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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018 HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Students treated to Shop With a Hero

Matt Jachman

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Local elementary school students and their families were treated to a holiday party last week during Westland's annual Shop With a Hero event.

The celebration took place Dec. 11 at the Meijer store in Westland and Meijer sprang for a \$100 gift certificate for each of the children, who were from Adams

Upper Elementary in Westland and the Tipton Academy in Garden City.

Each student was taken on the shopping spree by a Westland firefighter or police officer. The event is designed in part to develop relationships between children and first responders in the community.

The students also got wintertime goodie bags that each included a hat

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Santa Claus stopped by the pizza party for local students and their families during the annual Shop With a Hero event at the Meijer in Westland. WIND-CITY OF WESTLAND



Michigan's female murderers: We are victims, too

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Kristen Jordan Shamus Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Teenage rebellion turned deadly and Melissa Chapman paid the price.

She was 18 when she was arrested Christmas Eve 1987, along with her abusive boyfriend. She hasn't tasted freedom since that day.

Now 49, Melissa has lived in prison longer than she's lived anywhere else.

Barb Smith, Fullness of Life coordinator at Botsford Commons, helps lead senior residents and first-graders from Botsford Elementary in singing favorite holiday songs, COURTESY BOTSFORD COMMONS

Elementary students discover Giving Tree

When 42 first-grade students from Botsford Elementary School arrived at Botsford Commons to sing holiday carols for its residents, they had no idea what surprises awaited them.

And then they discovered the Giving Tree.

The Giving Tree event, held each December, began seven years ago through Botsford Commons' ongoing partnership with Botsford Elementary, a school in Livonia's Clarenceville School District.

Residents, visitors and staff waited eagerly as the young students quietly paraded into the community's large dining room with a brightly decorated

Christmas tree. Accompanying the students were teachers Colleen Carson and Cheri DeLong and Principal Christine

Teff.

Fullness of Life Coordinator Barb

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Children visited with residents to share their new books during the Giving Tree. COURTESY BOTSFORD COMMONS

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It's because of what happened one afternoon in mid-December 1987, when she and her boyfriend, Robert Goodyear, went to a Genesee County Meijer store with Michael Keith Gaines, Goodyear's friend, to set up a drug deal.

Gaines was flirting with Chapman, who sat between the two men on the bench seat of his pickup truck, court records show. In a jealous rage, Goodyear pushed Chapman out of the way and pointed a gun at Gaines' head. He pulled the trigger, twice.

Goodyear then turned the gun on Chapman and said, "I could kill you, too. I could kill you," she told the Michigan Parole Board during a June public hearing.

He let her live and she helped him drag Gaines' body into a field. Together, they cleaned out the blood-soaked truck, stole items from Gaines' apartment to pawn, and set his remains on fire.

She was acting out of fear, she told the Michigan Parole Board. If she ran, if she tried to tell police what Goodyear had done, she was convinced he'd kill her.

Melissa is among five women whose cases the Free Press examined in an analysis of those who were sentenced to life in prison without parole for their roles in slayings connected to domestic violence and sexual abuse.

All five women were convicted on first-degree murder charges; and all are serving time in Michigan's only prison for women, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Ypsilanti.

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AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com. Items must be received at least two weeks prior to the event.

Livonia Neighbors and Friends

The Livonia Neighbors and Friends group will hold its own version of "The Antique Roadshow" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8. Donna, a representative from The Towne Peddler, will be on hand to appraise items brought in by members.

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

For more information, go to livonianeighborsandfriends.tripod.com

St. Mary addiction series

hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

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Subscription Rates: Newsstand price: \$1.50 \$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737 Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon Afterhours, leave voicemail Email: custserv@hometownlife.com

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St. Mary Mercy Hospital Livonia, 36475 Five Mile Road, in Livonia is offering an ongoing series titled Addiction: What you need to know and what you can do. Classes are scheduled 7-8:30 p.m. the first three Tuesdays of each month, September through May, in Classroom 11 on the fourth floor. Jan. 8, 15 and 22 are the next series dates (due to the New Year's Day holiday).

No registration necessary. For more information, contact Karen Bonanno at kbonanno@livoniasaveouryouth.org or 734-338-9580.

Hines Park town hall

The Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, will host a town hall meeting on the genesis of Hines Park 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9. For nearly 90 years, Hines Park has been and still is a popular destination for residents and visitors alike. Get a glimpse at the parkway's past, its present situation and what's in store for its future.

W-W Distinguished Young Woman

The next program orientation for the Wayne-Westland Distinguished Woman program is set for 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at 37955 Glenwood in Wayne. Any high school junior girl, who attends a high school in Wayne or Westland, may register at any time. Go to www.distinguishedyw.org and click on "Apply Now." The Wayne-Westland Distinguished Young Woman Program will take place Friday, March 8.

Parent Night at Wayne HS

Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, will be hosting an eightgrade parent night for those transitioning to ninth grade or interested in getting more information for the 2019-20 school year at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5. Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community Schools district school to attend.

Topics covered will include scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extracurricular activities and more. Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. For more information, call 734-419-2215.

Friends used book sale

The Friends of the Westland Public Library will conduct a used book sale Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 7-10, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Hours are 3-6 p.m. Thursday (preview sale), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday (bag day, \$4 per bag).

SHOP

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and gloves, plus their families received vouchers for holiday meal supplies and groceries, all donated by Meijer.

The evening wrapped up with a pizza party, provided by Toarmina's Pizza, and Santa Claus made a special appearance.

The store has been hosting Shop With a Hero for at least 10 years.

"These events make the holidays a little brighter and they help the children build an incredible bond with law enforcement officials," said Christina Fecher, a Meijer public relations manager. "I've attended many of these events myself and I have to say I've rarely seen a child spend their gift card on themselves.... Usually they're shopping for a sibling or their parents. These events just warm your heart."

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @mattjachman.

Westland officer Kevin Yudt shops with two boys during the Dec. 11 Shop With a Hero event at the Meijer store in Westland. WLND-CITY OF WESTLAND





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Their sentences will keep them locked up until the day they die — unless they are granted clemency from the governor, which is rare.

The odds for them are slim — a paltry 0.149 percent.

Only six commutations have been granted since 2011 — despite 4,017 requests in that time. Every person who was granted commutations in that seven-year span was freed from prison for medical reasons, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

The five women have all appealed to the Michigan Parole Board and Gov. Rick Snyder for clemency and all wait hopefully for news on whether the governor will grant their commutations in his final weeks in office.

But time is running out.

When Snyder leaves Lansing on Jan. 1, he will take with him any hope these women lifers have for being released for at least four years — or possibly eight if Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer wins reelection in 2022.

Granting commutations is generally not a popular political move. Most come at the end of a governor's final term in office, when it's less likely they will face political backlash from angry voters at the polls.

The Michigan Women's Justice & Clemency Project, where Carol Jacobsen has been a vocal advocate for women in prison since the early '90s, supports all five bids for clemency.

"Now each case is unique, but the history of violence and abuse is there," Jacobsen said. "These women who are in for murder are not criminals and do not have criminal histories. These are women who were acting in violent situations in survival mode."

Many of the women were sentenced decades ago, at a time when there was limited knowledge of the effects of domestic violence, when there wasn't a large network of support systems for battered women like shelters and tollfree crisis hotlines. It also was a time when police were less willing to intervene in domestic and sexual abuse cases, Jacobsen said.

Laws have also changed. Jacobsen doubts the women sentenced decades ago to life in prison without parole would get such hefty sentences if they were convicted today.

"A lot of the women that we've represented over the years never had abuse presented at their trials," she said. "There are so many that deserve a chance. We don't need to keep people in prison for 30 years. ... We are just way too punitive.

"The governor is the sole person who has this unique power to redress an injustice and it is critical that that power be employed for the sake of mercy, but also for the sake of justice," Jacobsen said.

Rebellion costs Chapman

everything

Chapman was young and in love, living fast and partying too hard.

She'd dropped out of high school in 11th grade and moved out of her parents' home to live with her boyfriend, Goodyear — even if it meant sleeping on couches and in the garages of friends and relatives. They stole cars and broke into houses to get money for drugs, for food, to pay for the lifestyle.

"I was rebellious against my parents," she said during a public hearing to consider her commutation request. "I didn't want to listen to a lot of what they had to say. I was a bit of a free spirit."

At 17, Goodyear had a long history of violence. Chapman quickly discovered that he also was intensely jealous. He didn't allow her to look at or speak to other men; he rarely let her out of his sight — even accompanying her to the bathroom, she said.

At first, she thought the jealous, controlling behavior was proof he liked her. But then the beatings came more frequently, she said. He punched her in the face, threw her to the ground.

"He would put handcuffs on me and handcuff me to things and put a gun to my head. He would sit there and click it until I threw up. He would get off on that," she testified at the hearing. "Robert would tell me if I ever left him, he would kill my father. He would rape my mother and kill her and make me watch."

The night Goodyear killed Gaines,

Chapman testified that he shot at her, too.

"We got into an argument. ... I took off running from him because I wanted to get away from him and he pulled the gun out and he shot at me," she said. "He shot it once and I felt it whiz by my head. I just stopped and I turned around and I went right back to him."

Pivotal testimony for the prosecution in Chapman's trial came from Ann Denny, one of her cellmates in the county jail. She told the jury Chapman goaded Goodyear into killing Gaines and said Chapman boasted about licking Gaines' blood and eating his brain tissue. Denny said under oath that Chapman worshiped Satan, according to trial transcripts.

Twenty years later, Denny, who now goes by the name Ann Louis Gordon, recanted her testimony in a sworn affidavit, Chapman's lawyer told the parole board. Chapman insists she never did those things, but told doctors during a psychiatric evaluation that she licked the blood off her fingers so it would seem like she was crazy. She hoped an insanity defense would help her at trial. It did not.

Jacobsen said Chapman shouldn't have to do any more time in prison.

"She's has never excused her actions in any way, yet I think it's important to consider the context of the crime, that she was a teenager not long past the age that the Supreme Court has determined

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Giving Tree

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Smith welcomed the students, who began singing holiday carols led by their teachers. The familiar tunes prompted the seniors to readily sing along and applaud.

After students sang, the Giving Tree event revealed its first big surprise — a visit from Santa. He strolled in with a jolly greeting to the children's delight and expressions of amazement.

Upon seating himself in front of the Giving Tree, Santa explained that he had come all the way from the North Pole to see how they were doing. And then, he asked senior elves to pass out bags that had been hidden from view. The bags held specially wrapped presents for each student.

What Santa didn't reveal to the children is that he is Gary Lockwood, a volunteer who has been playing Santa for 24 years. He and his wife, Tammy Lockwood, have a special relationship with Botsford Commons.

Tammy's mother, Carol Stevens, lived at Botsford Commons before she died from Alzheimer's three years ago. Each year they drive from their Bellaire home in northern Michigan to be part of the Giving Tree event.

Twenty-five years ago, Lockwood and her mother made the Santa outfit that her husband still wears to volunteer for Botsford Commons, food pantries, Traverse City's annual Festival of Trains and other events.

