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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

THURSDAY 11.24.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Class size top priority for RESA funds

District has other needs for \$6.7 million it will receive

Joanne Maliszewski
hometownlife.com

Plymouth-Canton school officials have plans ready for the district's share of the RESA enhancement millage approved by Wayne County voters Nov. 8. At the top of the list is class size.

"Immediately, we will restore the class sizes," Superintendent Monica Merritt said, referring to the 2016-17 budget

that increased class sizes by one for grades 3-12. That effort will cost about \$1.8 million as it will require the hiring of 18 new teachers to restore previous class sizes. Although at the end of the 2015-16 school year 35 teachers were laid off, all but one were called back for the



Merritt

current academic year, said Nick Brandon, district spokesman.

Restoring class sizes is one of a few plans Merritt has for the enhancement millage that will provide an additional \$385 per student in each of Wayne County's school districts. Plymouth-Canton will receive \$6.7 million in the first year of the six-year tax levy.

"I think this was an incredible effort across the county to get the word out," Merritt said. "This was the only way to get money into our hands for the

kids."

In unofficial vote totals, the RESA measure passed 365,784 to 309,568.

In the Plymouth-Canton district, a grassroots effort took hold to get the enhancement millage passed. "It was good to see our community come together," Merritt said.

The enhancement funds will also be used to finance the costs of a bill commonly called the third-grade reading bill, signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder in October. It is designed to boost early elemen-

tary reading skills and included a controversial provision on third-grade retention. Starting in 2019-20, the new law will prevent third-grade students from advancing to fourth grade if their reading proficiency is too low. The law, however, does not provide funding for programs to boost reading proficiency.

"We will use the money however we need to ramp up for that," Merritt said.

Safety and security is another

See RESA, Page A2



Dionne Fitch handed her son, 2-year-old Cain Hawkins, to Santa. Cain doesn't look too sure about the bearded guy in the red suit.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lighting up the holidays

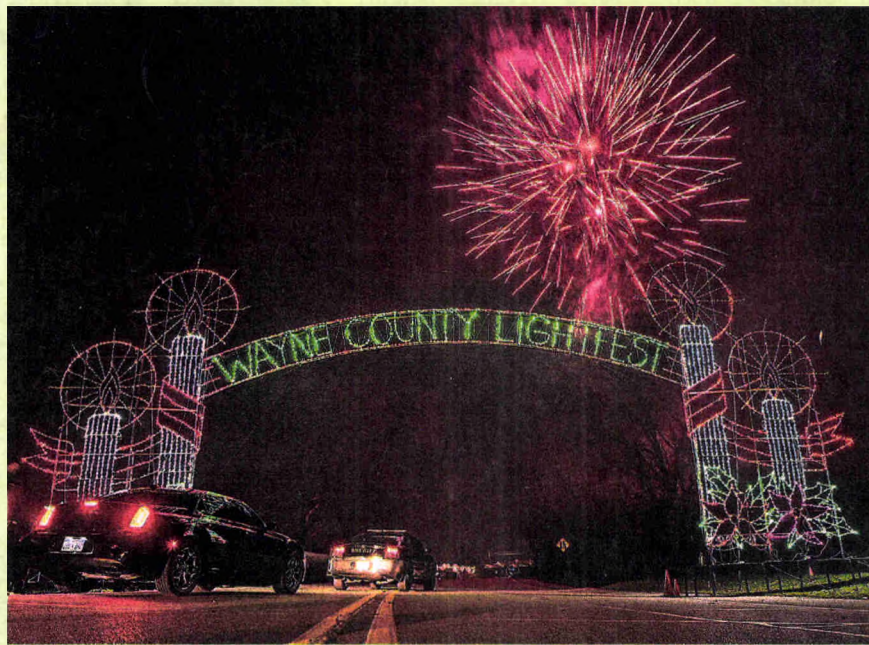
FOR MORE PHOTOS FROM THIS EVENT, SEE PAGE A6

The Wayne County Lightfest officially opened Nov. 17 with the Lights On ceremony at Merriman Hollow Park.

The Lightfest is the largest holiday light show in the Midwest, displaying more than 50 animated themed displays and more than 100,000 lights. Among the attractions at the ceremony was a performance by the Livonia Franklin High School Choir, a fireworks show and an appearance by Santa. The ceremony concluded with Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans turning on the switch to kick off the first drive of the 23rd annual Lightfest.

Lightfest runs from Thursday through Dec. 31, with a closure on Sunday, Dec. 25. The cost per vehicle is \$5. Visitors enter Lightfest at Hines Drive and Merriman Road in Westland and exit onto Warren Avenue near Telegraph Road in Dearborn Heights.

During Lightfest, Hines Drive closes to traffic at 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 5 p.m. each weekend.



Fireworks light up the sky.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Four-year-old Lyla Cunningham enjoys a doughnut before Santa arrives.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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Tipping Point stages 'The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance'

In the dusty, lawless town of Twotrees, an unconscious Ransom Foster is dragged into Hallie's saloon. He fell victim to Liberty Valance, an outlaw even the Marshal refuses to challenge. Once recovered, Foster sets himself on leaving town, but finds something worth staying for as he begins teaching Hallie to read. He is given a purpose in a broken land, but is it enough to save him from the vicious outlaw who still wants him dead? He must make the choice to turn and run or to fight for what he believes in. It's a classic western of good versus evil.

"Audience members can expect an exciting classic Western story told in a Tipping Point way up close and personal," director Angie Kane Ferrante said.



Dez Walker, Hallie Bee Bard, Stebert Davenport and Dan Jaroslaw.

"This particular production is challenging for a number of reasons. The story also deals with the issue of racial discrimination, which can be difficult to handle when

told inside historical context. It's a fundamental layer to the story that needs to be handled delicately and truthfully."

When asked why should people want to see the show? she answered,



Dez Walker, David Bendena, Jim Porterfield and Hallie Bee Bard.

"Who doesn't love a cowboy story? There is something for everybody - and a mangy villain that will make your skin crawl."

"The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" runs through Dec. 18. The

curtain rises at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with matinees at 3 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. A special matinee performance has been added at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7. The theater is at 361

E. Cady St. in Northville. Tickets are \$30 to \$40 for adults, \$28 to \$33 for senior citizens. For tickets or more information, call the box office at 248-347-0003.

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RESA

Continued from Page A1

er priority use for the enhancement revenue. Changes at school buildings will include cameras and swipe cards for access. School building security came under scrutiny across the country following the December 2014 shootings of 20 children and six adult staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

Enhancement funds also will be used to ramp up academic programs at the district's individual school buildings, as well as to make other improvements, such as with physical structures and seating.

Although each district will receive the same per pupil, Plymouth-Canton is a donor district — designated under the 1994 Proposal A — as its share

is much less than the \$10 million-plus it would have otherwise received. As a donor district, Plymouth-Canton school taxpayers pay a lot more to the state than the district receives back in funding. Plymouth-Canton receives \$7,511 per pupil in state foundation funding.

"We are the third largest district in Wayne County," Merritt said.

Nonetheless, Merritt said she is incredibly thankful and grateful to voters who supported the county-wide measure that called for levying 2 mills for a period of six years, 2016-21.

The superintendent pointed directly to one parent, Corrin Stamatakos, a member of the district's Blue Ribbon Panel, for leading the charge. "It really was a great grassroots effort," Merritt said.

Stamatakos, a Canton resident who has a child in both the second and

third grades, as well as a 4-year-old, said she has watched the district struggle financially. As she went into the community to advocate for the enhancement millage, she discovered a disconnect. "There was a huge lack of understanding of how public education is funded in Michigan," she said.

Stamatakos also found she had to explain how and why Plymouth-Canton is a donor district and consistently receives less per pupil from state funding than many surrounding districts. "This is going to affect kids," she said. "This will be the bane in their academic careers in the district."

So Stamatakos got to work. She made heavy use of Facebook and created a page, Vote Yes to Support P-CCS, just to spread the word about the RESA enhancement millage. She had 6,000 page visitors. "That was

very cool," she said. "I created presentations and put articles on it. I kept everything very factual."

She and others enlisted in the cause visited each Plymouth-Canton school and held teacher and staff meetings. "I used all of it as a way to teach the public of the terrible inadequacy in public funding," Stamatakos said. "Funding is not tangible for the general person. My goal was to make it tangible."

And that she did. The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education last week honored her for the work she did in communicating the facts about the RESA proposal. "I really enjoyed working with the district," she said. "I enjoyed the role I played. I want to remain an avenue for parents."

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\$83K fix could end Department of Justice controversy

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

In a move to settle a dispute with the U.S. Department of Justice, Plymouth Township officials have agreed to repay \$83,397 that DOJ officials say was spent inappropriately from the police department's drug forfeiture fund.

An audit from September 2015 found that the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, specifically then-Treasurer Ron Edwards' office, had

oversight of the drug forfeiture fund that should have been managed by Police Chief Tom Tiderington.

DOJ officials found that certain money was used to pay expenses, such as civilian salaries, not permitted from the fund.

To resolve the matter, the township board has agreed to transfer \$83,397 from the general fund back to the drug forfeiture fund, which gets its revenue from assets seized during

criminal investigations such as drug busts.

Joe Heffernan, a partner in the Plante Moran firm that audits township finances, has indicated the payment should resolve financial issues that arose between Plymouth Township and the DOJ for a four-year period ending Sept. 30, 2014. During that time, Plymouth Township received \$1.9 million in so-called equitable sharing funds — tied in with drug forfeiture money — to support

law enforcement efforts. Of that, nearly \$1.3 million was spent, the audit shows.

Edwards has contended the \$83,397 already had been repaid to the drug forfeiture fund. Moreover, he said two separate DOJ officials have given conflicting opinions by email on the matter, with one saying the issue was resolved and another saying it wasn't.

Clerk Nancy Conzelman, who, like Edwards, lost her Nov. 8

re-election bid, agreed with Edwards that the DOJ has given conflicting information on the matter.

"I don't think they know what they're doing," she said during her last board meeting Nov. 15.

Nonetheless, the board agreed to move the \$83,397 from the general fund to the drug forfeiture fund. Either way, officials said the money could be spent for police department purposes.

Edwards questioned whether the move will finally satisfy the DOJ.

"Sending this money over doesn't mean they won't come up with something else," he said.

The board discussed having Plante Moran send a letter to the DOJ confirming the action that was being taken, but decided it wasn't necessary.

