the grass for your deer wite Bella.

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you doing? Could you bring my mom a new necklace? You are a Holly jolly fellow!

Has my elf on the shelf, Holloy, been talking to you these nights? Cause when I woke up this morning I found Holloy hanging from the top of my bunk bed.

Also, can you bring me a Xboxone?

Love, Maliyah Arielle Cunningham

P.S. Could you bring me little live pets? How old are you really?

Dear Santa,

How many elves are there? Can you get Mrs. Zuzo a car and children. Good job!

Love,



MAYBURY FARM

See LETTERS, Page A3 Santa not only heard directly from area youngsters, but he received letters from them as well.

Couple pays off \$20,000 of layaways at local store

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

For dozens of families who shop at the Kmart in Garden City, Santa Claus lives not at the North Pole but in southern California.

And Santa visited the store last Sunday, Dec. 18, in the form of a couple who paid for nearly \$20,000 worth of merchandise that had been put on layaway plans that had expired or were about to expire.

Steve and Samantha Bryson, who live in Bixby, Calif., near Long Beach, said they got the idea from a news report about a similar incident in Pennsylvania, and stopped at the Kmart on Ford Road on their way to Detroit Metropolitan Airport last Sunday. They were about to fly home after a visit to the area for a friend's Christmas party and 50th birthday celebration.

"It was cold, and some of the areas we drove through were just so not in a good place," said Samantha Bryson by phone Thursday evening, describing their spur-of-the-moment decision.

A couple paid nearly \$20,000 to retrieve the layaway merchandise, a Kmart spokeswoman confirmed. The man also handed cash to some customers at the store, the spokeswoman said.

See LAYAWAYS, Page A2



SUBMITTED Steve and Samantha Bryson on Dec. 18 at the Kmart in Garden City, where they paid off 65 layaway accounts totaling nearly \$20,000.



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I wish I would have moved here sooner!

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SURPRISE

Continued from Page A1

Helen Street" after a mutual friend shared Gee's Facebook post looking for donations to put the party together.

"I saw it (the Facebook post). Since I work in Inkster, I thought it was a good opportunity to give back to the community," Keller said. "Anytime you can engage with young kids, you do it. We want to be more community service-oriented. Soon as I heard about this, I was interested right off the bat. And I knew my squad would be interested."

The troopers helped younger kids open their bottles of water, helped distribute gifts and helped clean up between lunch periods to get ready for the next group of students. It was a kid-friendly lunch of chicken tenders, macaroni and cheese, green beans, apple slices and a cookie.

"We helped with the present donations. We helped serve lunch and

clean up. We're basically Amy's (Gee) workers today," Keller said.

Ruth Clark was helping out at the holiday party. Her daughter, Taniyah Kitchen, is a paraprofessional at the school and twin grandsons Jamal and Jamar, 7, are students at the school.

"I come to help at the school sometimes. I think this is magnificent. I've never seen anything like this; it's really nice," Clark said. "This is something for kids who wouldn't get anything."

The students each got several presents: Barbie dolls, Legos, games and other toys.

About 90 percent of the school's students are eligible for free/reduced lunches, although Gee said the party was for all students, regardless of need.

"Boys and girls, we love you very much. Merry Christmas from your Hicks family," Gee told the students.

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Deshawn Acklin, 6, shows his present to classmates.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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LAYAWAYS

Continued from Page A1

"Each year, Kmart has generous individuals that anonymously pay off members' and customers' layaway contracts to get into the holiday spirit. Although a majority of these instances occur during the holidays, it does occur all throughout the year," wrote the spokeswoman, Bridgette Potratz, in an email.

"It was a fun couple of hours," Samantha Bryson said.

Some 65 accounts were paid off, one by one, with the idea that people who had recently put items on layaway there were probably making Christmas purchases, Samantha Bryson said.

As the cash register spit out receipts, she said, she and her husband were able to confirm the items were necessities and modest



Steve and Samantha Bryson.

gifts: shoes, winter clothing, a toy.

"There were no electronics, no frivolous stuff, nothing," Samantha Bryson said. The store immediately began contacting people whose accounts had been paid.

Steve Bryson said he encountered two women at Kmart who had just paid off their layaways and reimbursed them.

It wasn't the first time the Brysons had paid off customers' layaway accounts. They did the same thing at a Walmart in Memphis, where Steve

Bryson grew up, on a recent visit there.

The couple is being showered with thank-yous and good wishes.

"We've seen pictures of kids on bicycles they wouldn't normally have gotten," Steve Bryson said. People touched by their generosity in Garden City, he added, have been "nothing but gracious and kind."

The Brysons, who own Global Electronic Technology Inc., which works in the payment processing field, routinely help charitable organizations in their area, such as the Long Beach Rescue Mission, at the holidays. They raise money for those organizations, Steve Bryson said, and match it, or more than match it, and this year had money left over.

They hope their kindness is contagious.

Steve Bryson said he is motivated by having grown up amid hardship and violence in Memphis

and seeing many of his siblings die prematurely because of illnesses.

"We did what we had to do to get out of there," said Bryson, who joined the U.S. Army at age 17 and served in the 82nd Airborne Division. "When I got out I really had a good, solid bearing."

He went on to settle in California, where he has lived for 37 years, and found successful companies.

But he didn't forget Memphis, keeping in touch with friends there and supporting the blues music scene that comes from that city. The Brysons are involved with several blues recording labels.

"Music makes me sing, it makes my heart sing," Steve Bryson said. "That and helping people."

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Ask Dr. Stewart

Dr. James Stewart is a general dentist from Livonia, MI. Today, he answers a question about sleep loss.

SHOULD WE TRY AND MAKE UP FOR LOST SLEEP?

Dear Dr. Stewart: Is it true that we should try and make up for lost sleep?

Dr. Stewart: Yes. When we lose sleep over the course of a few days or weeks, we can build up a sleep debt. The average adult needs to get seven to nine hours of rest per night to function properly during the day. Losing sleep can mean moodiness, difficulty concentrating during the day, weight gain, and even a higher risk of memory loss and heart disease. Fortunately, with the holidays you have an excellent chance to settle some or all of your sleep debt. To do so, I urge you to go to sleep at a reasonable time and continue to sleep until you wake up naturally. No alarms, just several days of a good night's rest. Once you are caught up do your best to avoid building up a new sleep debt by trying to get to bed and wake up at the same time every day as many days as you can.

If you have a question about your oral health or would like to schedule a complimentary cosmetic consultation, contact Dr. James Stewart.

Call 734.425.4400 or Visit www.jamesstewartdds.com

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LETTERS

Continued from Page A1

Connor Riddell
P.S. I want football cards! P.P.S., How tall are you?

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Can you bring my Mom a small wallet? Will you get my DAd fancy pensols? Can you get my dogs a skwece? I wud like a rel lif kitten.

Love, Zoey Silverman
P.S. have a good trip. PPS, I love you.

Dear Santa,
How are you? Can you bring my mom earrings. PPS, can you bring me a real live robot? Have a safe trip.

Love, Cooper Daiek
Dear Santa,
How are you? Let me gase: Good? I thek? I don't know?

Would you bring my mom a fake garden? Can you bring my baby brother a box fov famlae? Would you bring dad a new reasr?

Love, Josephine Paquette
P.S. I want a Soign mshing. PPS, noke on my door?

Dear Santa,
Can you bring my Bro a PS4 and how are doing and Santa I wnt a bumbelee transformes toy and I wn a camaro toy. Have a safe trip.

Justin Sturdivant
P.S. Can you bring cookies.

Dear Santa,
I hop you hav a grat trip and giv my mom a neclis! And giv my Dad a swimming sot, and giv my sistr som shoes and giv me a mrching monkey and a stachu of Batman. Bes Santa evr!

Sami Amer
P.S. I will lev you coc-es.

Dear Santa,
How are doing? Can you bring my mom some new glasses? For me I want some Pokemon. Are you rech?

Love, Maddox Mayer
P.S. can you wack me up?

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Can you get Ms Zuzzo a Target gift card? Can you please give my dad a case for his phone? Have a safe trip.

Love Jaylen Lazaro
P.S. Can I have a ds? PPS I will leave the rane-dear carrots.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Can you bring a new neckalis for my mom? Can you bring me a Xbox1 and play stackiy? Have a nice trip. I'll levi you a cooke and a glass of milk and a cartt for Rudolf.

Love, Jack Strucel



Anthony Lack visits with Santa at the Novi Civic Center.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

P.S. can you take off your boots and go up stares and wake me up to see the raindeers. PPS, can you give Ms Zuzo a Star Buckes free gift card?

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I think you are working hard and good. Can you bring my mom a necklace that says Merry Christmas? Can you sister have a fluttershy stuffed animal? Can my dad have a new bowtie that is blue and back? Can my cousin Nyvae have dress with a picture of you on it? Can I havea beanieboo cat that is brown and white and big?

Love, Cailey Ann-Marie Hall
P.S. Can you wake me when you get there so I can give you a hug? P.P.S. I love you big guy!

Dear Santa,
Can you do a backflip? Can you bring my cat a bed? I would like a remote control train. Have a good trip!

Love, Preston
P.S., you are AWE-SOME!

Dear Santa,
Santa, you like cookies? Can you bring my perents oreos? Can I have a cat? I hope your elves are good!

Love, Jed Hui
P.S., you rock!

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? Can you git my mom a bidifl necles? And a tools for my dad and git me a X Boks One ples if you

can? Hav a god trip, ha-pyye Crismus.

Love, Caden Bronk-horsht-Opalewski
P.S. Can you wack me up wen you get der ples?

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Can you get my mom a gift? Can you get my dad a gift? Can you get my sister a lakai bracelet? Merry Christmas Santa!

Gianina Rose Serapiglia
P.S. I love ya big guy! PPS can you wake me up? PPPS, you are awesome!

Dear Santa,
How are you? Good? Is Rudolph nice? Are the elves nice? Are you nice, Santa? Are all the elves good and nice? Pink is my favorite! And I love you!

From Adelaine Austin
PS Wiit fro me Santa!

Dear Santa,
I hoop you are nics. I wot a ball of yarn for my cat and I wot a plants vs Zombies costum to play with in the house.

Love, Caleb Jubenville
P.S. I hop you will lbring my costoms. I love you.

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you? Are you busy getting ready for Christmas Eve? I have a pretty big wish list this year. Mom wants a now crpt. My sister wantas now bocks. My ur sister wants a now DS. I want a toy dog. I can't wait for you to visit on Christmas Eve. I will

leave milk and cookies for you.

Love, Sadie Anthony Dear Santa,
Hi How are you? Are you busy getting ready for Christmas Eve? I have a pretty big wish list this year. My dad wants shews. Can you get my mom some clows? Could you get Justin some books? Josh would like a game. Can you get me a Wii? I can't wait for you to visit on Christmas Eve. I will leave milk and cookies for you.

Your friend, Jordan Banko
Dear Santa,
I hope you have a excellent Christmas. I hope you give me shopkins. I'm going to try my very best to listen to mom and dad. I will treat my brother good. I will give you cookies and milk. Hoo Hoo Hoo!