"This is such a special celebration that my mom enjoyed, and we wouldn't miss it," said Lockwood. "Seeing the children and residents together is heartwarming. It will bring tears to your eyes."

The students didn't open their bags or presents until Santa gave the okay. Then the "oohs and ahs" began.

In preparation for the event, residents and staff donated money to purchase \$20 worth of books from Scholastic for each student, based on students' reading level and interests. Residential Home Health and Senior Helpers donated the bags. A generous resident, who wished to remain anonymous, donated the final surprises tucked under the Giving Tree — stuffed animal "reading buddies" for each child.

"The gifts of books means so much and are the first that some of our children have ever received," Teff said. "It encourages them to read at home. We are so grateful to have this partnership with Botsford Commons."

According to Colleen Kashawlic, manager of Business Development for Botsford Commons, resident Sherry Hamilton, now deceased, helped start the relationship with Botsford Elementary.

"The Giving Tree is for everyone. It has become a treasured tradition in our community," Kashawlic said.



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that a sentence of life without parole is unconstitutional," Jacobsen said.

'She did not anticipate, plan nor commit the murder, but lived in terror of Robert Goodyear and obeyed him out of a justified fear for her life. Given the torture she survived at his hands, it's miraculous Melissa is alive and that she was not the one murdered."

The Genesee County prosecutor did not object to Chapman's commutation.

But Assistant Attorney General Scott Rothermol said his office opposes her clemency, adding: "This was a very serious and assaultive crime, obviously. We would ask that the governor respect the decision of the jury and the sentence that was imposed upon you and not commute your sentence."

Delores Kapuscinski endures rape, rage

When Delores Kapuscinski went to prison in 1987 for killing her husband as he slept, spousal rape wasn't considered a crime in Michigan.

It wasn't illegal for a man to sexually assault his wife in the state until 1988 — one year after Kapuscinski was charged with murder in the death of Thomas Kapuscinski.

She testified during a July public hearing before members of the parole board that her husband molested her for most of their 17-year marriage, forcing her to have anal sex and to pretend she was a prostitute. He had been emotionally abusive as well.

"The sexual abuse had gotten so bad that I, I ... felt worthless," she said, explaining that she sank into a deep depression and considered killing herself in the wee hours of Feb. 18, 1987, in their home on Porter Hollow Drive Northeast in Rockford, near Grand Rapids. But she couldn't bear the idea of Thomas raising their children Wendy, 7, and Christopher, 5.

She testified that he often demeaned them, too.

"He would call (Wendy) a f---ing c---. He would ... call my son a bastard in front of them," she said. "He would tickle them, hold them down and tickle them until they were in tears. ... When he wrestled them or played with them, he would come real close to their groin areas, especially my daughter. And knowing how he was sexually with me, that was, that was a fright for me. I was frightened for my daughter."

So rather than take her own life, Kapuscinski turned a .22-caliber hunting rifle on her husband, firing once, reloading and shooting a second time.

She has been in prison 31 years.

Jacobsen said that's an injustice.

"We know about the racism, but we don't hear much about the misogyny of our criminal legal system," Jacobsen said. "It is not justice when it comes to women, especially women, who are seen to be violent.

"The story is that most women — whether it is a petty crime or murder - are acting on some level of survival. You know, sometimes it's stealing or prostitution or whatever to support themselves and their kids whose fathers aren't held accountable by the law. In murder cases, they're often with a male who did the murder and/or they're acting against an abuser to defend themselves or their kids.

Prosecutors built a case against Kapuscinski on the couple's financial situation.

They were about to lose their home to foreclosure and were months behind on their mortgage payments. Kapuscinski, they argued, killed her husband to get about \$200,000 in life insurance money to pay off their debts and be rid of his abuse.

During a July public hearing to consider her commutation, parole board member Anthony E.O. King suggested Kapuscinski changed the narrative of her story over the years, adopting the identity of a battered



This is a 2000 MDOC photo of Melissa Chapman. MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



A 2011 photo of Delores Kapuscinski, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

woman to justify killing her husband.

"You're now redefining your life experiences based upon the knowledge that you've acquired about domestic violence and abuse as a very serious social problem in this country," King said. "And if you're trying to force that onto your life, retrospectively, it can be problematic. It can be helpful, but it can be problematic and that's what I'm struggling with.'

Rothermel objected to her commutation on behalf of the state attorney general's office and urged the governor to deny her clemency.

But retired prison psychologist Nels Thompson, who treated Kapuscinski, argued otherwise at the hearing:

"I would like to state something clinical and something personal about Delores," he said. "Clinically, a woman who is forced to have anal sex, marital rape with demeaning language, is in a rage. Frequently, people who are in rages do not realize they are in a rage. Rage is very impolite to acknowledge and express, so it takes other forms, such as depression, disassociation, etc. But Delores had been rageful for some time.

"I wouldn't suggest that she didn't make horrible mistakes and that this is a terrible outcome of that marriage. I wouldn't suggest that. But I would say this about Delores Kapuscinski: She is a woman of integrity and honor. ... She will not hurt the public in any way should she be released from prison. And I urge Gov.

Social justice advocates say that, for a number of reasons, battered women and those who suffer sexual and emotional abuse like Kapuscinski often don't get fair trials when they kill their abusers.

Self-defense cases are extremely hard to win in situations like these and that's because juries and judges have misconceptions about victims of domestic violence, said Cindene Pezzell, legal coordinator for the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women

"People still have a notion that battered women should have just left the situation and there's a lot of problems wrapped up in that assumption," she said. "One is that they could have left the situation. Two is that had they left, then their life would have been so much easier or safer, which we know is not necessarily true. Third is that they had a duty to actually leave an abusive situation. Instead of asking why do people batter their partners, instead they ask why didn't they leave?

"There is definitely a baked-in culture of disbelieving women's claims of being abused so any time that responsibility can be shifted from what a victim did not do, people take that route. Nobody wants to feel helpless and they want to feel like, if they were in that situation, they would pack up and leave. They just don't get it."

Piling on is the fact that the criminal justice system is male-dominated, said Lora Bex Lempert, a sociology professor emerita from the University of Michigan-Dearborn who spent years interviewing and meeting with 72 prisoners serving life sentences at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility and wrote a book, "Women Doing Life: Gender, Punishment, and the Struggle for Identity" (New York University Press, \$27).

"Judges are men. Prosecutors are men. The women rarely see anybody who looks like them in the process of their defense," she said. "Police are, by and large, men.

"It's very threatening to men to have women kill their abusive spouses - to have women kill anybody - because the characterization of women is that we have to be monsters if we kill, not that we are victims at the end of our ropes having tried everything. And so a woman who kills is perceived as much worse than a man who kills. They expect men to kill, but they do not expect women to do so.

A 2012 photo of Lu Anne

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Snyder to do so

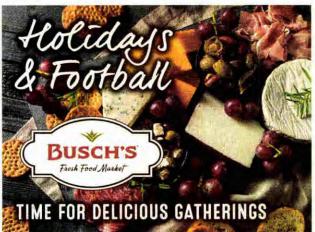
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"Many of these women did not kill anybody, but they are doing life."

Susan Farrell gets life; son gets 5 years

Susan Farrell maintains her innocence. Like Chapman, Farrell said she didn't pull the trigger of any gun or wield a deadly blow.

Rather, she insists it was her then-23-year-old son, Robert Baker, who swung the sledgehammer that smashed Terry Farrell's skull as he lay in his bed one April night in 1989.

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Farrell is now 73 years old. Her feet shuffled slowly as she walked from her wheelchair to a black plastic chair pushed up to a faux wood Formica table inside the visitor's area at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.

"If I stand too long, it hurts," she said. Farrell endured years of violence, including sexual assault, that caused so much physical damage, she said, "they've done surgeries because of what my husband did to me. I have a bad vaginal prolapse and a bowel prolapse.

"He would never let me say no" to sex, she said of her late husband, who was a mechanical engineer for Chrysler. "He'd say, 'Too bad."

She said he often used objects to violate her: "He would punch me, grab me, slap me on my face. If I said no to something, it would get him a little bit angry. I tried to keep myself from being confrontational."

In a case that pitted mother against son, Farrell was convicted on first-degree murder and conspiracy charges and sentenced to life in prison without parole Feb. 6, 1990.

She acknowledges she lied to police about what had happened the night her husband died, but denies conspiring with her son to kill Terry for his life insurance payout.

Rather, Farrell alleges that her son blew up in an argument over money the night of April 13 and early morning hours of April 14, 1989. Baker, she said, went to the garage of their Rochester Hills home for a sledgehammer and then coolly walked to his stepfather's bedroom and struck the deadly blows.

He threatened to tell police Farrell put him up to killing her husband if she didn't lie to investigators about his role in her husband's death.

"He threatened me. ... He said, 'If you tell on me, I'm going to tell them that you told me to do it," Farrell said of her son.

All along, Baker alleged it was Farrell who smashed in his stepfather's head and Farrell who wanted him dead for the life insurance payout.

The jury believed him.

In the end, Baker was acquitted of murder and conspiracy, but was found guilty of being an accessory after the fact on both charges. He was sentenced to 30-60 months in prison. He also was convicted separately on a statutory rape charge for having had sex with a neighbor younger than age 13. He served five years in prison on all the charges combined.

Farrell got life in prison without parole.

"I just know one thing," she said during a July public hearing before the parole board. "I never wanted my husband killed. I never asked to have him killed and that is the absolutely truth."

She admitted she lied to police to proct herself from her son's threats But

"What possible danger is Susan Farrell to anyone?" she said. "What possible danger is she? It always seems idiosyncratic to me, who gets re-sentenced or commuted. ... I don't know what the rationales are. They're not ... not consistent and they're not accessible. What do you have to do" to get clemency?

Nancy Seaman and battered woman syndrome

In Michigan, getting an acquittal in cases like these is made more difficult, advocates say, because case law limits the use of expert testimony about battered woman syndrome.

A form of post-traumatic stress disorder, battered woman syndrome occurs when a woman fears her life is in danger because of abuses suffered at the hands of a romantic partner. It can also occur in men, but experts note the majority of people who are abused are women.

Psychologists are often called to testify at trial to explain why battered women behave as they do and why they can lash out violently when their lives are threatened.

"For many of the women serving time in prison, having abuse and domestic violence in their backgrounds is a very common thread - in Michigan, especially, because the law is so restrictive," said Lenore Walker, the psychologist who coined the term battered woman syndrome and documented the cycle of abuse.

Walker testified for the defense in the case of Nancy Seaman, a fourth-grade teacher who in May 2004 killed her husband in the garage of their Farmington Hills home.

The case captivated the public and the press gloried in the gruesome details: A well-regarded teacher in a sleepy Detroit suburb who brutally killed her husband with a hatchet and a knife after three decades of marriage.

What wasn't explained, she said, were the years of abuse she suffered before that day.

In court, Seaman testified that she and her husband Robert began to argue the night of May 9, 2004, about yard work and overgrown landscaping. It was Mother's Day, but Seaman said she drove that evening to Home Depot to buy a hatchet so she could chop down the unruly foliage.