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Don't equate election results with market performance

If you had believed what all the talking heads on TV were saying, there was absolutely no reason to watch the election coverage. After all, all the polls and so-called experts had predicted that Hillary Clinton would be our next president. In fact, many of the so-called experts had said it would be an Electoral College landslide for Clinton — they were wrong. In fact, if you stayed up and watched the coverage, as it became clear that Donald Trump was going to be the next president, many of these so-called experts were warning people of the inevitable crash of the stock market. Once again, they were wrong.

In fact, not surprising-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

ly, the market acted the exact opposite way and the Dow Jones had its best week in five years. This is not the first time that the so-called experts had it dead wrong. After all, it was just less than six months ago that the same so-called experts predicted carnage in the market if the British voted to leave the European Union; once again, they were wrong.

It is important that as investors we recognize that just because someone is on TV and gives their opinion, that doesn't mean much. You and I

have no way of knowing if the person expressing their opinion is qualified or just a good talker. It is important that you don't rely on the talking heads; not only because so many of these so-called experts on TV have no clue, but because they don't know your individual situation. When it comes to investing, your individual goals and objectives and risk tolerance level are what should govern, not what's happening in the market. Unfortunately, too many people invest based upon what they perceive as the direction of the market; that is nothing more than gambling. After all, when you try to time the market you have to be right twice — once when you buy and once when you

sell — and I don't know anyone who has been able to do that on a consistent basis. People can get lucky, but I'm not sure you want to risk your retirement money based on luck.

I've also mentioned many times in the past that what prevents investors from being successful is when they let fear and greed dictate their investment decisions. When fear and greed enter into the equation, the general result for an investor is that they end up buying high and selling low. I can assure you that this is not the way to make money. As an investor, we need to filter out the noise and focus on what's important and that is our goals and objectives and

risk tolerance level.

Whether you like President-elect Trump or not is not the issue. The issue when it comes to your money is what you are trying to achieve and how long you have to achieve that goal. Those are the things that you should focus on, not if you like the person in the White House or not. Do I know how the markets will do under President Trump? No, I don't. Just like I didn't know how the markets would perform under President Obama or President Bush. What I do know is, in the long run, who's in the White House has little, if any, effect on the performance of the market. Let's not forget that we are in a global economy and markets are af-

ected by many factors and who is in the White House is just one of them. Therefore, as investors, you must have the discipline to avoid the partisan banter that goes back and forth. Just because someone says it on TV doesn't make it so. To be successful, the bottom line is you must focus on your individual situation and avoid the mumbo-jumbo that we so often hear.

Good luck!

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

Lawrence Tech, St. John Providence to offer nursing program

St. John Providence and Lawrence Technological University have received state approval to establish a nursing education program.

The program, which will open in the fall 2017 semester in August, will have classroom instruction at Lawrence Tech's Southfield campus, with clinical and laboratory instruction at six St. John Providence hospital locations around metro Detroit, according to a press release. St. John Providence is part of Ascension, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system.

The new program will fall under Lawrence Tech's College of Arts and Sciences as a major in the LTU Department of Natural Sciences, granting a bachelor of science in nursing.

"Michigan and the nation as a whole are in the midst of a continuing shortage of qualified, well-trained nurses," Lawrence Tech President Virinder Moudgil said. "We aim to help solve that problem with a nurs-

ing education program that will take full advantage of our 85-year history as a technologically advanced university. Our founding motto, 'Theory and Practice,' is a perfect description of the kind of nursing education we will deliver with our partners at Providence."

"This partnership is part of our ongoing commitment to providing the training our future nurses need so they can deliver the high quality and compassionate care that patients expect and deserve," St. John Providence President & CEO Jean Meyer said.

The Michigan Board of Nursing approved the application for the new nursing program Nov. 3.

Lawrence Tech has hired Therese Jamison, DNP, ACNP-BC, as professor of nursing and director of the program. Jamison earned her doctorate of nursing practice from Vanderbilt University. Earlier, she earned a bachelor of science in nursing and a master's degree in Nursing from Wayne State University, as well as a post-master's

certificate as an acute care nurse practitioner from the University of Michigan.

A veteran nursing specialist, Jamison continues to work one day a week as a nurse practitioner in cardiovascular services at St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Warren Campus.

The six St. John Providence hospital locations are: St. John Hospital & Medical Center, Detroit; St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Warren Campus; St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Madison Heights Campus; Providence-Providence Park Hospital, Southfield; Providence-Providence Park Hospital, Novi; and St. John River District Hospital, East China Township.

The new nursing program will admit an initial cohort of 32 students for the fall 2017 academic semester, and 32 new students per year thereafter.

Jamison said the LTU-St. John Providence nursing program will be unique in that it will admit qualified students directly into the nursing

program, and nursing classes will start in the curriculum's first term. Most nursing programs admit students to a "pre-nursing" program for two years of prerequisite courses, then admit a smaller number of those students to the formal

nursing program, according to a press release.

Also unique is the close academic-practice partnership between LTU and St. John Providence, Jamison said. Most nursing programs offer their clinical programs through a wide

variety of hospital groups, creating barriers for students in navigating the healthcare system.

The LTU-St. John Providence program will conduct its courses year-around over 11 semesters, requiring 126 credit hours of study.

Two great holiday events on
Saturday, December 10th
from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Holiday Stop and Shop

Join us for a fun and relaxing shopping experience. Vendors will be on site and you can shop while enjoying holiday cookies and cocoa.

You can also enter a raffle to win a 42" flat screen TV

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We're accepting donations for The Devoted Barn, a pet rescue in Newport, Michigan, and senior pets will be on site hoping to be in their forever home in time for the holidays.



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LO-00003084

CITY OF PLYMOUTH 2016 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2016 December Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, December 13th, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Courtney Dugger in the Assessor's Office at (734) 453-1234, ext 252.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: November 24, 2016

LO-00003580 342.8

Canton residents to weigh in on police accreditation

Residents will have a chance to share publicly their thoughts about the Canton Police Department. A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., will arrive Monday, Nov. 28, to examine all aspects of the Canton Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services. The assessors are tasked with reviewing and gathering information to be taken back to the commission, which then determines if the Canton Police Department has met the commission's high standards necessary to be awarded the highly-prized recognition of re-accreditation for their delivery of law enforcement excellence. Canton Police Department was awarded its original recognition in 2007 and has maintained re-accreditation every three years since then. As part of the on-site assessment, agency person-

nel and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, in the township board room of the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center. If an individual cannot attend the public information session but would like to provide a comment to the assessment team, that can be done by calling the assessors from 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 29 at 734-394-5409. All comments in person or by phone are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA standards. A copy of the CALEA standards can be obtained from Canton Police Department's CALEA program manager, Lt. Craig Wilsher by calling 734-394-5420 or emailing cwilsher@canton-mi.org. Anyone wishing to offer written comments about

the Canton Police Department's ability to meet the standards for re-accreditation also may send them to: CALEA, 13575 Heathcoat Blvd., Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155. The team of assessors assigned to Canton are experienced law enforcement practitioners from similar, but out-of-state agencies. In addition to accepting public comments, the assessors will review written materials, interview individuals and visit on- and off-site offices and locations where compliance can be witnessed. This year's assessors are Assistant Chief Eric Kerns of the Burlington, N.C., Police Department (team leader) and Officer Brent Grammel of the Union Township, Ohio, Police Department. For more information about CALEA, go to www.calea.org.

150 years later, a former state governor comes home

Ken Palmer
Lansing State Journal

Kinsley S. Bingham was Michigan's first Republican governor. He spoke against slavery, championed education and signed the legislation establishing an agricultural college that came to be known as Michigan State University.

But all of that was academic to Joshua Risner when he set about reproducing a portrait of Bingham to hang at the state Capitol Building.

Risner, the Capitol's decorative artist, felt an affection for the man based on the Lewis Ives portrait from more than 150 years ago.

"I think it's interesting how pleasant he looks," Risner said. "He looks like a guy who would be easy to get along with. It seems like the artist was able to capture this guy in an abstract way, an essential way. There's a kindness, a warmth that makes me think he was approachable."

Capitol historian Valerie Marvin had another word for it: "Grandfatherly."



DAVE WASINGER | LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Joshua Adam Risner describes the handmade frame around his portrait of former Michigan Gov. Kinsley Bingham hanging in the Capitol Building last week in Lansing.

However you describe him, Bingham has joined the ranks of leaders hanging in the Capitol's Gallery of Governors.

His likeness went up

last week in a second-floor hallway of the Capitol's west wing in front of the Speaker's Library. The portrait was formally dedicated in a ceremony earlier this week.

"I think it's interesting how pleasant he looks. He looks like a guy who would be easy to get along with."

JOSHUA RISNER
artist

The Michigan State Capitol Commission hopes to have all of Michigan's governors represented at the Capitol someday. Last year, 19th century territorial Gov. George Bryan Porter joined the fold through donation.

Bingham is No. 36; 11 are still missing.

"He was a remarkable man," Marvin said. "He was one of the most respected 19th century governors we had. I like that he has a strong personal connection with (the Lansing area). He grew up in a farming family in New York, learned law, served as a probate judge, a district attorney and was involved in politics for decades. He believed

that agriculture education was very important. And he felt so strongly about the slavery issue. That really became his life's work."

Bingham was governor from 1855-59. During the early to mid-1850s, he broke with fellow Democrats over the issue of slavery and joined with members of the Free Soilers, Free Democrats and Whigs to form the Republican Party.

Before becoming governor, Bingham was speaker of the state House for several years and served in the U.S. House. After his two terms as governor, Bingham represented Michigan in the U.S. Senate. He died in 1861.

The Ives portrait of Bingham was on exhibit at the Michigan Historical Commission. Risner used it as inspiration for a larger version. He also recreated the elaborate frame using three different types of wood.

"The frame is what drew me to the piece," Marvin said. "When we went over to see those portraits the first time, I thought this was clearly one of the most elegant. I

remember thinking, what do we do with a frame like this? I was both shocked and very impressed when Joshua said, 'Let me try.' We're very fortunate to have him on our staff. He's a very talented artist."

The portraits are an important part of the ambiance at the Capitol, Marvin said.

"The portraits can spark conversation," she said. "They create an opportunity to educate people about these past leaders. They draw us in. They give us insight into who this person was, what their priorities were as governors. What did they accomplish? What, perhaps, did they fail to accomplish?"

"Just seeing that face on the wall every day encourages me ... to discover just who that person was, what made them tick."

As for who might be next to join the Gallery of Governors, Marvin isn't talking specifics.

"We've tossed around several ideas," she said. "We'll probably look at it again in the new year."

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Couple's life: Expanding special-needs opportunities

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

Levi and Bassie Shemtov were raised in Jewish families, who believed a life well-spent was a life spent helping others.

They followed the teachings of an influential rabbi, who believed helping others was a large part of the reason God put them here on Earth.