Love, Elizabeth Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I hope you are exerising. Have you gottin the reindeer redy? I have many wishes this year. Would you please bring my mom a new pink dress and slippers. My dad wants a new blue van. Marco wants legos and Dire of a Wupe Kid. Would you please bring me shopkins and hatchip. Look for the cookies we made for you.

From Sofia Dewitt-Campos



The Canton Little Stars brought holiday spirit to seniors throughout Westland and Canton.

Little Stars bring cheer to seniors

The Little Stars, a Canton-based youth organization brought holiday cheer to local nursing home seniors with holiday concerts and gifts at Canton and Westland, as they've done the last 10 years.

The Little Stars performed at Four Seasons Nursing Center in Westland, Waltonwood at

Carriage Park Assisted Living and Waltonwood at Carriage Park Independent Living in Canton and also brought fuzzy socks as this year's Christmas gifts.

The socks were purchased with money the Little Stars raised through fundraiser activities.

Livonia Jaycees choose board members

The Livonia Jaycees announced the 2017 Board of Directors that will be instrumental in building leaders and making an impact on their community.

The Livonia Jaycees have elected the following 2017 Board of Directors:

- » President: Andrea Rutkowski
- » Chairman of the Board: John Badeen
- » Management Development Vice President: Amanda Walworth
- » Community Development Vice President: Janice Centers
- » Community Development Director: Sara Pitchford
- » Membership Development Vice President: Rebecca Hermann
- » Individual Development Vice President: Christopher Crawford
- » Secretary: Dalie Ripley
- » Treasurer: Justin Roggenbuck

Additionally, three members of the Livonia Jaycees hold positions as members of the Leadership Team for the Michigan Jaycees:

- » Michigan Jaycees 93rd President: Peter Behrmann
- » Executive Presi-

dential Assistant: Beth Plant

» Corporate & Government Relations Director: John Badeen

In 2017, the Livonia Jaycees are planning to host an Uno tournament Jan. 20, the annual Mystery Dinner in March, and several other events throughout the year in order to reach goals like growing membership, providing personal and professional development opportunities, making a positive impact in the local community, and raising funds for community projects.

The Livonia Jaycees are a local chapter of the Michigan Junior Chamber, which represents more than 1,000 young professionals age 21 to 40 in more than 30 chapters across the state. Junior Chamber is an organization that gives individuals an opportunity to gain leadership skills, community involvement opportunities, personal development and social opportunities.

For more information about the Jaycees or the 2017 Board of Directors, contact Amanda Walworth at livonijaycees@gmail.com or 734-956-0548.

CITY OF LIVONIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 4 of Act 207 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1921, as amended, the City Zoning Act (MSA 5.2934; MCLA 125.584) as well as Article XXIII of Ordinance No. 543, as amended, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, the Council has determined that a Public Hearing will take place before the Council of the City of Livonia on **Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.**, in the Auditorium at City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, with respect to the following item:

PETITION 2016-11-01-08 submitted by Soave Homes, to rezone the property located on the east side of Levan Road between Ann Arbor Trail and Plymouth Road (10014 Levan Road) in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 32, from RUF (Rural Urban Farm) to R-1 (One Family Residential - 60'x120' Lot).

SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK

Published: December 25, 2016

LO-0000307017 3x2.5

CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE AGENDA

Zoning Board of Appeals January 10, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

Livonia City Hall - Gallery (5th Floor) 33000 Civic Center Drive Livonia, MI (734) 466 2259

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-01-01: Thomas Brisbois, west side of Doris (14401) between Oakview and Bentley, seeking to erect a six (6) foot tall privacy fence upon a corner lot, resulting in excess fence height.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-01-02: DFCU Financial, 400 Town Center, Dearborn, MI 48126, seeking to erect a wall sign while maintaining two (2) existing ground signs upon property located on the south side of Seven Mile (37373) between Newburgh and Glen Eagles, resulting in excess number of wall signs and wall sign area. The two (2) ground signs were granted a previous variance (2002-09-123) and are twenty (20) square feet each.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-01-03: Zeal Credit Union, east side of Newburgh (17250) between Six Mile and Bennett, seeking to erect three (3) wall signs and a ground sign, resulting in excess number of wall signs, wall sign area and a ground sign excess in area. In this zoning district, only one (1) ground or wall sign is allowed.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-01-04: Laurel Park Retail Properties, LLC, 2030 Hamilton Place Blvd., Chattanooga, TN 37421, on behalf of Lessee Panera Bread, LLC, 6710 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117, seeking to construct a restaurant on commercial property located on the north side of Six Mile (37700) between Newburgh and I-275/I-96, resulting in deficient parking spaces. The parking required includes the existing Laurel Park Mall property and this proposed restaurant. Also, deficient is the parking width of nine (9) feet where ten (10) feet is required.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2017-01-05: Laurel Park Retail Properties, LLC, 2030 Hamilton Place Blvd., Chattanooga, TN 37421, on behalf of Lessee Panera Bread, LLC, 6710 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117, seeking to erect three (3) wall signs and two (2) menu boards, upon property located on the north side of Six Mile (37700) between Newburgh and I-275/I-96, resulting in excess number of wall signs, menu boards, and menu board area.

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 - all comments must include name, address and signature.

Published: December 25, 2016

LO-0000306943 3x5

CITY OF LIVONIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 4 of Act 207 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1921, as amended, the City Zoning Act (MSA 5.2934; MCLA 125.584) as well as Article XXIII of Ordinance No. 543, as amended, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, the Council has determined that a Public Hearing will take place before the Council of the City of Livonia on **Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.**, in the Auditorium at City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, with respect to the following item:

PETITION 2016-11-01-07 submitted by the City of Livonia, to rezone the property located on the northwest south side of Five Mile Road between Farmington Road and Shadyside Street (33233-33243 Five Mile Road) in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 22, from PL (Public Land) to C-1 (Local Business).

SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK

Published: December 25, 2016

LO-0000207018 3x2.5

CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

Petition 2016-11-02-21 submitted by Fusco, Shaffer & Pappas, Inc., on behalf of Woodhaven Retirement Community, requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 9.01(g) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to construct additions to the existing skilled nursing home at 29667 Wentworth, on property located on the south side of Wentworth Avenue, west of Middlebelt Road in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 14.

Petition 2016-12-02-22 submitted by Los Tres Amigos requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 19.06 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to expand the food service operation and Class C Liquor License of the restaurant (formerly Outback Steakhouse) to include an outdoor dining patio and exterior facade renovations at 29441 Five Mile Road within the Mid-5 retail center, located on the southwest corner of Five Mile and Middlebelt Roads in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 23.

Petition 2016-12-02-23 submitted by The Stables Bar requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 19.06 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to expand the existing food service operation and Class C Liquor License of the existing bar and grill to include an outdoor dining patio at 14950 Middlebelt Road, located on the east side of Middlebelt Road between Jamison Avenue and Five Mile Road in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 24.

Petition 2016-12-02-24 submitted by Medi Brian Cacani requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 19.06 of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to increase the seating capacity of a previously approved limited service restaurant (formerly Carlton's Coffee House) into a full service restaurant (Town Grill) at 17162 Farmington Road within the Burton Hollow Plaza shopping center, located on the east side of Farmington Road between Six Mile Road and Curtis Avenue in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 10.

The above-mentioned petitions will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the said hearing and may be examined by any and all persons during the normal working hours Monday through Friday.

Ian Willsaw, Chairman CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: December 25, 2016

LO-0000206859 3x2.5

Get out of the house during the holiday break

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com

Once the presents have been opened and everyone's eating leftovers, there may be a limit as to how many video games can be played or TV shows that can be binge watched.

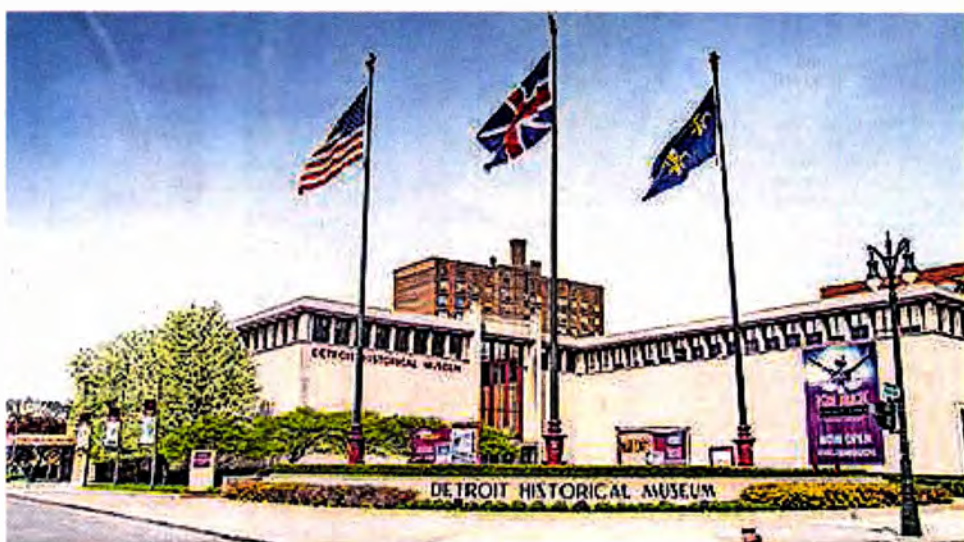
During the two-week holiday break, there are plenty of places open for those looking for some culture, fun or just to get out of the house.

Here are some places to visit chosen on a totally random basis.

Detroit Historical Museum

Located at 5401 Woodward, across from the Detroit Institute of Art, the Detroit Historical Museum has permanent installations, including an upgraded Streets of Old Detroit; an expanded Doorway to Freedom: Detroit and the Underground Railroad; the Kid Rock Music Lab, Legends Plaza; and Detroiters at Work. It's open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday during the holiday break. The museum is always closed on Monday except for a special opening Monday, Dec. 26.

A special event is also scheduled for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve. It lets kids too young to stay up until midnight celebrate the new year with a countdown, cookies and cocoa. Aimed at preschoolers and elementary students, along with their families, the program will let participants make their own noisemaker and



The Detroit Historical Museum is open during the holiday break.

write a time capsule letter. Admission is free.

Flint Institute of Arts

The collection includes paintings by Auguste Renoir, John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, Thomas Hart Benton, Andrew Wyeth and Duane Hanson. Highlights of the Flint Institute of Arts collection include 15th century to 18th century English, French and Italian decorative arts; a rare shaped panel by Peter Paul Rubens; a complete set of 17th century French tapestries; American and French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings; Hudson River School paintings; regional and Great Lakes paintings; Modernist; and

Abstract Expressionist and Photorealist paintings.

The museum is open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. It will be closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

The museum is located at 1120 E. Kearsley in Flint's culture district, adjoining the Sloan Museum, which features a fleet of 80 Flint-built cars. The museum looks at the area's history from fur trading and pioneer life, lumber and carriage making through the automobile era of General Motors.

The newest gallery is Wisner's Whizbang Emporium, which features toys from a bygone era.

Inside the Sloan is the renovated Longway Planetarium, which has new seats, new dome, new 7.1 surround sound system, new cove lights and a new cutting-edge projections system, the first of its kind in the country. Michigan's largest planetarium offers public and group shows every day.