She testified during her trial that, the following morning, she was in the kitchen when she told Robert that she intended to leave him. He was furious, she said, and cut her with a knife. She fled to the garage, where she said he pushed her to the floor and kicked her.

The hatchet, Seaman told the jury, was the first thing she could grab to defend herself. She swung it over and over again and then took the knife Robert had used to cut her in the kitchen and stabbed him repeatedly. Later that day, she said, she wrapped his body in a tarp and put it in the trunk of the family SUV and methodically cleaned the gar

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she seemed confused about the abuse she'd suffered over the years and her relationship with her late husband. Some of her testimony was contradictory.

Rothermel noted that Farrell stood to inherit \$400,000 from her husband's estate after his death. She said she thought it was \$125,000.

Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper objected to Farrell's commutation request, writing: "Inmate Farrell's convictions arose from her direct and significant participation in the planning and execution of the brutal murder of her husband. Her desire was to end ... her boring and unsatisfying marriage in a manner that would ensure that she received a financial windfall from her soon-to-be late husband's estate. Allowing inmate Farrell to re-create her past in an attempt to portray herself as the victim in this case does a disservice to those genuinely battered women. Inmate Farrell is not a victim. She is a ruthless and calculating murderer."

Jacobsen testified on behalf of Farrell, whom she's known for more than a decade.

"Her history of sexual abuse by her father and then her husband were secrets she tried to keep buried out of shame and stigma as a good Catholic girl, then wife and mother," Jacobsen said. "But Robert, at his trial, testified that he and his brother saw their stepfa-

ther hit their mother and even break a lamp over her head when she was pregnant.

"She admits that she knew Robert hated his stepfather and made threats

against him and she told me she failed to intervene, but she did not ever anticipate that Robert would ever kill his stepfather and was in a state of disbelief when he did so.

"Today, Susan suffers mental confusion ... some cognitive impairment and numerous other disabilities, some as a result of her sexual abuse."

Farrell's life in prison without parole sentence is excessive, Lempert noted.

Her behavior, Walker said, can be explained by battered woman syndrome.

"Even though I testified, I wasn't allowed to testify that it was my opinion that she was a battered woman in Nancy Seaman's case," Walker said. "I could testify as to what battered women's syndrome was, but I couldn't say she had it."

That's because of a state Supreme Court ruling, People v. Christel, that doesn't allow experts to connect the behavior with the crime during a trial.

Seaman testified that her husband had beaten her for years, but she'd always tried to hide it, to cover it up, to make it look as if theirs was a happy marriage. She wanted the world to have an impression that their life was perfect, idyllic.

And that, said Thompson, a psychologist who oversaw a domestic violence program from 2000-10 for women at the now-shuttered Robert Scott Correctional Facility in Northville Township, is why Seaman went to such lengths to clean up after killing her husband.

The Seamans' two sons, Jeff and Greg, painted entirely different portraits of their home life, too.

Their younger son Greg sided with Seaman in court, corroborating her claims of abuse. The older son Jeff testified that his father didn't beat his mother, even though Jeff's wife Rebecca testified that she'd urged Seaman to get out of the marriage "before something happened." Rebecca told the jury that Seaman had complained of escalating abuse, of bruises and a fractured wrist.

Seaman seemed to be following that advice. She bought her own condo in April 2004 and was preparing to file for divorce.

"I think the jury had questions," Walker said. "Because she had two children, each of whom testified differently, you'd think that they grew up in different households, their testimony was so

See CLEMENCY, Page 6A

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Continued from Page 5A

different. But that's very typical in domestic violence cases, where the parent makes an alliance with one child or the child makes an alliance with one parent and not the other.

"It's very important because the impact from domestic violence flies in the face of what we know intuitively. We are trained to believe it takes two people to make a fight, but not in domestic violence cases. It just takes a batterer to pick a fight.

"In domestic violence cases, the man doesn't let the woman go. That's the time when she's most likely to get killed or more seriously harmed. These are things that have to be demonstrated to the average lay person so they understand, especially those who don't know anything about domestic violence."

Seaman wrote in an email to the Free Press that the pathologist in her case testified at trial that she and her husband were embroiled in a "face-to-face confrontation" on the day Robert was killed.

"The autopsy showed my husband was under the influence of alcohol and amphetamines at the time of his death, which corroborates my testimony that he was in an uncontrollable rage. The state's own nurse examiner testified that my injuries at the time of arrest were 'defensive injuries.' And I had the foremost authority on domestic violence, Dr. Lenore Walker, prepared to testify how 31 years of battering affected my state of mind, perception of imminent danger and behaviors, which a jury may have found incomprehensible or irrational, but Michigan law prevented her from doing so. This law likely sealed my fate. My point is that I am facing death in this prison unless my sentence is commuted."

Kelle Lynn, a domestic violence survivor from Grand Haven, is an advocate for Seaman and other women serving life in prison.

She founded a 501(c)3 nonprofit called Justice Thru Storytelling and has organized letter-writing campaigns to the governor to advocate for clemency for Seaman and some of the other women. She's also leading a campaign to push lawmakers to pass legislation that expands the ability of experts to testify about battered woman syndrome in Michigan courts.

When she first heard about Seaman's case, Lynn said it gave her pause.

"My first thought was fear and I questioned, 'Do I want to be involved with this woman? She was in prison and she used a hatchet. It sounds scary.'

"But then I read the 25 pages of expert testimony I was sent, between Nels Thompson's letter and Dr. Lenore Walker's letter. Everything changed for me after I read the rest of the story. I said, 'Oh, this is not what I thought.'

"Nancy had her reasons for not calling the police" to report the ongoing abuse in her marriage, she said. "Women have careers, reputations they want to protect in their communities. ... You don't want to tell anybody. It's very hard to tell somebody."

The more Lynn researched Seaman's case, the more she wanted to advocate on her behalf.

"All of a sudden, the whole story completely favored the prosecution," Lynn said. "And for the first time, that changed me. It was a sensationalized story."

Judge troubled by evidence in Seaman case

Although a jury convicted Seaman of first-degree murder, Oakland County Circuit Judge John McDonald was concerned jurors didn't hear all the evidence — particularly Walker's complete testimony on the effects of long-term domestic violence and battered woman syndrome.

Some facts in the case also just didn't add up in his mind. Why would Seaman kill her husband when she had purchased her own condominium and was about to leave him? Also, why did one of the Seaman's sons testify that his father had been abusive to her while the other son testified the opposite?

Seaman had gone to great pains to clean up the garage where her husband was killed, mopping and bleaching the floors, repainting the blood-spattered walls. She also wrapped his body in a tarp and hid it in the back of their SUV.

Walker would have testified that those behaviors all can be tied to things

a battered woman would do to hide the abuse, to make everything seem normal in a very abnormal situation, McDonald said. She could have explained why the Seamans' sons picked opposite sides.

It was then that McDonald said he realized that Seaman might not have gotten a fair trial.

"After the case was over with, there was a motion filed ... by an appellate attorney raising all kinds of legal issues, you know, ineffective assistance of counsel, prejudicial comments made by the prosecution in the closing arguments, a whole number of issues," he said.

"I denied them all, but I felt that after seeing her report, the written report, that the jury didn't get the full picture. I felt that had they gotten that, they probably would have said, 'Look, there was no premeditation, there was no deliberation, which reduces the case from first degree to either second degree, involuntary manslaughter or the possibility of not guilty by reason of insanity.

"So I reduced the case from first degree to second degree, but then I was reversed by the Court of Appeals in a 2-1 decision, saying it was an abuse of discretion for me to do that."

The case then went to federal court, where U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman called for a hearing where he took a video deposition from Walker and ordered a new trial, saying that the jury didn't hear all the evidence it should have heard from Walker on battered woman syndrome.

"He was reversed by the (U.S. Sixth Circuit) Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. That's where the case stands," McDonald said.

He's written three letters to Gov. Snyder on Seaman's behalf — even though he's never met her.

"I have never spoken to her. I've never corresponded with her," McDonald said. "I didn't want to do that because I never wanted anyone to think this was a personal thing with myself and Nancy or that I was trying to justify what I did.

"I just don't feel right about sentencing a person to life in prison if I don't think they deserve it.

Although Seaman appealed to the state parole board and the governor for clemency, she didn't get a public hearing this year from the parole board.

In an email, she wrote: "My conviction has been overturned twice. No other prisoner with a commutation petition before the governor can make that claim. Both the state and federal courts overturned my verdict, citing that the evidence did not support the verdict and that combined with ineffective assistance of counsel and omitted battered woman syndrome evidence denied me a fair and just trial.

"I would already be home by now if the prosecutor had not appealed and fought to keep me incarcerated. That's an unconscionable outcome for both me, my family and Michigan taxpayers. ... If the true intent of commutation is to rectify injustice when the criminal justice system has run its course, then I

Lu Anne Szenay begged for police help

pray the governor will grant me commu-

tation and release me from this prison."

Lu Anne Szenay couldn't see any other way out.

She called police to report her husband Timothy's abuse "dozens of times," she said.

"They'd say, 'Lady, it's your husband. We're not going to do anything about that.... If we didn't see it, we can't arrest him.'

"But I didn't want him arrested. I wanted to keep peace in the family. I wanted them to say, 'Tim, you can't do this.' If somebody would have stepped up and said, 'You're not going to do this to her,' maybe he would have stopped," she said during an interview from prison, where she's served 28 years.

After he twice kidnapped their daughter Jennifer and threatened both their lives, Szenay said she felt as if she was in a kill-or-be-killed situation. She hired a hit man who fatally shot her husband Jan. 18, 1990, in his Bay City home.

She regrets her decision and says she knows it was wrong. But maybe, just maybe, she wonders, if police had intervened, she wouldn't have taken such a drastic step to stay alive.

She was 19, she said, when she fell in love with Timothy, a soon-to-be-di-vorced body builder.

"He was gregarious," said Szenay , who wore a blue, button-down prisonissued top and matching pants during a June interview with the Free Press. "He was Superman. He swept me off my feet in 15 seconds. He charmed the world."

She could never have imagined when

See CLEMENCY, Page 7A





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Continued from Page 6A

she said "I do" in May 1978 that their love would turn violent, that her beloved would beat her and stalk her and that she would end it by conspiring to take his life.

"When I met him, his first wife had left him and I thought she was a fool," Szenay said. "He bought me an engagement ring in the first few weeks of dating. His divorce went through and we were married right away."

The newlyweds lived in Bay City through the late '70s and '80s and ran a business together selling water distillers. The business blossomed into a health food store they named the Health Nut.

In 1981, Szenay learned she was pregnant and everything changed

"The lid popped off the can," she said. "It was horrible. He started going out and not coming home at night. When he was home, he would hit me, slap me, throw me on the ground – and I was pregnant.

"People noticed the bruises and, when people would comment, he would say, 'She is the clumsiest person on Earth. She falls all the time.' I was on crutches and pregnant with bruises.

At 5 feet, 3 inches, and 110 pounds, Szenay wears her gray hair short, in a pixie-style cut that she said she is trying to grow out. She is 61 now.

"He was a body builder and lifted weights all the time. He had a fantastic physique," she said.