And, like their families before them, the Shemtovs have done exactly that. But rather than sticking to helping those in their faith, Bassie and Levi have reached out to people of all faiths — especially children — with an outreach effort that benefits youngsters with autism, in particular.

The couple met through a connection with Bassie's brother, married in 1994 and moved from New York to Michigan. They started their outreach by establishing Friendship Circle (now one of more than 90 around the world), a nonprofit that provides assistance and support to thousands of people with special needs and their families by providing recreational, social, educational and vocational programming.

It focused on the Jewish community at first, meeting Levi's desire to help those with addictions. The group moved around for the first few years, finding space where it could in people's homes and even a trailer.

"We wanted to do social outreach," Bassie Shemtov said. "Levi thought it would be a good fit for him ... to reach out to the community suffering from addiction. As it grew, we were able to expand. Leaders told us there was a need in the special-needs community, so we reached out there, too."

Starting small

The outreach started out small, with the Shemtovs finding a few teenagers to "do a good deed" and taking them to the homes of the special-needs children they were serving. The work was really aimed at helping the children — "We wanted to help the children and give respite to the families," Levi Shemtov said — but a funny thing happened on the way to the outreach.

"We found (the teens) were actually bonding with them," Bassie said. "It was supposed to be a one-way street, teens helping kids, but that's not how it worked out. They often became friends."

The nomadic nature of the center, though, couldn't keep up with the mission and left the Shemtovs wanting something more permanent. "We were borrowing space everywhere ... to feel like a real organization, we felt we needed a space," Bassie said.

Enter the Meer Center, opened with 23,000 square feet in West Bloomfield in 2005. The program grew exponentially — Meer Center houses LifeTown, a program that brings a sense of independence to autistic kids, with a Huntington Bank branch, a theater, a store and other avenues that teach the kids about money, socialization and other aspects of independence.

Learning about life

A wide range of districts use the LifeTown program to teach their special-needs students life skills. Milford High School special education teacher Jennifer Grubb just had a group there Monday and has another group going Nov. 30. A total of some 55 autistic and cognitively impaired students from Huron Valley Schools use the program annually, she said.

Huron Valley has been using LifeTown for "at least 10 years," Grubb said.

"It's a really great

opportunity for our kids to learn those life skills in a safe, friendly environment," Grubb said. "It's been a very positive experience for our kids."

All of the outreach, particularly to those with special needs, fits with the teachings of Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, who the Shemtovs call the most influential Jewish leader of their time.

Schneerson, who they refer as "Rebbe," had a passion, Levi Shemtov explained, for understanding, as the underlying basis of the Jewish faith system, that each person "has a soul sent here by God with a unique mission."

"Rebbe doesn't see people; he sees souls. ... He dedicated his life to speaking to those souls," Levi Shemtov said. "We decided to take that message and use it to elevate other people."

Attracting donors

Word about that kind of work gets around and Friendship Circle has benefited from generous donors who like the work the group is doing and came calling with offers to help.

"A lot of our donors were people who were attracted to us instead of us reaching out to them," Levi said. "They saw the work we were doing and it spoke to them. They said, 'I see what you're doing and I want to be part of it.'"

That kind of work also gets around the professional communities. Muiywa Cornish, lead autism spectrum disorder teacher at Seaholm High School in Birmingham, said teachers around his district have heard about Friendship Circle and LifeTown through "word of mouth."

The Birmingham district is using LifeTown for the first time this year.

"It's a great educational opportunity" for ASD students, Cornish said. "They learn to use money, they learn to socialize ... it's a great opportunity to give them their independence."

Age progression

But what happens once the kids get past high-school age? It's a question Bassie and Levi didn't quite have an answer to, so they created one: The Farber Soul Center, opened in April 2016. The center houses the Soul Café and centers where artists can draw and painters can paint, a weaving room and an art gallery and is a place, Bassie Shemtov said, where special-needs adults can create.

The Soul Café is a place where autistic adults can continue their independence. Some 40 percent of the staff at the café are autistic.

"These are your families," Levi Shemtov said. "If we went into it because we accepted this is our family, you don't stop just because they turn 18. The reason you're helping them is because they need the help."

That, too, fits in with Schneerson's philosophy that you shouldn't limit people with challenges.

"Rebbe believes if God gives someone a challenge, He also gives them an exceptional trait," Bassie Shemtov said. "Rebbe says when he sees someone with a challenge, he chooses to see them as exceptional. He sees something as its essence. The goal is to see deeper down and not just see the outside."

Being leaders in their faith runs in the family. Bassie's parents taught her to be involved and now Bassie is passing that faith down to her family. The Shemtovs' daughter, Mushky, and her husband, Levi Dubov, run the Chabad in Bloomfield.

Life's work

"My parents have raised us very strong in who we are and why we're here," Bassie said.



Levi and Bassie Shemtov, founders of Friendship Circle, opened Soul Cafe in April.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Learning about money is one of the benefits of the program at LifeTown.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

"Everything we did was about helping people. My father gave us so much pride. He does what's right. It's being proud of who you are and never being judgmental."

It's been the couple's life's work and they hope they are fulfilling the destiny God gave them.

"I hope I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing here," Levi said. "We're never sure what our mission is in this world. The harder you work, the more you can say, 'Maybe this is the mission — to help them feel they are special, exceptional and that their life is not defined by their disability.'"

With Schneerson's encouragement that they "dedicate our lives to the purity of our soul," Bassie and Levi plan to continue the mission.

"When you know someone that holy and giving, it teaches you how to run your life," Bassie said of Schneerson. "When you know why you're here, it's calming, it's reassuring. Ever since we were little, we had a clear direction. It's an amazing feeling to get up every day and be excited to go out and make this happen."

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Sam Morris prepares a table at Soul Cafe.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Ben Nadis peels onions in the kitchen at Soul Cafe in West Bloomfield.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Kim Kaplan (right), trainer of the Friendship Circle, watches David Kole unload dishes at Soul Cafe.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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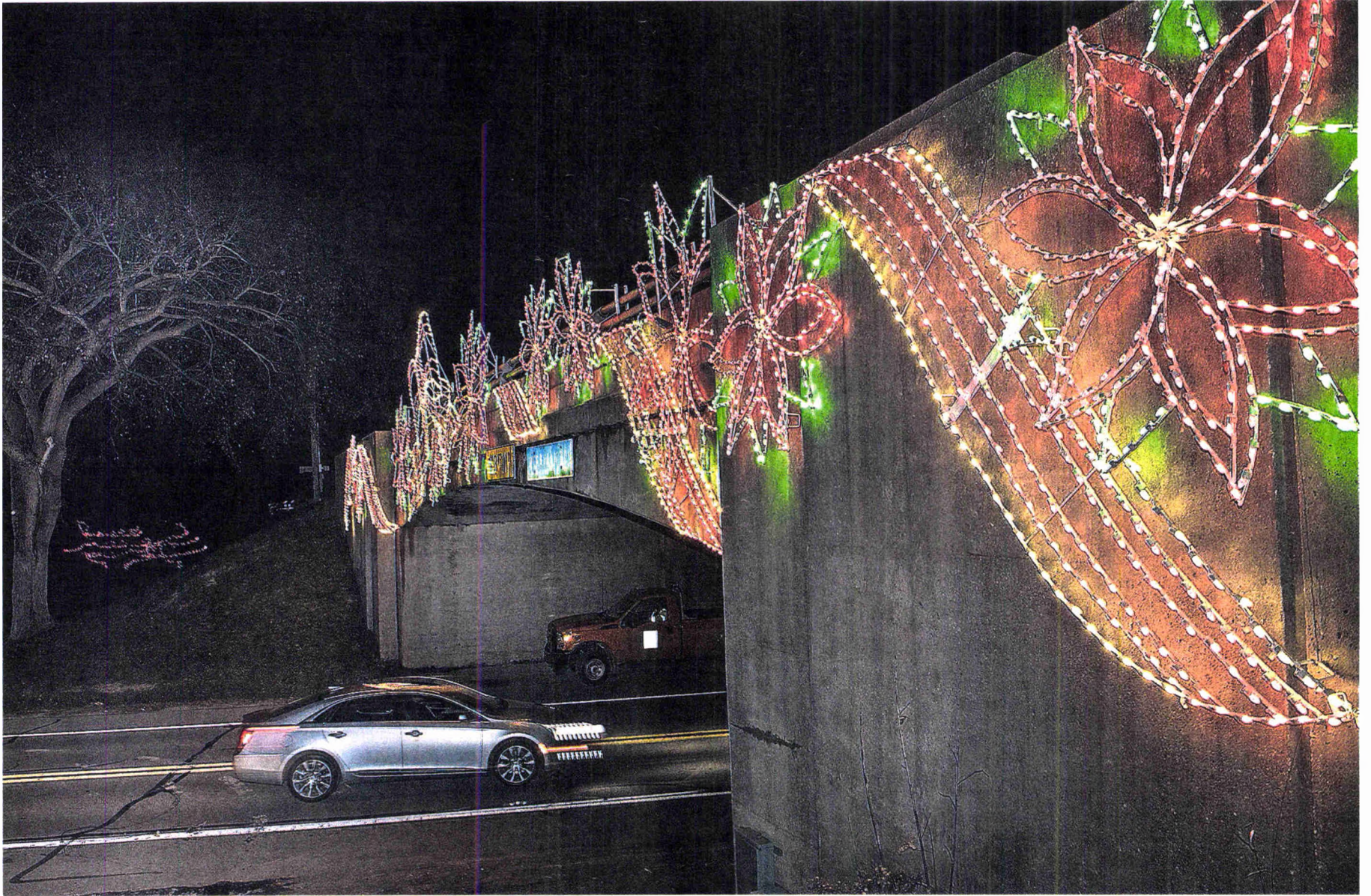
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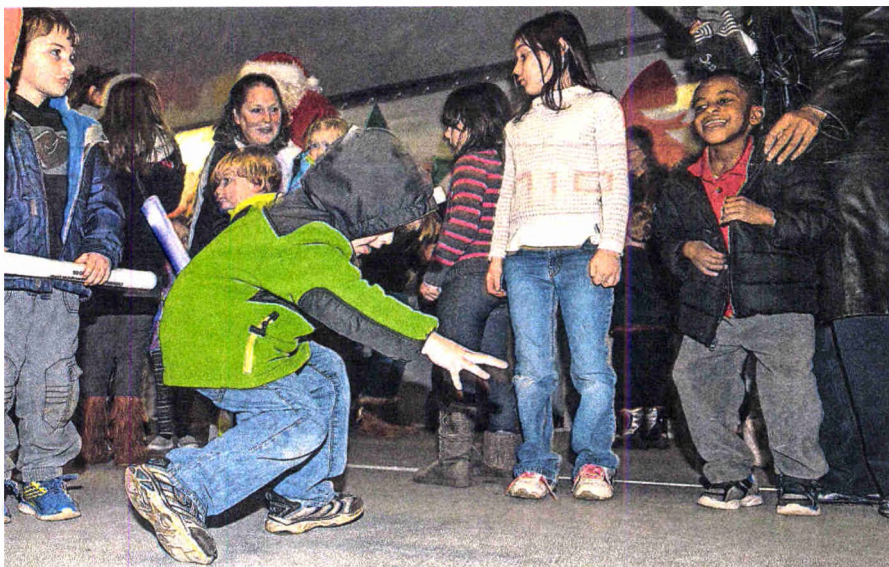
The procession of cars begins.