Motown Museum

Arguably the Detroit area's biggest export besides cars, Berry Gordy's development of Motown Records and its impact through music is at the heart of the Motown Museum, 2648 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Look for display of favorite songs and musicians. You can even sing a few bars in legendary Studio

A. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, although it's closed Dec. 31 and is always closed on Sunday and Monday.

Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum

Coin-operated games dating from the early 1900s to modern devices are featured at Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum in Farmington Hills, 31005 Orchard Lake Road. The growing collection of games provides something for everyone's taste and skill levels.

It will be open will be open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Christmas Day. The normal hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Holocaust Memorial Center

"Holocaust by Bullets, Yahad-In Unum — 10 Years of Investigations," a special exhibition at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington Hills, runs through Friday, Dec. 30. It's based on 10 years of research and investigation by the French organization Yahad-In Unum and its founder, the Rev. Patrick Desbois.

Known as "Holocaust by Bullets," the systematic killing of all Jews and Roma started before the creation of concentration camps and took place throughout the former Soviet Union from 1942-44, continuing until the end of World War II. The form of genocide detailed by the exhibit is unlike any other study of genocidal activity ever conducted and presented.

Tours are led by a docent, often a Holocaust survivor, and take about 2½ hours. The museum is normally open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with last admission at 3:30 p.m. Sunday and Tuesday through Thursday. Friday hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the last admission at 1:30 p.m. The center is open from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, but will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Due to the subject material of the center, the center isn't for children younger than middle school age. The center is at 28123 Orchard Lake Road.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com

WAYNE COUNTY EVENTS CALENDAR

Featured artist

Gwendolyn Roth will be the featured artist at the Livonia Fine Arts Gallery for the month of January. Roth's media is photography.

Roth's passion for photography has led her to creating encouraging viewpoints that consider the world in an uplifting or surprising new light. In her artist statement she says, "There is so much to see and capture, and it's all real, and it is

found all around us — we don't have to go far. Through my art I hope to transcend the indifferent and enrich our lives one picture at a time."

Visit the Gallery, located on the second floor of the Civic Center Library at 32777 Five Mile Road, between the Court House and City Hall. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. There is a new artist every month.

Village Theater exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill exhibits an intriguing collection of abstracts and portraits by Farmington Hills resident Nina Ashraf Asmi from Jan. 4-30 in the Gallery@VT, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton.

Asmi has been drawing the people of Metro Detroit for several years now. She notes, "With my portraits, I like to depict



Nina Ashraf Asmi

our shared humanity, to go beyond superficial differences to embrace what makes us the same." For more information about Nina Ashraf Asmi, visit www.ninaasmiart.com.

This exhibit at the Gallery@VT is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, during performances at the theater and by appointment by calling 734-394-5300. The Gallery@VT is closed on holidays

Three Cities workshop

The Three Cities Arts Club is hosting a glass fusing workshop at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, at D&M Art Studio in Canton. Participants can learn how to handle, prepare and cut glass to create their own fused dish or night light. Lori Barry will explain the glass fusing process from the type of glass and cutting supplies needed all the way through the kiln temperature schedule. Students can use their own creativity to create their project. Inspirational examples will be brought to class. Projects will be

taken to be fired and available for delivery a week later.

For participants interested in creating their own piece, there will be a materials fee of \$25. Registration is required by Dec. 29 by calling Marilyn at 313-231-3939 or emailing marilynmeredith@wowway.com. Fee to be paid the night of the event.

Secondhand Prose closes for renovations

Canton Public Library's Secondhand Prose Bookstore will be closed for renovations from Dec. 23 to Feb. 1.

In December hardcover books and children's book will be sold at reduced prices. Friends of the Canton Public Library support the library through advocacy and fundraising for resources beyond the scope of the operating budget.

Wayne Memorial Parent Night

Wayne Memorial High School will host an eighth-grade parent night for those transitioning to ninth grade or interested in getting more information about Wayne Memorial High School for the 2016-2017 school year. Students do not have

to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to attend. The event is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium.

Topics covered will include: scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extra-curricular activities and much more.

All are welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium.

For more information, call the Counseling Department at 734-419-2215.

Free open skate

The Redford Ice Arena offers a free open skate at the Redford Ice Arena for all residents and students from 6:05-7:05 p.m. every Sunday. The cost for others is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and children. Skate rental is \$3.

The arena is located at 12400 Beech Daly Road.

The annual Resident Appreciation Skate is set for 4:30-6:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29. All Redford residents and students are free. Skate rental is free; however, the number of skates available is limited.

The holiday skating schedule is: 1:30-2:50 p.m. Dec. 26-28, 1:30-2:50 p.m. Jan. 3-4, and 1-2:20 p.m. Jan. 5. All Christmas skates are \$3 per person. Skate rentals are \$3.

Winter Survival Gear Drive for the Homeless

Crossroad Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia, will host a drive for the homeless from 10:30-12:30 p.m. through Sunday, Feb. 12.

The church is accepting donations of men's new/used work boots, men's new/gently used white socks, ladies new/gently used turtlenecks.

For more information, visit www.crossroadsnow.org, email info@crossroadsnow.org or call 734-338-5149.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF WAYNE
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN EX REL.
KYM L. WORTHY WAYNE COUNTY PROSECUTOR,
Plaintiff, 3rd Circuit case: 14-004907-CF Vs. Hon. Robert J. Colombo Jr.

REAL PROPERTY with all contents AT: 32413 MICHIGAN AVE., WAYNE, MI 48184 (D.B.A. THE WAYNE EXCHANGE); AND MISC. PROPERTY SEIZED IN MICHIGAN STATE POLICE - WESTERN WAYNE TASK FORCE CASE#: WWC-351-13, ET AL, Defendant Property, And
CARLOS A. DAVILA; AND ANY UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS OR OWNERS, OR THE HEIRS, DEVISEES OR ASSIGNEES THEREOF, ET ALIA, Defendant/Claimants.

NOTICE OF ORDER AND CONSENT JUDGEMENT FOR RETURN OF CERTAIN DEFENDANT PERSONAL PROPERTY TO CERTAIN NON-PARTY PUTATIVE OWNERS

WHEREAS, on or about March 14, 2014, a search warrant was executed at the Defendant Real Property at 32413 Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184, known and doing business as "The Wayne Exchange," resulting in the seizure from the Wayne Exchange of numerous items of personal property by the Michigan State Police - Western Wayne Narcotics Task Force (case WWC-351-13), held as the Defendant Personal Property for purposes of litigating this forfeiture and nuisance abatement matter and disposed of by the Court in this matter (Third Circuit case 14-004907-CF);

WHEREAS, there may be non-party putative claimants who still claim legal title to some items of the Defendant Personal Property held in this matter by seizing agency;

WHEREAS the herein described manner of service of process is reasonably calculated to give any non-party putative claimants actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard and it is in the best interest of justice to bring resolution to this matter.

IT HAS BEEN HEREBY ORDERED BY THE COURT IN THIS MATTER that any person (non-party putative claimant) who may have claim and legal right to any item of Defendant personal Property seized on or about March 14, 2014, from the Wayne Exchange at the Defendant real Property at 32413 Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184, and the remains held by the seizing agency as a result of this matter, may make their claim thereto within 30 days of the publishing of this Notice as follows:

- File your claim to said item(s) by contacting the Michigan State Police - Western Wayne Narcotics Task Force property manager regarding case WWC-351-13 (Third Circuit Court Case 14-004907-CF) at 734-397-0090 or P.O. Box 87921, Canton, MI 48187;
- Provide in filing your claim, as instructed by seizing agency:
 - Your name, address, phone number or other contact information.
 - Description and information to be able to sufficiently identify the claimed item(s).
 - Documentation to sufficiently show your legal right to the claimed item(s).
- Any person (non-party putative claimant) filing a claim within 30 days from the publication of this Notice and attached Order with the seizing agency as noted above may enter into an out of court settlement with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office or consent judgement entered with the Court regarding their claims and the items within 30 days from the date of their claim with seizing agency.
- If you fail to file a claim within 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, you may file an answer to this action within 60 days thereof;
- If you fail to provide sufficient documentation to identify the item and substantiate your claim and right to it as informed by the seizing agency, you shall file an answer to this Third Circuit Court action with the Third Circuit Court under the case number 14-004907-CF within 30 days from the date you filed your claim with the seizing.
- Any person who fails to file a claim or file an answer to the Third Circuit Court action as set forth herein above shall be defaulted and lose or waive any rights to the items in this matter. Any items not claimed within 90 days from the date of the Order shall be FORFEITED to the seizing agency by default judgement or other order of the Court against any non-party putative claimant(s) who may have been able to claim ownership or rights thereto.
- A copy of the complaint and this corresponding order in this matter can be obtained at the Clerk's Office at the Wayne County Circuit Court, Coleman A. Young Municipal Center or by contacting the Attorney for the Plaintiff as noted herein.

Approved as to form, content and substance on 10/31/2016 by:
/s/ C.S. Davis
CHARLES S. DAVIS (P-51405), Atty. For Plaintiff
Wayne Co. Asst. Prosecuting Atty., Forfeiture Unit (FFN: 12103)
1441 Saint Antoine, 12th Fl., Detroit, MI 48226
Telephone: (313) 224-5843

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS
To: Donald Arthur Wludyka, Jr. or any other unknown person claiming to be the biological father of Elijah Timothy Hanson, D/O/B August 11, 2016.

You are hereby notified that on October 19, 2016, Aaron Israel Hanson and Tiffany Joel Hanson filed a Petition for Adoption of said child in the Superior Court of Rockdale County, Case No. 2016-AD-1020 M.

All parental rights you may have to this child will be terminated and you will receive no further notice, nor be entitled to object to the adoption by the Petitioners herein unless, within 30 days of the date of last publication of this Notice you file a petition to legitimate the child pursuant to OCGA Section 19-7-22 and file notice of the filing of such a petition with the court in the case set forth above, with a copy to the undersigned. This 21 day of November, 2016.

John J. Martin, Jr.
John J. Martin, Jr., Attorney for Petitioners
1808 Overlake, Suite B, Conyers, GA. 30013

Publish: December 18, 25, 2016 & January 1, 2017

Police search home in missing Farmington Hills woman case

Robert Allen
Detroit Free Press

Police on Thursday night searched a Berkley home in connection with the missing-person case involving 28-year-old Danielle Stislicki of Farmington Hills, who hasn't been seen since Dec. 2, Channel 4 WDIV-TV and Channel 7 WXYZ-TV report.



Stislicki

Investigators earlier this week said foul play is suspected in the disappearance of the woman, according to Farmington

Hills police. Channel 7 reports that Sislicki still has not been found, and nobody has been arrested.

She was last seen at about 5 p.m. leaving her job at the MetLife insurance office building on Telegraph north of 10 Mile in Southfield. Her car, a 2015 Jeep Renegade, was found in front of her apartment building in the Independence Green Apartments complex in Farmington Hills, where she lived, at about 6 p.m. the next day, police said.

A GoFundMe account by Friday morning had raised \$28,960 in reward money for information that leads to Sislicki be-

ing found alive. More photos of Sislicki, information and video of a candle-light vigil have been posted at www.find-dani.org.