She talked about how, when he was especially enraged, he'd grab her by the neck with one hand, lift her up and then throw her onto the floor, kicking her repeatedly.

"I would say, 'Please, God, just let me live three more seconds.' I would say that over and over and over again until he was done. If I did that, I didn't really feel it as much," she said

In April 1982, she delivered their daughter Jennifer in their home because, she said, "Tim refused to pay for the hospital." A doctor came to their house to help her through it.

Szenay says her husband repeatedly told her she couldn't leave him, that she'd never survive on her own.

Still, Szenay filed for divorce twice the first time was when her baby girl was about 9 months old. But it didn't take

"I felt like people want to throw in the towel too easily," she said. "I thought one day he would open his eyes and realize I was the best thing in the world. I did whatever I could to keep him happy. As long as he was happy, I felt I would be OK. It would be OK. I could win him over."

But by 1989, Szenay had had enough. Her husband was going out more and coming home drunk or high.

"My daughter started finding cocaine in the house," she said and the abuse ratcheted up.

"He told me it's my way or the graveyard," she said. "He said he would never let me go. We lived on a river, the Kawkawlin River. He bought a Sea Ray fishing boat. My mother told me when he bought that boat that she thought he was going to kill me and use the boat to dump my body.

"He told me if I didn't do everything the way he wanted me to do it, he was going to kill our daughter, too.'

She filed for divorce in November 1989 and moved out the same day.

"He was walking around our store with a bottle of booze in a paper bag in the middle of the day and he was having sex with the help he hired. It was just horrible," she said. "He'd say, 'I don't know if I'm going to kill you, kill her or kill both of you.'

A month after she filed for divorce, Szenay hired James Blau, a college student, to work at the store. She initially had Blau running deliveries of Christmas gift baskets to clients, but soon began to rely on him for more.

"He thought of himself as a bodyguard," she said, to protect her from her husband, who was stalking her.

Two days after Christmas 1989, Szenay and her daughter went out to dinner and saw a movie. She had parked her car outside her apartment building when, she said, Tim grabbed Jennifer out of her arms. She sprayed him with pepper spray, but he still got away with their daughter.

"That night I called everyone I knew," Szenay said. "I didn't know if Jen was dead or alive and I told them he took her.'

The next day, Blau came to the Health Nut and said: "Let me take care of this guy. He won't bother you anymore. I said, 'OK,'" Szenay said. "He says, 'I know a guy out of state. He is a professional. He can take care of anything.' I knew he wanted to take his life.'

Court documents show that Blau brought Shawn England, a friend he'd met at a Florida security guard training school, to Michigan to complete the crime. In exchange, Blau and England negotiated a share of Timothy's life insurance payout.

"I felt it was the only way Jennifer and I were going to survive," Szenay said. "I feel horrible that I took someone's life and I destroyed a family, but I survived. And my daughter is OK. That means the world to me.

"I understand I have (a) life without parole sentence. But they have to look at the individual situation. If they would have looked at my whole picture, all the violence, I still would have been convicted, but I probably wouldn't have gotten a life without parole sentence."

England also was convicted on firstdegree murder charges and is serving life in prison without parole. Blau never went to trial. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and conspiracy and also was sentenced to life in prison.

Commutation clock is ticking down

Thompson supports clemency for Szenay, Seaman, Kapuscinski and Chapman, but he said he never worked with Farrell when he was a prison psychologist and thus cannot support her bid for commutation.

Although he's retired now, Thompson said all his years working in prisons in Michigan led him to the conclusion that "domestic violence is the absolute worst crime in America. Home is where I want my family to go to be safe. I want home to be where my wife can go where she feels people are on her side, where she is safe. ...For these poor women, home is a battlefield."

In the program he started, he said, "there were ladies who were criminals and I treated them with compassion because they had been abused by men. But they were lawbreakers. Then I met women who were anything but criminal. They had finally fought back against the abuser and he had died.

"And they were judged without fair trials because domestic violence was not allowed in trials except in unusual circumstances. They were fine and decent women. In their struggle with that abuse, they had taken a life that they felt terrible about taking. They were treated like murderers and sentenced to life in prison without parole."

Thompson advocates for the release of those who fought back against their batterers and hopes to see laws changed in Michigan to allow those who've endured abuse at home to include more complete testimony about that violence in their defense cases.

"I shed tears for the tragedy of listening to them and hearing about the life that they had," he said. "I also have tears right now, when I think of them still living in prison with no end in sight and their crime is spending years with an abuser until they can take it no longer.

"As we're talking right now, there's a woman in Michigan dreading her husband to get home, dreading for him to be in the house, not knowing if she's going to get a terrible beating, and there is going to be another death and another woman is going to be judged unfairly.

As Jan. 1 approaches and Snyder's term nears its end, the women lifers who applied for commutations anxiously wait for news.

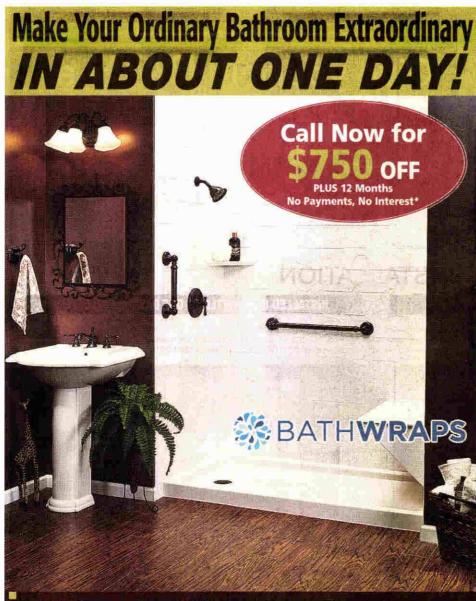
Seman and Szenay were not awarded public hearings before the parole board earlier this year and that makes their bids for clemency more unlikely.

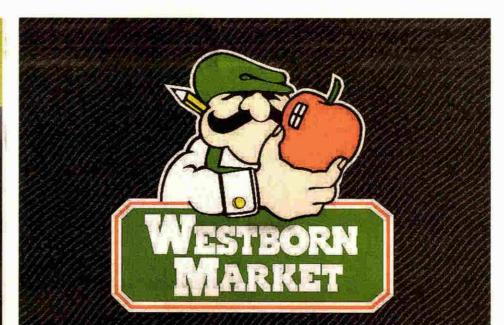
Anna Heaton, a spokeswoman for Snyder, wrote in an email that the governor intends to follow the commutation guidelines in the state constitution. That process includes a public hearing with representatives of the parole board. The board then makes a recommendation to the governor about clemency

The governor can either chose to accept or decline the recommendation of the board.

'There are no plans for the governor to bypass the hearing process," Heaton wrote. "The public hearing is part of the procedure established by law. Accordingly, it would not be appropriate to grant clemency without the occurrence of a public hearing and all of the other procedural steps required by law."

Lempert said the women in all five cases the Free Press examined have been model prisoners and their freedom should be considered.





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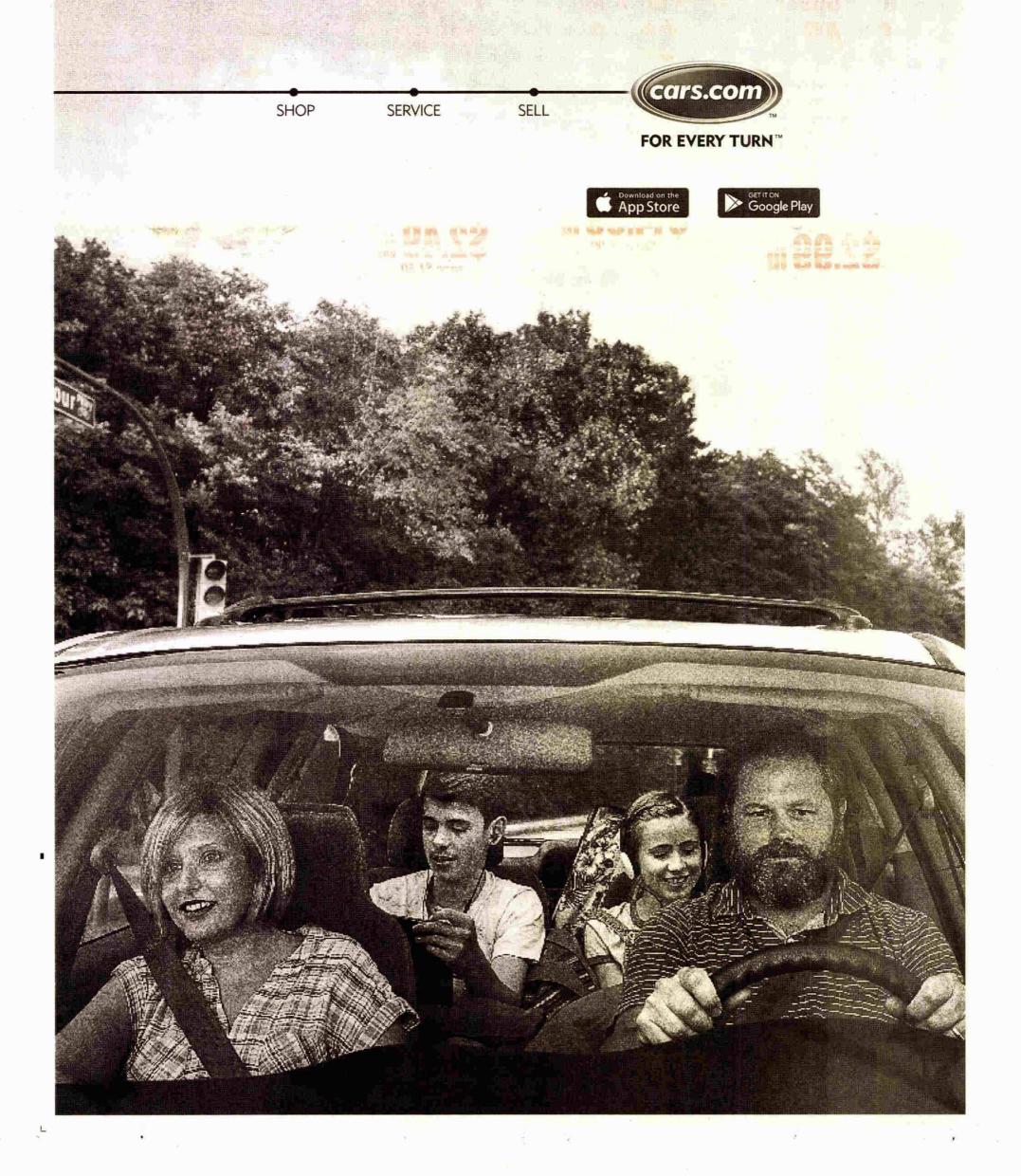


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COLLEGE SIGNING 'Big flip' sends Hansen to Sparty

Harrison senior takes MSU offer over Chippewas

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Maverick Hansen was eagerly looking forward to college football's early signing day.

The Farmington Harrison senior woke up Dec. 19 fully expecting to honor his commitment to Central Michigan University.

Then Hansen got the shocking phone call that caused the "big flip."