Wayne County celebrates start of Lightfest



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin High School's bell canto choir sings holiday songs.



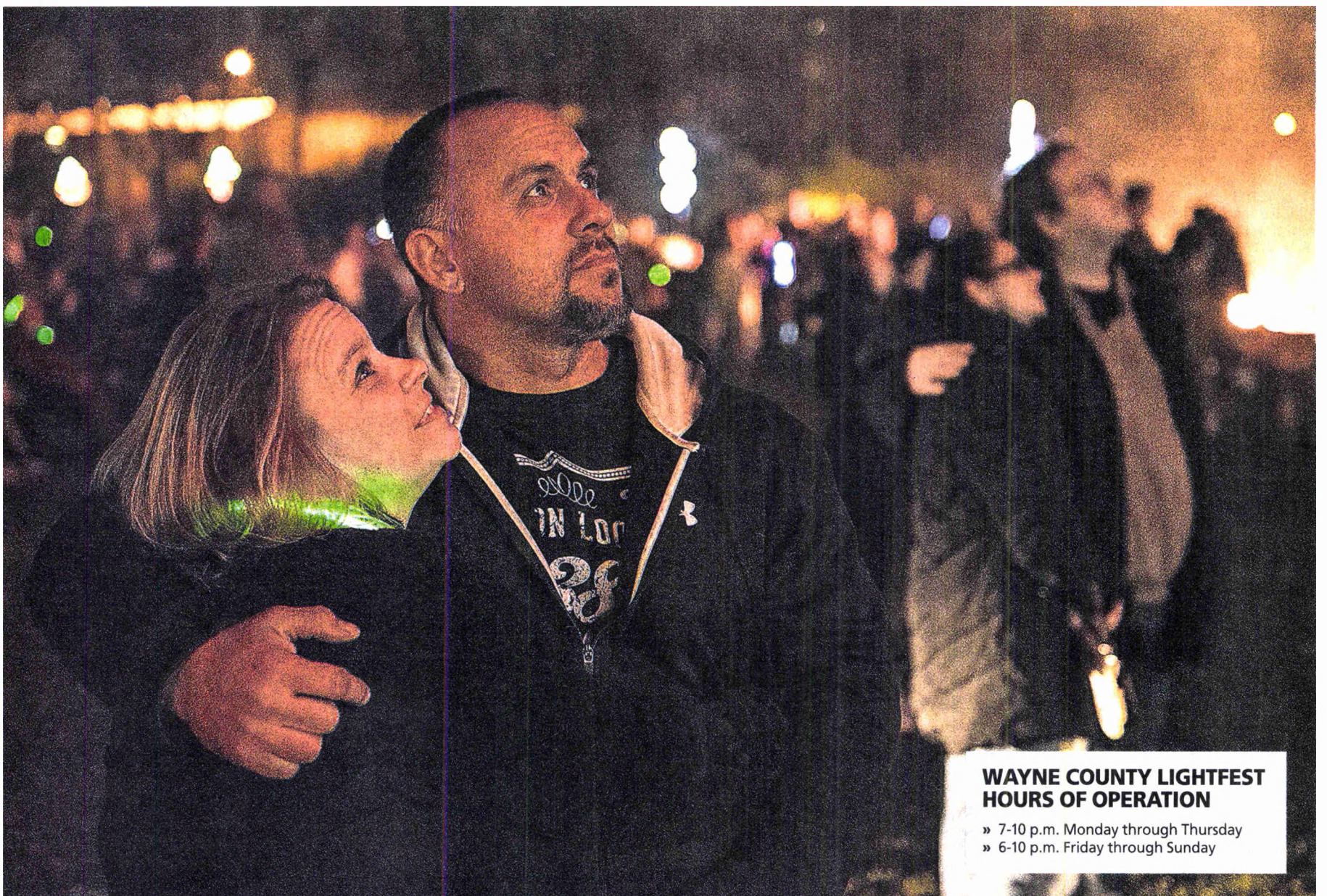
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The crowd on stage freaks out at Santa's arrival and breaks into wild dancing.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Santa Claus wows the Lightfest crowd.



Jay and Monica Suarez have come to opening night of Lightfest for 10 years. They are from Westland.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Parade lights up the holiday season

Northville community turns out in force as summer-like temperatures greet marchers

Maria Taylor
Correspondent

Northville's streets last Friday were a sight that would have made Dr. Seuss proud. There were Grinches everywhere: walking along the sidewalks, tossing candy to parade-goers, waving from the back of a pickup truck strung with twinkling lights. A yellow school bus marked "Whoville Public Schools" rumbled by, carrying a pile of colorfully wrapped presents. A little girl with a string of lights around her neck held up a hand-painted sign: "Grow Your Heart 3 Sizes."

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" was the theme of Northville's annual Holiday Lighted Parade, hosted by the Northville Chamber of Commerce the evening of Nov. 18.

It was an unseasonably warm night for November, with temperatures hovering around 66 degrees. Sweatshirts and T-shirts were the outfit of the day. But even without Jack Frost nipping at people's noses, the holiday spirit was alive and well. Lindsey Butzin, events manager for the Northville chamber, put the number of attendees at an estimated 10,000.

All along the parade route, crowds lined the sidewalk five or six people deep. "I'll tell you, it was packed," said Mayor Ken Roth, who saw it all from his seat on one of the floats. "It's bigger than Streets of Treats, bigger than the Fourth of July. It's one of the largest community events we've seen in years."

About 45 businesses, bands and performers took part in the parade, including the Northville High School marching band, members' horns bedazzled with colorful lights. Everywhere you looked, lights were a-twinkle: flashing necklaces around kids' necks, whirling circles from lighted bicycle wheels, glowing light sabers waving from the sidelines.

The dancers from Performer's Edge had white lights under their white tutus. Winchester Elementary Girl Scout Troop 40478 was dressed as presents, with green felt "box" tunics, red bows and gift tags. "It's our second year in a row, so our costumes are getting a little fancier," said Laura Paredes, leader of the troop. (Last year, the girls were snowmen.)

After the parade, she and the girls and everyone on the sidelines crowded into Northville Town Square to watch Santa Claus light the huge tree.

"I believe the man of the hour is right around here, so I need you to scream what your Christmas wish is this year and maybe he'll come faster," Tina Genitti said to the crowd.

As hundreds of voices joined together, Roth presented the man in the red suit with a giant golden key. "It opens all the doors to all the good boys and girls so the gifts can be delivered," he said.

After that, it was time for cocoa, bags of buttery popcorn and pictures with Santa. "Tonight is just true Northville," Roth said. "Everyone is out having a good time."

He said while the weather was certainly a factor in the turnout, it wasn't the only reason for the crowds. "It's the weather and it's a great place to be," he said. "You have to have both to make it work."



Winchester Elementary's Girl Scout Troop marches in Northville's Holiday Lighted Parade on Nov. 18. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Having a bit of fun, a trumpet player with Northville High's marching band mugs for the camera instead of playing her instrument during the Holiday Lighted Parade.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Dressed in her best Cindy Lou Who costume, Sophia Valentini marches in Northville's Holiday Lighted Parade on Nov. 18.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Santa makes his grand entrance at the end of the parade in Northville on Nov. 18.



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Workers finish up at an intersection just west of Haggerty Road on Six Mile on Nov. 16 as the route gets a major overhaul of its road surface. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

End in sight for Six Mile construction in Northville

Joanne Maliszewski
hometownlife.com

The end is in sight for residents and businesses as construction on Six Mile – from Haggerty to Northville Road – is expected to be completed and fully open for traffic in early December.

The \$6.2 million Wayne County project was long in the making and, for some, felt just as long in the doing. Construction began in November. The project includes total reconstruction of 1.5 miles of Six Mile with new sewer installations, markings, guardrail and sidewalk improvements, as well as new signs. The reconstruction includes a three-lane pavement with intersections widened to accommodate five lanes.

As Tom Casari, Northville Township public services director, said at the start, the project would cause great inconvenience and frustration in the short term, but is a long-term solution to the roadway's congest-

tion. Still that great inconvenience bothered many homeowners along Six Mile, particularly in subdivisions with only one outlet. "We have been trying to field the complaints," Casari said.

He confirmed residents' complaints about the length of time the road has been under construction — though original estimates had completion at the end of November — and the lack of access along the east-west thoroughfare.

"They would do one outlet and then the other," said resident Ron Pawlak, who kept the construction in public view with township and county officials. "It took a little bit more time. The job was different. They never expected the base (roadway) they had."

Kaye Byrd, spokeswoman for Wayne County Public Services, confirmed that. "To ensure the longevity of the concrete reconstruction, some of the soil under the original pavement

needed to be restored," she said. "The soil restoration extended the completion time line from mid-November to early December."

But Pawlak offered that from what he can see, "It looks like better engineering."

During the project, eastbound Six Mile has been closed. When portions of new pavement were complete, traffic was rerouted for additional construction. But what added to residents' angst was the need for them to turn west onto a lane open on Six Mile, even if they needed to travel east. Instead, residents had to travel west and head to Five Mile.

Construction included bringing rights-of-way to current standards along Six Mile. That involved removing boulders, trees, retaining walls, railroad ties and any other obstructions that may be viewed as hazardous to motorists. Pawlak expressed concern about the trees that were removed.

Fire at recycling center by dump continues smoldering

Joanne Maliszewski
hometownlife.com

A fire at the Great Lakes Recycling building near Five Mile and Beck — close to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township — filled the skies with black billowing smoke Sunday afternoon that left firefighters from surrounding fire agencies battling the blaze into the night.

The smoke that could be seen miles away brought out Northville Township officials and neighbors in nearby Northville Township neighborhoods. At first, some believed the fire was at the Arbor Hills Landfill, but township Supervisor Bob Nix, who was at the scene, confirmed late Sunday afternoon that the fire was not at the landfill.

