

WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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**FRANKLIN'S
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MICHIGAN STATE
SPORTS, B1**

Woman sentenced in \$2 million theft

Schuette: CEO's crime 'despicable'

Bill Laitner
Detroit Free Press

She gambled, bought a Mercedes and big motor home, took luxury vacations.

Now, a Westland woman convicted of stealing millions from a veterans credit union she ran will have up to 20 years in prison to ponder her actions.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, who called the



Afutiti

crime "despicable," announced Thursday that Fuataina Afutiti of Westland has been sentenced to a minimum of 2½ years and up to 20 years in prison for stealing nearly \$2 million from the Veterans Health Administration Credit Union, although defense attorneys said she is likely to serve the minimum term.

Afutiti not only took advantage of her position as president and CEO of the cred-

it union, she "took advantage of military veterans, many of whom were disabled or on a fixed income," Schuette said.

"Individuals who served and sacrificed for this country deserve the utmost respect, but instead the members of the credit union were victimized. I am pleased to see this verdict," he said in a news release.

Afutiti, 50, pleaded guilty to one count of receiving proceeds from a continuing criminal enterprise and one count of embezzlement from a credit union, according to the release. She was sentenced Dec. 29 before Wayne County Circuit

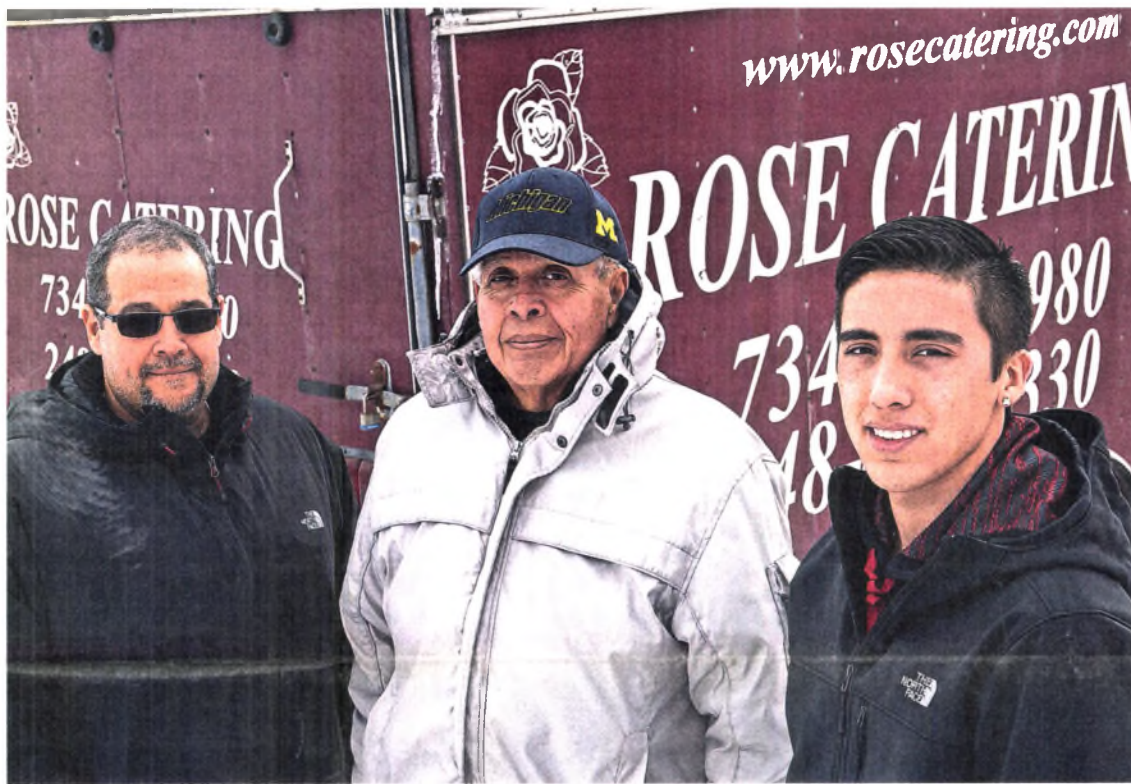
Judge David Groner.

Jeffrey Collins, the attorney representing Afutiti, said in September that his client was remorseful and had cooperated with the investigation. Afutiti's crime was uncovered in February by a routine audit at the credit union, according to the attorney general's office. Regulators charged that the embezzlement took place between 2012 and 2016.

Regulators said the audit uncovered cash shortfalls and irregularities at the credit union when Afutiti was still the president and CEO. After an investigation, regulators

charged that Afutiti leased or bought six vehicles, including a 2013 Mercedes-Benz and a \$100,000 motor home. The money also allegedly was used to pay for Afutiti's vacations.

The Westland credit union was closed in late March and the Public Service Credit Union assumed the assets, loans and stock shares to safeguard the savings of its 1,297 members. Chartered in 1954, the Veterans Health Administration Credit Union primarily served employees of the Detroit and Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Medical Centers.



Chico Rodriguez is turning over his business to Phil Rodriguez and P.J. Rodriguez.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland Jaycees install 2017 officers

With a motto of "Working Together for Success," the Westland Area Jaycees have installed new officers for 2017 (see photo, page A2).

The new officers are: Rebecca Markonni, president; Sarah Austin, chairman of the board; Rebeka Beresford, community vice president; Melody Montgomery, individual development vice president; April Hendryx, public relations liaison; Courtney Ford-Scott, secretary; James Hart, treasurer; Emily Dreyer, membership director; and Andrew Beresford, management director.

The Westland Area Jaycees work in the communities of Westland, Wayne and Garden City. The Jaycees' goals for 2017 include creating partnerships with other local organizations in hopes having a bigger impact.

Three board members were recognized in 2016 at the Jaycees national meeting in Detroit. Austin and Markonni took first-place in the National Debate Competition. Christopher Crawford, 2016 treasurer, was also recognized as their teammate. He has gone on to join the board of directors of his dual chapter, the Livonia Jaycees, as well as holding a Michigan Jaycees Leadership position on the programming team.

Hendryx placed third in the National Speak-up Competition. She is also holding a position this year with Michigan Jaycees Leadership on the programming team, focusing on competitions.

The Westland Area Jaycees have plans for plenty of activities during 2017. Some upcoming events are a bowling fundraiser in February, Easter Egg-Stravaganza in April and Metal Mania in May. Also for the City of Wayne, the Jaycees are planning a Meet the Council event in May.

They also have raked leaves for seniors and provided Christmas gifts to more than 100 children.

The Jaycees are looking for this individuals interested in serving the community. Stop in at a general membership meeting at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at the Wayne-Ford Civic League. The group is open to people ages 21-40.

For more information, visit westlandareajaycees.org.

COP TURNED CATERER: NEPHEW TAKES OVER CANTON COMPANY

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Canton resident Chico Rodriguez's catering business has been all over Wayne County the last 25 years. Now with his retirement, he's hoping the growth he's seen will come naturally to his nephew, a Detroit police officer.

Rodriguez is hanging up his manager's hat with Rose Catering, the company he launched about 25 years ago and ran out of locations such as Canton, Livonia, Plymouth and now Taylor. While he's retiring from running the company, he's found another job he wants to pursue that he hopes will allow him to still help out with his nephew, Phil Rodriguez, who's buying the company.

"Then I can still stay with the catering, because eventually he'll get big enough where he'll need more help," Chico Rodriguez said.



Phil Rodriguez

Phil Rodriguez, a Clinton Township resident and current officer with the Detroit Police Department, said he was big on helping his uncle when he was younger with the business, washing dishes and clearing tables. He got away from it for a while when he joined the Marine Corps and later joined the Detroit police force.

It wasn't until his son P.J. Rodriguez came to him and said he wanted to try his hand at running a business. So at a family party, he was approached by a family member who recommended he speak to his uncle about possibly taking over Rose Catering. The whole process has taken about three months.

"We had talked about ideas

and what we should do and what we could do," he said. "What would be better than keeping something in the family first that he had built and maintaining his legacy?"

Phil Rodriguez plans on completing the takeover of the business sometime in January.

The catering company will serve any food a client desires, from high-end to ballpark cuisine, a mantra Chico Rodriguez said has been the company's slogan for years, and plans on continuing with his nephew.

"I do anything from hot dogs to caviar," Chico Rodriguez said.

Now his son, a mechanical engineering student at Macomb Community College, is helping with the day-to-day operations of the business, especially when his father is at work. It was a venture, P.J. Rodriguez said, he wanted to try out.

"Basically, I just wanted to get out on my own," the 20-year-old Clinton Township resident said. "I just wanted something to do on my own."

They continue to operate in Wayne County: the business has recently began working out of a VFW Hall in Taylor, and they store their trailer at a lot in Westland. More information on the catering company can be found at rosecatering.com.

While it has ties all over the Metro Detroit and comes from nearly an hour away, geography has no bounds for a catering company if the event is big enough.

"When you do the events, there's no distance as long as the clientele is (there)," Chico Rodriguez said. "If there people are there, there's no cost in doing it."

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Livonia native helps animate latest Star Wars movie

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Talk to Keith Sintay about his work and he'll still glow from the excitement.

The former Livonia resident has worked as an animator for more than 20 years, starting his career working with Disney and eventually working his way up to joining the ranks of animators who recently worked on "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story." He will return to work this upcoming week to begin work on the unnamed Star Wars Episode VIII movie coming out next December.

"I've been a Star Wars fan, major fan, since it came out," he said. "I never planned on working on a Star Wars movie. That's just too wild of an idea."

Sintay, who attended both Bentley High School and Churchill High

School in Livonia, went to Central Michigan University and discovered his desire to do animation. He was originally going into business, but switched when he discovered his talents could be used as an artist.

"Back then, with no internet, no computers, things like that, it felt isolated," he said. "My thought of becoming an animator never really occurred to me until I got in at Central, and I was doing artwork around the campus for sororities and for dorm mascot T-shirts and things like that."

So he began building a portfolio and eventually contacted Disney, which hired him as an intern where he worked on the animation for the 1995 movie "Pocahontas."

After working in hand-drawn animation for several years, the studios began transitioning to more digital ani-



Keith Sintay is a Livonia native who's worked on many films as an animator.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

mation, leading him to a career where Sintay also began doing plenty of visual effects, with the first visual effects movie he worked on being "I Am Legend," which starred Will Smith. That work led him to doing work on movies in the Transformers series, "Avengers: Age of Ultron" and "Rogue One." He now works as a senior character animator for Industrial Light and Magic.

Star Wars love

Working on a Star Wars movie was a big step for Sintay, who's been a huge fan of the world a long time ago in a galaxy far, far way since he was a child. He's collected dozens of pieces of memorabilia, including a whole wall of Darth Vader helmets at his California home. He even has gone to great lengths to avoid being exposed to trailers and other information to the new movies, including 2015's "Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens."



Livonia native Keith Sintay poses with Carrie Fisher, left, and Mark Hamill, right, in 2015.

COURTESY OF KEITH SINTAY

He said while attending an event several months before the movie opened, he was given the opportunity to see some footage early. He got out of the theater and pretended to feel sick.

That wasn't the case for "Rogue One," as he needed to understand the movie as much as possible to make sure his animation fit.

"I literally had to dive in," he said.

He's met several of the players involved with the movies, including Carrie Fisher, who died Dec. 27 after suffering a heart attack.

He said her death was difficult. He said she was full of life when he met her last year.

"Being a big Star Wars fan, it was just crazy," he

said. "When I met Carrie Fisher, she's just fun. She loves her dog, and her personality was ... she seemed very upbeat and magical."

He'll begin working on Episode VIII in January.

He took his parents this past week to see "Rogue One" as a family, nudging them whenever a scene he worked one came up. His father Larry Sintay said he's quite proud of the work his son has done over the years, but even more proud of how he continues to teach others his craft.

"What really impresses me the most about him is the mentoring," he said. "I've listened in on those conversations, and he gets five or six people at one time on his computer, and he critiques them and grades them. The stuff that comes out of his mouth, I don't know where he learned it."