WDIV-TV (Channel 4) reports in a statement from police: "The total possible reward money from Independence Green Apartments (\$50,000.00), MetLife (\$50,000.00) and a family friend's GoFundMe account (\$25,000.00) totals over \$125,000.00."

In addition to Farmington Hills police, detectives from federal and state agencies, as well as from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, have cooperated in search efforts.

Westland man receives 75-day sentence in charity jar theft

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

A Westland man is expected to spend the holidays locked up after pleading guilty to stealing a charity canister at a Livonia Walmart earlier this fall.



Wilson

Mark Wilson, 54, was sentenced Nov. 23 before 16th District Judge Sean Kavanagh to serve 75 days in jail after pleading guilty to larceny under \$200, a city misdemeanor. The sentence came after he appeared in court over

the theft of a charity canister at the Walmart store at 29555 Plymouth Road.

Police say Wilson took the 3-foot-tall canister designated to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network on Sept. 20. Police say Wilson grabbed the canister, which was near the front of the store, placed it in a cart and pushed it out the store's doors. He then placed it in the back end of a pickup truck, police said.

Before he could drive away, some store employees reportedly confronted Wilson and recovered the canister and the money inside. After an investigation, Livonia police arrested Wilson and

charged him with the misdemeanor. He was charged last month and pleaded guilty shortly after.

"The Livonia police would like to thank Walmart loss prevention for their diligence and assistance in recovering the donation bin," Livonia police said in a statement last month.

As of Wednesday morning, Wilson remained locked up in the Calhoun County Jail, according to jail officials. Livonia contracts with Calhoun County to accept some prisoners convicted of city crimes.

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Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

House burglarized for appliances, fixtures

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

Appliances, a furnace, water heater and new toilet — still in its box — were among the things reported stolen from a house on Five Points north of Six Mile after a break-in.

The alleged burglary occurred between the evening of Saturday, Dec. 17, and Monday morning, and was reported by an employee of the homeowner, a Redford Police Department report said. The side door had been forced open.

Other things reported stolen, the report said, included tools and a bathroom vanity.

Home break-ins

» Jewelry and a TV were reported stolen from a house on Gaylord near Six Mile after a break-in there on the afternoon of Dec. 15.

Police responding to an alarm found a rear window broken and the rear door standing open, a police report said. Two bedrooms appeared to have been ransacked. The break-in occurred between about 4 p.m. and just after 6 p.m., police said.

» Jewelry was report-

ed stolen from a house on Kinloch south of Plymouth Road after a break-in there on Dec. 16.

A window had been broken, a police report said, and a bedroom had been ransacked. The break-in occurred between late that morning and shortly after 6 p.m., police said.

Phone stolen

A woman told police she suspects her ex-boyfriend of stealing her phone from a bedside table as she slept early Dec. 15.

The theft occurred at a house on Kinloch north of Grand River, a police report said.

The woman told police she awoke shortly after 4 a.m. to see her phone was missing. She checked with her housemates, none of whom had the phone, she said.

A bedroom window was found open and there were footprints in the snow outside the window, police said, but there were no snow prints inside the house.

The woman said she used another phone to call her own phone and that her boyfriend answered.

The witnesses told

police they had not heard anyone enter the house that night. There were no signs of forced entry, police said.

Robbery

Two men, one of whom allegedly implied he had a gun, reportedly stole several bottles of cough medicine from the CVS drug store on Five Mile just before noon Dec. 16.

No one was hurt in the incident, which occurred at the pharmacy counter, a police report said.

One man jumped the pharmacy counter and told employees not to move or turn around and, while implying he had a gun, took bottles of cough syrup in his arms and left the area, witnesses told police. The two men then ran from the store; police searched the area but couldn't find anyone who fit their descriptions.

One witness told police the robber who took the medicine held one hand in a pocket of his hooded sweatshirt, and she thought she may have seen the outline of a gun but wasn't certain.

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Twitter: @mattjachman

LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

Resident out money in IRS scam

A Livonia resident came into the police station Dec. 16 to report she had been the victim of an IRS impersonation scam.

She said she received a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, saying she owed back taxes and a warrant had been issued for her arrest. A second call was made, with the suspect saying they were with the Livonia Police Department and a warrant had been issued. She was told she could reconcile the issue by purchasing \$2,500 in iTunes gift cards and reading the numbers on the back to the suspect over the phone. She went to various stores around town and purchased the cards,

reading the numbers off the back to them. She later told her sister what had taken place, and she informed her she had most likely fallen victim to a scam.

Purse missing

A shopper at Costco, 13700 Middlebelt, came into the police station Dec. 16 to report her purse had gone missing while at the store.

She said she went into the shop to return something, and realized later she had left her purse in a basket at the store. She came back and was unable to find the purse in one of the returned carts. She checked with the store, but found no one had returned it. The purse contained her social security card, cash and her checkbook.

Items taken from vehicle

Police were in the area of the 30400 block of Bonnydale on Sunday morning checking on the status of a larceny from auto when they spoke to another resident in the area whose vehicle had been broken into.

The resident said he had parked his car in the driveway two days earlier, leaving it unlocked with the keys in the ignition and cash in the glove box. He came out the next morning and found the cash missing. He had driven the vehicle around before noticing it was gone.

— Compiled from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.

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Gift giving brings joy to kids, seniors

The heart-warming sounds of excited kids (who know the holidays are near) rang through the halls of Botsford Commons, A Beaumont Community.

It was another successful year for the Giving Tree, an annual project Botsford Commons organizes to bring the "gift" of reading to the students at Botsford Elementary in Livonia. As a Title I school, Botsford Elementary is located in an area with low-income families, many without books and many without a daily reading influence. Botsford Buddies, a monthly program during the school year, provides students the opportunity to read out loud to visiting residents. The special relationship between the seniors and the students began the idea for the Giving Tree and now is a successful, annual event.

More than 60 first-graders from Botsford Elementary walked into the dining room at Botsford Commons and sang holiday songs with their innocent voices and smiles of pure joy. The sounds of ecstatic kids echoed in the room when Santa walked in — a tear-jerking moment for many in attendance. Santa greeted the students and asked if they'd been good this year. Of course the answer was yes and, with that, the gift giving began. Santa's helpers included staff and teachers, but the real helpers were the gift donors.

"A special thanks to staff, families and residents at Botsford Commons for donating funds to purchase brand new, hand-picked books from Scholastic for each student," said Colleen Kashawlik, manager of business development at Botsford Commons. "A gracious thank you goes to the two anonymous donors who purchased Michigan sports blankets from Pro Sports Zone and brand new, cuddly stuffed animals for every student as well."

In addition, each student chose a holiday painting with a Twist in Farmington Hills and bags from Senior Helpers of Southeast Michigan held their gifts.

This year, a shining "star" was placed on top of the beautiful event. It came in the form of a



Santa visits with more than 60 first-graders from Botsford Elementary School in Livonia.

BOTSFORD COMMONS

conversation between Fritz Putkela, a resident at Botsford Commons, and Santa. In front of the entire room, they chatted about when Putkela was a boy 100 years ago and all the Christmas Eve visits Santa had made.

Santa told Putkela this Christmas Eve would be his favorite visit because he would get to see him on his 100th birthday, a gift that knows no price. While listening to a room full of Putkela's friends, literally from 1 to 92, sing "Happy Birthday" it became clear. Santa has been very good to Fritz Putkela, a charming, 100-year-old storyteller from the Upper Peninsula. Every birthday, on Christmas Eve, Putkela was gifted with time — the one gift that everyone wants, but is never guaranteed.

"This holiday season and into next year, enjoy each other, be kind to your neighbor and remember relationships know no age," Kashawlik said. "The community's generosity to Botsford Elementary students and the residents of Botsford Commons is a true testament to the power of people and the holiday spirit."



Santa greets Botsford Commons resident Fritz Putkela, who celebrated his 100th birthday Christmas Eve.

BOTSFORD COMMONS

Guide to Employment

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Enter the secret world of Masons

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

On a crisp Saturday night in early December, the Birmingham Lodge No. 44 of Free and Accepted Masons is opened for the installation of new officers.

In a ceremony dating back hundreds of years, Matt Wilde, a former back-up quarterback for the University of Michigan football team, is elected Worshipful Master of the lodge. As a symbol of his new position, he is presented with a top hat and a Master's gavel.

It's the same installation ceremony that George Washington followed in 1788 when he was elected Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, shortly before he was elected the first president of the United States.

"My grandfather was a Mason," said Wilde, a 2002 Birmingham Seaholm High School graduate. "I always had a curiosity about Masonry, so I looked into it and decided to join. You hear everyone talk about a 'secret society,' but really we're just a group of guys who want to contribute to our community. We're a service organization."

Wilde is the 116th Worshipful Master of the Birmingham Masonic lodge.

Recognized as the oldest fraternity in the world, Freemasonry came to the Great Lakes territory in the mid-1700s by the French. The Grand Lodge of Michigan was established in 1826, and the Birmingham lodge received its charter in 1851.

A number of the key players in the American Revolution were Freemasons. Along with Washington, the list includes Benjamin Franklin, James Monroe, Paul Revere and John Hancock, among others.

The Boston Tea Party was planned at the Green Dragon Tavern, a gathering spot for Freemasons. The majority of Washington's generals in the Continental Army were Freemasons.

Locally, prominent names such as Charles Shain, Wylie E. Groves, Ebenezer Raynale, Hugh McCurdy and Charles Bingham were members of Birmingham Lodge No. 44. So was Almeron Whitehead, founder of the Birmingham Eccentric, and many others.

From 1922 until 1963, the Freemasons of Birmingham met in the historic Peabody Mansion at the corner of Old Woodward and Brown Street.



Notable past masters include Almeron Whitehead, Charles W. Shain, Roy E. Brown and Charles A. Bingham.

Wilde said his mom used to tell him stories about dropping off her dad at the Birmingham lodge.

Who are Freemasons?

"To be a Free and Accepted Mason means you're a man free born, of good rapport and well recommended," said Robert Hall, who serves as the chaplain for the Birmingham lodge. "It means you'll try to live up to what we call the tenets of Masonry: friendship, brotherly love and morality."

Some date the Masons back to the days of King Solomon, suggesting the top hat worn by the Worshipful Master is a reflection of his crown. Freemasonry, as it's widely known today, dates back to the 17th Century.

Many of the group's so-called ancient rituals began in England and Scotland. A Scottish bagpiper in full kilt dress, for example, led the new officers into the hall at the installation ceremony. The term "Worshipful" has Scottish roots and is meant to convey a position of honor.

Hall, a longtime resident of Royal Oak, became a Mason in 1985. He served as Worshipful Master twice, in 1997 and in 2007.

"We all have different reasons for joining," he said. "My father was very active in the Masons. He was a Shriner - and to be a Shriner, you have to be a Mason first."

Today, the Birmingham Masonic lodge is located at 37357 Woodward Ave. in Bloomfield Hills, just down the street from Cranbrook Schools. The lodge has about 300 members - a sharp decline from 25 years ago, when there were well over 600 members.

Go Blue!

Wilde, 33, is a fourth-generation Birmingham resident. His family first arrived in Birmingham in 1919. His grandfather, Gordon Deneau, graduated Birmingham high in 1941, and his mother Gail Wilde (Deneau) graduated Seaholm in 1970.