Salem fire officials were unavailable for comment Monday.

As the smoke continued to billow Sunday, nearby subdivision residents expressed concern about what was burning and potential health hazards. But in an email to Steeplechase resident Tracey Birkenhauer, Larry Bean, a supervisor with the Department of Environmental Quality, said there was no evidence of contaminants. Birkenhauer is founder of Stop Arbor Hills, a grassroots effort to stop any expansion of the landfill or the siting of a new one in Salem close to Northville Township.

According to Bean, who was at the site until about 1 a.m. Monday, most of the material that burned was cardboard, but there was some plastic automotive scrap and polyurethane automotive seating scrap in bails for recycling. "We were not aware that they started to take the plastic and



Northville Township Supervisor Bob Nix and other township board members went out to the fire at the Great Lakes Recycling Center, near Five Mile and Beck. SUE NIX



This is the billowing black smoke Northville Township Supervisor Bob Nix saw when he arrived at the fire Sunday afternoon. SUE NIX

Township to battle the blaze.

The Northville Record's calls to Salem Township and the Washtenaw Sheriff's Department were not answered Sunday afternoon while the fire was underway. Northville Township Trustee Fred Shadko also went to the scene and said he saw fire trucks from Ann Arbor Township and Superior Township. Nix said he also saw trucks from Dexter and Scio. It was reported that firefighters from some 10 area fire departments were at the scene.

By the time Bean left the recycling center, firefighters were pulling back the collapsed roof to expose hot spots and putting those out as they moved the roof. The material was expected to continue smoldering, he told Birkenhauer.

polyurethane," he said. "The fire department hazmat team tested the smoke and determined there were no contaminants that would affect residents off-site."

Meanwhile, it was reported that fire departments had to connect to hydrants in nearby subdivisions in Northville

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INSIDE: SWIMMERS GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AT STATE FINALS, B3

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CATHOLIC CENTRAL 17, ROMEO 0



Catholic Central's Cameron Ryan (right) gets around the corner on Romeo's Kade Messner en route to the Shamrocks' first TD.

'SMASH-MOUTH' SHAMROCKS

Injuries, cold weather
unable to stop CC in
Division 1 semifinal

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

A power outage Saturday at Howell High School forced a change in venue for Saturday's Division 1 football state semifinal.

But nothing — not 36-degree temperatures, snow flurries,

the late move to nearby Parker Middle School or an injury that knocked out their quarterback in the first half — was about to short-circuit Novi Detroit Catholic Central's quest to return to the championship game.

More than two hours in the cold weather didn't sap any of the power out of Catholic Central's running game, either, as the Shamrocks blanked defending D1 state champion Romeo, 17-0.

"This is what CC is known

for, smash-mouth football," said Shamrocks junior running back Isaac Darkangelo, who scored on a 3-yard run with 25 seconds left to cap the win.

"We knew what we had to do. We came in and did it."

The Shamrocks, now 13-0, will make a state-record 17th trip to the state finals, at 1 p.m. Saturday against undefeated Detroit Cass Tech at Ford Field.

Catholic Central clung to a

See SHAMROCKS, Page B2

CLASS D VOLLEYBALL STATE FINAL



Plymouth Christian players jump for joy after winning the Class D volleyball state title in Battle Creek.

TOM LANG

PURPLE REIGN

Plymouth Christian earns first state championship in school history

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Kellogg sisters stamped their own naming rights Saturday on Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena, leading Plymouth Christian Academy to its first state championship in school history.

The dynamic duo of junior Grace and freshman Gabriella

Kellogg, coached by their father D.J., combined for 34 kills as the Eagles captured the MHSAA Class D state title with a 25-18, 22-25, 25-19, 25-19 win over fellow Michigan Independent Athletic Conference member Auburn Hills Oakland Christian.

The Eagles finished the year with a 35-11-3 overall record.

PCA lost a close four-setter in last year's state semifinal to Battle Creek St. Philip, but this time the Eagles were determined to take it two steps further.

"Last year, it was kind of new and more stressful, because we had never been in this situation before," said

See VOLLEYBALL, Page B2

BOYS HOCKEY

Trenton skates past Salem in opener

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Right from the puck drop Friday night, Salem's varsity hockey team had trouble keeping up with Trenton.

Perennial Division 2 powerhouse Trenton combined speed, skill and physicality to rout the Rocks, 5-0, at Plymouth Cultural Center, spoiling the Rocks' season opener. "I don't know if speed was so much our issue today as it

was our decision-making under that speed," Salem head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "When you have a lot of speed against you, you can't take a second when you have half a second."

The Trojans built a 3-0 lead after one period and were never really threatened after that, although the Rocks did compete well in stretches.

Compounding matters for Salem was an injury sustained by senior forward and captain

Matt Schaumburger. His palm was cut by a skate and he needed to go to the hospital for treatment.

Trenton opened the scoring with 13:40 to go in the first period, when Nik Moody ripped a wrist shot over the shoulder of Salem senior goalie Tristan Rehling.

About three minutes later, the Trojans struck again on a goal by Kenny Styles (his first

See HOCKEY, Page B2



Salem's Matt Schaumburger looks to pass the puck during Friday's season opener. At left is Trenton's Conner Howey.

KELLY DOBSON



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SHAMROCKS

Continued from Page B1

3-0 halftime lead, thanks to a 31-yard field goal by senior kicker Jacob Nichols midway through the second quarter.

Finishing touch

For a while, it looked like that would be all of the scoring as both offenses literally struggled to get a grip on the slippery football.

Two big gainers set up Nichols' field goal. First was a 38-yard pass over the middle from sophomore quarterback Austin Brown to senior tight end Jack Morris.

On the next play, Brown zig-zagged 29 yards before being tackled hard at the 3-yard line. He had to be helped off the field and did not return.

At halftime, veteran

CC head coach Tom Mach reminded his team it was doing everything well except getting into the end zone.

"We had a lot of good drives in the first half, but we just weren't finishing," Morris said. "We were in the red zone, but we weren't finishing. That's what we talked about at halftime."

It took a while in the second half for the Shamrocks to gain some footing on the snow-covered turf.

After a three-and-out series with under four minutes left in the third and the game still 3-0, CC junior Joe Jasser — stepping in to punt after starter Chris Jakubik limped off with an injury — lined a kick that rolled inside the Romeo 1-yard line.

The Bulldogs (9-4) managed to move the ball to their 36 before senior defensive back Nick Capatina led a host of



SCOTT CONFER

Romeo quarterback Austen Malczewski is brought down by Shamrocks defenders (from left) Joe Natosi, Blake Bueter and Jack Morris during Saturday's D1 state semifinal at Howell.

Shamrocks tacklers to sack quarterback Austen Malczewski and force a punt.

Breathing room

Catholic Central took over at its own 32 and went on a productive 11-play scoring drive to make it 10-0 with 4:24 left.

Carrying the ball on each snap, the CC trio of Darkangelo (eight carries, 61 yards), junior Cameron Ryan (20 carries, 85 yards) and junior Matt Young took turns bursting through the line.

Ryan, in particular, was tough to bring down, bouncing off tacklers and

picking up key yardage. He ultimately scored on an 8-yard run through the left side of the line.

"All our running backs run with a low pad level. We run hard," Ryan said, insisting that the cold weather wasn't a problem. "We just keep our feet moving."

The Shamrocks added the late insurance TD by Darkangelo for good measure.

"We had to keep the ball on the ground, keep the ball moving, keep the ball away from them, because they're a very explosive offense," Mach said.

"They're a very explosive offense. I thought our kids did a great job coming back."

Catholic Central also overcame losing Brown.

"They knew when Austin went down that we had to control the ball on the ground," Mach said. "Our line had to come

through, our backs had to come through.

"Just try to keep that ball away from them and not put them into scoring position."

Mach said the punt by Jasser "was gigantic, it just worked out. Great effort on his part, but it took the right roll and it kept going."

Romeo co-coach Jason Couch downplayed the impact of the Jasser punt.

"We got the ball out to the 35 or 40 on that series," Couch said. "It's just that (with) the change of the quarter, we weren't able to keep the momentum going."

He added that he was proud of his team, which wasn't able to knock out the Shamrocks for a second straight postseason. "They continued to battle the entire game and they did it with class."

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VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page B1

Grace Kellogg, who finished with match-best 21 kills. "So this year, we knew coming into it on what our attitude should be and it's like any other game, give it our all. We just pushed through it and played it like any game."

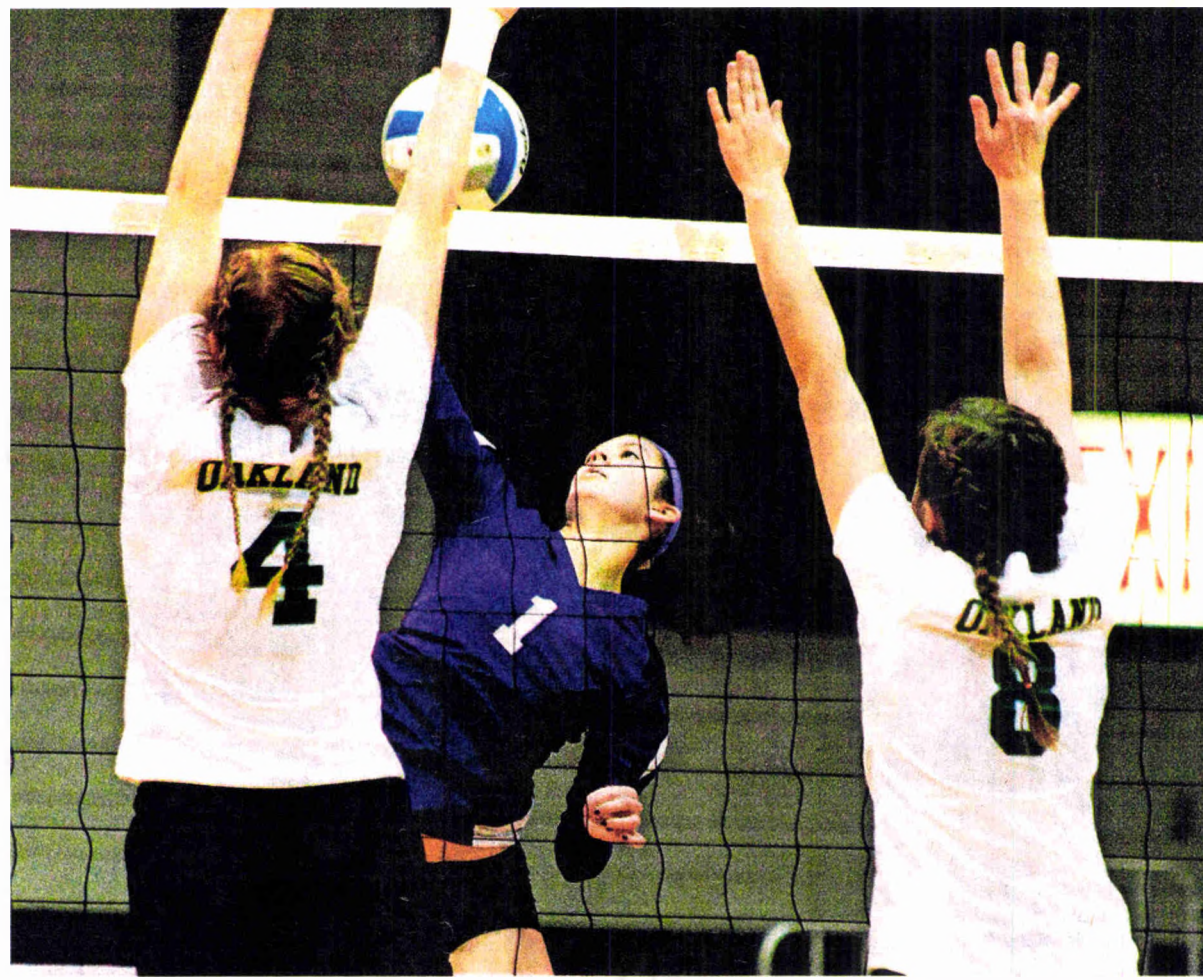
Meanwhile, 5-foot-9 Gabriella supported her older sister with 13 kills in the championship match.

