

# PLYMOUTH OBSERVER



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SPORTS, B1

THURSDAY 12.01.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Plymouth park gets \$60,000 makeover

Kiwanis Club teams with city to fund improvements

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

A small army of volunteers has given a Plymouth park a makeover — and more improvements are expected next spring.

Kiwanis Park, at Junction and Auburn streets, has received a new play structure for children ages 5-12 and new wood chips have been placed on the play surface.

Adam Gerlach, city of Plymouth special projects coordinator, said work on Kiwanis Park will continue next spring, when a new sidewalk will be paved from Auburn Street to the park pavilion and to the new play structure.

The project marks a joint effort between the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth and the city of Plymouth. The two sides split the cost of improvements that Gerlach said

amounted to \$60,188.

Karen Pantaleo, Kiwanis Club member, said 45 high school students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park were among those who volunteered to fix up the park during a three-day project in November. She said P-CEP's Key Club played a major role.

"We knocked down the old play structure and built a new one, raked up the leaves and cleaned everything up," Pantaleo said.



See PARK, Page A2

Kiwanis Park in Plymouth has gotten a facelift.



Seven-year-old Chloe Hoard arrives in a fire truck with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Tax bills spike after voters OK education proposal

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

Residents will feel the pinch of a new Wayne County school tax hike as they begin receiving their latest tax bills this week, local officials say.

Plymouth Township Treasurer Mark Clinton said a resident whose home has a \$150,000 taxable value will see their taxes spike \$300 after voters in November approved a 2-mill, six-year tax increase sought by the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency.

"I would say that people are going to see a significant increase in their tax bills as a result of the Wayne County RESA millage," Clinton said. "I don't think people truly understood how big it was."

Canton Township Treasurer Dian Slavens said residents indeed will notice a tax increase that Wayne County voters just approved 54 percent to 46 percent in the Nov. 8 election.

However, she said it will boost needed funding for public education: "It will help, of course."

Area educators have said the countywide tax will allow school districts to reduce class sizes, buy new textbooks, replace aging buses and hire quality teachers, among other measures. Critics have said the tax is too much and fails to address structural problems of school funding.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt has said that district will receive \$6.7 million in the first year alone — money she said will allow the district to reverse an earlier budget-cutting decision to increase the number of students in classrooms in grades 3-12.

That effort alone will cost \$1.8 million and require the hiring of 18 new teachers.

"Immediately, we will restore the class sizes," Merritt has said.

Wayne County RESA will

See TAX, Page A2

12  
1

## Santa's arrived! Time for the holidays in Plymouth

It's official. Santa Claus arrived Friday night and the tree is decorated and full of lights — both heralding the magic that's the holiday season in Plymouth.

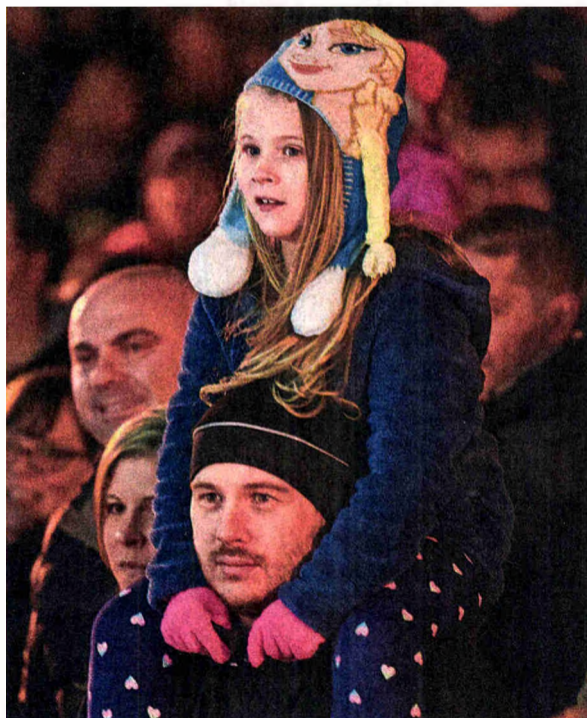
The annual arrival of Santa on a fire truck and plenty of fun, hot chocolate and the Salvation Army bell ringers were greeted without snow this year, but was a happy start to a series of holiday community events this year. Santa, for one, plans to hang

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bet Akpabali and 17-month-old daughter Adalyn take a selfie with Santa.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Waiting for Santa Claus to arrive at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.



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### CANTON CRIME WATCH

#### Tattoos help cops nab fraud suspect

A fraud suspect's tattoo played a crucial role in his capture during what began as a routine traffic stop by Canton police.

The suspect, a 21-year-old Detroit man wanted on a seven-count fraud warrant out of Pittsfield Township, reportedly gave police a fake name when he and a female passenger, 21, were stopped at Wyndchase, an apartment complex at Haggerty and Cherry Hill. Police on routine patrol approached the couple about 2:30 a.m.

Nov. 22 after noticing their car sitting in the middle of a parking lot with no headlights on. A toddler was in the back seat.

Police ran a computerized background check on the passenger, who gave her real name, and received information linking her to the driver, a report said. Police found a digital photo that resembled the driver, but knew they had caught the fraud suspect when they learned he had tattoos of "Gee" and a crown on his arm — the same tattoos revealed in the computer data.

Police asked the sus-

pect to get out of the car, but he reportedly became combative, struggling with officers and trying to flee before he was forced to the ground and eventually handcuffed, the report said. He began to yell that he couldn't breathe, the report said, so police called for paramedics, but he refused treatment when they arrived.

Police took the suspect into custody. The report indicated he was facing new charges of resisting and obstructing a police officer and providing false information during the investigation.

#### Cable TV fraud

A 47-year-old Canton man notified police after a bogus cable TV account was opened in his name in Denver, Colo. He learned of the incident

when he got a bill for \$471.41, a report said.

The man went to the Canton police station to file a report so that the cable company, Comcast, would cancel the bill he had received. The victim also gave police an account number and a Denver address that corresponded to the billing statement — information that was turned over to the detective bureau.

The man told police he is willing to help with prosecuting the case, though his primary concern was possible damage to his credit score.

#### Storage burglary

A 21-year-old woman who lives at The Crossings, an apartment complex at Joy Road and I-275, notified police to report numerous items had been stolen from a

basement storage area, a report said.

She told police the missing items included a train set, Christmas ornaments, a box of books and pens, a glue gun and a welding kit. She reported the incident Sunday and said the items were there when she last went to the storage facility three weeks ago.

The report indicated the storage facility was locked, but could nonetheless be accessed with enough force.

#### Pot warning

Five teens with a very small amount of marijuana were given a warning by Canton police after they were caught in Independence Park shortly before midnight Friday, after the park had closed.