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Jaycees honored



Westland Area Jaycees Christopher Crawford (left), Rebecca Markonni, Sarah Austin and April Hendryx with awards earned at the Jaycees national meeting held in Detroit.

DAN MOELLERING

Anderson, state legislators host coffee hours

Wayne County Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson will host coffee hour events in Garden City and Westland with other elected state officials in 2017. Coffee hours will start Monday, Jan. 9, and will be held the second Monday of each month, except for July, August and December.



Anderson

Mike's Grill, 6047 N. Wayne Road. Coffee hour in Garden City will be held 10:30-11:30 a.m. in

the Michigan room at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood Street. Garden City coffee hour will be co-hosted with state Sen. David Knezek and state Rep. Jewell Jones.

Citizens who have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact any of the elected officials by mail, telephone or email:

Senator David Knezek

Mail: P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 855-347-8005
Email: sendknezek@senate.michigan.gov

Representative Robert Kosowski

Mail: P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 517-373-2576
Email: robertkosowski@house.mi.gov

Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson

Mail: 500 Griswold St., 7th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: 313-224-8855
Email: District12@waynecounty.com

Representative Jewell Jones

Mail: P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 517-373-0849
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SPECTRUM CHANNEL LINEUP

Effective on or after February 7, 2017, the following channels will be repositioned from Digi Tier 1 to Digi Tier 2:

- **American Heroes Channel,** channels 159, 1159
- **Destination America,** channels 149, 1149
- **Discovery Family,** channels 117, 1117
- **Science Channel,** channels 135, 335

For a complete channel lineup, visit spectrum.com/channels. To view this notice online, visit Spectrum.net/ProgrammingNotices.

Army veterinarian finds 'great career'

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

The Schlanser family has a long history of service in the U.S. Army, so it's in keeping with that tradition that Justin R. Schlanser became a veterinarian — in the Army.

Lt. Col. Schlanser, who grew up in Northville Township, is one of more than 400 Army veterinarians and a specialist in wildlife and zoo animals.

Stationed since July in Vicenza, Italy, as the command veterinarian for U.S. Army Africa, Schlanser is planning several trips to the African continent, where he'll work with military, public health and veterinary experts in host countries on a variety of projects aimed at protecting both wildlife, the health of soldiers and the civilian population.

His 13-year Army career has taken Schlanser to posts across the country and the world, including deployments in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the military mission to Afghanistan that followed the terrorist attack of 9/11.

"It's really been a great career. I've had the opportunity to do so many things that I never thought I could do while I was in veterinary school," Schlanser said recently by phone from Vicenza.

Schlanser is a 1996 Northville High School graduate who expected to follow an ordinary career path as a veterinarian. "I thought I was going to be a small-animal practitioner somewhere in Michigan and go from there," he said.

But, as he tells it, his father, Lawrence E. Schlanser Jr., researched different opportunities and suggested the Army veterinary corps.

"I had no idea the Army had veterinarians," he said.

The government paid for Schlanser's veterinary education at Michigan State University, from which he received his doctorate in 2003. He entered Army as a captain and headed to basic training at Fort Sam Houston (now called Joint Base San Antonio), where the Army sends its incoming medical personnel.

"We still have to meet the same standards that the rest of the Army meets," he said.

For the Schlansers, Army service stretches back generations. Lawrence Schlanser Jr. served during the Vietnam War, while his late father, Lawrence E. Schlanser, had an Army career, serving in both World War II (he was wounded by a land mine in Europe) and the Korean War and retiring with the rank of major general.

Maj. Gen. Schlanser's father — Justin Schlanser's great-grandfather



Lt. Col. Justin Schlanser works on a bear in northern Michigan as part of his U.S. Army veterinary duties.



Lt. Col. Justin Schlanser in Italy with a military working dog just after his promotion from major last summer. A veterinarian, Schlanser is a wildlife expert assigned to the U.S. Army's Africa command and plans several trips to Africa next year.

as well as to the Secret Service, the Border Patrol and other federal agencies.

Schlanser has fond memories of the Northville area, where he likes to visit downtown Northville, dine at the Tuscan Cafe and visit St. Paul Lutheran Church, which he attended while growing up. He plans a late January visit to see his parents and his children, Adam, 11, and Jaelyn, 8, who live in Plymouth.

"I've been very fortunate in my career, to go where I've gone and do what I've done," he said. "The military has sent me all over the place, but I do look forward to coming home."

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— was an Army surgeon during the World War I era and a pioneer in facial reconstruction. And Justin Schlanser's brother Matthew is a graduate of West Point; the brothers had Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments that overlapped.

"The military's always been there, and I think that's why it was very easy for me to select the Army after veterinary school," Justin Schlanser said.

His parents, who still live in Northville Township, are thrilled with his choice.

"We've been blessed that he's found his niche and enjoys serving the Army in that capacity," said his mother Nancy.

His stories have wowed people at family gatherings, she said. "We always told him he needs to write a book," she said.

Lawrence Schlanser Jr. recalled that his son is also a skilled musician, but realized early the

struggles musicians face in making a decent living. "He went into science and never looked back, basically," he said.

Lt. Col. Schlanser, who also has a master's degree in public health from MSU, said that while animals are his specialty, his larger focus is protecting the health of soldiers and the public. Because they are trained to care for many different species, he said, veterinarians have a broad medical knowledge and can contribute to developing strategies that protect human health.

Projects like animal conservation, keeping biodiversity high and understanding emerging diseases, more than 75 percent of which have animal origins, all positively affect human health, Schlanser said.

The Army veterinary corps also provides veterinary service to other branches of the military,

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Energy, ride-share, driverless car bills signed

Kathleen Gray
Detroit Free Press

Lawmakers saved some of the biggest issues of the year until the final days of the lame-duck session, leaving Gov. Rick Snyder busily signing bills into law as the year draws to a close.

Some of the issues — changing the state's energy-generation system and discipline policies in schools, regulating ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft, setting up the autonomous-vehicle industry in the state and compensating people who were wrongfully convicted and imprisoned — all were signed into law by Snyder in recent days.

He also signed bills into law that will make charges of being a minor in possession of alcohol a civil infraction rather than a misdemeanor, and that will help victims of human trafficking erase criminal convictions from their record.

These bills signed into law last week:

PA 318 (HB 4651): Modify the penalties for un-ensured motorcycle riders. Sponsor: Rep. Julie Plawecki, D-Dearborn Heights.

PA 319 (HB 4388): Expand a school district's permissible use of sinking funds to include school security and technology improvements. Sponsor: Rep. Mike McCready, R-Birmingham.

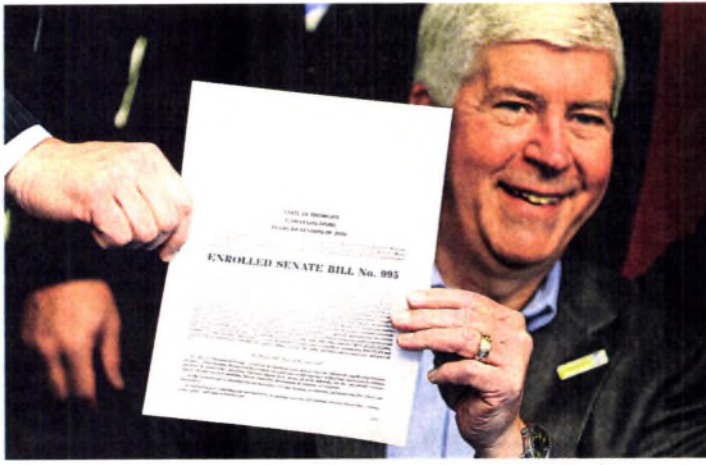
PA 320 (HB 4674): Modify assisted outpatient mental health treatment programs. Sponsor: Rep. Tom Leonard, R-Dewitt.

PA 321-322 (HB 5656-5657): Establish a pilot program for vehicle testing of an individual holding a commercial license permit from another state. Sponsors: Reps. Marilyn Lane, D-Fraser, and Peter Petalio, R-Presque Isle.

PA 323 (HB 4047): Name a portion of M-18 between Gladwin and Beaverton the Veterans Memorial Highway. Sponsor: Rep. Joel Johnson, R-Clare.

PA 324 (HB 4588): Allow private college security officers to provide off-campus law enforcement. Sponsor: Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth.

PA 325 (HB 4911): Allow the option to dis-



Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder poses for a photograph after signing legislation that establishes comprehensive regulations for the testing, use and eventual sale of autonomous vehicle technology at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn on Dec. 9, 2016.

close the identity of paternity in a private adoption. Sponsor: Rep. Kathy Crawford, R-Nov.

PA 326 (HB 5181): Expand the arrest authority of peace officers to include airport authority police. Sponsor: Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth.

PA 327 (HB 5447): Establish a maximum number of fundraising license plates. Sponsor: Rep. Peter Pettalia, R-Presque Isle.

PA 328 (SB 885): Expand eligibility for liquor licenses to include nonpublic continuing-care retirement centers. Sponsor: Sen. Peter MacGregor, R-Rockford.

PA 329 (HB 4580): Allow the revocation of certain tax abatements. Sponsor: Rep. Andy Schor, D-Lansing.

PA 330-331 (SB 597 and HB 5504): Enact the qualified dispositions in probate trusts act. Sponsors: Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton, and Rep. Clint Kesto, R-Commerce Township.

PA 332-334 (SB 995-997): Allow driving of autonomous vehicles in a testing setting and provide for a autonomous-vehicle mobility research center. Sponsor: Sens. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, and Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor.

PA 335 (SB 998): Exempt motor vehicle mechanics and repair facilities from liability for repairs made to autonomous vehicles. Sponsor: Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth.

PA 336-338 (HB 5542-5544): Provide for the expungement of convictions for victims of human trafficking and set aside adjudication of juveniles for certain prostitution-related offenses connected to human trafficking. Sponsors: Reps. Laura Cox, R-Livonia, Gary Howell, R-North Branch, and Nancy Jenkins, R-Clayton.

PA 339 (HB 4874): Rename a portion of business US-127 as the PFC Andrew Nelson Memorial Highway. Sponsor: Rep. Tom Leonard, R-Dewitt.

PA 340 (SB 800): Provide for a supplemental appropriations budget for programs in 13 state departments. Sponsor: Sen. Dave Hildenbrand, R-Lowell.

PA 341-342 (SB 437-438): Reform of the state's electric energy system, modifying the state's 10% choice program and requiring utilities to generate 15% of their energy supply from renewable resources. Sponsors: Sens. Mike Nofs, R-Battle Creek, and John Proos, R-St. Joseph.

PA 343-344 (SB 291 and HB 5815): Provide compensation of \$50,000 per year and re-entry services for people who are wrongly convicted and imprisoned. Sponsors: Sen. Steven Bieda, D-Warren, and Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit.

PA 345-349 (HB 4637, 4639-4641, SB 392): Establish regulations for transportation network companies, create the commercial passenger transportation act, and change no-fault insur-

ance laws to address drivers and passengers in transportation network company vehicles. Sponsors: Reps. Tim Kelly, R-Saginaw Township, Brandt Iden, R-Oshtemo Township, Tom Barrett, R-Pottersville, Phil Phelps, D-Flushing, and Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge.

PA 350 (HB 5024): Create the impaired-driving safety commission. Sponsor: Rep. Peter Lucido, R-Shelby Township.

PA 351 (HB 5128): Allow retired state employees to contract with Department of Natural Resources for wildfire suppression without losing retirement benefits. Sponsor: Rep. Bruce Rendon, R-Lake City.

PA 352 (HB 5205): Rename a portion of US-2 in the Upper Peninsula as the Kenneth J. Moraska Memorial Highway. Sponsor: Rep. Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan.

PA 353 (HB 5215): Provide for penalties and prohibition of removing a dog collar with the intent of removing evidence of the dog's ownership. Sponsor: Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona.

PA 354 (HB 5273): Eliminate the veto power for successor judges related to certain parole decisions. Sponsor: Rep. Dave Pagel, R-Berrien Springs.

PA 355 (HB 5591): Allow a vote to amend or repeal restrictive covenants by electronic signature. Sponsor: Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona.