"We've been breaking stuff around the house for years playing volleyball," D.J. Kellogg said with a laugh. "She surprised me this year. I coached her last season in club and played as an outside (hitter) for me. We had to put her at middle this year and we felt it was the right fit for her and she just embraced it and she's done really well. I'm really shocked. It's not that I don't trust her type of thing, but she's done above and beyond what I expected."

The Eagles, who had split their regular season MIAC Blue meetings with their co-division champion Lancers, cruised through the opening set, 25-18, and took a 12-8 lead into the second before the Lancers starting tipping and dinking balls across the net to catch them off-guard, resulting in a 25-22 Oakland Christian win.

But PCA regrouped in set three and took control from the start as Olivia Mady's ace cemented a 25-19 victory.

"Our team motto is 'Better the ball,'" D.J. Kellogg said. "It's used a lot in volleyball. Every time you contact the ball, make it better than you've got it. But we use it as a metaphor for our team. Every interaction we have with our team, every touch we have on the court or off the court, every contact we have, we should be adding value to each other, adding value to the team or the game. This team has done that and this is the by-product. I've never had a team that's had this



TOM LANG

PCA's Olivia Mady (middle) hits through the block of Oakland Christian's Starr Sumner (left) and Jacqueline Schneider.

much, that have had each others' back."

In the fourth set, PCA jumped out to a 19-10 advantage after back-to-back aces by Grace Kellogg, but the Lancers clawed back to within 22-19.

"I just thought we had to side-out on every key point, not get down in tough situations or focus on things we mess up on, just stay focused," said Grace Kellogg, who stopped the Lancers' mini-run with a kill.

A block by Aliyah Pries and an ace by Grace Kellogg finished the job.

"I thought Plymouth was extremely consistent, although they had their problems, too," said Oakland Christian coach Priscilla Larned, who is retiring after 32 seasons. "I thought we played hard. We did not give up. These kids have done a good job. I don't think they were terrible today. We just had a tough time



BRAD EMONS

The Plymouth Christian volleyball team captured the Class D state championship Saturday, beating Oakland Christian.

and they're still a great group of kids."

Alexandra Gudobba paced the Lancers (43-5-5) with 14 kills, while setter Samantha Morse collected 28 assists. Genia Castillo and Marisa Mingle added 16 and 11 digs, respectively.

PCA setters Abigail Pray and Jessica Paulson combined for 44 assist-to-kills with 26 and 18, respectively. (Mady also contributed eight kills, while Pries had six.)

Senior libero Divna Roi also came up huge defensively with 24 digs,

while Mady and Grace Kellogg added 12 and 11, respectively.

"She knows how to read the hitters," Mady said of Roi. "She has a sense how to adjust and see where the block is. She is extremely helpful for the hitters because,

when Grace and I are hitting, we'll be in mid-air and Divna will say, 'Oh, roll shot, roll shot.' She's just extremely helpful."

PCA was able to counteract the Lancers' off-speed attacks.

"(Roi) had some key points, a nice pancake to save a point," D.J. Kellogg said. "When we lost to them at their place, that was our biggest takeaway, was they found corners, they found tips and you could see they did the same thing today. The big difference was more the defensive coverage and where things were going to be. It really had to be about reading the hitter, watching hands, watching elbows. (Roi) was all over it. She wanted this game bad, as much as anyone on the team. She wasn't going to let a ball fall. She was diving on the floor."

After last year's semifinal loss, D.J. Kellogg intentionally bulked up his second-year schedule with top-ranked Class A and Class B schools.

"We played Novi, we played (Macomb) Dakota, (Pontiac) Notre Dame Prep, North Branch," he said. "Looking at the Miss Volleyball board, we played four or five of those teams all season. We did that on purpose. And the way we structured drills, we put pressure on the girls in certain situations because, technically, we knew what it took. We wanted the slight edge, the mental edge, to push us over the top."

And for coach Kellogg, he can savor winning his first state crown in none other than Kellogg Arena.

"It's great for the school," he said. "Obviously, I want to win it, but I think it puts Class D schools on the map a little bit and that we can compete. I think having a great season and the showing we had, we got a little more respect this year. Not that we lacked respect before, but I think it brought it up a little bit."

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HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

of two) and added another with 4:28 to go, when Brendan Morgan skated in on Rehling and flipped the puck home.

Salem nearly gave up a shorthanded goal in the opening seconds of the second period, but Rehling was able to sprawl and deny an in-close try by Noah Thackeray.

The Rocks finally pressured Trenton goalie Joe Sant'Angelo, with Martino Zaia firing a shot from the right circle that was stopped and covered.

Senior forward Joey Driscoll followed with another hard shot, from the right circle, but Sant'Angelo turned it aside.

Trenton added to its lead with 10:37 remaining in the second period, as Styles put one up where the peanut butter

goes, slamming a high shot in from the right circle.

Taking lumps early

It was a 5-0 deficit about six minutes later, when Drew Welsh scored on a Trenton power play.

"We're not happy with the outcome," Ossensmacher said. "But after the first period, I thought it was a back-and-forth game. We had chances to capitalize and we didn't, their goalie (Sant'Angelo) played well. Learn from it and move on."

Salem also opened the past couple of seasons playing the Trojans — ranked No. 4 in Division 2 in the preseason polls; the Rocks were ranked sixth — and are still looking to beat them.

Ossensmacher said he doesn't mind his team going up against strong teams like Trenton during the non-conference portion of the schedule,



KELLY DOBSON

Lined up for the shot by Trenton's Drew Welsh (left) is Salem senior goalie Tristan Rehling.

because it is the start of a process.

"This is the plan. We take our lumps early and get better," he said. "By the end of the season, the hope is we're better than

the team we had on the ice at the beginning of the season."

The Rocks aren't done facing tough competition, however.

Friday and Saturday,

Nov. 25-26, they will compete at Bloomfield Hills Wallace Arena in the four-team Cranbrook Thanksgiving Tournament.

They square off at 5

p.m. Friday against Brighton (ranked No. 1 in D1) and then play an undetermined opponent Saturday. Also in the tourney are the host Cranes and Livonia Stevenson (which reached the D2 finals last season).

At least Salem won't have to worry about Trenton.

"They're pretty much the same team every year, it doesn't matter," Ossensmacher said. "Whether it was when we played them two years ago, last year or this year, they have a traditional style, a trademark of hockey."

"They're up in your face, they're going to go north-south. Every time they get an opportunity, they're going to lay the body. It's a good brand of hockey and it's been successful for them."

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POMPON

Area squads take Mid American Pom by storm

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Livonia and Canton teams put the wow into Saginaw's Dow Center, where the Mid American Pompon Hip Hop/High Kick Competition took place Nov. 6.

Both programs left the venue with first-place championship trophies, while spectators who watched their performances also left with something — plenty of smiles and lasting memories.

» **Livonia Pompon**, led by head coach Andrea Shook, captured first place in the Middle School Large Team High Kick category.

The squad, which bested four opposing teams, is composed of

girls from all three of the Livonia district's middle schools, as well as upper elementary schools.

Members of the Livonia team include Isabella Abate, Avrey Black, Abigail Boettcher, Sydney Castillenti, Ava Collyer, Allison Garpow, Rylee Guidash, Alison Gwizdz, Ainsley Johnston, Meghan Kelly, Ruby Klingensmith, Sarah Lamb, Mackenzie Latham, Isabel Longoria, Brianna Martin, Morgan Matick, Izzy Migora, Emily Mitchell, Sophie Nomides, Madison Norton, Madison Prowse, Rachel Salutes, Sophia Schlattebeck, Claire Sierota, Jenna Walters, Zoe Zagar and Emily Zimmerman.

Helping Shook with

coaching duties are Brittany Rees, Kari Barden, Jillian Henderson and Rachel Parrelly.

» **Canton Pompon**, led by head coach Jenny Kesler, also was victorious at the Dow Center, taking the top spot in the mid-size category of the High Kick competition.

Canton performed to a mix of songs involving a cruise ship theme. Teams are divided into categories according to size and level of team (elementary, middle school, junior varsity, varsity and collegiate). They may choose to compete in the Hip Hop or High Kick divisions.

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Canton Varsity Pompon's (mid-size) took first place Nov. 6 at the Mid American High Kick competition in Saginaw. Pictured are (front row, from left) Claire Carrier, Alia Jones, Maigan Byars, Grace Brekke, Morgan Filmore, Nicole Piontek, Jenna Milewski and Clara Mason and (back row, from left) Arianna Mattioli, Alexis Faught, Olivia Mueller, Mallory Woodard, Rachel Allen, Caitlyn Carrigan, Jenna Anheuser, Sydney Gruzdelak and coach Jenny Kesler.

SWIMMING AND DIVING FINALS

State meet good experience for Chiefs

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Canton's varsity girls swimming and diving team enjoyed a respectable showing last weekend at the Division 1 state finals at Oakland University.

And veteran Chiefs head coach Ed Weber is optimistic that several team members able to experience the high-stakes competition — which Rockford won with 249 points, besting runner-up Farmington Hills Mercy's 239 — can only benefit from it in 2017.