Police were patrolling the area of Denton and

Proctor when they noticed two vehicles near the south entrance of the park. Both vehicles began to leave as the police arrived, a report said.

Police initiated a traffic stop and the 19-year-old male driver of a black Ford Escape pulled over, though a second vehicle left the scene. The report said police noticed the smell of marijuana during the traffic stop. They searched the vehicle and found a marijuana grinder, a pipe and a small amount of pot "shake" in a center console.

Police confiscated the items and, considering the small amount of marijuana found, warned the five teens — two males and three females — against using the drug.

— By Darrell Clem

## PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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## Plymouth schedules ceremony to commemorate Pearl Harbor Day

A ceremony to Remember Pearl Harbor will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, at the Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park on Main Street.

Pearl Harbor Day is a day that should be a quiet memory of those military men and women who never asked questions, but followed orders — and died. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6695, Cmdr. Frank Barkovich; Plymouth Passage-Gayde American Legion Post No. 391, Comdr. Johnnie Johnson; and the Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter No.



FILE PHOTO

Pearl Harbor Day is Dec. 7.

528, President John Spencer, invite the pub-

lic to attend the ceremony.

## TAX

Continued from Page A1

distribute the new tax money proportionately to the county's 33 school districts based on student counts. In all, the tax will generate \$80 million a year.

The tax will hit some communities much harder than others. Communities with higher property values will pay more, while cities such as Detroit and Hamtramck will pay less by comparison.

After restoring class sizes in Plymouth-Canton, Merritt said the tax also could allow the district to make long-delayed textbook purchases and improve curriculum, among other measures. She said the tax will have "a profound impact" on the district.

Under state law, school districts cannot place operating tax proposals on the ballot, but Wayne County RESA is able to seek an enhancement millage to help those districts.

Meanwhile in Canton, Slavens said the treasurer's office has been getting numerous calls from residents after their most recent water bills spiked. Canton this year raised water rates 6.9 percent and Slavens said residential usage also spiked.

"It was a very dry summer," she said.

Canton Public Works Manager Bob Belair said his office has received numerous inquiries about big spikes in water bills.

"It's all the result of more usage," he said. "The water usage went up because everyone was irrigating more."

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## PARK

Continued from Page A1

She said the Kiwanis Club used money it made from its annual golf outing and holiday nut sales.

"We put that money back into the city," Pantaleo said, saying the project "made a big difference in a small park."

Gerlach said the city of Plymouth can do more to improve local parks when groups such as the Kiwanis Club help out.

"It's extremely important," he said, adding that, with matching funds from a club, "we can do twice as much."

The park already had a T-ball field, a soccer practice field and a small play structure for children ages 2-5.

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## SANTA

Continued from Page A1

around Plymouth each weekend to greet kids. The Santa House is sponsored by Hines Park Lincoln and presented by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

Santa's hours at his house in Kellogg Park are noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 3, 10-11 and 18; 6-8 p.m. Dec. 16; noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 17; and 5-9 p.m. Dec. 23.

Also on tap for the holiday season is the annual Walk of Trees through New Year's Day. The configuration of the trees is different due to park renovations.

At the Plymouth Historical Museum, is "Yuletide at the White House," a special exhibit through

Dec. 31. This holiday display is inspired by the traditions of the past presidents, the first ladies and their families. Vignettes throughout the museum highlight the different personalities and holiday celebrations of the presidents and their families. Enjoy the displays of antique winter gear for sledding, skating and snowshoeing. Peruse old holiday recipes and the Christmas cards associated with the warmest of the happiest time of the year.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, the museum will host a craft bazaar, open house and bake sale.

For more holiday events, check out the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce website at [www.plymouthmich.org](http://www.plymouthmich.org)



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Seven-year-old Chloe Hoard is the lucky kid who helped Santa and Mrs. Claus pull the switch to light the display.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Watching for Santa's arrival on a fire truck. Kathy and Larry Duggan brought their grandkids, Connor Martin, 6, and Claire Martin, 4.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's tree is lit and the holiday season begins.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The P-CEP choir entertains with holiday songs.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Grandma Pam Yagiela is pretty excited to see Santa Claus. Two-year-old Abigail Marsh is a little more reserved.

### Canton band rolls out annual Christmas concert

Christmas will soon be here and it is time to plan for family gatherings.

The Canton Concert Band is having its annual Christmas concert titled "Warmth, Wonder & Wishes" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Along with a show for the entire family, Santa will be there to greet the kids and take photos with all. Organizers bill it as an evening of beautiful Christmas music by the band and singing by Forever After Production vocalists, Harmony Singers and STARZ.

The 55-member Canton Concert Band has entertained audiences with shows filled with holiday decorations, laughter, music, singing and comedy since 2004.

### Canton Historical Society to host holiday tea

Area residents are encouraged to take part in the Canton Historical Society's fourth annual Christmas Tea at the Bartlett-Travis House, one of Canton's oldest homes, that will be festively decorated for the holidays in circa 1900 Christmas finery.

This special event will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17. Participants can take a step back in time as they enjoy a holiday afternoon tea in the Bartlett-Travis House, located in Preservation Park at 500 N. Ridge Road. Guests will enjoy an assortment of teas, mini-quiches, sandwiches and desserts.

Musical entertainment will be provided by harpist Laurel Federbush. Tickets are \$25 per person and seating is limited. Tickets are available at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway.

For more information about this special holiday event, go to [www.cantonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cantonhistoricalsociety.org) or call 734-397-3048.

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# Compassionate Friends to host annual vigil

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

As candles are lit at 7 p.m., hundreds of thousands of people commemorate and honor all children gone too soon.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle-lighting on the globe, the annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate



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

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. Started in the United States in 1997 as a small

spread throughout the world of the remembrance.

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

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

The local chapter of The Compassionate Friends sponsors the Kellogg Park ceremony.

The event will include a candlelight vigil, reading of the children's names, a PowerPoint presentation of the children's names, poetry and songs.

Families will gather near memory trees specially decorated with the names of the children who have died too soon.

Friends and families are invited to the remembrance. For more information or to register a child's name to be included, call 734-778-0800 or email [tcfcandlelight@yahoo.com](mailto:tcfcandlelight@yahoo.com).

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

## Nurse's license suspended over sex with jail inmate

Darrell Clem  
hometownlife.com

A Canton man's nursing license has been suspended after he pleaded no contest to a criminal charge that arose amid allegations he sexually assaulted a female inmate while working as a jail nurse in Washtenaw County.

Percival Roy S. Kuizon's license was suspended Nov. 18 by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, an action that LARA confirmed is mandatory for a health care professional convicted of a felony crime.