PA 356 (HB 5702): Provide for the issuance of permits to prevent or control damage, disease or nuisance caused by animals. Sponsor: Rep. Jon Bumstead, R-Newaygo.

PA 357-358 (SB 332-333): Change the penalties for a minor in possession of alcohol from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction, and suspend a person's license after a third minor-in-possession offense. Sponsor: Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge.

PA 359 (SB 753): Provide for the regulation of telehealth in Michigan. Sponsor: Sen. Peter MacGregor, R-Rockford.

PA 360-366 (HB 5618-5621 and 5693-5695): Change Michigan's zero-tolerance policies towards discipline measures taken in school districts to provide more flexibility for schools and transparency for parents. Sponsors: Reps. Andy Schor, D-Lansing, Al Pscholka, R-Stevensville, Adam Zemke, D-Ann Arbor, Lisa Lyons, R-Alto, Martin Howrylak, R-Troy, David LaGrand, D-Grand Rapids, and Peter Lucido, R-Shelby Township.

PA 367-368 (SB 33 and 510): Prevent the Michigan Department of Education and the Center for Educational Performance from selling private information of students to for-profit businesses and create a Student Online Personal Protection Act. Sponsor: Sen. Phil Pavlov, R-Saint Clair.

PA 369 (HB 4185): Allow for an appeals process for salvage vehicle inspectors who are decertified by the Department of State. Sponsor: Rep. Julie Plawecki, D-Dearborn Heights.

PA 370 (HB 4814): Require state departments to have one standardized layout for contact information. Sponsor: Rep. Jim Runestad, R-White Lake.

PA 371 (HB 5001): Increase the education hours that massage therapists need to get their licenses from 500 hours to 625. Sponsor: Rep. Dan Lauwers, R-Brockway.

PA 372-373 (HB 5824-5825): Expand the definition of an "addition" to include freestanding buildings that are under a nonprofit medical facility's license. Sponsor: Rep. Ben Glardon, R-

Owosso.

PA 374 (HB 4625): Allow community colleges to expand their tax district to non-bordering communities and offer lower tuition to students in those communities after the expansion is approved by the local district and local voters. Sponsor: Rep. Amanda Price, R-Park Township.

PA 375 (HB 4677): Allow municipal assessors to create a separate tax parcel for a portion of farm land that is no longer considered agricultural property. Sponsor: Rep. David Maturen, R-Vicksburg.

PA 376 (HB 4850): Give state purchasing preference to Michigan sourced bio-based products. Sponsor: Rep. Jason Sheppard, R-Temperance.

PA 377 (HB 5484) Expand acceptable colors for hunting clothing and gear to include "hunter pink" after a safety review is done by the Natural Resources Commission. Sponsor: Rep. Lisa Lyons, R-Alto.

PA 378 (HB 5520): Removes the requirement for a dowry provision in judgements of divorce and separation agreements. Sponsor: Rep. Clint Kesto, R-Commerce Township.

PA 379 (HB 5533): Eliminate the requirement that a physician's assistant practice under the supervision of a physician, but the assistant must obtain a practice agreement with a participating physician. Sponsor: Rep. Ed Canfield, R-Sebewaing.

PA 380 (HB 5599) Clarify the definition and uses of the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund and reduces the amount an owner and operator must pay in order to access the fund. Sponsor: Rep. Andrea LaFontaine, R-Columbus.

PA 381 (SB 717): Expand the types of actions allowed in order to facilitate the clean-up of an underground fuel tank. Sponsor: Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba.

PA 382 (SB 1187): Allow the Natural Resources Commission to designate gray wolf as a species that can be hunted if and when Congress removes the animal from the endangered species list. Sponsor: Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba.

Michigan tower research helping save songbirds

Lighting changes reduce collisions

Jennifer Dixon
Detroit Free Press

More than a decade ago, 100 researchers fanned out across Michigan to count the number of injured and dead songbirds at the base of 24 communications towers during the peak of the birds' spring and fall migrations.

They concluded that the towers with steady, burning lights were more deadly to the birds than towers with flashing lights — and that by simply turning off the steady lights, they could reduce deadly bird-tower collisions by 70 percent. An estimated 7 million birds are killed annually in tower collisions in the U.S. — and most are songbirds that migrate at night.

It took years, plus the coordination of three federal agencies, to respond to the research coordinated by the East Lansing field office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. But now, the Federal Aviation Administration has changed its lighting standards for new communication towers, while the Fish and Wildlife Service recently began working to persuade owners and operators of existing towers across Michigan to turn off the burning lights or switch to flash-



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
The Kirtland's warbler is a rare bird that nests only in certain areas of northern Michigan.

ing lights. The lights are meant to protect aircraft of all kinds from striking these towers.

There are thousands of towers across the country, used by broadcasters and communications and telecommunications providers. Only newly built towers are affected; replacing or turning off the burning lights is voluntary for existing tower owners. Owners of towers that have both steady and sufficient flashing lights can simply extinguish the steady lights. Experts say that could save owners money on maintenance and power costs.

Audubon Great Lakes, the Chicago-based office of the National Audubon Society that manages conservation work throughout the region to protect and improve

habitat critical for birds during migration and nesting cycles, said it's also willing to use its chapter network across the Great Lakes to reach out to tower owners and operators about switching or turning off lights. Work could begin in 2017.

"We're really proud of the work of the office, done in collaboration with the state of Michigan and the Federal Communications Commission. We're really pleased we had an opportunity to do something that has nationwide implications for migratory birds," said Jack Dingleline, deputy field supervisor at the wildlife service's East Lansing field office.

It all started in 1998, when the Fish and Wildlife Service learned Michigan had plans to build a telecommunications network of 179 towers.

"We had some concerns about the potential impact of those towers on migratory birds, including the endangered Kirtland's warbler," which nests almost exclusively in northern Michigan, Dingleline said.

The agency approached the state, asking for access to the base of the towers so that researchers could measure the number of dead birds as they migrated between Michigan and the southern U.S., Central America and South

America in the fall and spring.

The state also provided more than \$100,000 in funding for the research.

Led by Joelle Gehring, who was working on a post-doctorate at Central Michigan University at the time, researchers did their pilot work at six towers in fall 2003. In fall and spring of 2004 and 2005, for three weeks at a time, they counted dead birds at 24 towers from southwest Michigan to the Upper Peninsula.

And they found that towers that had flashing and non-flashing lights were significantly more dangerous than those with only flashing lights.

Gehring and two colleagues published their study in a scientific journal in 2009, then the Federal Aviation Administration, which regulates tower lighting, did its own research to ensure aircraft would still be safe if the non-flashing lights were turned off or replaced.

» In December 2015, the FAA changed its standards for tower lighting to eliminate the steady lights on new towers. Now, Dingleline says his office is working with existing tower owners across Michigan to persuade them to update their lighting.

He said the changes can actually save tower owners money, with reduced power and maintenance costs.

» While the Federal

Communications Commission licenses communications towers, it requires owners and operators to comply with standards set by the FAA.

Dingleline said there is some evidence the birds may be attracted to lights on the tower, especially in foggy weather, and then they collide with the tower or the wires that support the structure.

"The light can confuse them when they migrate," he said.

» But scientists aren't exactly sure why the steady lights are more dangerous than blinking lights.

Protecting these migrating songbirds is important because "birds are a harbinger of the health of your ecosystem. They are some of the most diverse species on earth, occur in every region of the planet and a good, healthy bird population means you have a good, healthy natural environment," Dingleline said.

» Caleb Putnam, Michigan bird conservation coordinator for Audubon Great Lakes and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, said the Michigan research is "one of the most important bird-mortality-reducing research done in recent memory."

He said bird experts have tried for years to address the issue, and Gehring was able to

"make a difference over thousands of towers. It's such a common sense solution to a huge problem."

» Putnam was one of the technicians who got up at dawn for three weeks straight to count dead birds at the base of a 1,100-foot-tall communications tower in southwest Michigan. The workers had to get to the site before day break, so they could find the birds before the raccoons and other scavengers got them.

"We found birds alive, with their beaks broken off," Putnam said. On some days, he'd find 10-20 dead or injured warblers. But if the birds hadn't migrated the night before, he wouldn't find any. And it wasn't easy spotting them in the tall grass that surrounded much of the tower.

» Saving those birds from tower collisions is part of the effort to "prevent future extinctions," Putnam said. "The challenge is that most of our songbird populations are in decline. Many of these species are lacking habitat in breeding areas, and as they get into the tropics, there is deforestation, coffee plantations, climate issues, all these other pressures on them."

"To not allow these species to migrate successfully twice a year, especially with this level of mortality, it starts to become a population-changing pressure."

WAYNE COUNTY EVENTS CALENDAR

Neighbors and friends

Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a Women's Club in Livonia, will host author Sgt. Robert Haig, a veteran of the Detroit Police Department. Haig will discuss his law enforcement journey, as covered in his book, "Ten Little Police Chiefs: a Detroit Police Story." Join the club at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10. The event will take place at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road in Livonia.

Livonia Neighbors and Friends is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, September through May at 7 p.m. Special activity groups continue to meet year round.

For more information, visit livonianighborsandfriends.tripod.com

Wayne Historic Homes

Join Tyler from the Wayne Historical Museum as he shares insights on how to research old houses in the area. Learn how historic dwellings and their previous owners relate to the community's past. The talk is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road. To register for this free program, visit the Adult Services Desk or call 734-721-7821.

Benefit concert

Six of Michigan's best roots and blues artists join together for an evening celebrating the music of Blind Willie Johnson at 8 p.m. Saturday Jan. 7, at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

The performance will benefit Neighborhood Service Organization. The artists who will perform include Joel Mabius, Shari Kane and Dave Steele, Jo Serrapere and John Devine, Lac La Belle, Danny Kroha and Rollee Tussing.

Blind Willie Johnson was a gospel blues singer and guitarist who came to prominence in the 1920s and 1930s. The American-based record label, Alligator Records, recently celebrated his music with a tribute CD called "God Don't Never Change - The Songs of Blind Willie Johnson." Tickets are \$20, \$17 for subscribers and are available at www.trinityhousetheatre.org.

The Power of Nonviolence

The Citizens for Peace will present a talk by the co-founder of the Michigan based Meta Peace Team, Rev. C. Peter Dougherty, at its meeting set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, at Unity of Livonia (28660 Five Mile). In his presentation, "The Power of Nonviolence to Transform Ourselves and Our World," Dougherty will share his firsthand experiences of the positive effect of nonviolence on individuals and



Joel Mabius is among the performers at the Trinity House this weekend.

ZOLTON COHEN

groups all around the U.S. and countries around the world. All are welcome. For more information, call 734-425-0079 or visit www.citizens4peace.com.

One-stop screening

Wayne Senior Services and Beaumont Community Health will offer a free One-Stop Health Screening from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the HYPE Recreation Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. Screening includes: blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose (diabetes). No fasting is required. No appointments are needed. The screening is available to anyone 18 years and older.

Blues and jazz at the Elks

Blues @ The Elks happens on the second Tuesday of the month from 7-10 p.m. at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society (www.detroitbluesociety.org). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes.

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, the Alicia Marie Band will perform. The band features Alicia Marie on guitar and vocals, Dan Devins on harmonica and vocals, Kurt Krahnke on bass, and Ron Pangborn on drums. Alicia Marie is inspired by B.B. King and many of the legends in blues.

Jazz @ The Elks happens on the last Tuesday of the month from 7-9:30 p.m. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres. Enjoy jazz in a listening room setting close to the entertainers.

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, join The Boogie Woogie Kid Trio with the award-winning singer Emma-Lee Aboukasm, YouTube's viral sensation The Motor City Boogie Woogie Kid and drummer Gary Stevens for a night of piano and song favorites from the swing dancing days of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Classics include "Women



Co-founder of the Michigan based Meta Peace Team, Rev. C. Peter Dougherty.