"I'm very proud of how the team swam this weekend and throughout the year," said Weber, whose team tallied nine points to finish 28th out of 37 squads. "Of our five girls that qualified for states, four will be back next year."

"Canton swim and dive will even make bigger splashes in the seasons to come."

The lone Canton performer who will not return is senior Meghan Mans, who reached Saturday's final in the 100-yard backstroke — winning consolations (ninth place) with a school record time of 57.30 seconds.

Mans also finished 16th in Friday's preliminaries in the 200 individual medley with a career



Canton's quintet of Division 1 state meet qualifiers includes (from left) Sophia Balow, Ellie Caruso, Jenna Leppek, Meghan Mans and Jessica Clark.

best time of 2:10.39 and was part of two relays that performed well during prelims.

The 200-medley relay team of Mans and sophomores Ellie Caruso, Jessica Clark and Sophia

Balow came in 17th at Friday's preliminaries with a time of 1:52.36. The quartet came within one place of reaching Saturday's finals.

Canton's 400 free relay quartet of Clark,

freshman Jenna Leppek, Balow and Mans placed 26th at prelims (3:44.33).

Also notching her career best in the 200 IM was Clark, who placed 23rd during prelims with a time of 2:12.10.

"Canton High School had a great state meet," Weber said. "Meghan and Jessica were both back from last year with experience that saw career best times in their 200 IM swim on Saturday."

"Sophia and Jenna both performed honorably in their events swimming near their seeded times."

Salem standouts

Led by senior Katie Xu, Salem registered 11 points at the D1 finals, good for 26th place.

Xu reached Saturday's final in the 100 backstroke, placing 13th with a time of 58.31. She took 30th overall at prelims in the 200 IM (2:12.93).

Also getting to the finals was junior diver Camille Burt, scoring 388.70 points to earn 10th place.

Salem's 200 free relay team of Xu, junior Jenna Chen, senior Meghan Maikowski and freshman Morgan Davis finished 22nd at Friday's preliminaries with a time of 1:41.64.

Xu, Chen, sophomore Sarah Griffiths and Davis also competed at preliminaries in the 400 free relay. Their time of 3:57.39 was good for 30th place.

Also in the 200 free relay, Plymouth's tandem of freshman Regan Peregord, junior Grace MacLellan, senior Kathryn Waters and sophomore Kelsey Peregord came in 27th with a time of 1:42.79.

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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Wildcats make it a joyful title repeat with Class A crown

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The team with a bull's-eye on its back the entire season delivered on the biggest stage Saturday afternoon in Battle Creek.

Novi repeated as MHSAA Class A volleyball state champion with a hard-fought four-set victory over upset-minded Rockford at Kellogg Arena.

The Wildcats, who finished the year 54-1, took the Rams' best shots to come away with the victory as 6-foot-1 junior outside hitter Abryanna Cannon delivered the match-clinching kill, her 20th of the afternoon.

For Cannon, a Notre Dame commit who transferred in from Traverse City West over the summer, it was her first state finals experience.

"I was a little nervous going into it," Cannon said, "but we had Erin (O'Leary), Ally (Cummings) and Kathryn (Ellison) and (Claire Pinkerton) ... I had all these people that were here last year to kind of help me through it, so it wasn't as bad going in there blind."

Junior setter Erin O'Leary, who set up Cannon for the final point, turned in another outstanding performance

with 33 assist-to-kills, eight kills and 14 digs.

"It doesn't get any less amazing," said O'Leary, at University of Michigan commit who has been to three straight state finals now.

Novi's road to the championship match was relatively stress-free, but Rockford (48-9-1) provided the litmus test for the tournament.

Novi won a highly competitive first set, 25-22, as Miss Volleyball runner-up Ally Cummings closed it out with one of her 10 kills.

Rockford, however, took charge to win the second set, 25-20, on Olivia Rademacher's kill. The Wildcats took the third set, jumping out to a 17-12 lead, capped by Emmy Robinson's block after Rams pulled to within 23-22.

Robinson, 5-8 senior, gave Novi a huge lift with seven block-assists to go with three kills.

"She was matched up on those (Rockford) middles and had a big responsibility tonight and I thought she did a nice job of not just blocking the ball, but slowing them," Novi coach Jen Cottrill said. "She's a great lateral mover. We don't rely on her a whole lot offensively, but expect her to work really hard at the net blocking for us."



Novi players hoist the Class A volleyball state championship trophy for the second straight year.

The fourth set was close throughout, as Novi broke away from a 19-19 deadlock to outscore the Rams 6-3 down the stretch, getting a critical ace from O'Leary to set up match point.

"Being down gives me more of a thrill to want to get up," Cannon said. "It's just all the better when you get that final point. This game was a fight to the finish, so it was more satisfying."

Rockford had three players in double figures in kills, led by Rademacher with 12 and Cassandra Smigiel and Sara Majerle with 11 apiece. Setter Hailey Delacher dished out 43 assists.

Novi had trouble throughout the match defending the Rams'

quick sets to their middle hitters at the net.

"It's something different that we haven't seen and they passed the ball well enough to be able to run it," Cottrill said. "We were trying them get out of system, get the setter off the net. We were trying to keep our hands high to slow it down, but they were just successful at it. It seemed like they had more kills than 12 and 11. They had 50 (total), so I think we did a decent job of slowing that down and keeping them from getting the momentum."

Novi also played strong defense, with a total of 78 blocks. Pinkerton led the way with 21 digs. Cummings and O'Leary both contributed

14, while Kathryn Ellison had 12 (to go along with nine kills).

Meanwhile, Mykayla Vallad collected a match-best 27 digs for the Rams.

"Novi is a very good team and has a lot of offensive weapons," said Rockford coach Kelly Delacher, whose team was out-blocked 24-16. "We felt like we could come in and play some good defense against them. We held them to a .142 hitting percentage, which is pretty good against a team with their hitting firepower. I was very happy with the way we competed. We kept ourselves in every single game and gave ourselves some chances at the end to win at the end of those games."

"I think we're just a good team. We are a very well-balanced team. We have five good hitters and play good defense. I thought we did a good job of blocking today, as well."

The victory was rewarding in more ways than one for Novi after the Rams put up such a struggle.

"That was a tremendous team we just played," Cottrill said. "We've been kind of cruising pretty much in the postseason since pretty much the district finals. I was very, very

proud of them for keeping their composure, digging deep and working hard."

The Wildcats, who return seven of their top nine players, will have a target on their backs next season, as well.

"When you take a step away and look at it ... yes, it's amazing and it's all because of the players and the program that have changed the culture and have tremendous leadership skills that have expectations of themselves and their teammates," Cottrill said. "And we're a family, they love each other from top to bottom. And we like to win, so it motivates you to keep winning you have that success."

In the press conference afterward, O'Leary had two Almond Joy candy bars sitting in front of her at the interview table.

Any significance? "My grandma gets me little gifts after every game," the standout setter said.

And does that mean the Wildcats will be going for the Almond Joy hat trick next season?

"We're happy with two, but we're going for three — yes," Cottrill said with a smile.