Kuizon, 34, pleaded no contest to a charge of

second-degree criminal sexual conduct and was sentenced to six months in jail and five years of probation. He learned his fate Aug. 29, when he appeared before Washtenaw County Trial Court Judge David Swartz, according to court records.

While working as a jail nurse in late 2015, Kuizon was accused of calling a female inmate to the jail's medical unit and telling her to perform oral sex on him, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office spokesman Derrick Jackson said. At the time, he worked for a company hired by the jail to provide medical care to

inmates. The allegations arose after another inmate reported what happened, but officials have said the woman Kuizon had sexual contact with was cooperative.

Kuizon's decision to accept a plea agreement could have spared him a much worse sentence. Second-degree criminal sexual conduct is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

While his plea of no contest is not an admission of guilty, it is treated as such for purposes of sentencing.

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## PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

### Cops nab woman for false 9-1-1 call

A woman lied when she called 9-1-1 to report she had locked herself in a bathroom because she was being threatened by her drunken husband, a Plymouth Township police report said.

Police believe the woman may have been trying to send police to one neighborhood while she — and possibly an accomplice — were casing a home construction site in another area, the report indicated.

The incident unfolded just before 4 a.m. Oct. 30. The report said a woman who seemed distressed called 9-1-1 for help, but then hung up the phone and didn't answer when police called back.

She gave police an address on Litchfield but, when officers arrived, the homeowners said they hadn't called for help.

Moments later, officers found two suspicious people near a home

construction site near Maple and Fairground, the report said. It was learned that one woman at that scene had made a 9-1-1 call on her cellphone just a short time earlier.

The suspect denied making the call and claimed her boyfriend had hacked her phone and made the 9-1-1 call. She was taken into custody for making a false 9-1-1 call and making a false police report.

### Illegal driver nabbed

A defective headlight led to a 26-year-old Detroit man being arrested after Plymouth Township police learned he had an expired driver's license and a small bag of marijuana in his car, a report said.

Police on routine patrol noticed a 1999 Buick Park Avenue with a defective headlight traveling westbound on I-96, near I-275. Police trailed the driver onto southbound I-275 and then initiated a traffic stop.

Police had the vehicle impounded after learning the driver had an expired license and a small amount of marijuana.

A passenger in the vehicle told police the marijuana belonged to the driver.

### Car break-in

Police located the owner of a 2015 GMC Acadia after noticing that a passenger side front window had been broken out while the vehicle was parked at the Hilton Garden Inn on Sheldon Road.

Police were patrolling the area shortly after 2 a.m. Nov. 5 when the broken window was noticed. A police report said a navigation system had been taken from the vehicle.

Police located the vehicle's owner, an Oak Park man, who looked inside the GMC and said it didn't appear anything else had been taken.

— By Darrell Clem

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# Mother-daughter resolution prompts a year of giving

**Matt Jachman**  
hometownlife.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

The pair are planning to carry the resolution into next year and want to get others to join them (Greta has already gotten friends interested, in addition to schoolmates and fellow soccer players). They've even set up a Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/gretasmnthlypledge](http://www.facebook.com/gretasmnthlypledge), to document their project.

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

"I think it's the closest one to me," because of her grandmother and a neighbor who has also survived breast cancer, Greta said of the Komen.

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

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



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

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

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

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

than they've given.

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

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

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



## GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

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On Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup>, Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> of this week, Showroom Of Elegance will give away, **ABSOLUTELY FREE**, 25 stunning pearl bracelets to the first 25 adults 18 years and older at Noon.



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## GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WAYNE COUNTY

estland youth athletics meeting

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

Three Cities Art Club reception

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

Jingle Bells Batman Smells

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

Spirit of the Season

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

The first half of the concert will feature Angie Hahn's Academy



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

of Dance performing excerpts from Peter Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet. The second half of the program will include members of the Livonia Youth Symphony sitting in with the LSO musicians performing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Sleigh Ride" by LeRoy Anderson, "The Bells of Christmas" by B. Krogstad, "Festive Sounds of Hanukah" by B. Holcombe, "Christmas Song" by M. Torme and "Minor Alterations" by D. Lovrien. Tickets are \$20 for adults and students (6 years and up) \$10. Tickets are available at Livonia's Main Library on Five Mile Road or at the door. Group tickets of 10 or more are available for \$15 each by calling 313.538.2536. For further information or to reserve tickets visit the LSO online at www.livoniasymphony.org. For more information, call 734-421-1111, the LSO 24 hour music line.

**Christmas tour**  
Livonia's 28th annual Christmas Walk/Home Tour, sponsored by the Friends of Greenmead, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. Tickets are \$10 or \$9 in advance and are available at Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia City Hall (Community Re-

sources, 5th Floor), all Livonia public libraries, or from any member of the Friends of Greenmead. The tour will feature four private homes, St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church, and the Simmons/Hill House and the A.J. Geer store on the Greenmead grounds. (Start your walk at Greenmead.) All proceeds benefit the restoration of Greenmead Historical Park. For more information, call 248-477-7375.

After work with the Rep

State Rep. Leslie Love, D-Detroit, will host her "After Work with the Rep" to provide people with 9-to-5 work schedules an opportunity to meet with her and get legislative updates. This is the final legislative update of the year. The event is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, at Michno's Café, 25524 Five Mile Road in Redford Township. Refreshments will be provided.

Special Santa visits

For children and families living with autism, there will be a Special Needs Santa from 9-11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at Laurel Park Mall, 37700 West Six Mile Road, Livonia. Steve Bockmann, the event organizer, whose own son has

autism, is available for comment before or during the event. Steve has been organizing this event for several years. During this time, children can visit with Santa in a light-sensitive environment. There will be no mall music, and photos will be taken without a camera flash. This is a intended to provide a comfortable time for children with special needs to visit Santa.

Livonia tree lighting

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

The event kicks off with members of the Livonia Civic Chorus leading the singing of traditional holiday carols in the lobby of City Hall. After the ceremony, everyone is invited to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Civic Center Library. There, children of all ages can enjoy hot chocolate, crafts and a performance by Cirque Amongus.

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

P-CCS orchestra concert

The P-CCS Orchestras will present their annual Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the Gloria Logan Auditorium in Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton. It features per-

formances by over 400 student musicians in grades 6-12. Four orchestras will take the stage over the course of the evening, performing a wide variety of music along with some holiday favorites. Suggested donation of \$3 per person or \$5 per family at the door. All donations are used to support the P-CCS Orchestras. For more information, call the Orchestra Office at 734-416-2909.

Park Players perform

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

Wayne County General Hospital reunion

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

Holiday decorating contest

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

to enter a picture with their submission.

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

Youth Christmas concert

The Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestras of Michigan will host its Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 at William F. Weber Performing Arts Center at Thurston High School, 26255 Schoolcraft, Redford. Tickets are \$7 at the door, \$3 senior citizens.