SUBMITTED

be Wise," "In the Mood," "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," "Basin Street Blues," "Blue Moon" and many more. For a preview, visit www.boogiewoogiekid.com.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road. For more information, call 734-453-1780, visit www.plyaa325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com

Bariatric seminars

The Michigan Bariatric Institute 3622 Five Mile Road, Suite 202 in Livonia, offers free monthly educational seminars. The public is invited to hear a presentation about Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery by Bariatric Surgeon Dr. Tallal Zeni, director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery at St. Mary Mercy Livonia and Dr. Jacob Roberts, Bariatric Surgeon at St. Mary Mercy Livonia.

These educational seminars will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the following dates: Thursday, Jan. 5; Monday, Jan. 16; Thursday, Feb. 2; Monday, Feb. 13; Thurs-

day, March 2; Monday, March 13.

This seminar is free, but registration is required. To register or for more information, please call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at 877-949-9344.

Weight management program

On Jan. 10 and March 14, St. Mary Mercy Livonia will host a weight management program titled "Weigh Your Options." Registered dietitians will provide information to help individuals begin a weight loss program. Attendees will learn about successful weight management programs, where to find reliable resources and healthy activities in the community, and what is needed to develop a healthy lifestyle. Participants will learn how to read food labels, write SMART goals and determine their healthiest weight. The class will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. in St. Mary Mercy's Classroom 2, 36475 Five Mile Road in Livonia (accessed from the south

entrance).

There is a \$5 fee for this class and registration is required. Register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "Classes and Events."

3D Photography Club meeting

The club will meet from 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile Road. The meeting will feature some of the best programs from the recent National Stereoscopic Association conventions. There will also be the first of three scheduled "Freebie" drawings for free 3D items.

The public is invited to join the meeting to see many award-winning 3D images. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome. Stereo cameras, 3D movies, and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent. For more information, visit www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

Livonia features artist Gwendolyn Roth

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

Roth's passion for photography has led her to creating encouraging viewpoints that consider our world in an uplifting or surprising new light. In her artist statement she states, "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.

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 will be held at 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 Greenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. For more information, call the Counseling Department at 734-419-2215.

St. Edith open house

The public is invited to an open house set for 6-7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, and noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29.

St. Edith Catholic School is a MANS accredited Catholic School for 4-year-old preschool and kindergarten through eighth grade.

For more information, visit www.stedithschool.com

Free open skate

The Redford Ice Arena offers a free open skate at the Redford Ice Arena or all residents and students from 6:05-7:05 p.m. every Sunday. All residents and Redford students are free. Cost for others is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and children. Skate rental is \$3. The arena is at 12400 Beech Daly Road.

Winter Survival Gear Drive for the Homeless

Crossroad Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia, will host a drive for the homeless 10:30 a.m. to 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 turtle-necks. For more information, visit www.CrossroadsNow.org, email info@CrossroadsNow.org or call 734-338-5149

Widowed Friends

Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group for Widowed Men/Women hosting Bereavement Support Series. Widowed persons of all ages are encouraged to attend the bereavement support series to help deal with the emotions and other issues often experienced following the loss of a spouse.

This six-week session is facilitated by a trained member of Widowed Friends and will be held at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh Road, in Livonia. It begins 1-2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5. Registration is required. For more information, call Priscilla at 734-591-7879.

Take time in new year to get financial matters straight

Happy New Year! First, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year. I hope that 2017 is the year when all your dreams come true.

The beginning of a new year is a great time to recommit to keeping your financial affairs in order. When it comes to personal finance, there are five main areas you need to focus on: estate planning, investments, taxes, risk management and debt. It is important to make sure that all five areas are taken care of. If one of these areas is deficient, it can cause all sorts of problems. As difficult as it may be, it is important to consider all five areas.

In estate planning, it's important to review all



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

your documents, including your will, trust and power of attorney. You need to make sure they are accurate and up to date. If you do not have any of these documents, now is the time to do them. Remember, estate planning is not just planning for your death; it's also planning for family emergencies. The more you keep judges, courts and lawyers out of family affairs, the easier life is. Having up-to-date estate planning documents can make handling a family crisis easier on your loved ones.

From an investment standpoint, it is always

important to make sure your current investments match your individual goals and objectives and risk tolerance level. Investors who do not have a game plan are gambling and we know what happens to most gamblers — they lose. Now is the time to review your portfolio to make sure it reflects your current goals and objectives.

When it comes to taxes, always remember your goal is not to lower your taxes, but to be smart with them. That means different things for different people. For example, for many it may mean converting traditional IRAs into Roth IRAs. For those with children, it may mean taking advantage of the Michigan Education Savings Plan. Remember, taxes are more

than filing your tax returns; it's making sure you handle transactions properly and take advantage of opportunities such as retirement saving accounts or even available flexible spending plans.

When it comes to risk management, the important thing is to identify risks and decide if it is a risk you can assume or need to deal with. Insurance is one way of covering risk, but not all risks need to be insured. Furthermore, when it comes to risk management, for those of you with homes and cars, it's important to review your coverage to make sure it still fits your needs; shop your coverages around. Remember, when reviewing your coverages, don't forget about your deductible. Raising your de-

ductible is a great way to lower your premium.

In addition, when reviewing your risk management needs, don't forget about life insurance. Not everyone needs life insurance and there are many people who continue to pay on policies they do not need. The question is not whether or not we are going to die, because we all know that answer. The question is will anyone lose financially if you die? If the answer is no, you don't need insurance.

Lastly, it is always important to review your debt situation. Not all debt is the same. For example, some debt is tax-deductible while some is not. The key is to review your debt situation and make sure you're being efficient with it. Even though

everyone's debt situation is different, one thing I can tell you is if you have charge card debt, it is a type of debt that needs to be extinguished as soon as you can.

Getting and keeping your financial house in order is not easy, but it must be done. We live in a time where everything changes at a rapid pace and we have to be able to respond accordingly. The consequences of not keeping your financial house in order can be severe, not only to you, but also to your family. Therefore, as we start the new year, spending time and getting your personal financial affairs in order will help make 2017 a good year for you.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com.

Family ends 30-year run at Plymouth Manor

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Nick Ristich remembers the bride who overcame her temporary paralysis and, on her wedding day, was able to walk down the aisle of a chapel inside Plymouth Manor, a longtime Ristich family business.

"There wasn't a dry eye in the church," Ristich said.

Another couple returned in mid-November to Plymouth Manor, where they were married 25 years ago, to celebrate their anniversary. The wife surprised her husband by bringing him to the place where the Ristich family set up a lone dining table on the dance floor.

"I served them what they had 25 years ago," said Lisa Briones, one of Ristich's three daughters. "They slow-danced and had champagne."

Memories, laughter and tears were in abundance as Briones, Ristich and his other daughters, Krista Schneider and Stephanie Kopinski, talked of the banquet and catering business they are turning over to new owners come Jan. 1, ending a 30-year run. At age 79, Ristich is ready to slow down.

Ristich and his daughters wiped away tears when they spoke of Ristich's wife, Tiu, who died Sept. 11 at age 75. A native of Estonia who spent time in a German camp during World War II, she ran the family's former business, the Cozy Cafe in Plymouth, which was sold a decade ago after a 25-year run.

Everybody called her Mrs. Cozy.

"It's not the same without her," Kopinski said, "but we know she's at peace."

Ristich said the Cozy Cafe brought in the revenue the family needed to buy Plymouth Manor, which followed other Ristich enterprises such as the old Detroit bar Jordan's On The River. Ristich's daughters, now in their 50s, remember working at the cafe when they were mere teens.

The entire family, including Ristich's five



Nick Ristich with daughters Krista Schneider, Stephanie Kopinski and Lisa Briones.

DARRELL CLEM



Ristich and his daughters, outside the business where they gave 30 years of their lives.

DARRELL CLEM

women entrepreneurs. You can't learn that from a textbook."

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said Plymouth Manor has been good for the city.

"I think Nick and his family have worked very hard at that business and they have certainly been a very integral part of the community," he said, adding later, "They have just done so many neat things at that location. They are really a critical part of the overall community."

Ristich is passing the Plymouth Manor torch to new owners Mohammed Nawwas of Plymouth and his nephew, Samer Saad of Ann Arbor.

"We're glad that the business is staying," Sincock said, "and we will continue to carry on the legacy that Nick and his family have provided."

Plymouth residents Terry and Molly Bixler actually bought the Plymouth Manor building from the Ristich family and brought in Nawwas and Saad.

"We liked the legacy that the Ristich family had created and we wanted to make sure that it continued on," Bixler said. "We are part of the community and we want to help the community in any way we can."

The Ristich family said the last 30 years have been rewarding as they helped make their patrons' events a success. They will miss the parties, the celebrations, the dinners they served.

Leaving the business behind is bittersweet. Even the daughters' children have worked there, including Schneider's daughter, Samantha Faulkner; Briones' children, Anthony and Christina; and Kopinski's sons, Zachary and Jake.

"Every business has a life cycle," Schneider said. "It's time for someone else to write their story here."

Coming soon, the Observer talks with the new owners of the Plymouth Manor business.

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Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919

grandchildren, have all pitched in to make Plymouth Manor, 345 N. Main, a place where memories have been made during weddings, receptions, memorial services, corporate parties and other gatherings. For 24 years, Schneider also ran a bridal salon, I Do, Too, on the second floor of the 14,000-square-foot, 400-seat manor.

Ristich had a vision for his business and he made it happen.

"He has always been an entrepreneur," Briones said.

The sisters recalled working long days at the Cozy Cafe and then going to Plymouth Manor to

work well into the night during events. The family did it all, working together to succeed.

"We learned how to do everything because on any given day, if someone didn't show up for work, the show must go on," Kopinski said.

All three of Ristich's daughters were married at Plymouth Manor, and Schneider's daughter, Samantha Faulkner, followed suit. It's a place where family and business were woven into one, a place where Ristich taught his family so much.

"Our father was one of the most incredible mentors," Briones said. "He taught us skills to be

Passages

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How to reach us:
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • www.middeathnotices.com

Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers • Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

BIR



CHRISTOPHER DAVID passed away in his parent's home in California on December 28, 2016 after a 4 month battle with colon cancer. He was 20 years old. A 2013 graduate of Plymouth High School, Christopher was active in the PCEP - Choir. Music was a big part of his life. After spending one year performing with The Young Americans in California, he returned to Michigan to continue his education at Eastern Michigan University majoring in Music Therapy. He is survived by his parents, David and Cynthia, his brother Alexander, his two sisters - Rebecca and Rachel, his grandmother - Marjorie Carr and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. A memorial mass will be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, MI at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 7th. A Celebration of Life will follow at the Plymouth Manor and Banquet Hall from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family has established a memorial fund for the PCEP - Choir program. Donations can be made at <https://www.youcaring.com/plymouthcantoneducationalparkchoir-726024> or by mailing a check to Salem High School - Attn: Jennifer Neumann.

MARTINELLI

GUIDO Age 96. January 1, 2017. Beloved husband of the late Amelia. A proud US Army Veteran who served in World War II. Survived by seven nieces and nephews here and abroad. Services are private. Arrangements by Weise Funeral Home, 7210 Park, Allen Park (313-382-1150). Sign online guestbook at www.weisefuneralhome.com.

MORROW

LEE 85, passed away peacefully, January 1, 2017. Preceded in death by his wife Adele. Loving father of Carolyn Sharpe (Rick), Jelane Ciranna (Bob) and Bob Morrow. Beloved grandfather of Lauren (Matt), Ryan (Mallory), Brandon and Steve. Lee has dedicated many decades of service to the City of Livonia, including Past President of the Planning Commission, Livonia Spree and Hearts of Livonia. Family will receive friends Friday 2-9 p.m. at Neely-Turowski Funeral Home 30200 Five Mile (Between Middlebelt and Merriman), where a funeral service will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers family suggests donations be made to Homes for Our Troops or Operation Homefront. To sign the online guestbook, please visit www.TurowskiLifeStory.com

SMITH



BONNY S. age 86 of Plymouth, passed away on December 30, 2016. Born on March 19, 1930 in Smithville, Arkansas to James and Blanche Spotts. Bonny married Earl Smith on December 30, 1967 and together they would establish themselves in the Plymouth Community as owners of multiple businesses and properties. She is survived by her husband Earl and loving daughter Lauren (John) Falcusan. She is the proud grandmother of Jansan (Chandler) Rhoads, Jordan (Valtteri) Filppula and Kimberly (Ed) Moder and great-grandmother of Easton, Jaxson, Jaidyn, Eddie and Logan. Bonny is also the dear sister of Beau Neely. The family will receive friends on Saturday, January 7th from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Burial will take place at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth with a private family service. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, Attn: Tribute Processing Center, 3816 Paysphere Circle, Chicago, IL 60674 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959.