He played football at U-M under Coach Lloyd Carr from 2002 through 2005. Some of his teammates included future NFL players such as Chad Henne, Braylon Edwards, Mario Manningham, David Harris and LaMarr Woodley.

He also played on the 2002 lacrosse team at Seaholm that beat Brother Rice in the state finals.

"I actually had more offers to play lacrosse than I had for football. But at the end of the day, I knew I'd be happier playing football at Michigan, said Wilde, an attorney who's pursuing an MBA from the U-M Stephen M. Ross School of Business. His wife Liz is a social worker at Derby Middle School.

He petitioned to join the Birmingham lodge in 2010, and eventually became interested enough that he earned his three degrees of Masonry. The process took several years to complete before he reached the level of Master.

His fellow Masons at the lodge elected him to serve as Worshipful Master for the upcoming year, a position that requires him to run the weekly Thursday meetings, preside over the lodge and keep track of the books. Tom Baranowski, who is Senior Warden and second-in-command of the Birmingham lodge, also went to Seaholm, played football there and graduated in 1985.

"A lot of the older members are pretty thrilled because I'm the youngest Master in quite a while," he said. "So it's a bit symbolic, bringing in a new generation. A lot of the lodges really struggled with membership for the past 20 years, but there seems to be a resurgence of new people wanting to join. We'll have five new guys in January."

The Masons welcome "all men of quality," regardless of race, religion or creed. Although Masonry is not a religion, members must have a belief in a Supreme Being.

"My father-in-law is

from Venezuela and he just joined our lodge," Wilde said. "You have to be at least 21 and a resident of Michigan. We're not allowed to recruit members, but we're certainly supportive of anyone who's interested in joining."

Indians, Truman and Irving Berlin

The all-seeing eye above an unfinished pyramid on the one-dollar bill is considered by many to be Mason symbol.

The square and compasses is probably the most identifiable symbol of Freemasonry. The square, to square one's actions; the compass, to circumscribe and keep members within boundaries of their fellow men.

The top hat, worn by the Worshipful Master during meetings, is a sign of respect. The apron worn by all Masons is symbolic of honesty and integrity.

There are more symbols and rituals, but those are for the Masons to keep among themselves.

"We are not a secret society - we are a society that has secrets," said Hall. "And those secrets, very simply, are means of recognition. They're certain words, handshakes, steps and signs. Those are the only secrets we have ... everything else is pretty much public."

The Birmingham Masonic lodge has a storied history. In 1849, the first Masons in the area met at Lodge No. 22 in Pontiac. According to the lodge scuttlebutt, there were Indians along the trail who were rather hostile toward the traveling parties on horseback.

"This was all wild and undeveloped territory," Hall said. "White people were trespassing uninvited on Indian property, and they didn't like it."

The Birmingham lodge was officially granted a charter on Jan. 9, 1851, and a man by the name of William Brown was the first Worshipful Master. The annual dues at the time was 25 cents.

Ebenezer Raynale was the first postmaster of Franklin Village and a delegate to the first territorial convention of Michigan. Hugh McCurdy, born in England in 1829, came to the U.S. when he was 8 years old to become a cooper's apprentice, which involved making barrels for beer or cider.

Alanson Partridge, whose portrait hangs in the entrance vestibule of the lodge, was the most celebrated member of the lodge in its first 100

years, having served as a Worshipful Master on and off from 1854 to 1883.

A number of presidents, from Andrew Jackson to Franklin D. Roosevelt to Gerald Ford, were Masons. One of Hall's favorite Masons was Harry S. Truman.

"He was active all his life in Masonry, and would always try to go to the local lodges whenever he traveled around the

country," Hall said. "This drove the Secret Service nuts, because those who were not Masons could not go into the lodge room ... they had to let the president go into a room filled with strangers, and they had no idea if they were honorable or not, or if they carried weapons."

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BLAZO



WILLIAM A. JR., age 95, formerly of Birmingham, entered eternal life Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette in the loving care of his family. Born March 9, 1921 in Pontiac, a son of William and Eleanor (Lamb) Blazo, Sr., Bill graduated from Royal Oak High School, Class of 1939. He attended the University of Detroit until enlisting in the U.S. Coast Guard at the onset of World War II, later transferring to the U.S. Naval Air Corps. Bill received his commission in 1944 while stationed at Corpus Christi, Texas. While completing his naval training at Central Michigan University, he met and later married the love of his life, Mary Jean Coon on April 7, 1945. Following his honorable discharge, Bill was employed with the FBI as a field agent, then with Ford Motor Company as an investigator, followed by a career at Chrysler as head of executive security, and finally a 27 year "retirement" career as an investigator with Harness Dickey Patent Law Firm. In 1960, while serving as a pilot in the naval reserves on Grosse Isle, he survived a near fatal plane crash as a test pilot for the AD Sky Raider. Bill and Mary Jean enjoyed an active social life, sailing, traveling, and attending concerts at Meadowbrook. They also derived great pleasure from taking part in their children's and grandchildren's lives, attending their school and sporting events, while also serving as great role models. A natural athlete, Bill enjoyed playing tennis, basketball, baseball, track and field, running, cross country skiing, and stayed very active throughout his whole life. He loved and cared about people, making many friends in both his work and personal life. Generous with both his time and talent, he volunteered with the Royal Oak Court Probation program for many years and was a generous supporter of many community causes including the Couzens Foundation of Detroit Children's Hospital, Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay, Camp Oakland in Metro Detroit, and Cystinosis Research Network. He was a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church. Bill was a hardworking, generous, and conscientious, loving son, brother, husband, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He is survived by a son, Robert (Gail) Blazo of Baroda, MI and a daughter, Becky (Buzz) Berube of Marquette, MI; his grandchildren, James (Amy) Felgner, Jesse (Tala) Blazo, Jonathan (Mercedes) Blazo, Jacob (Ana) Blazo, Brooke (Pete Duex) Berube, Kelly (Juan Pablo) De Caro, Bridget (Walt Kyle) Berube, and 12 beloved great-grandchildren, Ana and Adelaide Felgner, Lucan, Samuel, Lia, and Adriana Blazo, Sophie, Nora, and Lake Skytta, Lucia and Gabriela De Caro, and William Duex. Bill was predeceased by his wife of 71 years, Mary Jean Coon Blazo; a son, William A. Blazo III who died at birth; an infant sister, Patricia Blazo; five brothers, John (Patricia) Blazo, Robert (Martha) Blazo, Donald (Gloria) Blazo, James (Donna) Blazo, and Barry (Hilda) Blazo. The family would like to express their appreciation to the caring staff of both Pine Ridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Stevensville, Michigan, and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bay Cliff Health Camp, P.O. Box 310, Big Bay, MI 49808; the Cystinosis Research Network, 302 Whytegate Court, Lake Forest, IL 60045-4705; or the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans Activity Fund, 425 Fisher Street, Marquette, MI 49855. Honoring Bill's request, private family services will be held. The Swanson-Lundquist Funeral Home, Marquette, is serving the family, where condolences may be expressed online at www.swansonlundquistfuneralhome.com

SCHREIBER



FRANK E., age 75, of Westland, passed away December 15, 2016. Born in Wadsworth, Ohio, to Frank and Frances (nee Miller) Schreiber on August 11, 1941. Frank is survived by his children Frank and Christi Schreiber, and his sister Joan Hill. Frank was preceded in death by both of his parents. Private cremation services have been entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. A Memorial Service will be scheduled at a later date.

SCHUMAKER



RALPH E. Died December 16, 2016, age 89. Former resident of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, St. Clair, Missouri, Gulf Shores, Alabama and most recently Chelsea, MI. Survived by his children Susan Kaminski (Pat), Joan Chade, Julie Schumaker (Kevin Dombkowski, Janet Willard (Mark), Scott (Marilyn) Schumaker and the late Mark Schumaker, 12 grandchildren, and his dear friend Virginia Lattiere. Private service has taken place with burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

WESMAN

MARY LOU February 4, 1936 - December 18, 2016, age 80 of Livonia, Cherished wife of the late Robert for 50 years. Loving mother of Mary Osburn, Sue (Dave) Joiner, Patty Salazar, Chris (Walter) Mixon, and Beth (Sam) Kryzer. Dear grandmother to 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Also survived by brother Michael Pliueger. Passed away at home. Memorial service at a later date. Please visit the online guestbook at www.cremationmichigan.com

Early retirement can cast a big shadow

Q: I would like your opinion as to my plan for retirement. I am divorced and no longer have any obligations to my ex. Currently, I make more than enough to cover my living expenses and I'm very secure in my job. However, I want to retire next year. I will turn 62 in May, when I will be eligible for a pension and Social Security. I figure I need about \$65,000 to cover all my expenses. My pension and Social Security will provide me about \$45,000. I plan to make up the other \$20,000 by withdrawing from my investments. I have about \$100,000 in investments. In addition, I plan to turn my hobby into a business. I think I can make about \$15,000 a year on my hobby. You should know I do not own a home, I rent and I have no debt. My question is, should I plan to retire next year?



have no idea what your hobby is and I have no idea if it's lucrative or not. What I do know is that there is a big difference between a hobby and a business. Particularly in your situation, where you have to generate income, it is totally different than generating the enjoyment you get from your hobby. Many people have attempted to turn their hobby into a business and, unfortunately, find out that there are major differences. What would be tragic for you is to give up your job and to then find out you can't be profitable in your hobby. As a result, you could have a severe financial crisis.

What I would recommend from the hobby standpoint is to try it for a period of time to see if it can be profitable. To be fair to yourself and to make an informed decision, you have to at least go through a business cycle; I recommend you give it at least a two-year period. In that way, you at

least have a record to determine if the business can be profitable and if you enjoy it.

I also potentially see another issue with the return you're expecting on your investments. If you do net \$15,000 a year from your business, that would mean that you would need about \$5,000 a year from your investments. Particularly, for someone who is retiring at a young age such as yourself, a 5-percent withdrawal rate is aggressive. In your situation, I would think a 3.5-percent withdrawal rate would be more appropriate.

Another problem I see in your strategy is you're not factoring in that you will need a rising income the rest of your life, not a fixed income. We all know the cost of living is always going up; as your cost of living increases, you may be forced to withdraw larger amounts from your investments, leaving you in a precarious situation.

My advice is that you should not retire. By delaying retirement, you will increase your Social Security and your pension and that will give you the appropriate time to

determine whether your hobby can be profitable or not.

One of the toughest parts of my job is to tell someone who wants to retire that they cannot afford to. In order to retire comfortably, you have to provide for a rising income throughout your lifetime. In the old days, the older you got, the less you needed. Fortunately, or unfortunately, those days are well behind us.

Just look at our own situation and look what it cost to live 20 years ago versus today. I have no doubt that 20 years from now it will cost us substantially more to live than it does today. I truly believe that we live in the greatest country in the history of the world, but there's nothing worse in this country than to be old and poor. Therefore, to prevent you from becoming old and not having resources, sometimes the best course of action is to delay retirement.

Good luck!

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

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Franklin's early blitz stymies GC

Patriots jump out to 9-0 lead and never look back

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Fans settling into the bleachers at Garden City were treated to the "Mark Mettie Show" in the early minutes Thursday, as the Livonia Franklin junior center scored seven of the game's first nine points — all banked by the Patriots.