The LYSO is a non-profit youth organization celebrating its 57th year in Livonia. It is comprised of school-age string players, winds, brass and percussionists, and dedicated parent volunteers.

Secondhand Prose closes for renovations

Canton Public Library's Secondhand Prose Bookstore will be closed for renovations from Dec. 23 to Feb 1. In December hardcover books and children's book will be sold at reduced prices. A special \$6 Fill-a-Bag Book Sale will take place Dec. 16-19. Friends of the Canton Public Library support the library through advocacy and fundraising for resources beyond the scope of the operating budget.

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# Energy reform tops Legislature's agenda

**Kathleen Gray**  
Detroit Free Press

The prospects for a crazy lame-duck session of Michigan's Legislature dimmed significantly on Nov. 8 when Republicans defied expectations and held onto their 63-47 majority in the House of Representatives.

As a result, there won't be such a resolve to get legislative initiatives done in the final weeks of the legislative session, because the GOP majorities in both the House and Senate will be able to reintroduce any of their pet proposals when the new House of Representatives is sworn in next year.

Still, the House hopes to consider energy reform passed by the Senate earlier this month, which includes expanding renewable energy mandates in the state. And several other subjects, including teacher pension changes, regulating ride-sharing services and tax incentives for large construction projects could be brought up in the final days of the 2015-16 legislative session.

In the last two lame-duck sessions, the Legislature met from morning till dawn the next day on several controversial proposals, including right to work, more policies to restrict abortions, drug testing for public assistance recipients, laws that make it much tougher for lawmakers to get recalled from office and a proposal that voters ultimately rejected to fix Michigan's roads.

"My philosophy going into lame duck is that I'd like to see quality over quantity," said Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant. "That sense of urgency is a bit diminished. I don't stand here feeling like we have to do everything."

The Senate is even more relaxed about the final weeks of session because it is in the middle of a four-year term and still has two years with a 27-11 Republican majority to consider legislation. There will be one new senator in the chamber — Detroit Democrat Ian Conyers, who won a race to replace former Sen. Virgil Smith, D-Detroit, who resigned his seat after being convicted of malicious destruction of property for shooting at his ex-wife's car.

"It's not our lame-duck session," said Amber McCann, spokeswoman for Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, R-West Olive.

But there are some priorities for the Legislature in the lame-duck session, which begins on Tuesday and is scheduled

to last until Dec. 15.

## One sure thing

**Energy:** The Legislature has been trying for nearly two years to pass energy reform legislation to update policy that was enacted in 2008. A bill finally made it through the Senate in October that got essential votes by increasing Michigan's renewable energy portfolio standards for Michigan utilities from 10% to 15% by 2021. That got Democratic votes for the package in the Senate and could attract a winning margin in the House of Representatives, but some Republicans are still holding out for an expansion of the so-called "electric choice" market. Currently, 10% of utility users — mostly manufacturers, school districts and some municipalities, can get energy for alternative suppliers, often at a significantly lower cost. The state's major utilities — DTE Energy and Consumers Energy — which supply the vast majority of the electricity in the state, want more restrictions on the choice market, while some businesses want alternative suppliers to have a bigger piece of Michigan's electrical pie. "Energy is an issue we have to get right, and there's a lot of varying opinions about what the right energy policy looks like," Cotter said.

## Possibilities

**Teacher pension reform:** Many Republicans would like to see all new teachers switched from a defined-benefit retirement pension plan to a defined contribution plan like a 401(k). Under changes that became state law in 2012, school employees are now in a hybrid plan that combines a smaller defined benefit pension plan with a defined contribution plan. State Rep. Tom Leonard, R-DeWitt, will be the new speaker of the House next year and said, "In many of our schools, 35-40% of payroll is going to this broken teacher retirement system. It is certainly something we've got to attack. By doing so, it will save money in the budget and it will allow us to put more money into the classroom." But Doug Pratt of the Michigan Education Association said such a plan will cost the state billions because the new teachers won't be contributing anything into the existing pension system for older and retired teachers.

**Ride-sharing services:** The House of Representatives and Senate have vastly different plans to regulate ride-

sharing services like Uber and Lyft. The House plan, passed last year and awaiting action in the Senate, would put regulatory authority with the Michigan Department of Transportation. The Senate and Democrats have been pushing policies that would give locals more control of the regulations.

**Brownfield development incentives:** The Senate has passed legislation that would provide significant tax credits for "transformational brownfield development" projects, such as projects proposed by Detroit businessman Dan Gilbert for the old Hudson's building and a soccer stadium in Detroit. The proposal would allow big transformational projects to capture not only a portion of local property taxes but also sales and income taxes. The bills await action in the House, but Gov. Rick Snyder has been wary of tax incentives for specific industries or businesses.

## Probably not

**Freedom of Information:** The House passed legislation that would make the Legislature and governor's office subject to open records laws. Right now, both bodies are exempt from Freedom of Information laws. While the bills passed the House with wide bipartisan majorities, the Senate isn't expected to take them up before the end of the session.

**No-fault auto insurance:** Republicans have tried for years to enact reforms to Michigan's no-fault auto insurance system, which results in some of the highest auto insurance rates in the nation. But they haven't been able to reach a compromise on a plan that would cap lifetime benefits for people who are catastrophically injured in car crashes. Holding up progress are Democrats and Republicans from Oakland County, who have been following the lead of County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, who opposes the plan.

**Prevailing wage:** The votes are there in the House to pass a bill, which has already passed the Senate, to repeal Michigan's prevailing-wage laws, which require union-standard wages on public construction projects. A vote was put off in the House to wait and see whether a ballot proposal got enough signatures to put the measure up for a vote that would be immune from a veto from Snyder. The ballot proposal fizzled when thousands of signatures were found to be duplicates.

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## Passages

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Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

### BUCHANAN



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

### COLOGNE



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

### GARRISON

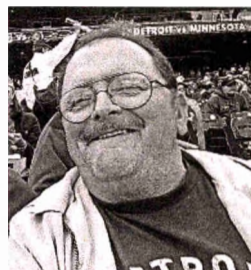
**SARAH "SALLY" SHAW** passed away peacefully on November 27, 2016. Sally was born on December 21, 1942 at Grace Hospital in Detroit, MI. Beloved wife of Walter Cole Conrad. Daughter of the late Robert L. Garrison and Valda A. Garrison. Sally graduated from Seaholm H.S., Michigan State University and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

### GOSHORN



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

### ROCCO



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

### SHIFFER



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

### TANDOC



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

## Novi Emagine to get state's largest screen

**Julie Hinds**  
Detroit Free Press

Emagine Novi plans to have the largest movie screen in Michigan by spring 2017.