Around 8:25 a.m., Hansen answered a call from Ron Burton, the defensive line coach at Michigan State University. A few minutes later, he was talking with MSU head coach Mark Dantonio.

They offered him a last-minute scholarship and he excitedly accepted. At the signing ceremony at Harrison,

which also included teammate Rod Heard (Northwestern) and classmate Monique Sampson (Henry Ford College for volleyball), Hansen announced he will be playing football this fall in East Lansing at Michigan State University.

"When I woke up this morning, I thought I was going to Central Michigan today," Hansen said. "But I got a call from coach Burton and coach Dantonio today telling me I had a scholarship and telling me I could be a Spartan. That was just an opportunity I couldn't turn. down.

'Today was a big flip. I was shaking. I didn't even know what to tell people. I was just blown away all day," he added. "I was just walking around school looking stupid. I was smiling for ear to ear,

See HANSEN, Page 3B



Maverick Hansen, shown celebrating after Farmington Harrison's overtime victory at Detroit Country Day, signed to play college football at Michigan State University. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS BASKETBALL

Moon launch

Glenn senior scores 37 in game overshadowed by incidents in stands, technical fouls, player ejections

Brad Emons hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was game that featured a total of 51 fouls, including six technicals, two player ejections and a series of unruly fan incidents coming from the stands that resulted in three different stoppages of play.



BOYS BASKETBALL

Canton's Robinson brings grit to court

Tim Smith hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Darius Robinson is ready for some basketball after finally deciding where he'll be playing Division I football next year.

And the 6-foot-6, 260-pound defensive tackle for Canton - who Dec. 19 capped off a long and winding decision-making process by choosing Missouri - looked free, easy and physical out on the basketball court the next day against host Northville.

But it couldn't and wouldn't overshadow the performance of Westland John Glenn senior guard Joe Moon IV, who proved to be the top Rocket as he scored a game-high 37 points in a 71-61 KLAA East Division boys basketball win over rival Wayne Memorial.

With the help of fellow senior guard Renel Thrasher Jr.'s 22 points, host Glenn improved to 2-0 overall and 2-0 in the division.

The 6-foot-2 Moon racked up 20 of his 37 during the final quarter to help preserve the victory.

"Joe Moon is a two-way player," Glenn coach Rod Watts said. "He's probably the best-kept secret in the state of Michigan. I don't understand why people don't rank him higher, but he's got the keys to the car. And we know he's going to bring the car back the same. We put a lot of trust in Joe."

Accurate shooter

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Moon, locked in all night, made 14of-15 free throws, including 11-of-12 in the final quarter.

"We've been focused from the beginning," Moon said. "Since tryouts, we've been waiting for them. They beat us three times last year, so we wanted payback and we still got them two more times. We blocked out all the stuff in the stands. We blocked it away and just



Glenn's Joe Moon IV (left) drives to the basket, evading Wayne's Riccardo Covin and Kenneth Bowie (right). BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

won."

Moon also helped orchestrate a Glenn defense that put the clamps on Wayne senior guard Isaiah Lewis, who was coming off a school-record 50point performance just three days prior during a 91-58 win over Dearborn.

Moon hounded Lewis, who wound up with 15 points, all over the floor.

"Just deny him the ball and Dreyon (O'Neal), that was the game plan," Moon said.

Rocky start

Against Wayne's zone defense, Glenn See GLENN, Page 5B

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got off to a slow start, trailing 10-4 after one quarter. The Rockets, however, got untracked offensively in the second quarter, outscoring Wayne 21-15 to pull even at 25-25 at halftime.

Thrasher connected on two of his four triples during the second quarter.

"When Renel hit those threes, that opened it up to come out of the zone, it gave me the ability to drive to the basket and finish," Moon said.

Glenn opened up a 36-27 thirdquarter advantage before Wayne charged back to go up by three, 39-36,

Robinson looked as though he were still playing football on several stretches of the Chiefs' 65-46 victory, diving onto the floor for 50/50 balls and even "picking off" a Northville pass.

"You just got to be physical in football, basketball," Robinson said. "That's who I am. Everybody knows

See CANTON, Page 4B



Northville's Ryan Pumper (left) tries to elude the tough defense of Canton's Darius Robinson. TOM BEAUDOIN | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Farmington Unified opens season with win

Marty Budner hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Farmington Unified gymnastics team enters the 2018-19 season as defending state champion.

If the first score this season is any indication, the girls representing the Farmington Public Schools district are aiming for another big season. Farmington opened with an impressive 145.75-137.37 victory Dec. 14 over Huron Valley.

Farmington Unified is led by a strong corps of returnees who were all members of last year's title-winning squad, the sixth overall in FPS history and the fourth under veteran head coach Jeff Dwyer.

"It was a great team score for the first meet of the year. Anytime a team can hit the mid-140s, you have to be satisfied," Dwyer said. "In a typical year, this would place us in the top 10 teams in the state. It creates excitement as we head into the season."

Dwyer is impressed with the way his team performed, considering the loss of four gymnasts to graduation, including D-2 all-around state champion Elisa Bills and all-state standout Emily Stecevic.

"Not only do you lose that talent, but you also lose the experience of gymnasts who competed many years for a state title and pulled it off last year," Dwyer said. "Those gymnasts are invaluable.

"We gained some talented gymnasts this year, but it remains to be seen how they come together as a team. I have had talented squads in the past who did not reach their potential for all sorts of reasons.

"They never really gelled as a team that only cares about the team," he added. "This is a good start. It remains to be seen how this new group will continue, but I like our depth and talent."

Depth and talent

That depth and talent centers around returning gymnasts Kacey Noseworthy (captain), Ava Farquhar (captain), Olivia Demming (captain), Shelby Smith, Lily Tyler, Sydney and Allie Schultz, Sara Kurkechain, Zoe Rasico and Maddy Weiner.

The top newcomers are Elena Vargo



Sophomore returnee Allie Schultz provides much-needed depth and experience for the Farmington Unified gymnastics team. KATHY BURNS

and Kamini Playle, while first-year gymnasts Andrea Ouellette, Kristin Fleming and freshman Sara Lashbrook will give the squad that much more depth.

"We have some experienced gymnasts who have competed at the highest level in the state and came out on top," Dwyer said. "Winning a state championship takes incredible determination and tenacity and having these gymnasts returning for another year makes life easier for the coaches, as they already know what to expect.

"The new gymnasts joining the team will only make us better," he added. "It is interesting to see how past gymnasts mesh with incoming gymnasts, but so far it appears we are all on the same page."

Vargo, whom Dwyer believes is

among the states's top Division 1 gymnasts, posted the top all-around score against Huron Valley with 37.725 after winning three of the four events. She won the vault (9.7), uneven bars (9.15) and floor exercises (9.725) and scored 9.15 on the balance beam, placing second to Farquar, who won with 9.55.

Noseworthy was second off the vault (9.4), uneven bars (9.05) and floor exercise to take second all-around (36.1).

Farquhar was third all-around with a total of 35.775 and Sydney Schultz registered 35.1 to place fourth. Allie Schulz (34.675), Playle (34.425) and Smith (33.95) also contributed strong-all around performances.

"This is not an easy feat to accomplish. It takes routines loaded with difficult skills and performed without many



Farmington Unified senior tri-captain Ava Farquhar soars off the vault during the season-opening victory over Huron Valley. KATHY BURNS



Farmington United senior tri-captain Kacey Noseworthy finished second on floor exercises and in the all-around competition during the season-opening meet against Huron Valley. KATHY BURNS

flaws," Dwyer said. "All of these gymnasts should be very proud in these scores, especially for the first meet of the season.

"As I look at the scores from the past meet, I like the fact that we are very deep with solid gymnasts," he added. "This returning group remembers all the little things that got the job done last year and, hopefully, they can continue to grow and influence this new team in a positive manner."

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

COLLEGE SIGNING

Canton defensive end Robinson casts lot with Missouri

Defensive end also

considered Colorado, Minnesota, Michigan

Brad Emons hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

First-year Canton football head coach Andrew LaFata may have summed it up best about Darius Robinson's signing an NCAA letter of intent Dec. 19 with the University of Missouri.

"I had no clue. Darius has got a great poker face," LaFata said of his 6-foot-5, 260-pound defensive and tight end.

Before making his announcement in the Canton gym before immediate family, teammates, coaches, classmates and friends, Robinson had narrowed his four choices down to Colorado, Minnesota, Michigan and Missouri after receiving interest from a total of 23 Division I schools.

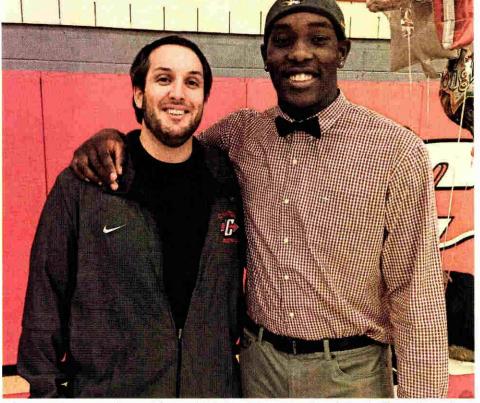
When the three-start recruit announced his choice, he donned a Missouri stocking cap.

"My thought process was Missouri and they answered all my questions as far as just playing in the best conference (SEC) in football," Robinson said. "My brother (Reggie) can be at a lot of things

- to support me and my family. That was the main thing about their support system and that's where I need to be suc-
- cessful. I'm just excited to get to work." Missouri is coming off an 8-4 season and 4-4 record in the SEC under thirdyear coach Barry Odom. The Tigers are
- set to face Oklahoma State on Dec. 31 in the Autozone Liberty Bowl in Memphis,

Tenn.

"I just felt at home," Robinson said. "I just felt so comfortable with the coaching staff. I want to play against the best every week and compete against the best. I know playing in the SEC, it don't get no better than that. Coach (Brick) Haley (associate head coach) ... he's is a good man. His resume just speaks for itself and I'm just excited to learn from him and see where I can end up being



Missouri signee Darius Robinson (right), with Canton head football coach Andrew LaFata, after announcing his national letter of intent. BRAD EMONS | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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because everyone wants to go to the (NFL) and, with the opportunity, I'm forever grateful. I'm the first in my family to be offered a degree and I'm excited."

Robinson is currently playing basketball for Canton, but may not finish out the season because he may go to Missouri as an early enrollee next month.

"We're going to figure that out," Robinson said. "I'm taking classes so I can leave early, but we'll see what happens. I love my teammates. Second semester starts Jan. 22, so I'll have time. So if I leave, I need to get things in order."

Robinson played only two years of high school football after transferring from Canton Prep, where he played basketball. The charter school did not offer football.

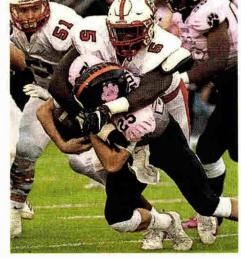
"He showed up in the spring of 2017

¥

at our camp and here he comes not playing football and that was the first time that most of us coaches saw him, so this is the product of two years," LaFata said. "He's only had one off-season working out."