Garden City's Jacob Sadowski finally put the Cougars on the board with a trey at the 2:30 mark, cutting the Franklin lead to 9-3. But the die had been cast in the non-conference varsity boys basketball game, with the Patriots never trailing in a 51-39 victory.

"We're not going to win

"We're not going to win many varsity games scoring 39 points. Got to figure out a way to score the basketball."

RICK MORTON
Garden City head coach

many varsity games scoring 39 points," said Garden City head coach Rick Morton, whose team dropped to 1-4 entering a two-week holiday hiatus. "Got to figure out a way to score the basketball.

"We could get it (the deficit)

to nine, get it to seven. But we couldn't get over that hump. Got to be able to score the basketball. Hats off to them, they shot the ball very well."

The Cougars actually got to 11-7 late in the first quarter. However, Mettie closed out the quarter strongly with two buckets in the paint in the final minute to give Franklin an 18-7 lead going into the second.

Back to back treys by Garden City junior forward Eian Castonguay (11 points, four steals) brought the Cougars to within 26-19 midway through the second, but answering with a 3-ball was junior guard Keyon Brown (12 points, five



TOM BEAUDOIN

Livonia Franklin's Keyon Brown (left) tries to dribble around Garden City defender Eian Castonguay during Thursday's game.

See HOOPS, Page B2

GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL PREVIEW

LAST CLASH AT THE JOE



Canton native Matt Roy will lead Michigan Tech against Michigan In Thursday's GLI opener.

GEOFFREY M. MILLER

Local skaters pumped up to play in the final Great Lakes Invitational at Joe Louis Arena

Mike Rosenbaum
Correspondent

While growing up, Canton native Matt Roy enjoyed watching the annual Great Lakes Invitational hockey tournament. "I attended as a little Michigan fan," he said. Roy will attend another GLI this Thursday, but he won't be rooting for the Wolverines. Instead, he'll be skating for Michigan Tech.

This year's tournament features the usual trio of Tech, Michigan and Michigan State, along with Western Michigan. This will be the last GLI at Joe Louis Arena; the new Little Caesars Arena will play host to the 2017 tournament.

Roy's Huskies faced off against U-M in the 2015 GLI final, with the Wolverines prevailing. He hopes to reverse Tech's fortunes this season. "Every year," Roy



DARYL MARSHKE | U-M PHOTOGRAPHY

Bloomfield Hills native Will Lockwood has enjoyed a strong freshman season at Michigan, but will miss the GLI with a shoulder injury.

said, he and his teammates "go through our goals, as a team. And winning the GLI is always on there. Nobody on our team has won it yet ... so all of us are really hungry for it."

The Huskies last won the GLI in 2012, but will enter this year's event as the favorites, having posted a 12-7-3 record to date, including 11 wins and a tie in their last 14 games.

52ND ANNUAL GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL

For the 14th time in the tournament's history, four Michigan-based schools will participate in the holiday tradition.

Where: Joe Louis Arena
Thursday, Dec. 29: Michigan and Michigan Tech will get things rolling, starting at 3:30 p.m. followed by the MSU-WMU contest.

Friday, Dec. 30: The two losing teams meet at 3:30 p.m. in the third-place game, while the winners meet for the championship at 7 p.m.

Roy is in his third year at Tech. After graduating from Canton High School, Roy played for the Indiana Ice of the U.S. Hockey League, winning a league championship in 2014. He chose to attend Tech because he was impressed by

See HOCKEY, Page B2

PREP HOCKEY

Doyle's hat trick isn't enough

Top-ranked Bulldogs eke out thrilling 4-3 win over Chargers

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

John Doyle epitomizes the unselfishness of the Livonia Churchill varsity boys hockey team.

Even after the senior forward scored all three of his team's goals Wednesday night against Brighton — the top-ranked team in Division 1 — he lamented a couple of defensive miscues that cost the Chargers.

The Bulldogs broke a 3-3 tie with 1:29 to play at Eddie



Doyle

Edgar Arena in Livonia, when Keith Wikman swept a rebound past Churchill senior goalie Drew Broyles to clinch the 4-3 decision.

"We got to back-check a little bit more, a couple three-on-tuos that they capitalized on, which can't happen," Doyle said. "But overall, we learned we can compete with any team in the state, the best team in the state."

Concurring with that assessment was Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds, whose team (7-2-0 overall, 4-2-0 in the KLAAs Kensington Conference) rallied from 2-0 and 3-2 deficits against the fast and physical Bulldogs (8-1-0, 4-0-0) only to ultimately run out of time.

"It was really a character game for our guys," Reynolds said. "I think it's a real testament to not just how talented we are, but how hard these guys work. Win, lose or draw, I was going to come in incredibly proud of these guys for the effort they put in. I'm absolutely proud.

See ICERS, Page B3

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Garden City takes charge, tops Franklin

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

After a sluggish opening quarter Thursday at Livonia Franklin, the aggressiveness switch was flipped for Garden City's varsity girls basketball team.

Following her team's 52-30 non-conference win, Cougars head coach Michele Tyree might consider making T-shirts to give to her players with the slogan "Garden City Strong" on the front — although there isn't time to print and wrap them for Christmas.

Garden City (2-5) trailed 9-6 after the first quarter to the winless Patriots, after which Tyree had a chat with her players to up the intensity. They got to the rim with vigor (and drew fouls in the process) during a 14-7 second quarter, giving the Cougars a 20-16 halftime lead.

It was more of the same the rest of the way, with Garden City outscoring Franklin by wide margins of 19-10 and 13-4 in the third and fourth, respectively.

"We started to attack the basket after the first quarter," Tyree said. "We got to the free-throw line often. We still need to improve at the charity stripe, but we went 5-of-8 from the line in the second."

One of the spark-plugs was junior guard Haleigh Maszatics, with 10 points off the bench.

Even stronger was senior guard Aleea Montgomery, who tallied 11 points and 10 rebounds — with seven of her points in the third quarter.

"I told her at halftime that she could take over the game," Tyree said.

Other Garden City stalwarts included senior guard Brittany Radtke (11 points, six steals) and senior guard Kayley



Livonia Franklin's Sydney Strasser (left) works her way into the lane while Garden City's Camryn Chavis defends.

Hewer (eight points, 11 boards).

For the Patriots (0-6), sophomore guard Hannah Strosser scored eight points.

Evidence of Garden City's aggressiveness on offense was a wide edge in free-throw chances. The Cougars stepped to the line 29 times, making

just 13, however.

Franklin managed to sink 7-of-10 opportunities.

"It's always nice going into the two-week (holiday) break with a win," Tyree said. "I thought my team took a step in the right direction tonight. Hopefully, we can build from here."

Burton lifts Eagles

Bryanna Burton scored a game-high 20 points Thursday as host Redford Thurston (5-2) overcame an early 10-0 deficit to earn a 51-43 non-conference win over Melvindale (0-6).

Burton went 11-of-12 from the foul line (all in the first quarter), while Gillian Drake added 11 points for the Eagles, who led 26-19 at halftime before stretching their lead to 20 in the final quarter.

Courtney Walton-baugh scored a game-high 22 points and Dan-

ielle Tubbs added 16 for the winless Cardinals.

RU romps, 51-1

On Thursday, Johnnia Steele scored 12 points as Redford Union (4-2) routed host Taylor Prep (0-5) for the second time this season in a non-league game, 51-1.

The Panthers led 37-1 at halftime.

Trojans fall short

Myla Hoskins-King scored a game-high 14 points, but it couldn't save Livonia Clarenceville (1-5) from falling Thursday at home against Ferndale (3-3) in a non-conference encounter, 48-23.

The Eagles, who led 25-14 at halftime and 42-14 after three quarters following a 17-0 run, got 12 points from Kayla Boyd and nine from Cacy Thorton.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

PREP FOOTBALL

Sofran is out as Brother Rice's head football coach after 3 seasons

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com

David Sofran's tenure as Brother Rice's football head coach lasted three years.

Brother Rice school officials announced Dec. 16 that Sofran will not return for the Warriors

next season.

"We truly appreciate all of the contributions coach Sofran has made to Brother Rice during his three years as head coach, which followed his many years as an assistant coach and as a player," Rice Athletic Director Jeff Calcaterra said.

Sofran was named head coach for the 2014 football season following the retirement of the legendary Al Fracassa.

The Warriors posted a 20-12 overall record during that time, including a sparkling 11-1 mark and a trip to the Division 2 regional championship

game in his first season.

After missing the playoffs in 2015 (2-7), Rice regrouped this past season and finished with a 7-4 overall record and a return appearance in the state playoffs. Rice's season ended with a 24-0 loss to Birmingham Groves in the Division 2

district championship game.

"The long-term vision of our football program embodies the values of Brother Rice High School and our commitment to academic and athletic excellence," Calcaterra said. "We strive to develop our

student-athletes and consistently place our program among the top in Michigan."

Sofran will remain on the staff as associate athletic director for this academic year. Administrators plan to soon begin a search for a new head coach.



Garden City's Jacob Sadowski (left) contests a shot attempt by Livonia Franklin's Paytin Harris.

HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

assists, four rebounds). That's pretty much how the rest of the game played out.

Early dominance

Indeed, Mettie was a menace to the Cougars with 18 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks. The only negative for the 6-8 player was fouling out late in the game, getting tagged with an offensive foul driving to the rim in an attempt to get to 20 points for the night.

Like in the previous game against Canton, Mettie was dominant in the first half (16 points) only to be stopped later on.

It was a similar pattern Thursday, when he had 14 points at the break with Franklin enjoying a 32-23 advantage. But he managed to hit just two field goals after that in a relatively even second half in which both teams struggled to score.

"(Mettie) gets off to hot starts," Franklin head

"Mettie was really, really good. When he can shoot the ball and then take the ball to the basket, that's a very tough combo for our team."

RICK MORTON

Garden City head coach

coach Jon Djokaj said. "We need him to finish (games) a little better. We've seen it a couple games now, where teams have been able to take him away (in the second half).

"He's learning and getting every better day, but it's a continual process. It's not just with him, it's with all our guys."

Another key contributor for the Patriots was junior guard Paytin Harris, with five steals.

"Paytin Harris brings a lot of energy for us, gets into passing lines, gets a lot of deflections and steals," Djokaj said. "Our sophomore, Ryan Hoyer, does a nice job, as well as does (junior) Roger Carpenter. They do a lot of good things pressuring the ball."

Tall tale

For Garden City, Castonguay was a bright

spot with a strong two-way game.

"Eian Castonguay is a great player, he's so fast," Morton said. "He plays really hard, attacks the basket."

Adding eight points was junior forward Cameron Walter, while senior guard Sadowski scored seven.

Morton tipped his cap to Mettie and the Patriots, but added that guarding taller players will continue to be a challenge because his team lacks size.

"We're used to not having the tallest guys around," Morton said. "That's going to be a concern as we play the rest of the year as well."

"Mettie was really, really good. When he can shoot the ball and then take the ball to the basket, that's a very tough combo for our team."

Just like Garden City,

the Patriots now will take a lengthy break before returning to action Jan. 6 at home against Ferndale.

SALEM TOPS CHURCHILL

On Thursday night at Livonia Churchill, the Rocks improved to 2-3 with their 76-68 victory.