A \$4.5 million renovation plan for the location was announced Monday by Emagine Entertainment, which has 18 locations in Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota. Emagine Novi, which opened in 2002, was the company's original theater in metro Detroit.

The update will introduce roomier dimensions for seating to the auditoriums, replace the rocker seats with adjustable reclining chairs, introduce new food options and update virtually every aspect of the location, from the restroom to the ticketing area.

The plan also includes combining two of the 18 auditoriums into one space in order to introduce what the Emagine folks are calling the



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi's Emagine movie theater will have the area's largest screen by spring 2017.

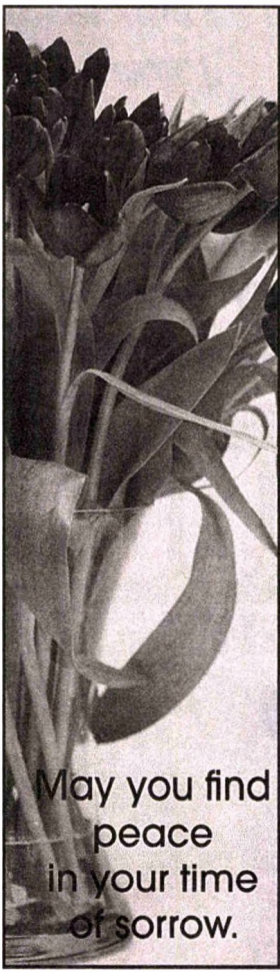
state's biggest movie screen. It will be more than 86 feet wide and more than 50 feet high.

The new, expanded auditorium will feature laser projection with 4K imagery and a Dolby Atmos® immersive sound system. The cost is expected to be more than \$500,000 for that one state-of-the-art auditorium.

The Giant Screen Experience at the Henry Ford, which was formerly an IMAX-branded theater, previously held

the title of largest screen in the state, at 84 feet wide and 62 feet tall. Earlier this year, it switched to a digital-projection system and a screen with the somewhat smaller dimensions of 80 feet by 44 feet.

The Emagine Novi's grand reopening is expected to happen in May 2017. The theater, at the Twelve Mile Crossing at the Fountain Walk complex, will stay open through the remodeling process with a phased construction schedule.



May you find peace in your time of sorrow.

# Local men take shave and haircut to a whole new level

LeAnne Rogers  
hometownlife.com

One of the things friends Michael Haddad and Shaun Walford have in common is that they love their beards and they wanted to keep their facial hair in good shape.

"My wife didn't like how scratchy my beard was," said Haddad, a South Lyon resident.

"I wanted a long beautiful beard," added Walford, who lives in Westland.

Researching beard care products, Haddad wasn't satisfied with the products he tried. "I ordered beard oil. I got stuff that smelled like medicine," he said. "There were products, your face was on fire or you get ingrown hairs."

Then there was the high cost for the products, heavy evaporation and the need to reapply products during the day. So, Haddad and Walford, who had been working at a gold store, started experimenting to come up with a product they liked better than what was on the market. That resulted in the men forming Detroit Grooming, which expanded to a range of grooming products after initially focusing on beards.

"We wanted a comprehensive product that would take care of the hair but not clog your pores. In the winter, you step outside and your beard dries out," Haddad said. "This is a process in a bottle. On your hair, you use shampoo and cream rinse. People blow dry their beards in competitions."

It takes time to shave but it also takes time to have a well-groomed beard. "I never thought



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Products made by the Detroit Grooming.

not shaving would take longer than shaving," Walford said. "And taking care of my beard forced me to take care of other parts like my nails."

Haddad and Walford, the latter in charge of product development, starting coming up with beard grooming products at the back of the gold store. Finding themselves unemployed after the price of gold dropped and the store where they were working closed, the men decided to start selling their beard grooming products.

"I could have looked for another job. We made it for ourselves — it had vanilla and cedarwood. We wanted to share it without everybody — it felt so good," Haddad said. "We started from scratch. We wanted something to last all day."

Detroit Grooming's beard oils are named after places in Michigan — Orchard Lake has scents of orange and vanilla, it has sweet almond oil, vitamins A, B and E, said to be good for the face as well as the beard. Corktown has some pipe tobacco scent.

"Only two people didn't like Corktown. We

say it smells like your grandfather — one woman didn't like that," Walford said.

Thanks to better grooming, Haddad said beards are accepted these days in professional settings. Even with the continuing popularity of beards, the name Detroit Grooming indicates the expanded offerings such as beard combs, pomades, safety razors and blades made from Detroit steel, hair and body products and cologne. The company's biggest seller is its basic beard kit with beard butter and oil.

"We're trying to avoid outside sourcing outside the U.S. We try to source it here through local artisans and makers," Haddad said.

Detroit Grooming products are available through the company website, Amazon, eBay and other sites, along with 190 retail stores. Products are made and shipped overseas to countries, including New Zealand, Austria and Russia, from a warehouse in Ferndale.

Although they didn't want to get into a retail location, earlier this year Detroit Grooming open



JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Michael Haddad and Shaun Walford pose for a photo outside of Detroit Grooming.

its barbershop on Woodward in Ferndale with a second location planned for Detroit's Corktown area.

The company is participating in the No-Shave November fund-

raiser supporting non-profits, including the American Cancer Society, Fight Colorectal Cancer and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. During November, 15 percent of sales of the

new Black collection of productions will be donated by Detroit Grooming to No-Shave.org.

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# Where do Christmas trees come from? Why, Michigan, of course!

**Kathleen Lavey**  
Lansing State Journal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Before the season is out, Korson's will ship up to 50,000 trees and 16,000 wreaths, garlands and centerpieces to volunteer groups, retail lots and garden centers as far away as Colorado and Florida. They're among 560 Christmas tree growers in the country. No. 1 Oregon cut 6.4 million trees and North Carolina produced nearly 4.3 million.

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

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

Korson's farm was founded in 1973 by Rex's parents, Wayne and Vicki. Rex and Jessica Korson bought the farm in 2003. Rex Korson had prepared by earning a



PHOTOS BY DAVE WASINGER | LANSING STATE JOURNAL

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

## LEARN MORE

For information on Michigan wholesale and choose-and-cut Christmas tree farms, go to [www.mcta.org](http://www.mcta.org).

## TYPES OF TREES

The National Christmas Tree Association offers this guide to types of trees.

**White pine:** Has soft, flexible needles and is bluish-green in color. Needles are 2½ - 5 inches long. White pines have little aroma. They aren't recommended for heavy ornaments.

**Fraser fir:** Branches turn slightly upward. They have good form and needle-retention. They are dark blue-green in color. They have a pleasant scent.

**Blue spruce:** Sharp needles are 1 to 1½ in. in length and are bluish-gray in color. The tree has good symmetrical form and retains needles well.