LaFata said Robinson's best football days are ahead him.

"He's raw, because he's only been playing for two years," LaFata said. "But in those two years, he's worked his tail off. He really has. You can tell by all the people here, his teammates ... if they didn't like him they wouldn't be here. And they like him because he works hard. So if he keeps that up ... I think he learned to love the weight room and all the stuff that comes with that. If he continues doing that, he could be somebody you're reading about in a few years."



Canton's Darius Robinson (making tackle) signed an NCAA letter of intent with the University of Missouri. JON VESPAZIANI

Robinson, who earned all-state honors at defensive end, certainly fits all the measurables.

"He can tie his shoes standing up," LaFata said. "He keeps growing. That's what crazy. When you look at him, he looks closer to 6-6 now, but I swear he was closer to 6-5 a year ago with a baby face. He just keeps getting bigger and bigger. Every time you see him, he just looks older."

As a senior, Robinson was primarily on the defensive side of the ball, where he recorded 68 tackles, including six sacks and 12 for loss, with one fumble recovery.

His position in college will be determined.

"He can move inside as a three-technique defensive tackle," LaFata said. "They can try and trim him up and move him on the outside as a defensive end. He was a great tight end for us. He was a blocking tight end for us. It's somewhere on the the defensive line."

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

1

Howell hits 3-pointer to slip past Plymouth

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

When it comes to shooting the 3pointer, Howell is never bashful.

"We like to get open shots, so if that happens to be a lot of threes, then will take a lot of threes," seventh-year Howell coach Nick Simon said. "If it's layups, we'll take layups. We're definitely ready and willing to shoot it if they're there."

The Highlanders needed all 10 of their 3-pointers, including the gamewinner from Kip French with only 15.4 seconds left, Dec. 18 to beat host Plymouth, 44-43, in the KLAA West Division boys basketball opener for both teams.

With the victory, Howell evened its record at 2-2, while Plymouth fell to 3-2.

After Howell took the one-point lead on French's triple, Plymouth called a timeout to set up a final play.

Senior guard Bryce Amison found an opening and drove down the lane, only to have his shot blocked by Howell's Tony Honkala during the final seconds. Howell was able to grab the rebound and escape with the victory.

One option coming out of the timeout was to try to get the ball in the paint to 6-foot-7 senior center Ryan Berger, who led all scorers with 14 points.

"We were trying to get down low," Plymouth coach Mike Soukup said. "We had a play set up for our big fella down low (Berger) and then we had the guy who set the screen coming off the screen for screener action, so we hoped for hitting on one of those two things. It was a clear lane to the basket and we just got our shot blocked. Risky play for (Honkala) to try and block the shot at the time, but he got it clean. The refs called a good game and it is what it is."

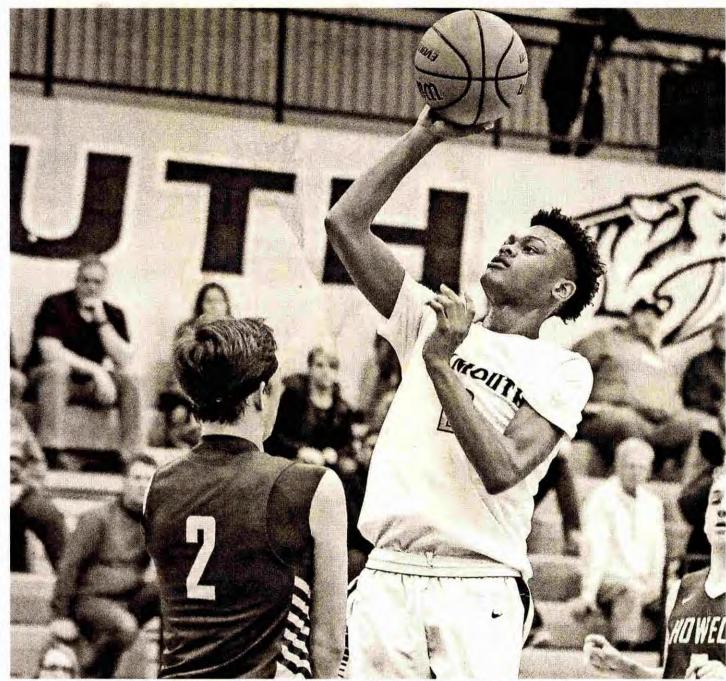
Cody Deurloo and Josh Palo led Howell with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Honkala chipped in nine and French added eight.

Howell attempted just two free throws all night, missing both, but 10 of the Highlanders' 17 made field-goal attempts came from beyond the arc.

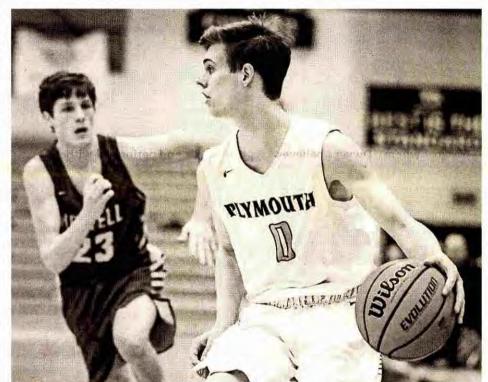
"First of all, I've got to give a lot of credit to Plymouth," Simon said. "Plymouth is incredibly well-coached and they get after it defensively. They're as good of a defensive team as we've played all year, so lots of credit goes out to them and our guys came up and made some big plays at the end and we were able to pull out the victory."

Brice Baumgart contributed eight points, while Devon Wisniewski and Amison contributed seven apiece for Plymouth.

After going up by five, 37-32, near the end of the third quarter, the Wildcats made just 1-of-5 field-goal attempts down the stretch and committed five



Plymouth's Bryce Amison (right) shoots the floater over Howell's Luke Russo. MICHAEL VASILNEK



"I told the guys, you look at Big Ten play, every single win on the road in the Big Ten is really, really difficult to get," Simon said. "So the same thing our conference. If you go on the road, especially if you have an hour-and-10-minute drive, it's going to be tough to pull out a victory and I'm happy we were able to do that."

Despite the loss, Soukup did find some silver linings.

'(Howell) are probably favored as one of the better teams in the league, so what does that mean for us?" Soukup said. "It will be interesting to see going forward. Does that mean that we can be considered in that echelon, too, or are we just going to be like a lunar eclipse? You see us every once in a while and play that well or don't see us for long stretches after that. We'll see what happens. But I like what I see from my guys tonight. Their fight was excellent. We did what we came to do tonight and we played our style, despite being down a little bit. We eventually wore it down and were one possession short."

costly fourth-quarter turnovers.

"We played really good defense, I thought, tonight and they shot one in that last possession," Soukup said. "We over-helped a little bit too much and we couldn't get back out to the shooter (French) and they got us by one. But I've got to credit my boys. They played really hard tonight on both ends of the floor. It was just a grinder game. It was an old-

Plymouth guard Curtis Moore (right) looks for an opening as he's being chased by Howell's Dan Lewis. MICHAEL VASILNEK

school slug fest, for lack of a better term, and we were just one possession short." For Howell, it was pivotal win away from home.

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Hansen

Continued from Page 1B

you know. I couldn't stop."

MSU was 'dream' school

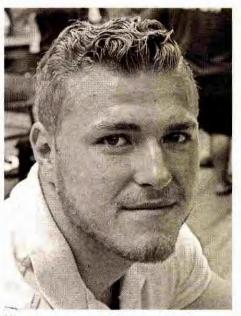
Hansen originally committed this past July to play football at Central Michigan University for then head coach John Bonamego. However, the Chippewas finished with a 1-11 record and Banamego was fired in late November and recently replaced by Jim McElwain.

The 18-year-old Farmington Hills resident said the coaching change had nothing to do with his decision. He also said he wasn't totally certain why MSU offered late.

"I was staying committed to Central until I signed," Hansen said. "The only thing that was going to change it was Michigan State — and Central Michigan knew that. They knew if Michigan State came through, I was going to change.

"I know (Michigan State) had been watching film on me for a while and were talking about it. But truthfully, I don't know why they got in touch with me. Maybe one of the people who were going to sign or something ... I don't know. I'm just excited that I'm a Spartan.

"Michigan State has always been my dream school," he added. "Ever since I



Hansen

was a freshman, they've been recruiting me and whatnot. I never got offered, obviously, until today. But I really liked Michigan State ever since the beginning. I'm just glad it came through."

Hansen, who will graduate in June with high honors, played three varsity seasons as an offensive and defensive lineman for legendary head coach John Herrington.

The Hawks finished with a 23-12 record during that span, including playoff appearances the past two seasons. This past fall, Hansen finished with 69 tackles, tied for the team lead, with one sack and one quarterback hurry.

The 6-foot-5, 265-pound two-way lineman said he will be playing on MSU's reputable defensive line as a tackle. Hansen said that was a nice switch, because CMU was recruiting him as an offensive lineman.

"I know that I worked hard on both sides of the ball and I'm going there as a defensive lineman, which is ever crazier to me," Hansen said. "That gives me a chance to get to my ideal physique. Michigan State is stacked on the offensive line, so they have to get me in as a defensive lineman.

"I like the defensive line, because I think you can get a lot of fame there. I can hear my name being called that way (on tackles). They don't say that 'Maverick Hansen had a 5-yard pancake.' But they say your name on the defensive line.

"But I could play both sides of the ball," he added. "I have love for both sides of the ball."

Well-prepared at Harrison

Harrison advanced to the Division 3 state championship game during Hansen's junior season, losing to powerful Muskegon, 28-10. The Hawks qualified for the playoffs again this fall, losing the Division 4 regional championship game to Chelsea.

Hansen said he is well-prepared for his college career after playing at Harrison under Herrington, the state's winningest head coach.

"It's been traditional at Harrison. You get from it what you put into it," Hansen said. "I was fortunate to have really good leaders as teammates while I was there. It's kind of like a brotherhood. The older brothers teach their younger brothers all about the Harrison tradition.

"It's not easy playing at Harrison. I know I am going to Michigan State knowing a whole bunch of stuff," he added. "I'm not going in blind. I know what watching film is like. I know what it is going through a whole day of practice. Being at Harrison taught me a lot."

Harrison will be closing its doors following this academic year and Hansen is sorry to see the school close and the Hawks football program cease.

However, he plans to follow North Farmington next year.

The Raiders recently named Jon Herstein as their new head coach. Herstein, a line coach at Harrison, plus a number of former Harrison coaches — including Herrington — will be part of the Raiders coaching staff next fall.

"I'm really disappointed that Harrison is closing," Hansen said. "But coach Herstein is taking the North Farmington job, so I'll still be able to come back and hang out with the kids and stuff. It's even better that he's taking some of the (former) Harrison coaches with him."

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @MartyBudner.

Canton

Continued from Page 1B

practices will be physical, games will be physical and it weakens your opponents. It definitely got to them."

Veteran Canton varsity boys head coach Jimmy Reddy said Robinson is adding another dimension to a team that often relies on the hot shooting of senior guards B. Artis White and Vinson Sigmon for offense.