Salem was led by senior Cam Barden (25 points) and senior Cameron Grace (15 points, 10 rebounds). For the Chargers (2-4), Alan Hammett scored 30 points.

TRACTORS ROLL

Abdullah Bushmie scored a game-high 13 points Thursday to lead host Dearborn Fordson (2-4) to a 60-20 victory over Livonia Clarenceville (0-4) in a cross-over matchup between Western Wayne Athletic Conference teams.

Clarenceville, getting seven points from Torre Bowen, couldn't overcome a 30-7 halftime lead. The Trojans were 3-of-6 from the foul line, while the Tractors hit 8-of-15.

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HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

the school's coaches, facilities and small-town atmosphere. He posted nine assists in 36 games and was plus-21, while blocking 88 shots, as a freshman. He added offensive flair to his game last season, finishing with seven goals and 13 assists in 37 contests, with a plus-24 rating, and earned second team all-WCHA honors. He has two goals and 10 assists in 22 games this year.

He credits a steady evolution of his game, along with some off-season work in 2015 — "focusing on my stick-handling and my shooting" — with sparking his offensive improvement.

The 2015 off-season was doubly significant for Roy, because he was selected by the Los Angeles Kings in the seventh round of the NHL Entry Draft, the 194th player taken overall.

Today, however, Roy is totally focused on his college career. Looking ahead to the second half of the season, he said Tech just needs to "keep playing the way we're



Michigan State senior center Thomas Ebbing helped lead Birmingham Brother Rice to the 2012 Division 2 state championship.

playing" so the team can retain the MacNaughton Cup as the WCHA regular-season champion and earn a trip to the NCAA tournament.

Ready for the rematch

Earlier this season, as Tech struggled to a 1-5-2 start, the Huskies lost and tied in two games played against Michigan in Ann Arbor. The Wolverines have been inconsistent lately, howev-

er, and they go into the GLI with an uncharacteristic 7-8-1 record.

The Wolverines boast several area standouts, including sophomore defenseman Nicholas Boka. A Plymouth resident, Boka played for the U.S. National Team Development Program for two seasons before joining the Wolverines for the 2015-16 campaign. A defensive-oriented defenseman, Boka tallied 10 assists in 38 games as a

freshman and enters the GLI with one goal and one assist in 15 contests this season, along with 35 blocked shots. Boka was drafted by the Minnesota Wild in the sixth round, 171st overall, in the 2015 Entry Draft.

Other U-M area skaters include freshman forward Will Lockwood of Bloomfield Hills, who was selected in the third round of the 2016 Entry Draft, 64th overall, by the Vancouver Canucks.

Like Boka, Lockwood played for the U.S. NTDP for two years, totaling 13 goals and 20 assists in 59 games. Lockwood had six goals and six assists in Michigan's first 16 games this season before suffering a shoulder injury that will keep him out of the GLI. Lockwood is expected back on the ice some time in January.

Senior forward Max Stuart, a 2012 Novi High School graduate, enjoyed his best college season last year, with six goals and nine assists in 38 games. He has seven assists in 14 Michigan contests this year.

Green and white hopes

Michigan State will face off with Western in the other GLI opening-round game Thursday. MSU is 4-9-1 so far and will hope for a strong GLI performance to jump-start a better second half.

Among the Spartans' leaders is senior forward Thomas Ebbing, who helped Birmingham Brother Rice capture the 2012 Division 2 state championship. Ebbing is tied for third on MSU with eight points in 14 games, on two goals and six assists. He posted a

career-best 19 points last season (five goals, 14 assists) and blocked 59 shots, fourth-best among the nation's forwards.

Plymouth resident Zach Osburn is the Spartans' top-scoring defenseman, with two goals and five assists in 14 contests. Osburn had six goals — including five power-play goals — among 19 points as a freshman last season.

Novi Catholic Central graduate Carson Gatt, a South Lyon resident, also helps man the Spartans' blue line. The defensive-minded junior defenseman has a goal and an assist in 10 games this season, after posting a career-high seven assists in his sophomore year. Senior forward Connor Wood, a Bloomfield Hills Lahser graduate, has found the net once in 12 games this year.

MSU also has a pair of area goaltenders, both freshmen. John Lethe-mon, who attended Farmington High, has a 4.76 goals-against average and .833 save percentage in three games. Spencer Wright, who backstopped Catholic Central to two consecutive state titles in 2014-15, has yet to see action this season.

BOYS HOCKEY

Plymouth goalie Olepa has the right stuff

Junior relishes being last line of defense for his team

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Being a hockey goalie is something Brendan Olepa wanted to do ever since he saw himself in the mirror wearing brand new gear as a young child.

More than a decade later, Olepa wants nothing more than to be the best hockey goalie he can be for the Plymouth Wildcats.

"It's just having the game on your shoulders," the 16-year-old Plymouth junior said after a recent practice at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, about why he is so enthralled with being the last line of defense. "It's hit or miss for a goalie. You're either getting blamed for everything or you're getting praise for everything."

"The thing that gets me going is just the experience. Having that adrenaline rush that, yeah, if everything goes bad, they're counting on you."

Olepa has loved having that feeling ever since the first time he strapped on goalie pads.

"My first year of hockey, my first pair of goalie pads I was 3 or 4," Olepa said. "I did street hockey stuff and I absolutely fell in love with it."

"I have a picture my dad took where I was just standing in the mirror looking at myself in goalie gear. From there on, I knew what I wanted to do."

Plymouth varsity head coach Gerry Vento is glad that Olepa took that path — especially this season, when several games have come down to the poised teenager standing between the pipes.

"It's his maturity level and his work ethic," Vento said, discussing the characteristics that make Olepa such a big-game goaltender.



Calmly collecting a loose puck during a recent high school varsity hockey game is Plymouth junior goalie Brendan Olepa.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

"He's the hardest worker on the ice and (Wildcats goalie coach) Lonnie (Middaugh) really puts him through it out there, makes him work."

"The harder Lonnie pushes him, it seems the harder Olepa pushes back and it shows in games."

Balancing act

Olepa and sophomore goaltender Josh Montroy flipped their gloves and stick to the side for a recent drill.

Middaugh had them hold onto a 12-pound medicine ball and do a series of crease movements — remaining as much in their stance as possible. The drills are designed to help them with balance and agility.

"He uses it for balance and for that extra weight on the ice, making it harder for him to get back and forth," Vento said. "So when it's game time, without the medicine ball, he's going to feel a lot quicker getting from post to post."

The extra work doesn't bother the 5-foot-8 Olepa. In fact, he seems to enjoy every minute on the ice.

Olepa — who earlier in his career had stints with Little Caesars and the Farmington Flames — also is thankful for having a goalie coach like Middaugh, who



The a-ha moment for Brendan Olepa came at age 4, when he liked the look of wearing goalie equipment. Here he checks out his first set of pads in the mirror.

FAMILY PHOTO

began working with him during eighth grade on the Plymouth Prep Team.

"Coach Lonnie has been an inspiration to me and has been a great mentor on and off the ice," Olepa said. "He's been my psychologist, teacher and friend. He's taught me many things on and off the ice that have really improved my game over the years."

Also helping him to push his way down the path he is happily taking

were Darrin Silvester and Ron Hayes, both with a "learn to skate" program at Plymouth Cultural Center in the mid-2000s. Silvester later was Olepa's head coach with Plymouth Prep.

Bring it on

Those coaches and others undoubtedly helped Olepa add to his growing goalkeeping tool box. But his love of the game and position remain paramount. And the son of Ed and

Barbara Olepa thrives under pressure, another trait that Vento raves about.

"I was really impressed with his composure in the Salem game (a 4-2 win Dec. 17). That's always a nerve-racking game, it's intense," Vento said. "But the saves he was making, he made them look easy."

"He just didn't get too high, he didn't get too low. He's just really a mature goalie, especially for a junior."

The previous week, Northville scored back-to-back goals in 12 seconds to tie the Wildcats, with most of the third period to go. All Olepa did was shut the door the rest of the contest and Plymouth won 3-2 in overtime.

Whenever things do go off the rails for a stretch, he can take a deep breath and hit the reset button.

"It's mental toughness," Olepa said. "You got to go into the game thinking, 'Oh, I'm not going to give up.' Even if I end up messing up, you just can't give up and that's the mindset you need to have."

"After those two goals (against Northville) I just shook it off and said, 'You know what? It happens, you just got to keep going.' If you dwell on it,

"Knowing that I have a strong team in front of me while I have been in the net has kept me calm and confident..."

BRENDAN OLEPA

stuff like that will happen later on in the period and you'll go deeper and deeper in the hole."

Olepa, owner of a 3.8 grade-point average with hopes of playing college hockey, added that whatever he can do off the ice to give himself an edge getting from Point A to Point B to get set for the next shot is a priority.

"It just takes time," he said. "Stretching helps, going to the gym a couple days a week. It's a lot of dedication, but it pays off at the end."

"What I do (at the gym) is core stuff and leg work to get my speed going. That's for explosive movement."

In it together

He plays the hybrid style, a mix of butterfly and standup, depending on the action around him.

Of course, Olepa realizes his on-ice success doesn't take place in a vacuum. He completely shares any of his personal successes with Plymouth teammates.

"The success that we have had this season so far has really been a combination of teamwork and everyone working together," Olepa said. "Knowing that I have a strong team in front of me while I have been in the net has kept me calm and confident every time we step on the ice."

"I am very proud of my team with the success we have had this season and I am very excited to carry out the (rest of the) year with those guys."

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PREP WRESTLING

Redford Union wins its own invitational tournament, improves to 8-1

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Five wrestlers scored two pins apiece Wednesday as host Redford Union swept Western Wayne Athletic Conference foes Dearborn Edsel Ford, 45-36, and Garden City, 59-18, in a quad meet.

Leading the pin pa-

rade for the Panthers, who improved to 8-1 overall and 2-0 in the WWAC Blue Division, were Kenny Vadnais, Brandon Hartsfield, Isaac Grant, Bobby Dixon and Gabe Mendez.

Larry Elliot also recorded two wins, including a pin.

On Dec. 17, the Panthers defeated Northville

in the finals of the RU Invitational dual meet tournament, 49-27, to finish 5-0 on the day.

The Panthers also scored wins over Dearborn Divine Child (78-0), Dearborn Heights Crestwood (72-0), Livonia Clarenceville (45-30) and a combined RU-Clarenceville team (73-3).

Grant, who scored

five straight pins, was the upper weights tournament MVP. Tavian Groves (all pins), Taz-Don Moore, Elliot and Vadnais also finished 5-0 for the tourney.

Trojans split quad

In its only home meet of the season Wednesday, host Livonia Clarenceville split a quad meet

defeating Romulus (63-18) before losing to Dearborn Fordson (49-27).

Going 2-0 on the day for the Trojans, who improved to 9-5 overall and 1-1 in the WWAC Red, were Dean Harrington (103), Jacob Weiss (119), Justin Fields (125), Joseph Sanchez (130) and David Means (171).

On Dec. 17 at the RU

dual tourney, Clarenceville placed third overall after finishing second in its pool, which included a 60-17 win over Garden City in a crossover.

Dylik Hunter (135) and Zack Richards (160) each finished 5-0 on the day, while Max Woodcock finished 4-0.