WORTMANN

ROBERT G. Age 67, of Taylorsville, N. Carolina mercifully passed away December 31, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, son, Eric both of Taylorsville and brother Michael Wortmann of Dearborn, Michigan.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.



A view of the back of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital in Northville Township, which has been closed since 2003.

ERIC SEALS | DETROIT FREE PRESS

Man is latest accused of trespassing at old hospital

Ann Zaniewski
Detroit Free Press



Kelley

Urban explorers, beware: A trip to the old Northville Psychiatric Hospital — especially if it's documented on social media — could land you in legal hot water.

About 300 people found that out last year, including Shane Kelley, a 28-year-old New Baltimore man who was charged with trespassing this week after a picture surfaced on social media of him on the roof of a building at the site.

The sprawling, run-down psychiatric hospital on Seven Mile Road was open from 1952 until 2003. In the years since it closed, it has become somewhat of a mecca for urban adventurers and ghost hunters.

Northville Township owns the property.

"We've come across people from as far away as Grand Rapids or Ohio going on the

property," Northville Township Police Lt. Paul Tennes said.

Because of the hospital's popularity, police regularly monitor social media sites for postings about it.

The picture of Kelley on a building roof in October — which appears to be a selfie — surfaced on Facebook, according to police. The picture was captioned "On the roof of Northville."

Authorities issued a warrant for Kelley's arrest. He turned himself in to Northville Township police and was arraigned

in 35th District Court in Plymouth.

Trespassing is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Kelley could not immediately be reached for comment.

Tennes said Kelley is among about 300 people who were arrested in 2016 on charges of trespassing on the property.

The police department has a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to trespassers because the site can be dangerous, Tennes said.

"Safety is our primary focus," he said. "Due to the buildings deteriorating in their current condition, it's not an area where people should be traveling or exploring. We're concerned about people's safety. There's also concerns about asbestos in those buildings."

Livonia native launches Detroit tour company

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

John Chezick may be a businessman, but don't ask him if he's going to sell you Michigan's largest city.

"I never say I sell Detroit, because Detroit doesn't need to be sold," said the Detroit resident and Livonia Stevenson High School graduate. "If you spend enough time here and you open your eyes, you're going to see something you love in the city."

That drive has taken him to launch his own business designed to showcase the Motor City for businesses and other groups. He launched Urb Appeal Tours earlier this fall, a tour company he runs out of his Woodbridge neighborhood residence.

His company does not offer any public tours at this point, but those companies and agencies able to snag a tour with Chezick have several options: he offers tours focusing on Detroit's downtown, dining, bars and innovation throughout Detroit. Some tours are done by bus, some on foot.

"These can be themed around different neighborhoods or interests," Chezick said. "As it's going, just to make sure they have a better understanding of Detroit as a whole."

Chezick's company isn't the only new one popping up in the city, either. Deanna Majchrzak, a spokeswoman for the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, said they've seen quite a few more tour companies popping up and joining their ranks.

"In recent years we've noticed an uptick in tour offerings in Detroit," she said. "Visitors can now take walking, driving, bike, Segway,



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jon Chezick snaps a photos of the Detroit skyline from DMC Heart Hospital.



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jon Chezick shows a group inside of the Guardian Building in Detroit Financial District.



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jon Chezick chats with a client during a break.

boat and kayak tours focused on a range of topics from architecture to food and new development and beer."

Urban lifestyle

Chezick moved to the city several years ago and decided it was the life for him. It's a lifestyle move he's happy he's made, especially being able to contribute to the positive things happening within the city.

"I really wanted to have an urban lifestyle. I think that's becoming more and more common with ... young people," he said. "I think younger people want to have that urban lifestyle, and you see that with people leaving suburbs and moving to cities."

It's happening all over the country as well."

His tours are designed especially for those who are coming to the region that are working or potentially living downtown. His goal, he said, is to make the initial impression many may have when they first hear they could work in Detroit a posi-

tive one instead of the stereotypical negative one.

"If you're getting a job, especially if you're coming from outside of Southeast Michigan and you have a job in Detroit, that might not sound great to you," he said.

More information on his company can be found by visiting urbappealtours.com.

He said he likes to highlight specific areas of the city, including iconic facilities such as the Guardian Building. That's a facility, he said, he always tries to highlight on his tours.

"People who aren't familiar with Detroit, they walk into the Guardian building and it establishes Detroit as a world-class city," Chezick said. "Because only a world-class city would have that kind of architecture."

"In my opinion, it's one of the most beautiful buildings you'll find anywhere."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Vehicle broken into

Livonia police were dispatched Monday morning to a residence in the 18200 block of Middlebelt on the report of a larceny from an auto that was taking place at the time.

Police saw a vehicle pull out of the parking lot of the residence and pulled it over. The driver explained she had come to visit some family in the area and came out to her vehicle that night to find the driver's door would not close properly. She and another individual were using flashlights to try to examine the issue a little more, which prompted the original call to police. The driver said it had appeared someone had pushed in the lock slightly to the car. She said she, as well as another family member, saw two individuals walking around the area, but could not identify them.

Attempted theft of vehicle reported

Police were called Sunday morning to a home in the 30500 block of Bobrich on the report of a possible attempted vehicle theft.

The victim told police the vehicle was parked in the driveway of the home the last few days with the doors locked. The victim came back to the car and found the door slightly open and the stereo missing. The ignition had been punched and there were signs someone had tried to steal the vehicle. The car door had been pried open and the lock mechanism was damaged. Nothing else appeared missing.

Car broken into, knife missing

Police were dispatched Saturday afternoon to a home in the 31200 block of Mayville on the report of a break-in of a vehicle.

The resident said someone had tried to steal his vehicle sometime in the last 24 hours

while it was parked. The car was left unlocked and the ignition cylinder was lying on the ground. The glove box to the car was also open. The driver said he noticed his hunting knife, which was in the glove box before, was missing.

Shoplifting suspect arrested

Police were called the morning of Dec. 29 to Menards, 12701 Middlebelt, on the report of a retail fraud suspect that had fled the store.

A store employee told police they saw the suspect come into the store, select several items such as a thermostat and outlet covers and place them in her purse. An employee attempted to confront the suspect, but she fled the store. The items were recovered at the scene. Police searched the area and found the woman inside the Dick's Sporting Goods at the Livonia Commons shopping center, just north of Menards. She was arrested and taken to the police station for processing.

CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 17, 2017

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for January 17, 2017 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items

The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on February 15, 2017 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m.

(Published January 5, 2017)

LO-0000307648 3x2

CITY OF WESTLAND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185, on **January 18th, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:


VENDING MACHINES FOR CITY BUILDINGS

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Devin J. Adams
City Controller

Published: January 5, 2017

LO-0000307754 3x2.5



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7 to 8:30 p.m. - Keynote Speaker, **Aziz Alkatib, MD**
Cardiologist
St. Mary Mercy Livonia


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Learn more about heart disease in women and what you can do to help prevent it.


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Prizes • Vendors • Massage Light Refreshments

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Aziz Alkatib, MD



Women's Health SERVICES

Civics: lawmakers want grads to learn more

Immigrants may know more than students, say state lawmakers

Lori Higgins
Detroit Free Press

Quick, name one of the writers of the Federalist Papers. If James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay or their pseudonym Publius was one of your answers, congratulations! You're on your way to knowing as much about civics as an immigrant taking the U.S. Naturalization Test.

But if you can't name the authors and you have to fire up Google to figure out what the heck the Federalist Papers are, you're the reason Michigan lawmakers are trying to make sure students graduate high school with a working knowledge of civics.

The Federalist Papers, for the record, is a collection of writings that promoted the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

The Michigan Legislature last week gave final approval to a bill that will require the state's social studies standards to cover the same material that those wanting to be U.S. citizens must know to pass the civics portion of the citizenship exam, plus the state high school exam also must test students on this material. The standards must be updated by May 1, 2018.

The legislation now awaits an OK from Gov. Rick Snyder.

"This is to heighten the senses as well as the understanding of why soldiers go to war, as to why we go and vote, as to why we live in a world of democracy," said Peter Lucido, R-Shelby Township, the primary sponsor of the legislation.

The rules go beyond what the state now requires. Michigan's graduation requirements man-



Michigan students will have to learn the same material covered on the U.S. citizenship exam, thanks to new rules.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

date students pass a one-semester civics course. But the law isn't very specific, simply requiring the course to include "the form and functions of the federal, state and local governments and shall stress the rights and responsibilities of citizens."

The new rules essentially mean students will need to understand the same material that's covered in the 100 questions that are part of the civics portion of the U.S. citizenship exam. Questions on the test run the gamut, from American government to American history.

They include questions such as: "What is one reason colonists came to America?" "What is one responsibility that is only for U.S. citizens?" "What is one power of the states?" "Who was president during World War I?" and "What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?"

The real exam is given orally and applicants for citizenship are asked 10 of the 100 questions. They must answer six out of the 10 correctly to pass, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the federal agency that oversees

legal immigration into the U.S.

Late-night talk-show hosts often illustrate the lack of civics knowledge by randomly questioning people on the street about things such as the name of the vice president or the name of the president. But advocates for students taking the citizenship exam are far more concerned about test data showing students nationwide are struggling with basic civics awareness.

On the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress exam, just 23 percent of eighth-graders were

proficient in civics, 18 percent were proficient in U.S. history and 27 percent were proficient in geography.

A 2014 survey of 1,416 adults, by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, found a similar lack of knowledge:

- » Just 36 percent could name all three branches of the U.S. government, while 35 percent couldn't name any branch.

- » 27 percent didn't know it takes a two-thirds vote of Congress to override a presidential veto.

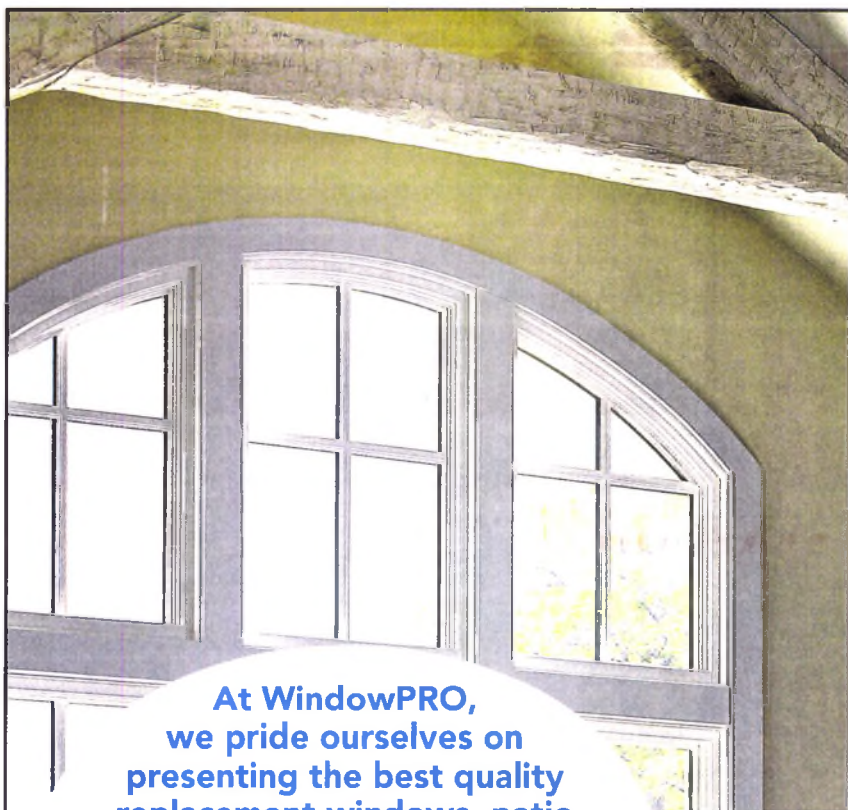
- » 21 percent incorrectly believed a 5-4 deci-

sion of the U.S. Supreme Court is sent back to Congress for reconsideration.