"He's physical, he plays hard, plays within the rules and he does a lot of dirty work for us," Reddy said. "And he's helping us. It's a big body, he's 6-6, 260. Helps us rebound, a good screener. Can finish around the rim. Plays hard, he's helping us, for sure."

Canton (3-1, 2-0 in the KLAA West Division) broke open a close game in the second quarter, with a 22-11 edge that gave the Chiefs a 40-26 halftime lead. Scoring 14 of those second-quarter points (12 on four treys) was White, who finished with 23 points. Sigmon contributed 19 points.

For Northville (2-2, 0-2), senior forward Ryan Pumper scored 12 points, with senior forwards Daniel McLaughlin and Steven Morrisey adding eight and seven points, respectively.

"They have a tremendous backcourt," Northville head coach Todd Sander said about the combo of White and Sigmon. "Not just him, but like I said, probably one of the best duos in the state. There's a reason (White's) going to play Division I basketball (at Western Michigan). He's a very special and unique talent.

"But yeah, (White) feeds off positive energy. When things start to roll good for him, it seems like he feeds off that and makes some more shots. We didn't rebound the ball real well early, which led to some extra possessions for them. But our guys never quit, they showed a lot of fight. And we'll get better."

Meanwhile, Robinson's decision to go to Missouri — he also seriously considered Michigan, Minnesota and Colorado, which pursued him during the final weeks — actually is the second big one he's had to make in recent weeks.

The first involved whether or not to return to the court to play his senior season of basketball with his alma mater.

He toyed with enrolling early at a college, but that would have entailed not being able to play basketball. When that



This was a regular sight: Canton guard B. Artis White launching a long jumper. He drained five treys in the Chiefs' win over Northville. TOM BEAUDOIN | SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

college option apparently disappeared, Robinson called Reddy.

"He didn't come out at the beginning at tryouts, because he was trying to enroll early (at a college)," Reddy said. "It seemed like it might not be an option anymore and he called me Thanksgiving weekend and said he wanted to come play basketball. We had him come and try out for two days and he joined us.

"He started Game 2 and started since and helped us. He's still trying to get into basketball shape, but he'll get there."

Now that he is back and finding him-

self in the middle of things on the floor instead of the gridiron, Robinson doesn't want to leave anytime soon.

"This basketball team is special," Robinson said. "It made my decision harder if I wanted to leave or go. But I love these guys, I love being out here every day and I'm just having fun. They know me, I just like to have fun. And I enjoy this."

Following are several other takeaways:

HOT SHOT

White's D-I talents also were on display, as he went on a tear beginning late in the first quarter when he sank a rainbow trey from the left side to break a tie and put Canton up 18-15 after one.

Sigmon also got in on the action with a 3-pointer with 5:20 remaining and White followed with back-to-back triples within a half-minute to open up a 31-19 Canton advantage.

Before halftime, White drained a couple of more treys for good measure.

"B. Artis is just a really good player, a really good shooter," Reddy said. "He did it for us (in a 70-48 win at Brighton), he had 28 points. I don't know how many he had today, but he shot it well, especially in that second quarter.

"And the best thing about B. Artis is he's a two-way player, he defends, he rebounds. He led us in rebounding against Pioneer a couple weeks ago with 11 rebounds. He does a lot for our team."

SHOWING FIGHT

The Mustangs were not within double digits of Canton throughout the second half, but Sander said there still was a lot to like about his team's performance.

"I thought Ryan Pumper was fantastic," Sander said. "He's been banged up most of the year, but he gives us great heart, great energy.

"Zach Shoemaker continues to make strides. I was proud of all our players, because they never quit. When the score got spread they kept playing and they kept fighting."

T-EEING IT UP

The Chiefs had an inauspicious start to the proceedings, when a player was called for a technical foul before the opening tip.

What was the offense? Dunking basketballs during the warm-ups.

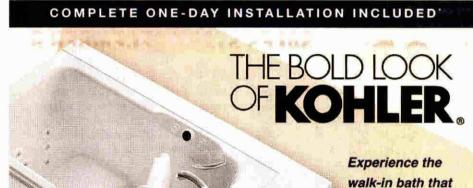
Stepping up to the free-throw line to start the game was Pumper, who sank a pair of shots to give the Mustangs a 2-0 lead.

BREAK TIME

Northville is idle until hosting a Christmas tournament Dec. 28-29. The Mustangs face Trenton at 7 p.m. Friday and then will play either South Lyon or Utica Eisenhower the next day.

Sander said the long stretch between games will help the team to "get some good practice in."

Contact Tim Smith @tsmith@hometownlife.com or via Twitter @Tim-Smith_Sports.



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Glenn

Continued from Page 1B

on pair of free throws by Lewis.

But the Rockets answered with a 9-0 run of their own during the final minute to lead 45-39 going into the fourth, capped by a Thrasher triple.

"Renel Thrasher was huge in knocking down some deep, Steph Curry-like three-balls," Watts said. "We had quite a few threes and he was unconscious with it."

Down the stretch

Glenn eventually pulled away in the final quarter and it quickly became a free-throw shooting contest. The Rockets went a total of 16-of-29 from the foul line, while Wayne was 25-of-38.

Senior center Cartier Muse-Suber led Wayne with 20 points, while Chayce Leslie and Kenneth Bowie both added eight.

But it was a forgettable night for the Zebras (3-2, 1-1), who also committed 19 turnovers.

"We were undisciplined and I take my hat off to Joe Moon, a better player on the court tonight," Wayne coach Nkwane Young said. "I thought Joe played very composed and I can't believe the kid doesn't have any Division I offers. I knew coming into the game we had to stop him, but he's really has improved his game. I really respect him and how he played. He didn't take any forced shots, he rebounded, he scored, he was very disciplined. I thought he did everything he needed to do for his team."

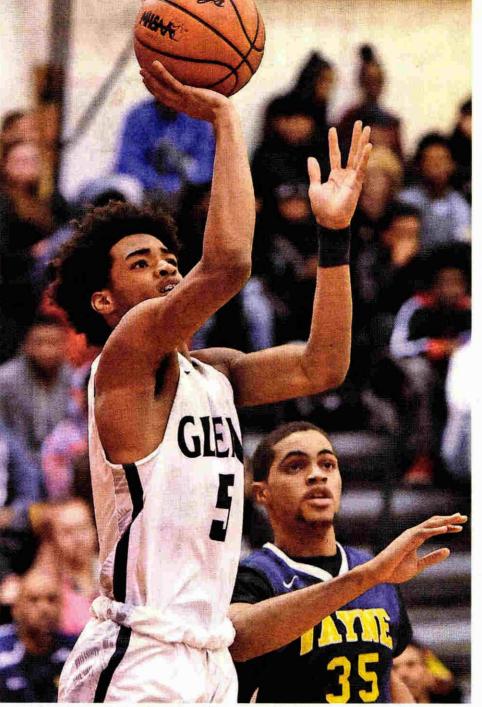
The Wayne coach, however, made it a point to question the officiating.

"I don't want to bring the referees in, but I feel they kind of took the game away from us, too, because their guys were doing the same things ... but I'm not going to cry about the referees," he said. "If we play disciplined, we win the game."

Ugly night

Despite a heavy security presence, which included administrators and faculty members from both rival schools, along with the police, tensions remained high throughout the game.

Near the end of the first half, a spec-



John Glenn's Renel Thrasher Jr. makes a 3-point shot over Wayne's Dreyon O'Neal. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tator was escorted out of the gym by Westland police. Two Wayne players were also ejected, one in the second quarter and one in the third. Another fan, who entered the floor, was thrown out in the second half, causing yet another delay.

With 5:11 left in the fourth, a fight broke out in the bleachers, causing offi-

cials to stop the game. They then huddled with school administrators from both sides. It led to a public address announcement warning fans that, if another incident occurred, the gym would be cleared of spectators in order to finish the game.

"I was proud of the guys staying focused and not getting involved in what



Wayne's Kenneth Bowie is under the basket. Glenn's Sharrieff Liddell tries to stop the shot. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"I was proud of the guys staying focused and not getting involved in what wasn't going on in the game. All the drama took place outside of the court and so hats off to all the guys for staying focused."

Rod Watts

wasn't going on in the game," Watts said. "All the drama took place outside of the court and so hats off to all the guys for staying focused. My coaching staff did a great job keeping them focused so that, when the game resumed, we could continue with the game plan."

Meanwhile, Glenn Principal Michael Wegher declined comment about the incidents regarding the unruly fan behavior that took place.

"It's something I'll direct you to talk to our central office," he said.

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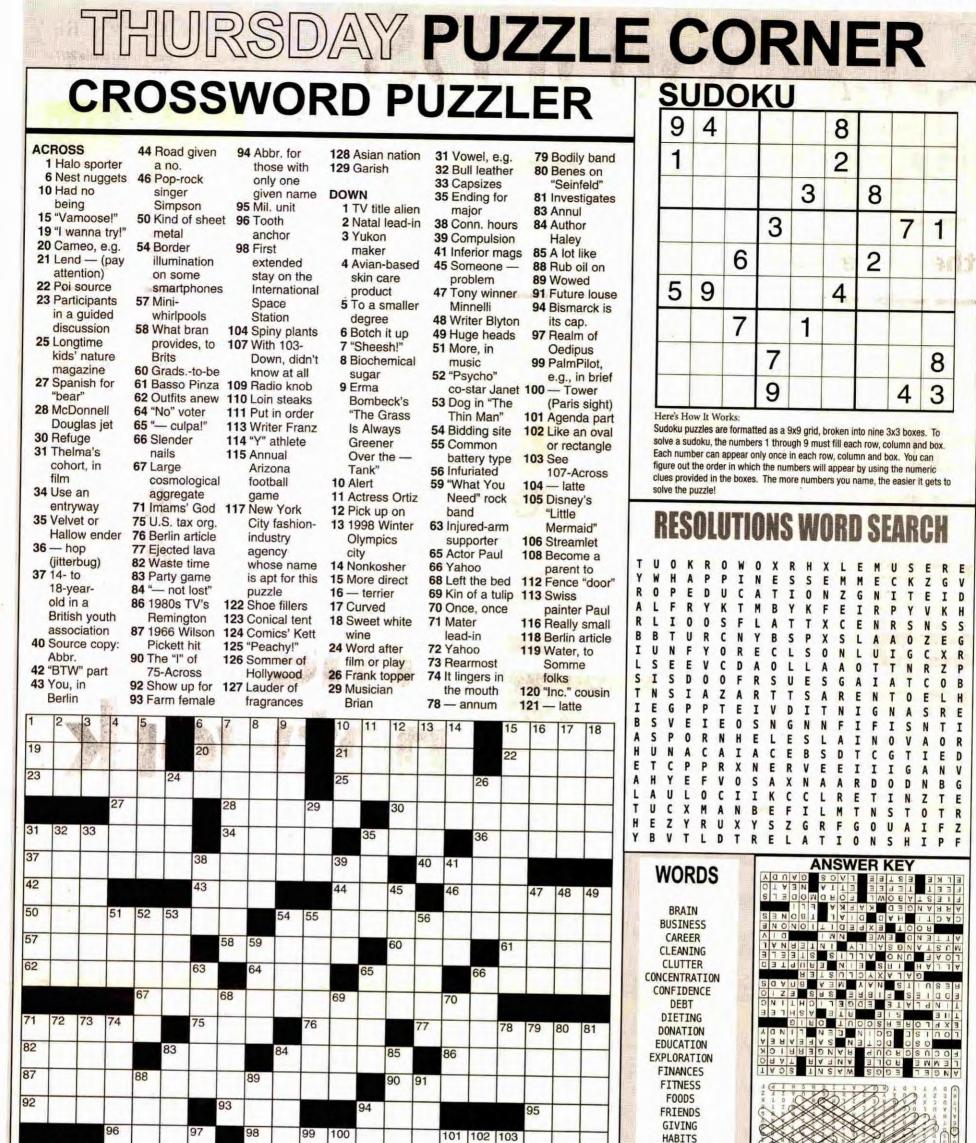
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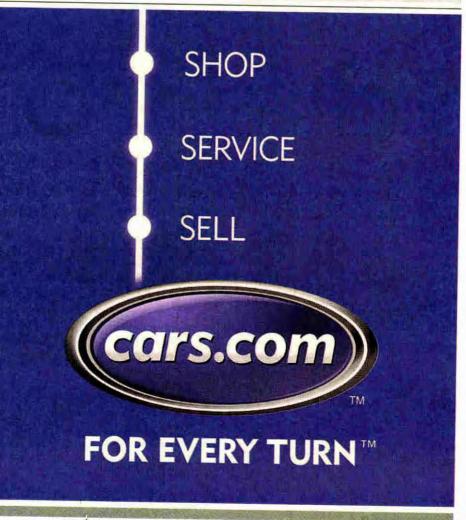