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ICERS

Continued from Page B1

"You have to play teams like this in order to prepare yourself for the postseason. We were in a similar position last year, where we won the game against Brighton 4-3, in their house. It came to the third period, similar to this one."

"I guess maybe the hockey gods decided it was our turn to come up a little bit short this time around."

Tough start

The Chargers, who compete in Division 2, could never get over the hump Wednesday.

At 13:47 of the opening period, Brighton senior forward Jake Crespi (goal, two assists) fooled Broyles with a wrist shot from the right-wing boards.

The Bulldogs made it 2-0 with 26 seconds left. Broyles sprawled to stop Ben Peterson, but Wikman chipped the rebound

over the goalie.

At the conclusion of the period, the referees assessed a five-minute major to Crespi for a head shot against junior forward Adam Sinclair (who left to be evaluated for a concussion at a nearby hospital, Reynolds said).

When the teams took the ice for the second period, Churchill enjoyed a five-minute power play and Doyle made the Bulldogs pay with two goals in a 36-second span to tie the game at 2-2.

"As I understand it, they said it was an elbow and decided to give (Crespi) the five-minute (penalty) after the fact," Reynolds said. "They came out and spoke to us after the buzzer had sounded and the boys were in the locker room and told us the five minutes were coming. So we knew to prepare accordingly and try to take advantage of that window of opportunity."

"We were fortunate. We jumped on it quickly and managed to pop a

"We get out there early in practice and we run the power play. We practice that (the one-timer) a lot. It's finally nice for it to come in use and finally get one from it."

JOHN DOYLE, senior forward

couple in and get back in the game."

Power play connects

The first one was an unassisted goal at 3:24. Doyle took the puck from a Brighton player, curled into the slot and snapped a wicked wrist shot over the glove hand of Bulldogs senior goalie Logan Neaton (23 saves).

At the four-minute mark, Doyle's one-timer of a cross-ice feed from junior linemate Jordan Venegoni beat Neaton cleanly inside the far post. Also assisting was senior defenseman and captain Joe Wozniak.

Of the two power-play goals, Doyle said he liked the second one better.

"We get out there early in practice and we

run the power play," Doyle said. "We practice that (the one-timer) a lot. It's finally nice for it to come in use and finally get one from it."

Churchill's dangerous trio of Doyle, Venegoni and junior forward Tyler Haydu came close to putting the Chargers in front with about eight minutes to go in the period.

Doyle delivered a pass to Haydu, cutting in on the right wing. But Haydu found himself too close to Neaton when it came time to take a shot and the goalie easily kicked the puck away.

It was Broyles' turn to make a key stop in the period's final minute, when he blocked Crespi's redirect on the doorstep.

Broyles (23 saves) kept the game tied for a while in the third. After turning aside an in-close bid by Wikman, he snagged Crespi's slap shot taken from inside the blue line following a Churchill turnover.

But Brighton did go up 3-2 with 5:23 remaining and Crespi was in the middle of the scoring play. He skated down the right wing and slipped the puck over to Peterson for the tap-in.

Never say die

Just over a minute later, however, the Chargers showed their mettle with another equalizer.

Junior forward Josh Friend threaded a perfect stretch pass up the middle to Doyle, who collected the puck at the Brighton blue line and zeroed in on Neaton.

Doyle was stopped as he approached the crease, but the rebound caromed past Neaton to set off a Churchill celebration. A collision knocked the goal off its moorings, but the goal

counted.

"I went with my move, the goalie stopped it," Doyle said. "But it ricocheted out and hit the defense and went back in. Huge turning point right there."

The Bulldogs, however, had their own response — and it turned out to be the final say for the evening.

"Similar to our situation, I'm sure they were looking for second and third opportunities in front of the net, looking for rebounds," Reynolds said. "Unfortunately, they had a step on us coming into the zone, that rebound popped out and they had an open opportunity to pick it up."

"No different than what we were looking for when we were going up against Logan Neaton. It was just Brighton's night."

ST. MARY'S 4. STEVENSON 3: In this Tuesday night game at Orchard Lake St. Mary's, Livonia Stevenson came up a bit short. No game details were available as of press time.

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Do your research before a job interview

BY MATT TARPEY
CAREERBUILDER

Researching potential employers is an essential step in the job-seeking process. Not only does it help you determine whether the open position is one you're actually interested in, but doing the right research can also give you the advantage once the hiring process gets underway.

What information will help you land the job? Here's some advice.

The basics

It should go without saying, but if you don't know the name of the company or the industry in which it operates, don't even bother showing up for the interview. It's so easy to find basic information on any company that there is absolutely no excuse for not knowing it.

"Explore the company's website, especially the 'About Us' section," says Marisa South, general manager of Vet & Pet Jobs, an Australian career website for the animal-care industry. "Learning how a company wants to represent itself and what it considers valuable can be used in your interview as you're trying to explain how your values and objectives match up."

Knowing how employees



GETTY IMAGES

perceive the company can be just as enlightening — if not more. "Websites like Glassdoor do an excellent job at collecting information about companies, including salaries, experiences and what the company's atmosphere is like," says Ola Danilina, CEO and founder of PMBC Group, a technology public-relations firm based in Los Angeles.

"Better yet, if you know somebody personally who works or has worked at the company you are interviewing for, plan a time to sit with them to ask any questions you may have prior to your interview."

The role

Be sure to have as thorough an understanding of the position as possible before going

into the interview. Review the information provided in the job listing, and if there is something you're unclear about, make a note to bring it up with the interviewer.

"Even with the necessary skills to complete the role, most candidates often fail to fully understand what the job actually is and look unprepared in an interview," says Sacha Ferrandi, founder and director of human resources at real-estate firm Source Capital Funding Inc. "Employers want to see that you are familiar with the industry because it will reduce the learning curve if you get hired."

Current events

Knowing the company's mission statement and history can help you identify with its goals, but the mission statement isn't likely to be on the top of your interviewer's mind. Your research should also focus on where the company stands today. Knowing about things such as recent product launches, mergers, partnerships and new initiatives can help you come into the interview one step ahead of other candidates.

Employers are looking for candidates who can begin work at full speed. When you're able to discuss real issues facing the company during your job interview, you're

not just showing that you could hit the ground running, you're showing that in some ways, you already have.

The competitors

No matter how much information you're able to find about a given company, it's not very useful without something to gauge it against. To gain a broader understanding of the industry and where the company fits within it, read up on the other top companies in the field.

"You should try to figure out what sets the company apart from its competitors," South says. "By educating yourself about how a company is doing things differently, you'll be better prepared when your interviewer asks you what attracted (you) to the company."

Preparing for the interview with targeted and thorough research makes it easier to give more specific responses. Most interviewers will recognize and appreciate that you aren't wasting their time with generic answers, giving you a considerable leg up on the competition.

Matt Tarpey is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. He researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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Car Report

TESLA, PORSCHE, AUDI, SUBARU: CONSUMER REPORTS WINNERS KEEP DELIVERING ON MATCHLESS POWER OF BRANDS



By Dale Buss

Say this for Tesla owners: They stick by their brand. Despite red flags ranging from the Autopilot-fatality disaster to gull-wing doors getting stuck on the Model X, Tesla still ranked as No. 1 in the new, just-released Consumer Reports Annual Owner Satisfaction Survey.

Just as last year, following Tesla were Porsche, Audi and Subaru. Interestingly, however, some brands were on the move from 2015 to 2016, including Lincoln, which climbed from No. 21 to No. 12; and Hyundai, which rose to No. 13 from No. 24.

Meanwhile, some brands swooned, such as Ram, which tumbled to No. 17 from No. 5 in last year's rankings; BMW, which took what may be seen as a surprising fall to No. 14 from No. 6; and Volkswagen, which took a not-so-surprising dive to No. 24 from No. 16.

No. 5 through 10 were Toyota, Honda, Mazda, Chrysler, Chevrolet and Lexus. Ranking at the absolute bottom was Fiat at No. 29; Fiat Chrysler Automotive had four brands in the bottom 13 with Ram at No. 17, Dodge at No. 23, Jeep at No. 25 and Fiat, Infiniti and Nissan Ranked No. 27 and 28.

Each of the brands that ranks 1 through 4 once again is, arguably, a marque for which perceptions and emotions carry the day over the merit of each company's individual vehicles or even its overall product line, and over other criteria such as vehicle quality and utility. Those subjective notions absolutely pulse through the survey results.

For Tesla, of course, there is the fierce brand loyalty generated by the company's pioneering role in making a truly fine all-electric automobile, its daring pivot into mainstream-priced EVs with the upcoming Model 3, and the high-profile leadership of the always-kinetic Elon Musk, who keeps Tesla and its iconoclastic mission continually in the news -- whether he's defending Autopilot as being better than human drivers; defying Wall Street by continuing to report losses and missing production deadlines; boasting about his Gigafactory gambit; or saying he wants to die on Mars.

Even Consumer Reports -- an early fan of the Tesla Model S which once considered it such a perfect vehicle that it broke the magazine's rating scale -- has more lately been regularly knocking Tesla.

About the Model X 90D crossover, for example, a version of Tesla's second model, the magazine said that, "Beyond the brag-worthy magic" such as the gull-wing doors and a "jet-fighter-like canopy windshield," the car "largely disappoints. The rear doors are prone to pausing and stopping. The second-row seats can't be folded, limiting cargo-carrying ability. The big windshield is neat but not tinted enough to offset the brightness of a sunny day, and wind noise is excessive."

Or take Porsche. The VW-owned sports-car brand has managed to extend itself nicely to SUVs and crossovers over the last several years, winning a whole new corps of buyers even as the brand continues to satisfy sports-car diehards with its iconic 911, Boxster



The 2017 Subaru Outback exemplifies the brand's all-wheel-drive platform.

roadster and Cayman two-door coupe. "The Porsche DNA is still baked into every model with confident high-performance handling," as Consumer Reports puts it, "a controlled ride, superb braking performance, a thrilling exhaust note, and beautifully crafted interiors."

Audi, of course, is one of the ultimate brand-ascension stories of the auto industry's last decade. Beginning under the leadership of Johan de Nysschen and continuing under current U.S. boss Scott Keogh, Audi managed to parlay a steady expansion of its product line in every significant direction, a strategy of planned retail "scarcity" of its halo cars, some clever and humorous marketing, and the notion of "progressive technology" that appealed to younger buyers into a brand that rattled the hold of Mercedes-Benz and BMW on the German luxury category in the United States.

The lone thing for Audi yet to accomplish is to get sales volumes in the American market that match its relative levels elsewhere in the world, where Audi regularly challenges its national rivals for the global luxury-sales volume title.

Subaru continues to amaze as a volume-restricted brand that seemingly can do no wrong. Tom Doll, the American executive and former bean counter who has masterminded the brand's rise in the United States, has unapologetically pursued only certain niches: all-wheel-drive aficionados; tree-hugging progressives; parents concerned about safety. In their eyes, the Subaru brand is absolute magic.

And by expanding the company's Indiana factory and circling back to nail certain nameplates, such as the impressive little 2017 Impreza model, Subaru still seems to have a lot of runway in this country.



The all-new 2018 Audi Q5 will add to the brand's progressive reputation

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