- » More than half of those surveyed didn't know which political party controlled the U.S. House and Senate at the time.

Lucido's bill, in its original form, would have required that, in order to graduate, students would have to pass an exam that includes questions similar to all or some of the questions on the citizenship exam.

It passed the Michigan House on a bipartisan basis on a 82-27 vote in May.



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COLLEGE WRESTLING

Atienza thrilled about MSU future

Franklin defending state champ signs with Michigan State University

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Nathan Atienza enjoyed a season of perfection on the wrestling mat in 2015-16 for Livonia Franklin, and already is off to a head-turning start this year.

Atienza — who is coming off a 58-0 record and Division I individual state championship at 145 pounds — reeled off 10 straight wins to open

2016-17. The early surge featured two wins in the 160-pound weight division at the Livonia City Wrestling Meet, good for tourney MVP honors. The run finally ended Dec. 17 in the 152 final at the Wayne County Championships.

Even better for the Patriots' senior stalwart was inking a national letter of intent to wrestle at Division I Michigan State University beginning in 2017-18. On hand for the signing early last month were parents Armand and Susan Atienza.

See ATIENZA, Page B2



Livonia Franklin senior Nathan Atienza (center) celebrates signing to wrestle at Michigan State University with parents Susan and Armand.

O&E sports on social media

Go to our Facebook page @hometownlifeSports and follow us on twitter @OandESports

Battle of the Fans VI

The Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council will host its sixth "Battle of the Fans" contest this winter to award the top high school student cheering section in Michigan and promote the opportunity for a fun, positive cheering experience for fans supporting their teams.

Traverse City West was named last year's champion and presented with a banner during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at Michigan State University's Breslin Center. Sections from Charlotte, Munising, Muskegon Western Michigan Christian and Yale also were finalists and recognized during the Breslin ceremony.

Schools are invited to submit a short video, via YouTube, of their cheering sections in action. Video submissions should be between 90 seconds and three minutes long and explain how that section meets the following contest criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, student section leadership and fun.

The deadline for student-submitted video applications is noon Jan. 7. Five finalists including at least one Class C or D school then will be chosen and visited on a home game night by MHSAA staff and Advisory Council representatives.

The MHSAA will produce a video of that finalist after each visit, with the champion being selected by the Student Advisory Council based in part on activity on the MHSAA's social media sites.

This year's winner will be announced Feb. 17 and recognized March 24 at the Breslin Center.

Rules, directions for submitting videos, plus links to coverage of finalists from the first five years of the contest can be found at www.mhsaa.com/BOTF.

This year's finalist videos, plus the announcement of the 2016-17 winner, will be published at secondhalf.mhsaa.com.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Canton native Rosanna Reynolds recently moved into seventh place on the University of Detroit Mercy's all-time scoring list.

BORN TO PLAY BASKETBALL

Canton native Reynolds is among Titans' all-time leaders in scoring and assists

Mike Rosenbaum
Correspondent

If anyone was ever born and raised to be a basketball player, it's Canton native Rosanna Reynolds. Her mother, two aunts and three uncles all played college basketball at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, so

she's been around the game her entire life.

"From when I was 6 years old I was attending basketball games," Reynolds says. "I've enjoyed watching basketball all of my life."

She's also enjoyed and excelled at the game herself. She played in a variety of school and AAU programs

and was a two-time All-State selection at Dearborn Divine Child, helping the Falcons claim the 2011 Class B state championship. But when it was time to choose a college, she veered off of the family path. Instead, the 5-foot-10 guard left Dearborn and selected the University of Detroit Mercy.

Reynolds was a starter from day one for the Titans and hasn't left the starting lineup since. She made the Horizon League's All-Newcomer team in 2012-13 while averaging 7.8 points, 4 assists and 3.3 rebounds per game. A knee injury ended her next

See REYNOLDS, Page B2

USA HOCKEY

NTDP U18s bounce back for 6-3 victory

Four-goal surge in final period lifts Team USA to matinee win over Trinity College

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

The first shot of Friday's matinee hockey game eluded goaltender Dylan St. Cyr to put the U.S. National Team Development Program Under-18 team into a quick hole.

Although the U.S. team quickly responded to go up 2-1, Trinity College did not quit — scoring twice within 42

seconds late in the second period to go up 3-2 entering the third.

But grinding to overcome adversity is something the 5-foot-8 St. Cyr and teammates have been able to do quite well in recent weeks.

Such was the case in the holiday week matchup against the Bantams, with the U.S. twice rallying from deficits to post a 6-3 win.



U.S. goalie Dylan St. Cyr of Northville gets defensive support from Grant Mismash, blocking a shot taken by Trinity's Liam Feeney on Friday.

"It's about being able to bounce back from goals," St. Cyr, of Northville, said about the way the team persevered Friday. "It's being able to pick each other up when others aren't playing so well — as

myself on the first goal. I think I could have had that one back.

"But my team was there to bail me out and get six goals

See USA, Page B3

Run the tunnel

Your chance to cross the Ambassador Bridge and Windsor Tunnel on foot happens each October during the running of the Detroit Free Press Marathon. Registration for the 40th anniversary race in 2017 began at 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1. Race events include the American Home Fitness 5K and Meijer Kids Fun Run on Saturday, Oct. 14. On Sunday, Oct. 15, the full marathon, international half-marathon and marathon relay kick off the international events followed by the U.S.-only half-marathon.

Go to www.freepressmarathon.com for more information and to register.

Prep hockey showcase

The annual Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League's Prep Hockey Showcase takes place Feb. 2-4 at the Kennedy Ice Arena in Trenton.

A number of area teams will compete in the popular three-day, 40-team event which attracts teams from across the Midwest and scouts from all levels of hockey. Each team is guaranteed to play two games against teams of similar skill levels.

The participating MIHL members include Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice, Catholic Central and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood. The other area participants include Livonia Churchill, Livonia Stevenson, Northville, Novi and Plymouth.

Churchill and Novi are among five teams making their Showcase debuts.



DAVID FRECHETTE

Canton's Rosanna Reynolds runs the floor against Michigan.

REYNOLDS

Continued from Page B1

season after three games, but she bounced back in 2014-15, earning second team All-Horizon honors. She led the Titans with 15.7 points and 3.4 assists per contest, adding 5.2 rebounds per game.

As a U-D co-captain last season, Reynolds was a first team All-Horizon selection. She averaged 15.6 points and 5.9 rebounds per game and led the Titans with 5 assists per contest. She also set the school's single-game assists record, dishing out 15 against Wright State.

The 2015-16 season was unusual for the Titans, as attrition whittled the roster to just eight regular players. With a limited lineup, new coach Bernard Scott was thrilled to inherit a strong floor leader in Reynolds.

"It was very important," Scott says. "Rosanna's such a great person, but also a great teammate and someone that really understands the game. Someone who can lead a team. To come in as a first-time head coach, it was great to have a player like her."

Despite their challenges, the Titans were 15-15 overall and a surprising 11-7 in Horizon League play last season. This year, through a New Year's Eve victory over UIC, U-D is 6-7 overall and 2-0 in league action. Although the Titans endured a few early setbacks, Reynolds started strongly. She leads the team

with 15.9 points, 5.4 assists and 2 steals per contest, adding 5.2 rebounds per game.

Among all-time leaders

Reynolds' strong start has propelled her further up the lists of Detroit's all-time scorers and playmakers. The fifth-year senior has 1,432 points through Saturday's contest, good for sixth in school history. She's just eight points behind fifth-place Lisa Blackburn. Reynolds is third all-time with 470 assists, behind only Mary Lillie (486) and Jalesa Jones (515). At her current pace, Reynolds will become U-D's all-time assists leader this season.

"She's going to finish being one of the top players to ever play here," Scott said. "She just attacks the game in so many ways, not to mention what she's done off the floor as far as being a great student as well."

As her statistics indicate, Reynolds plays a versatile game, so if she has an off-night in one area, she can still contribute in other ways. "I'd rather have an all-around game," she says, "maybe five points and five assists and five rebounds, rather than just being called a three-point specialist or a driver, or anything like that."

You can also add leadership to her list of skills, as you'd expect from a two-year captain. Reynolds says she tries to be "a role model" for her teammates, both on and off the court, and shares "tips

and tricks that I've learned over the past few years."

Scott adds that Reynolds' teammates respect her, "because of what she's done in the league already. They see the type of career she's had and the work she's put in to have that type of career. So they tend to want to follow her because they've seen her success and how hard work pays off."

Reynolds says it's "starting to hit now" that she's in her last season of college basketball. Typically for her, she wants to channel that feeling into her game, hoping that it "gives me a whole new mentality" to help motivate her for the remainder of the season.

Afterward, she's hoping to realize a long-term goal to play professional basketball, whether in the U.S. or overseas. "It's kind of been a dream of mine," she said. "So if the opportunity happens and comes along in the next few months, after my college schedule (ends), then I would be really happy to explore those options."

For now, though, she's focused on trying to lead the Titans to the top of the Horizon League. She doesn't believe she'll be remembered for the outstanding stats she's accumulated for U-D, but for her team's success. "They're going to remember the team that either won a championship or had a really good record," she says. For the Titans, she said, "this is go-time."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Northville upends defending Class A champs Cousino

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Northville girls basketball team may not have been on Santa's radar screen during Christmas, but it is now.

The Mustangs pulled off a stocking stuffer Dec. 28 by stunning defending Class A champion Warren Cousino, 62-51, in the finals of the Northville Holiday Tournament.

Northville (6-1) put a drag-net around Georgia Tech signee and Miss Basketball favorite Kierra Fletcher, limiting the senior guard to 10 points on 4-of-13 shooting while avenging last year's 41-29 state quarterfinal loss to the Patriots (5-2).

The Mustangs overcame an early 8-1 deficit and led wire-to-wire in the final three quarters, thanks to sterling efforts from a host of players, led by 6-foot senior forward-guard Jessica Moorman, who scored a game-high 19 points.

"Our defense was really strong tonight," said Moorman, who was all over the floor. "After the loss last year, we wanted to get back this year and I think our defense tied everything together."

Although Cousino got 18 points from sophomore guard Kate McArthur and 13 points from sophomore guard Mackenzie Cook, the Mustangs made sure Fletcher was contained.

"We were just trying to keep a kid in front of her, get her to give the ball up and make sure she didn't get the ball back," Northville coach Todd Gudith said. "When she did, we wanted to have two or three kids running at her to keep her from getting to the rim. She's not an outside shooter, she's a slasher and attacker at the rim. We wanted to keep her as far away from the rim as possible."

After taking a 14-12 lead after one quarter on a basket by Brianna Drummond, Northville increased its edge to 32-23 at halftime thanks to a long 3-pointer at the buzzer by junior point guard Kendall Dillon, who finished with 13 points.

Cousino cut the deficit to 45-40 after three quarters, but the Mustangs didn't flinch even when Dillon was carried off the floor after her ankle

buckled on a drive to the basket.

Drummond, who added seven points off the bench, came on to make two free throws and the Patriots never got closer than five points the rest of the way.

"Kendall was having a really good game, so it was a bit scary for a couple of seconds," said Moorman, who went 8-of-11 from the field. "But then we composed ourselves and decided to finish out that quarter for Kendall. It ended up pretty well."

Northville also got contributions offensively from senior center Brook Adams (12 points) and junior guard Roan Haines (nine). Haines moved into the backcourt with Moorman after Dillon went down.

Northville was 11-of-24 (45.8 percent) from the free-throw line and 24-of-48 from (50 percent) from the field.

For the Patriots, who return four starters, there may be some state championship hangover. It was the second time this season Cousino had been beaten by double digits, with the other loss coming against Birmingham Marian (56-42).