**Concolor fir:** These small, narrow needles are around 1 to 1½ in. in length and occur in rows. They have good foliage color, good needle retention, and a pleasing shape and aroma.

**Douglas fir:** Soft needles are dark green to blue green in color and 1 to 1½ in. in length. Douglas-fir needles radiate in all directions from the branch.

**Balsam fir:** These needles are ¾ to 1½ in. in length and last a very long time. This tree has a dark-green appearance.

**Scotch pine:** Approximately 1 in. in length, these needles don't even fall when they're dry, providing excellent needle retention. The color is a bright green. It keeps well and stays fresh throughout the season.

**Noble fir:** These needles turn upward, exposing the lower branches. Stiff branches make it a good tree for heavy ornaments, as well as providing excellent greenery for wreaths and garland.

marketing degree at Michigan State University while working at his parents' farm and at Tannenbaum Farms in Okemos.

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

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

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

"That makes it nice for Michigan consumers,

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

**MARSHA GRAY**  
executive director, Christmas Tree Association

because they have lots of choices," Gray said.

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

Rex Korson and his crew will plant about 1,000 trees per acre, then nurture them for an average of seven years before cutting them. Crews don't cut a whole field at once. Instead, they go through fields marking trees that are ready for market. Trees are then sawed down, and mechanically shaken to remove loose needles, loose bark and any debris caught in branches. They're put through a baler to be wrapped with twine for shipping.

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

Seasonal workers who are paid by the piece can make a 12-inch wreath in less than 5 minutes. A

commercial-size 48-inch wreath comes together in half an hour.

While Jurado and others decorate wreaths, workers on another side of the barn feed ever-

green sprigs into a machine that binds them with wire and spools the roping into into fresh-scented 25- and 50-foot coils, bound to be hung on porches, doorways and fences.

Korson's ships a lot of trees and evergreen products to volunteer groups or Boy Scout troops using holiday sales as a fund-raiser. The goal: get at least one load to every client before Thanksgiving, then

resupply big customers as needed. They also open their own retail location in Auburn Hills on Friday.

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

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



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POSTSEASON ACCOLADES

# Canton football buddies share postseason limelight

Chiefs award MVP trophies to running back Thornton, offensive lineman Warner

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Running backs always are thankful for the space their offensive linemen provide them.

So it was more than fitting that, just a few days before Thanksgiving, Canton Chiefs

tailback Julian Thornton shared 2016 co-MVP honors with offensive lineman Jake Warner.

Both seniors were honored during the team's banquet Nov. 21 at Laurel Park in Livonia — a night where Chiefs head coach Tim Baechler spoke like a stern but proud dad to his extended family about individuals making sacrifices for the good of the program.

"It's very special to me to win the MVP award with Jake because we're such good friends," Thornton wrote in an email to

the Observer about the shared honor. "It feels good to know the team notices Jake's hard work."

"I couldn't be happier for Jake, he's a big part of our offense and really makes it easier for the running backs to make plays."

Warner, who plays bigger and tougher than his 5-foot, 11-inch, 210-pound frame, said it was great to share the MVP spotlight with "one of my best friends."

See AWARDS, Page B3



JULIE BAECHLER

Thrilled to share co-MVP honors are Canton football players Julian Thornton (left) and Jake Warner. They were honored Nov. 21 at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

DIVISION 1 FOOTBALL FINAL



SALKWAN GEORGES | DETROIT FREE PRESS

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

# CHECKMATE

Detroit Cass Tech denies Catholic Central in bid for crown, 49-20

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

Saturday's MHSAA Division 1 football state championship game at Ford Field was billed as the ultimate chess match.

It was Novi Detroit Catholic Central's smash-mouth, ball control offensive approach coupled with bruising defense that allowed just over 10 points per game against the speedy, high-powered and big play attack of Detroit Cass Tech.

But when the game ended, all the pieces on the board were gobbled by the Technicians, who completed a perfect 14-0 season by pulling away in the second half for a convincing 49-20 win.

It was the Technicians' third

state title in school history and all have come at the expense of the Shamrocks, who lost to Cass Tech in 2012 (36-21) and in 2011 (49-13).

"We got it put to us pretty good," said CC coach Tom Mach, whose team finished 13-1. "We didn't expect that, but I thought our kids played gutsy and when the other team wins, they play better football."

It seemed whatever move the Shamrocks made defensively, Cass Tech had an answer as senior quarterback Rodney Hall tied a state finals record with five touchdown passes.

"He's a real big quarterback, great player, very dangerous after he makes a move

See FOOTBALL, Page B4



SALKWAN GEORGES | DETROIT FREE PRESS

CC's Jack Morris celebrates after returning an interception 35 yards for a TD.

GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW — PART 2

# Plymouth gets back to work

Wildcats intend to improve in division, make all-around strides

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Youth will be served in 2016-17 with the Plymouth varsity girls basketball team.

It will have to be, due to the graduation of six seniors from the squad that finished 7-14 last season.

Yet second-year head coach Ryan Ballard sees promise in the mix of returnees and newcomers as the Wildcats embarked on the season Tuesday against visiting Dexter.

"We're young, but we're hungry and willing to work hard," Ballard said. "Embrace getting better every day."

Last year's squad followed the new mission, although results weren't as strong as hoped for. A season-ending injury to then-junior guard Mikayla Rose took away one of the team's most deadly outside shooters.

This time around, Rose is healthy and ready to help lead the offense in her senior season. "Having her back is a nice little scoring punch for us," Ballard said.

The only other senior is 5-10 guard Alexa Ebeling, the lone returning player who started all of last season.

"She's a really good shooter and her basketball IQ is top-notch; she's always looking to make the right play," Ballard said. "That goes from making the right pass to boxing out every single time or making the right defensive read. She's really important to what we do."

Other key returnees are 5-9 junior center-forward Gabby Chouinard, 5-8 junior point guard Chantal LeDoux and sophomore guard Rebecca Przybylo. All three were expected to start in the opener.

See PLYMOUTH, Page B2



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Eyeing the basket during a game last year is Plymouth's Mikayla Rose. She missed most of 2015-16 to injury, but is healthy for the new season.

USA HOCKEY

# NTDP teams enjoy tasty week of holiday action



RENA LAVERTY

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

Under-18 squad has triumphant Thanksgiving home stand at USA Hockey Arena

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Home cooking for the Thanksgiving holiday worked out well for the U.S. National Team Development Program's Under-18 hockey team.

The results were as tasty as turkey, pumpkin pie and all the trimmings as the U18 squad won all three games of a holiday week home stand at USA

Hockey Arena in Plymouth by a combined score of 17-9.