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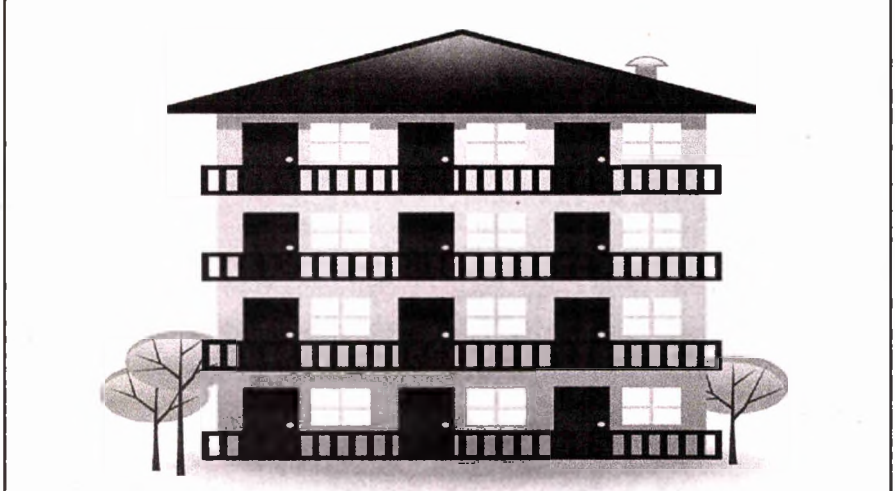
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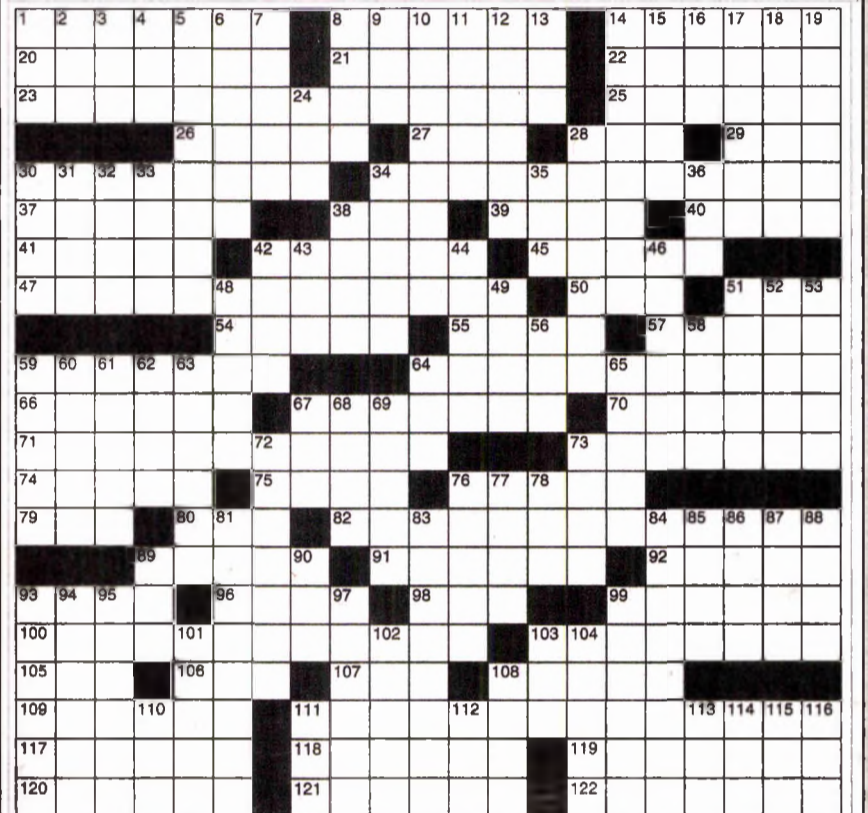
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 - 29 In history
 - 30 Book parts
 - 34 What aviator Orville or Wilbur was called?
 - 37 Found on these pages
 - 38 Kitty treat
 - 39 Fill up fully
 - 40 Celtics rival
 - 41 "What the Butler Saw" dramatist Joe
 - 42 Does penance
 - 45 Sprinter Bolt
 - 47 Small songbird with a cartoon cat?
 - 50 60-min. units
 - 51 "Rockaria!" band, in brief
 - 54 Singer Clay
 - 55 San — (Italian resort)
 - 57 Poet W.H. —
 - 59 Fusion
 - 64 Old laundry machine that's totally on the Fritz?
 - 66 Raving sort
 - 67 People debating
 - 70 Bistro, e.g.
 - 71 "Goodbye, Columbus" author when he's very angry?
 - 73 Throw from a steed
 - 74 Tea garnish
 - 75 Apple debut of 1998
 - 76 Mini-serving
 - 79 Prior to
 - 80 Fian need
 - 82 Damage done to a periodical?
 - 89 Pub buys
 - 91 Find a new place for, as a pet
 - 92 Islamic equivalent of kosher
 - 93 Trial attire
 - 96 Sleestas
 - 98 "Mazel —!"
 - 99 Hereditary sequence
 - 100 Declaration upon pulling your valise forcefully?
 - 103 Many a handcuffed person
 - 105 — -Jo ('80s track star)
 - 106 That guy's
 - 107 Certain Wall St. trader
 - 108 Paradigm
 - 109 Hereditary
 - 111 Actress Fay who was always cheerful?
 - 117 Get free of
 - 118 Silky goat or rabbit
 - 119 Helm handler
 - 120 Beaches
 - 121 Observed in the vicinity of
 - 122 Actor Erik
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Yackety-yak
 - 2 Lament
 - 3 — Khan
 - 4 Impose
 - 5 Capital of Kosovo
 - 6 Like the pre-Easter period
 - 7 — Allan Poe
 - 8 Comic Jay
 - 9 Bunyan's tool
 - 10 Story for an anchor
 - 11 Radials for a
 - 12 Falls to stay poker-faced
 - 13 Viper variety
 - 14 Slickers and galoshes
 - 15 Wilde with wit
 - 16 Bison-hunting tribe
 - 17 Household
 - 18 Intelligent
 - 19 Fancy ties
 - 24 "— the season!"
 - 28 Gallery gala
 - 30 Grub
 - 31 Berlin man
 - 32 Funnyman
 - 33 Johnnie Johnson
 - 34 "... three — a tub"
 - 35 Ocean liquid
 - 36 Hotel relative
 - 38 Cast a ballot
 - 42 Take — view of
 - 43 "Bad!" sound
 - 44 Shopping jag
 - 46 Old Testament book
 - 48 Racial equality gp.
 - 49 Part of YTD
 - 51 Lawn gadget
 - 52 Dirty looks
 - 53 Ham — (dell classic)
 - 56 Rx signers
 - 58 Golden rule's second word
 - 59 Piousness
 - 60 Bill of "Real Time"
 - 61 Japanese film genre
 - 62 Stitch's cartoon pal
 - 63 Dive variety
 - 64 "Yeah, no kidding!"
 - 65 Taylor of "The Nanny"
 - 67 Chair part
 - 68 Traipse
 - 69 Sporty auto
 - 72 Tepees' kin
 - 73 — Reader (alternative digest)
 - 76 Sierra
 - 77 Sea of — (waters off Ukraine)
 - 78 Gaming "City" dweller
 - 81 Non-Jews
 - 83 Somehow manages with
 - 84 Pair attached to an axle
 - 85 Also- (losers)
 - 86 Scores
 - 87 Arose (from)
 - 88 Painter Paul
 - 89 Nectar lover
 - 90 CIA worker
 - 93 Searches and robs
 - 94 Wlse-looking
 - 95 Bucking one
 - 97 Card game expert John
 - 99 Bestows
 - 101 Triangle, e.g.
 - 102 Fly into — (get furious)
 - 103 Madison Ave. output
 - 104 Find a new purpose for
 - 108 "— first you don't succeed ..."
 - 110 Corn spike
 - 111 Once existed
 - 112 — pro nobis
 - 113 That gal's
 - 114 Levin or Glass
 - 115 TV neighbor of Homer
 - 116 Time of note



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

SUDOKU

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

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

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

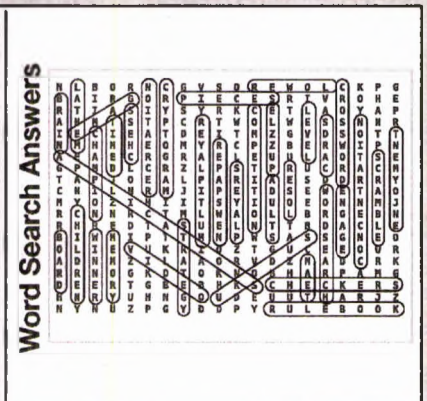
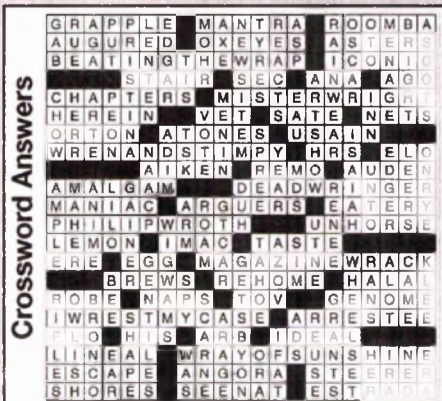
GAME & PUZZLE WORD SEARCH

WORDS

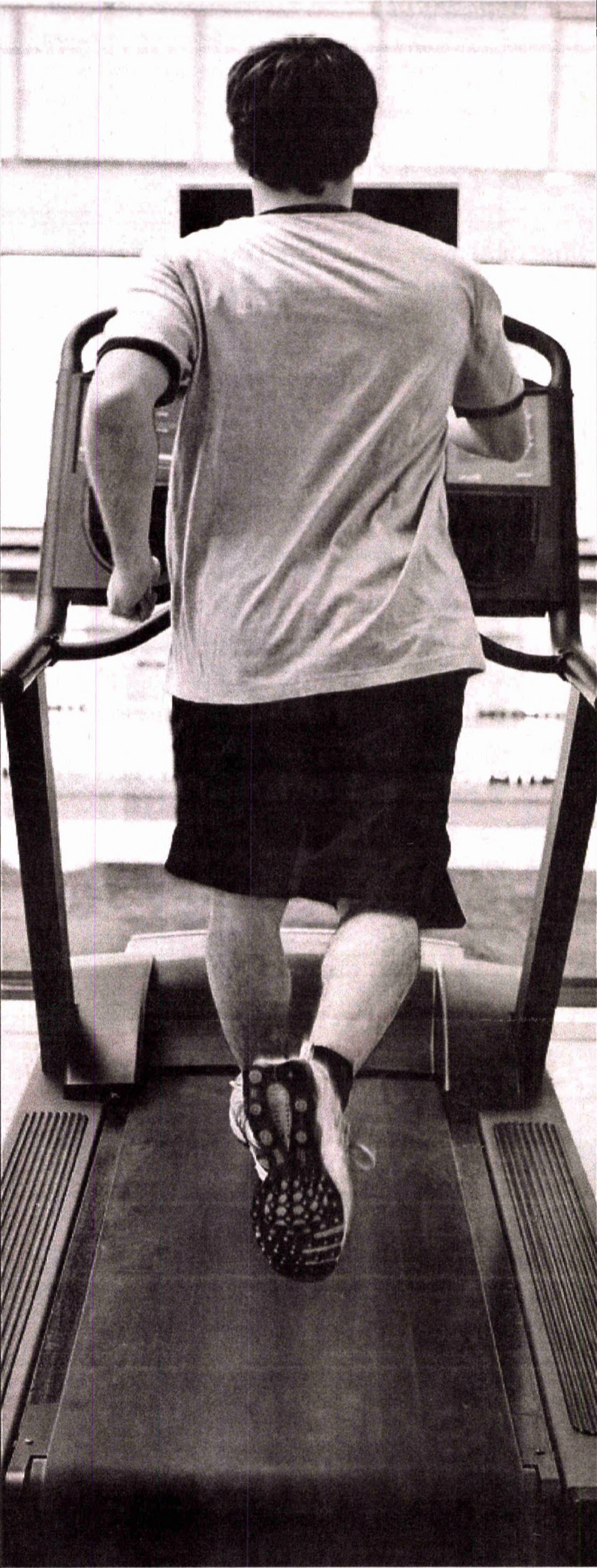
- N L B O R N C G V S O R E W O L C K P G
- B A I R G O R P I E C E S R I V R O H E
- R T I A S I Y S Y R K C E T L A O Y A P
- A N M T S T P C R T W O L V E S S N N R
- I E C I E A T D E I T M Z G V D S O T T
- N M H M H E O M Y R C P Z B E R W I P N
- A E A E C R G R A E L E U U L A O T S E
- G P M D L C R Z L P S T P R U C R A C M
- T A P J O E A L P A R I A E S D D R R Y
- C N I L N R M J I P E T D S E W E T A O
- M Y O Z I H I T S Y I U O E O N N M J
- R C N N R C T M L W A O L B R G E B N
- R H R E D T A S U E L N T T B D A C L E
- B I W M I P T T M N P W S A S S G N E O
- O L I E V U K R I O Z T G U C E E O U R
- A D N M Z I L A A O R V D Z M A D C R K
- R R N O G K D T O K N O B H A R P A M G
- D E E R T G B E B H K S C H E C K E R S
- H N R Y U H N G O U D E U U T H A R J Z
- N Y N U Z P G Y D D P Y R U L E B O O K
- ADULTS
- APPLICATIONS
- BOARD
- BRAIN
- CARDS
- CHAMPION
- CHECKERS
- CHESS
- CHILDREN
- COMPETITION
- CONCENTRATION
- CROSSWORD
- CRYPTOGRAM
- ENGAGE
- ENJOYMENT
- GAME
- LEVEL
- LOSER
- LOWER
- MEMORY
- MENTAL
- MULTIPLAYER
- NEWSPAPER
- PIECES
- PLAYERS
- PUZZLE
- RECREATION
- RULEBOOK
- SCRAMBLE
- STRATEGY
- SUDOKU
- TEAM
- TIMED
- VIDEO
- WINNER
- WORD SEARCH

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



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