"We beat them in the quarterfinals and that's why they were tough tonight ... they wanted that one," Cousino coach Mike Lee said of the Mustangs. "As much as a regular season game can give you, they had a chip on their shoulder. And obviously, we know there's a reason why we wear a target on our back because, if you're the state champions, teams are going to come for you. And they played great today. Hats off to them."

Both Fletcher and McArthur fouled out in the final minute. The Patriots were 20-of-56 (35.7 percent) from the field and committed 14 turnovers.

Although Northville earned its biggest win to date, the Mustangs hope Dillon can make a speedy recovery.

"It's just a high ankle sprain but, thankfully, we don't play until (Jan. 10). So we got almost two weeks and she's going to need all that time probably to heal and, hopefully, she'll be ready when we play (at) Salem," Gudith said.

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TOM BEAUDOIN

All smiles after winning the MVP at last month's city wrestling meet is Nathan Atienza of Livonia Franklin.

ATIENZA

Continued from Page B1

"I'm real excited," said Atienza, about his future with the Spartans. "It's D-I, the Big Ten. It's a lot, but I'm really excited about it."

Atienza also considered signing at Central Michigan University, "because that's where my older brother (Jordan) goes, but in the end I had to do what was best for me, and I felt Michigan State was the best fit."

Obviously thrilled about

becoming a Spartan, he remains pumped up to have another year for the record books at Franklin. He gives big assists for his continuing development to Patriots coaches, including head coach David Chiola.

"I've had a lot of really good coaches that have helped me mature and better myself as a person and a wrestler," Atienza said. "And I have a great support group with all the community of the team, the kids on the team."

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U-D MERCY

Senior guard Rosanna Reynolds of Canton looks for an open University of Detroit Mercy teammate.

PREP WRESTLING

CC places second at Medina Invitational

Shamrocks finish only two points behind top school

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Novi Detroit Catholic Central took runner-up honors as only four points separated the top three teams in last week's Medina (Ohio) Invitational wrestling tournament.

Wadsworth (Ohio) took the team title, edging the Shamrocks, 213-211, while Massillon (Ohio) Perry was a close third with 209. Ohio schools Oak Harbor and Genoa rounded out the top five in the 44-school field with 156 and 133, respectively.

Catholic Central got individual titles from Kevin Davenport (132 pounds) and Nick Jenkins (285), as both wres-

tlers went 6-0 during the two-day tournament Dec. 27-28. Davenport ran his record to 18-0 with a 10-1 major decision over Wadsworth's Luke Baughman in the finals, while Jenkins improved to 18-1 with a 1-0 decision against Moe Debyan of Hilliard (Ohio) Darby.

The Shamrocks' Ben Kamali reached the finals at 120 pounds before falling to Graham Shore of Casstown (Ohio)

Miami East, 10-4. Kamali is 14-2 overall.

Among CC's third-place finishers were Cameron Amine (145) and Jackson Ross (220).

Amine, 17-3 on the year, lost his semifinal match to Massillon Perry's Gary Define, 4-3, in overtime, before bouncing back to win by major decision over Dylan Mansour of Oak Harbor, 9-0.

Ross, 10-3 overall, fell in the

consolation final to Richmond's Tyler Marino, 4-3.

Other top finishers for CC included Aiden Wagh, fourth (152); Rhett Newton, seventh (113); and Dane Flynn (195), eighth.

The Shamrocks will host the CC Invitational beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7.

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Scoring the final goal Friday at USA Hockey Arena is U.S. forward Randy Hernandez (right), slipping the puck into the Trinity goal. Unable to stop Hernandez are Bantams goalie Alex Morin and defenseman Bryce Eviston.

RENA LAVERTY

USA

Continued from Page B1

tonight, which was huge."

The U.S. scored four times in the third period to erase the 3-2 deficit and post a fifth consecutive win. Tying the game just seven seconds into a power play was forward Michael Pastujov (Michigan), who tipped in a blue line blast by defenseman Quinn Hughes at 1:01.

"The power play's got to be a catalyst for our team, especially in a game that can go either way," U.S. head coach John Wroblewski said. "It's a confidence-builder."

After St. Cyr made a couple of timely stops on an ensuing Trinity power play, the U.S. took the lead for good at 7:30 on a one-timer from the left circle by Grant Mismash, wiring a centering pass from linemate Brady Tkachuk.

Scoring later in the period were forwards Sean Dhooghe and Randy Hernandez. Making Dhooghe's insurance goal happen was assistant captain Scott Reedy, who won a puck battle near the Trinity blue line and threaded a nice pass.

Dhooghe's shot from below the left circle sailed over Trinity goalie Alex Morin's trapper.

"(Reedy) does a lot of good things for us," said forward Josh Norris, who scored his team's first-period goal and finished with four points. "He does a lot of little things not everyone recognizes. He's huge for our team."

Group effort

Norris concurred with St. Cyr about the never-say-die makeup of the team, evident throughout the winning streak.

"Over the past five games we've won, we've come to-



U.S. NTDP Under-18 players celebrate a goal Friday against Trinity.

RENA LAVERTY

gether better, we've trusted each other," said Norris, a Michigan commit from Oxford. "When you're able to work as a group of five, it makes it a lot easier on everyone on the ice. It's more fun to play like that, too."

For Wroblewski and his squad, the first home game in three weeks provided an opportunity to show home fans the kind of product on display during the recent hot streak — including 5-2 and 7-5 United States Hockey League wins Dec. 16-17 at Madison.

And St. Cyr (21 saves), in goal for three of those four victories, showed the moxie that has helped him lower his goals-against average to less than 3.00 entering the Trinity game.

With about four minutes remaining in the first, he held firm to turn aside a backhand taken from the right circle by Ryan Cole and stopped the final nine shots he

saw in the opening period.

In the second period, St. Cyr did not see much rubber as his teammates turned up the offensive heat, peppering Morin and finally breaking the deadlock with 9:28 remaining. Norris sent a crisp cross-pass to linemate Graham Slaggert, who slid the puck past Morin (31 saves).

The U.S. enjoyed a 17-7 edge in shots in the period. But the Bantams tied and went ahead 3-2 on back-to-back goals a half-minute apart. The equalizer, with 3:18 to go, was an unassisted goal by Charlie Zuccarini. He cut in from the left half-wall, deked St. Cyr and flipped the puck high into the net.

Firing back

At 17:14, Trinity — a team in the New England Small College Athletic Conference — took advantage of an odd-man rush and a carom off the back boards, with Ethan Hol-

daway cashing in.

That seemingly lit a fire under the U.S., which came out shooting and scoring early in the final period, with the Bantams unable to respond.

"It's definitely a good characteristic to have," Wroblewski said about his team's ability to turn the page. "The resiliency and wherewithal to know you can persevere through a tough game. It's hockey, it's tough to predict what's going to happen."

Getting the Bantams off to a promising start in their first-ever game against the NTDP was Connor Hegarty, who ripped a shot from the right point past St. Cyr less than a minute into the contest.

The U.S. needed only two minutes to respond, as Norris set up shop in front of Morin and found the mark with 17:05 to go in the first. Drawing assists were defenseman Tommy Miller (West Bloomfield/MSU) and Pastujov.

The U18 squad is 13-5-0 since Nov. 1. The team returns to USA Hockey Arena for games at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 13-14, against USHL opponent Green Bay.

STOEVER SUITS UP: Another goalie from Northville, Christian Stoever, was St. Cyr's backup against Trinity, with Adam Scheel temporarily with the U.S. NTDP Under-17 team.

BACK HOME: Meanwhile the U17's play home games for the first time in a month, facing Chicago (7 p.m. Friday) and Youngstown (7 p.m. Saturday).

The U17 team plays an additional four home games before the end of January, beginning with a 2 p.m. tilt on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday, Jan. 16) against Muskegon.

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BOYS BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

CC earns 71-70 Roundball Classic victory

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Senior guard Gio Genrich made two free throws with four seconds left as Novi Detroit Catholic Central held off a Southfield A&T rally for a 71-70 boys basketball win Friday at the Motor City Roundball Classic at Detroit Renaissance.

Senior forward C.J. Baird had 20 points, five rebounds and three assists to lead the Shamrocks (4-1), who led 39-23 at halftime and 51-41 after three quarters.

Brandon Recto and Davis

Lukomski chipped in 16 and 10 points, respectively, for CC, which made 26-of-54 from the field (48.1 percent) and 46.2 percent from the foul line.

Western Michigan signee Michael Flowers led Southfield A&T (1-4) and all scorers with 29 points, including 11-of-15 from the field. His basket with 10 seconds left cut the deficit to 69-67 before Genrich answered with a pair of free throws.

Flowers, who went 4-of-5 from 3-point range, hit a triple at the buzzer to make it a one-point differential. The Warriors outscored CC in the final

quarter, 29-20.

Reme Tolbert and Cameron McEvans added 17 and nine points, respectively, for the Warriors, who went 27-of-54 from the field (50 percent) and 10-of-13 from the foul line (76.9 percent).

NORTHVILLE 66, LINCOLN PARK 23: Time after time it was steal and layup, steal and layup. And it all added up to a resounding win Dec. 27 for the host Mustangs (3-3) against the Railsplitters (1-4) during the opening round of their own holiday tournament.

Senior guard Jake Justice, who led all scorers, scored all 17 of his game-high points in the opening half as the Mustangs jumped out to a commanding 52-8 lead and broke a three-game losing skid.

Also getting into the act for the Mustangs during the lopsided first half was 6-foot-5 Swedish exchange student Gustaf Tjernberg (11 points), senior guard Kevin Morrissey (nine) and senior guard Colin Latta

(eight). Northville, which shot 22-of-38 from the field during the first half (57.8 percent), took advantage of 14 Lincoln Park turnovers, converting several steals into layups.

With a 44-point lead at intermission, the second half went by quickly thanks to a running clock.

Lincoln Park, which shot only 9-of-38 from the floor (23.6 percent), got 11 points from senior forward Nijuan Jefferson.

TOLEDO ST. JOHN'S 67, NOVI 39: Four players scored in double figures Dec. 28 at Toledo St. John's (6-2) used a big third quarter to take down the Wildcats (3-4) in the Motor City Roundball Classic at Detroit Renaissance.

Vincent William Jr. and Joey Fretti both scored 14 points for the Titans, who exploded in the third quarter with six 3-pointers. Houston King and Harrison Riggs added 12 and 10, respectively.

Sophomore guard Giovanni Miles scored 11 points and had seven rebounds, four steals and a block, while junior guard Traveon Maddox Jr. added 10 points, six rebounds, three assists and three blocks for Novi.

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Plymouth splits pair at tourney

Wildcats fall to Rice but beat Stoney Creek

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Plymouth's varsity boys basketball team split a pair of games during last week's Stoney Creek Christmas Tournament.

The Wildcats were bounced 50-32 on Dec. 27 by Birmingham Brother Rice, but came back Dec. 29 to post a 50-48 win over Stoney Creek.

In the win, a 19-point second quarter lifted Plymouth out of an early 10-point deficit and put the Wildcats up 32-28 at halftime.

Scoring 14 points each were Tariq Woody and Zach Beadle, with point guard Anthony Crump chipping in with 10 points.

Against the Warriors, Woody led Plymouth with 10 points while Beadle connected on two treys for six points.

Next for the Wildcats is Friday's KLA South Division matchup at Wayne Memorial.

STEVENSON 76, TROY ATHENS 72: Senior guard Ian Knoph finished with 20 points and six rebounds to propel Livonia Stevenson (6-0) to a Motor City Roundball Classic victory Dec. 28 over Troy Athens (4-2) at Detroit Renaissance.

Jacob Brantley and Taylor McCaskill led the Redhawks with 19 points and 17 points, respectively, while Clark Josin added 10 points.

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST 75, CLARENCEVILLE 34: Isaiah Jackson pumped in 17 points to lead Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (4-1) to a consolation victory Dec. 28 over Livonia Clarenceville (0-6) in the Metro Conference Reunion Tournament hosted by Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

The Crusaders led 38-24 at halftime and 49-26 after three quarters before outscoring the Trojans 25-8 in the fourth.

Torre Bowen paced Clarenceville with 10 points.