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shall be:	vater services only from the only of westigned	18 24	975.00	
	D D'II' -	30	1,075.00	
Meter Size	Per Billing (Bi-monthly)	36	1,175.00	
(inches)		48	1,300.00	
5/8	19.35	B Effectiv	e on or after March 1, 2019, the monthl	y charge shall be:
3/4	19.35			
$1 \\ 1 \frac{1}{2}$	19.35 47.00	Meter Size (inches)	e Monthly Charge	
2	93.00			
3	121.00	5/8	3.73	
4	179.00	3/4	5.61 9.33	
6	535.00	1 1 1/2	20.54	
8	1,050.00	2	29.86	
10	2.100.00	3	54.13	
D. Effective with the	first billing on or after January 1 2021, the	- 4	74.66	
	water services only from the City of Westland	6	111.92	
shall be:	Robel (Americanity)	8	171.15 236.25	
Meter Size	Per Billing	10	236.25	
(inches)	(Bi-monthly)	12 16	409.50	
	22.50	18	472.50	
5/8	22.50	24	614.25	
5/8 3/4	22.50	30	682.50	
3/4 1		36	745.50	
3/4 1 1 1/2	56.00			
3/4 1 1 1/2 2	100.00	48	813.15"	
3/4 1 1 1/2 2 3	100.00 145.00		813.15"	
3/4 1 1 1/2 2 3 4	100.00 145.00 210.00	48		Westland City Cod
3/4 1 1 1/2 2 3	100.00 145.00	48 Section 3. That al	813.15" l other provisions of Chap <mark>ter</mark> 46 of the herein, shall remain in full force and ef	Westland City Code

Section 2. That paragraph (c) of the portion of Section 46-1(49) of the Westland City Code entitled "Sewage Disposal Rates (Section 102-124)" shall be amended provide as follows:

Section 6. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be

Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon

"(1)

A. The current charge per 1,000 gallons per quarter or any fraction thereof....\$5.70 Effective with the first billing on or after March 1, 2019, this charge

shall be..\$5.75

paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

published in the manner required by law.

Effective with the first billing on or after January 1, 2020, this charge shall be..\$5.80

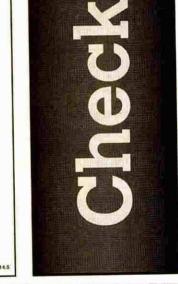
Effective with the first billing on or after January 1, 2021, this charge shall be..\$5.85

B. Effective with the first billing on or after March 1, 2019 a fee that is charged to every sewer account for sewer services from the City of Westland is based upon the size of the meter installed:

Meter Size (inches)	Per Billing (Bi-monthly)
5/8	16.60
3/4	16.60
1	16.60
1 1/2	40.00
2	80.00
3	104.00
4	154.00
6	460.00
8	900.00
10	1,800.00

publication.

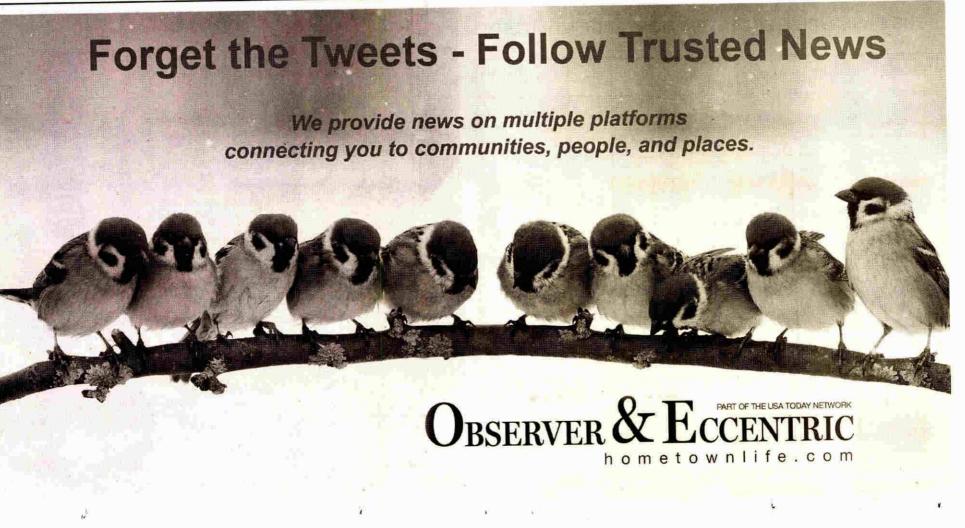
Adopted: Effective: Published: December 17, 2018 December 27, 2018 December 27, 2018



is out

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Publish: December 27, 2018



Section 5. Repeal. All other Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such inconsistencies, hereby repealed.



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Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m. Published: December 27, 2018 Adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

agenda items

Publish: December 27, 2018

2019 Fire and Police Civil Service Commission Meeting Dates

Notice of Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Westland Fire and Police Civil Service Commission to be held during the 2019 calendar year.

To all persons interested, please take notice that the City of Westland Fire and Police Civil Service Commission, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan, (734) 467-3190, will hold Regular Meetings in the City Council Conference Room as described below:

Date	Time	Location
01/09/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
02/05/19	3:00 P.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
02/20/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
03/13/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
04/10/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
05/08/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
06/12/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
07/10/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
08/14/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
09/11/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
10/09/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
11/13/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road
12/11/19	9:30 A.M.	Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road

Proposed minutes of each meeting listed above will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, Westland, Michigan, not more than eight business days after the date of said meeting. Approved minutes of each meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, at the same location, not more than five business days after the meeting at which the minutes are approved.

This notice is given in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

Richard LeBlanc Westland City Clerk

Published December 27 2018

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 25 12/17/18

Presiding: President Godbout Present: Green, Hammons, Hart, Herzberg, Johnson, Londeau 211: Minutes of regular meeting held 12/3/18. - Motown H.O.G. Toy Run 9/22/19. - Traffic Control Order 2018-02: Place (1) "No Parking, No Stopping, No Standing" sign on s. side of Avondale, west of the crosswalk @ Worchester St. pping, No Standing" sign on s. side of Avondale, e. of the lace (1) "No Parking No St. driveway for PD Graham Elementary

Place (1) "No Parking, No Stopping, No Standing" sign on s. side of Avondale, w. of driveway for PD Graham Elementary.

Place (1) "No Parking, No Stopping, No Standing" sign on s. side of Avondale, e. of S. John Hix.

- Bid for Stage Purchase to StateRight Corp., amt. not to ex. \$17,164.

- Bid for Norwayne Boxing Gym Locker Room Addition to Meridian Contracting Group, amt. \$70,651.

- Contract w/Brain Media Technology for JBCVC Learning Lab Management; amt. \$38,000.

- MDOT Contract 18-5515 re. maintenance of wayfinding signs installed along Ford Road.
- Intro. Ord. 248-A-90, rezone CB-1 to CB-3, PID #050-01-0041-002, -0041-002, -0045

-000, -02-0012-000, & -02-0001-000, SW corner of Ford & Hix.

- Adopt Ord. 29-W-26-24 to amend rates for industrial waste control charges.

MDOT Annual Permit resolution.

WC Annual Permit A-19128.

WC Annual Permit A-19158.

WC Annual Permit A-19073.

- CDBG Budget Revision FY 2018-19: Fr

From:	19-14	Rental Rehabilitation	\$10,000
	19-11	Norwayne Demolition	\$15,000
	19-15	Norwayne Parks	\$ 5,000
To:	19-18	Jefferson Barns Learning	\$30,000

Lab

- Delegated Authority to Assign Fund Balance Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 as of 6/30/18 to Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Finance Director, or Budget Director.

212: Contract w/Nocerini Strategy Group LLC for grant/government relation services, amt. \$6,000/mo.

213: 2019 Appt'd Officials & Mayor's Office Pay Plan. 214: 2019 City Clerk Pay/Benefit Package. 215: 2019 Deputy City Clerk Wage/Benefit Package. 216: Appr. checklist: \$ 2,477,994.65. Mtg. adj. at 8:25 p.m.

James Godbout **Council President** Publish: December 27, 201

Richard LeBlanc City Clerk

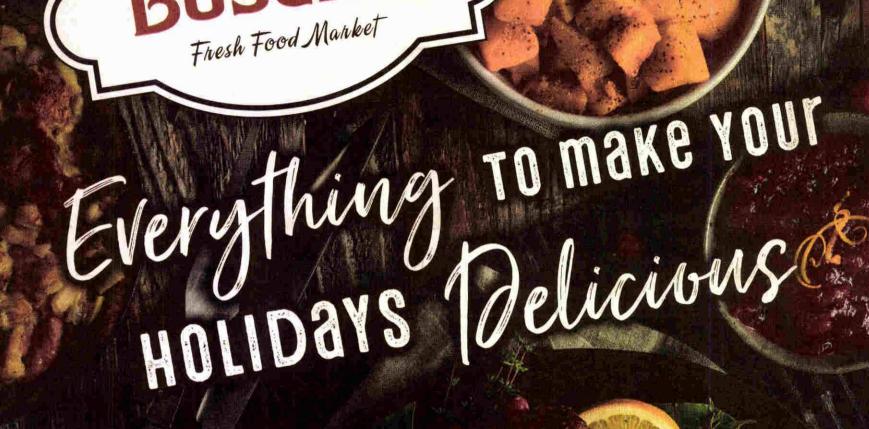
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Check us out at HomeTownLife.com

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