"I think it's fun to get more games in a week; it's new," said U18 goalie Dylan St. Cyr of Northville, the No. 1 star in Sunday afternoon's 3-1 win over the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. "Usually, we only get the two games on a weekend. It's definitely more

See HOCKEY, Page B4

GIRLS BASKETBALL



Canton senior Erin Hult (left) lines up her shot in the first half while Marian's Isabel Hayes tries to stop the bid.

# Chiefs hold off Marian in second half, 43-40

Hult's 17 points offset 22 points by Moore as Canton improves to 2-0

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

It was a night when Erin Hult and Olivia Moore took turns making rainbow jumpers to spark their respective varsity girls basketball teams.

But a less-than-textbook trey by Canton senior Shamyia Butler at the end of the third quarter told the tale of the host Chiefs' 43-40 win over Bloomfield Hills Marian.

"I told Sham before the game, 'You're going to have a great night tonight and this team is going to need you,'" Canton head coach Rob Heitmeyer said. "She responded, 'I'm so proud of her.'"

Canton built a big early lead (12-4 in the first) in large part due to the scoring of senior forward Hult, who had all dozen of those points.

Yet the Mary Cicerone-coached Mustangs hung around and finally drew even at 33-33 with time running out in the third.

No worries for Butler (14 points, nine of Canton's 11 in the third), who threw up a shot despite the in-her-face defense of Moore, Marian's sophomore guard.

The ball was in the air when the horn sounded and it banked off the glass, skimmed the rim and finally dropped through to keep the Chiefs in front — this time to stay.

"It was the ugliest shot I've ever seen, but it was so beautiful at the same time," Hult said with a laugh, following the contest. "I think it's a huge win for us. We knew this was going to be a struggle and that it was going to come down to the last quarter. I'm just so proud we pulled it out."

According to Cicerone, the clutch play was more about what Butler managed to do than what her players didn't.

"We were on her, we had a hand up and on her," Cicerone said. "She just made a good shot."

Moore was lights out on the offensive side of things for the



With time running out in the third quarter, Canton's Shamyia Butler (left) throws up a 3-point shot to put her team up 36-33 entering the fourth.

Mustangs, connecting on five treys while racking up 22 points to lead all scorers.

"She was our only offense," Cicerone said. "She was my best player last year, overall."

"I keep telling her she has to work on her defense, but I thought she did a pretty good job today. She got after it pretty good today."

Marian picked things up in the second half after a tough opening 16 minutes (which ended with Canton leading 23-12) and had the ball in the closing seconds of the fourth with a chance to send the game to overtime.

Senior guard Maria Kaschak took the potential equalizer from beyond the top of the arc, but the ball bounced off the iron and Canton junior point guard Alaina Heitmeyer secured her seventh and most important rebound of the night.

"I'm very pleased with our second half," Cicerone said. "We executed and the kids played with a lot more confidence. We gave them the game. We had a nice look at the end. Maria's a good shooter. She missed it, but it was a good look."

Senior center Isabel Hayes added eight points for Marian (0-1).

Others contributing to Canton's second win in two nights to open the season were senior forwards Madison Wolfbauer (12 rebounds) and Sam Matern (four points) and junior forward Ashley Criscenti (four points).

**Motivation**

The way the game unfolded down the stretch wasn't how things opened. Hult connected on a layup and then drained a jumper from the right corner to make it 4-0 barely one minute into the annual meeting between the programs.

Hult wound up scoring the rest of her team's points in the opening quarter, including a trey from the left wing to make it 12-4.

"I haven't beat Marian my whole high school career, so it was just motivation," she said. "We wanted to win this game and I was going to do anything to help my team get the dub."

Marian started to get untracked midway through the second, when Moore hit her first triple of the game.

After Butler scored in the opening moments of the second half to put Canton up 25-12, the Mustangs went on a 10-4 run, with Moore scoring two more 3-pointers.

A layup by Moore and free throw by Hayes evened the score near the end of the quarter, but that only led to the wild, banking, rolling basket by Butler to keep the Chiefs in charge.

"Our goal was to make sure we played 32 minutes of basketball," Heitmeyer said. "We knew it would be intense. Every loose ball matters, every free throw matters."

**CANTON 56, CASS TECH 30:** In the first of three very competitive non-conference games to open the season, the Chiefs prevailed thanks to a balanced offense. Ashley Criscenti (12 points), Erin Hult (11 points), Carli Vaughan (10 points), Madison Wolfbauer (eight points), Brianna Finn (six points) and Raquel Church (five points) all helped the cause. **DEXTER 32, PLYMOUTH 29:** Despite 10 points by Mikayla Rose, nine by Chantal Ledoux and six by Alexa Ebeling, the host Wildcats dropped their season opener. "I was really pleased with how our kids battled all night long," coach Ryan Ballard said. "Our kids played relentlessly on the defensive end and really attacked the defensive glass. Senior captain Ebeling noted that, despite the outcome, 'things are starting to click as we learn to play together on offense and our team defense has greatly improved.'"

take another step toward being the team's "best player." She was our most improved player last year. Her minutes went up significantly and she led in scoring a few games down the stretch."

As for Pryzbolo, she will defend and rebound and never let up in her compete level. "She's just so strong and she can guard really well," Ballard said. "She's just tough." Junior forward Katie-Jane

Tsiang and sophomore guard Emerson Recto are ready to chip in when called upon.

Meanwhile, Ballard anticipates what kind of impact four freshmen can make on the squad.

On that list are guards Audrey Kananen, Gabrielle McCaslin and Angela Schmidt and forward Sydney McCaig.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW

# Schoolcraft men's squad off to hot start this season

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

There's no question that Schoolcraft College has had a ferocious men's basketball team the past two seasons, featuring an all-around game with plenty of outside shooters and big guys around the rim.

The Ocelots won Michigan Community College Athletic Association titles in back-to-back seasons. Last season, Schoolcraft went 23-12 and reached the elite eight of the NJCAA Division II tournament before bowing out.

Believe it or not, Schoolcraft head coach Abe Mashhour insists the 2016-17 team is better than the previous two standout squads. Others agree; the Ocelots opened the season ranked No. 6 in the NJCAA Division II preseason poll.

"It should be the best one we've had in the last three years," said Mashhour, whose current squad is 5-1. "We're more talented, we're deeper and just more athletic. We shoot the ball better than we have, too."

An example of what MCCA teams can expect once conference play begins in January is what transpired Saturday against Kalamazoo Valley in the KVCC Invitational. Schoolcraft won, 81-62.

"Yesterday against Kalamazoo, in the first half, we were up 50-21," Mashhour said. "And that's a pretty good team in their own gym. Up 30 at the half. When you're scoring 50 in a half, that tells you there's a lot of possessions."