The Trojans were 5-of-8 from the foul line, while Northwest was 11-of-22.

CRANBROOK 45, CLARENCEVILLE 26: On Dec. 27, Tim Hauxwell scored a game-high 15 points to lead host Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (4-2) to an opening-round victory over Livonia Clarenceville (0-5) in the Metro Conference Reunion Tournament.

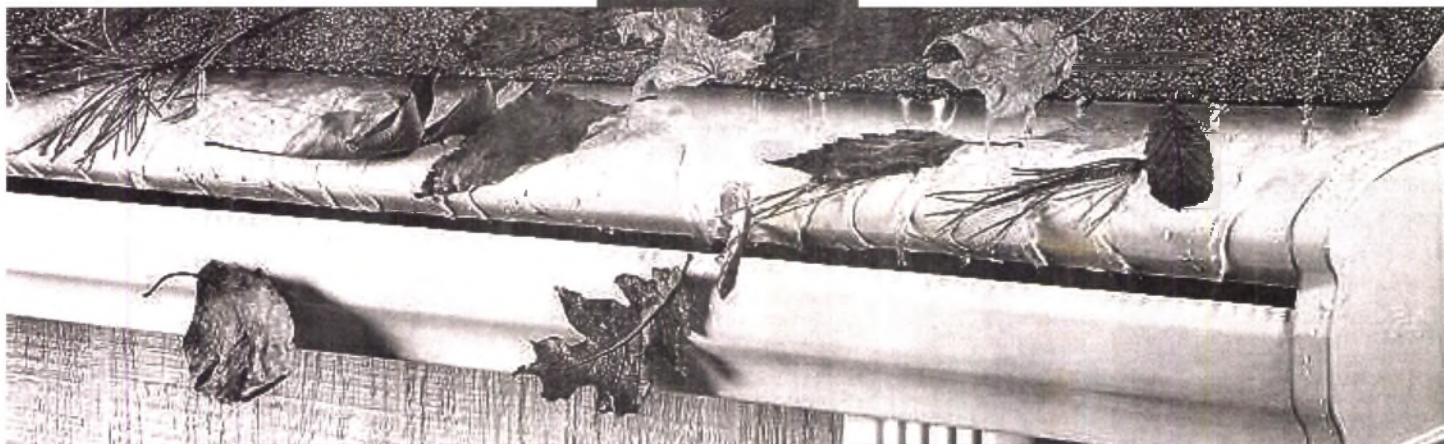
The Cranes, who led 28-11 at halftime and 36-20 after three quarters, connected on 21-of-37 free throws (56.7 percent).

Rickey Scott scored a team-high 12 points for the Trojans, who went 4-of-7 from the foul line (57.1 percent).

STEVENSON 78, PONTIAC 51: Ian Knoph led the way with 19 points as Livonia Stevenson (5-0) stopped the Phoenix (3-2) in the Motor City Roundball Classic Dec. 26 at Detroit Renaissance.

Cleontal Brown scored 14 points and Deshawn Jackson added nine points for Pontiac.

Staff writer Brad Emons contributed to this report.



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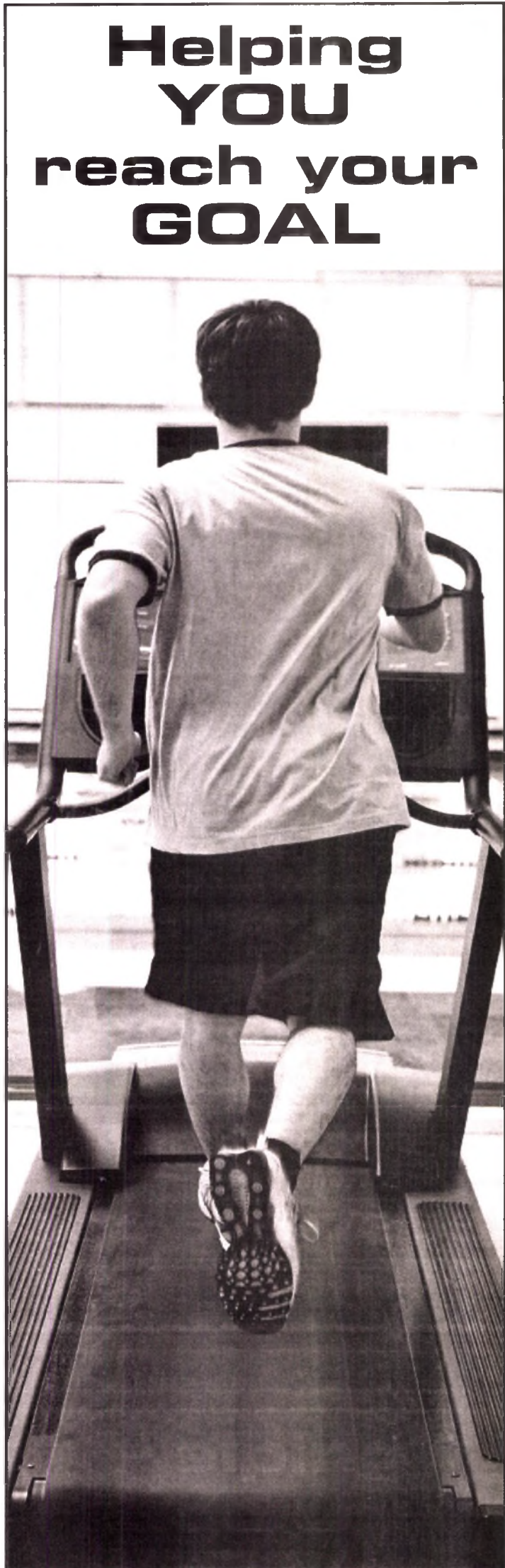
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 - 80 New Jersey borough east of Paramus
 - 82 They're often pimiento-stuffed
 - 84 End of a 1/1 song
 - 85 Strip, in a way, as shrimp
 - 88 Some drops on crops
 - 89 Untidy state
 - 90 Extra charge
 - 92 Generational disparity
 - 95 Church part
 - 97 Deep-fried side
 - 101 Trattoria entree
 - 106 "You got it!"
 - 107 Orthodox beginning?
 - 108 19-season Yankee
 - 109 Succor
 - 110 TGIF's "I"
 - 111 Fond du —, Wisconsin
 - 113 Big name in drug indexes
 - 114 Chose (to)
 - 116 Ingredient in a Cuban sandwich
 - 120 Supermarket chain only selling items like the 10 featured in this puzzle?
 - 123 Leaning Tower locale
 - 124 Banish
 - 125 Liveliness
 - 128 Ballet wear
 - 127 Director Preminger
 - 128 Potato chips, in London
 - 129 Cuts, as logs
 - 130 "Hold it!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Fraud figure
 - 2 Slugger
 - 3 "Search me"
 - 4 Wise trio
 - 5 Oversaw
 - 6 Kwik-E-Mart operator
 - 7 1980s brand of jeans
 - 8 Like dirty floors
 - 9 To-do list
 - 10 Fully mature
 - 11 Writer Levin
 - 12 Camel, e.g., for short
 - 13 Gulp down quickly
 - 14 "Permit Me Voyage" author
 - 15 Relevant aid
 - 17 Less binding
 - 18 Ford fiops
 - 24 Hurry
 - 26 Walk along
 - 29 — bucco (Italian dish)
 - 34 NFL luminary
 - 35 "La — Vita"
 - 36 Emu or owl
 - 37 In the event that it's true
 - 39 RCA product
 - 41 Pearl producer
 - 42 SLR's "L"
 - 43 Treasured violin, in brief
 - 46 #1 hit for the Troggs
 - 48 Spanish political units
 - 49 Breeding colony of penguins
 - 50 Eritrean, e.g.
 - 52 Proud walk
 - 54 Sheriff Taylor's son
 - 56 Rob (of)
 - 57 Splns
 - 58 Fusing result
 - 60 Ramble on
 - 61 Madcap
 - 62 Gal finished
 - 64 Capital of South Korea
 - 67 NFL's Starr
 - 68 Did slaloms, say
 - 71 Digestion aid
 - 72 See 53-Across
 - 74 Yalta's peninsula
 - 77 Less young
 - 79 It may hold
 - 81 Clear up, as a mirror
 - 82 Slapstick fight missiles
 - 83 "Strawberry Wine" singer
 - 86 Windmill part
 - 87 Kellogg's cereal
 - 91 Hydroxyl compounds
 - 93 On — with 94 Settles (on)
 - 96 Parody
 - 97 San Luis —
 - 98 Dodo
 - 99 Demand
 - 100 Six- (sub shop sandwich)
 - 102 Inventor Tesla
 - 103 Didn't play in the game
 - 104 Linked with
 - 105 Tallies
 - 108 Bumps into
 - 112 "T.N.T." rock band
 - 113 No. on a new car's sticker
 - 115 Paunches
 - 117 — Tomé and Principe
 - 118 Commercial start for Pen
 - 119 Series of Canon cameras
 - 121 Trial concern
 - 122 Jr. officer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18								
19				20					21					22											
23			24						25					26											
27							28		29				30				31								
32			33	34	35					36	37			38	39										
40			41							42				43											
			44					45	46				47												
48	49	50		51	52			53				54		55	56	57	58								
59				60			61	62				63		64											
65							66				67	68					69								
70							71				72				73	74									
75				76	77									79											
80				81										83											
84				85			86	87					88				89								
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97	98	99					100					101	102			103	104	105							
106							107					108						109							
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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@mkchigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

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

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

VACATION WORD SEARCH

WORDS

AIRPORT, AUTOMOBILE, BEARD, BUS, CHARTER, CHECK-IN, CROWDS, CRUISE, DESTINATION, DRIVE, EXCURSION, FLY, HOLIDAY, HOSTEL, HOTEL, JOURNEY, LAND, LUGGAGE, MOTEL, PACK, PASSENGER, PLANE, PORT, RAILWAY, ROUTE, SAILING, SIGHTSEEING, STATION, TAXI, TOUR, TRAFFIC, TRAM, TRAVEL, TRIP, VACATION, VOYAGE

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

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

Crossword Answers

AIM, RAGU, TRICIA, ABLE, ALDA, APIN, ATRING, PLOD, BOUGHNUTS, SPAGHETTIOS, OMNIA, AAWOKE, AERTSE, PAN, SADMESIS, BIL, ETHEL, PROTLLOOPS, TIFSAVEAB, YELLOTOWERS, TIOS, ERAS, PCS, INDOOR, EBRO, BOFTPRE, STZEL, HASTISON, TORERO, RAND, BSTIDE, RTE, AKIRA, BUNDTCAKE, OCEAN, DEO, TOITY, HART, CURATE, GRADELL, PITTEDOLIVES, SYNE, DEVEIN, DEW, MESS, FEE, AGE, GAP, APSE, ONT, ONRINGS, PENN, EPASTA, BINGO, NEO, MARIANO, AID, TTS, LAC, MERIC, OPTED, WISSCHIESE, MOLFORDS, TISA, DEPORT, ELIAN, TUTU, CRIBS, SLAWS, STOP

Word Search Answers

CRUISE, TRIP, VOYAGE, EXCURSION, TOUR, TRAFFIC, TRAM, TRAVEL, SIGHTSEEING, RAILWAY, PORT, PLANE, PASSENGER, MOTEL, HOLIDAY, FLY, CHECK-IN, CROWDS, CRUISE, DESTINATION, DRIVE, EXCURSION, FLY, HOLIDAY, HOSTEL, HOTEL, JOURNEY, LAND, LUGGAGE, AIRPORT, AUTOMOBILE, BEARD, BUS, CHARTER, CHECK-IN, CROWDS, CRUISE, DESTINATION, DRIVE, EXCURSION, FLY, HOLIDAY, HOSTEL, HOTEL, JOURNEY, LAND, LUGGAGE, MOTEL, PACK, PASSENGER, PLANE, PORT, RAILWAY, ROUTE, SAILING, SIGHTSEEING, STATION, TAXI, TOUR, TRAFFIC, TRAM, TRAVEL, TRIP, VACATION, VOYAGE