"We did that to Owens (CC), who is multi-talented, we did that to Monroe (Community College) in their own gym in New York (102-71 on Nov. 5 in the MCC Kickoff Classic). When we are focused and locked in, we guard really, really well."

Mashhour said his team doesn't have any post players such as the burly Anthony Wartley-Fritz or hard-driving Canton alum Davon Taylor, both of whom were dangerous in the paint at both ends of the floor.

But that's not a problem, it just means this year's team will go about things a little differently.

"We're more athletic up front, and my bigs can step out and shoot the three," Mashhour said. "You can't really guard them with big guys because they can put the ball on the floor and get to the rim off the dribble. They can shoot the ball, too."

**Kudos for back court**  
Orchestrating the attack

will be freshman point guard Delo Hansbro. So far, he has been impressive.

"Dre (Black, from Westland John Glenn) was so good, obviously," Mashhour said. "But Delo shoots it better, he's a better shooter than Dre was. He's real good in transition, he's an excellent finisher around the basket."

"Overall, we have three really, really good point guards and four really, really good guards. That's what makes us better than the teams in the past. Our guard play was good (before); it's great now."

At the shooting guard will be Armani Tinsley, with returnee Esa Abduljani at small forward. Top backups in the back court will be Walter Kelsner and Rich Talley.

"Any one of my guards is worthy of starting on any team I've had," Mashhour said. "Even the backups."

Also ready when needed at guard is freshman Joan Andoni, from Livonia Churchill.

"He's played some; he's a reserve," Mashhour said.

"But our guard play is so good. Joan's an exceptional shooter, but it is hard to find him time."

"Sometimes I play 12 guys in the first half just to get everybody some minutes. That's really how deep we are."

Other guards on the roster include Kendrick Harris and West Bloomfield native Phil Nelson.

Up front, the Ocelots will look for muscle from sophomore forwards Charles Penn (6-7, 210) and returnee Carlos Taylor (6-6, 200).

Tariq Jones (6-7, 220), Kevin Hayes (6-6, 210), Daniel Dwyer (6-5, 190), Donovan Williams (6-8, 230) and DeYuan Heard (6-7, 185) also bring size.

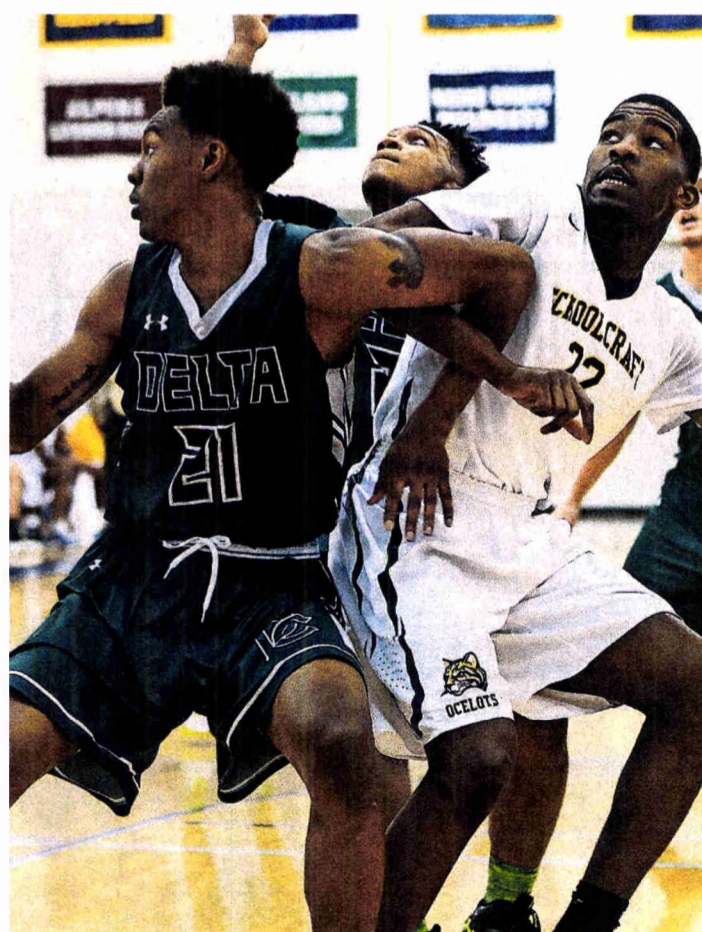
And Schoolcraft also has the makings of a pretty relentless defensive team.

"Defensively, we were pretty good the last two years," Mashhour said. "But this team has the chance to be an exceptional defensive team."

Mashhour again will be helped on the sidelines by assistant coaches Corey McKendry (formerly of Livonia Clarenceville) and Michael Allie (formerly of Livonia Stevenson). Joining the staff are Mike Faletti and Timothy Edwards.

Next up for the Ocelots is a Nov. 30 game at Owens Community College. The next home game will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, against Glen Oaks.

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports



One of just two returning players for Schoolcraft is forward Carlos Taylor (right).

PLYMOUTH

Continued from Page B1

"She is a really good defender," Ballard said about Chouinard. "She's really good at starring in her role, understanding how we want her to play to help us be successful. She does all the dirty work."

LeDoux has the ability to

BOYS HOCKEY

# Stevenson strong at Cranbrook tournament

Thanksgiving tourney goes to top-ranked Brighton Bulldogs

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

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

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

The Spartans opened the

two-day extravaganza on the winning side of a 6-2 decision Friday against Cranbrook.

"For this team to play its third game in four days and to play the top team in the state like that, well, it's hard not to be proud of the effort we gave," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said about the loss to the Bulldogs. "Brighton is so fast, they have some great players and are really well-coached. It was a great high school hockey game."

Brighton scored the contest's only goal in the first period, with Ben Peterson beating Stevenson goalie Will Tragge (22 saves). It was Tragge's first loss after three victories to open the season.

Unfortunately for the Spar-

tans, Bulldogs goaltender Logan Neaton was a little bit better. He stopped all 24 shots he saw.

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

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

"To play a team with the history of Cranbrook is an honor, for sure, and to come into their place with a young team and play the way we did tonight, we are obviously

pleased," Mitchell said. "We still have a ways to go and much room for improvement, but we seem to be getting better each time out, which is a good sign and a testament to the players."

**Salem rocked**

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

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

But the No. 1 team in the state rallied in the third period to win going away, 5-1.

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

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

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

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## Salem solid at states



Salem's varsity girls swimming and diving team had several impressive performances at the recent Division 1 state meet, held at Oakland University. Among them were senior Katie Xu, (13th in the 100 backstroke) and junior Camille Burt, 10th in diving. Also pictured are head coach Brandon Larkins, assistant coach Gloria Martinez Perez, sophomore Sarah Griffiths (400 free relay) and Xu's teammates in the 200 freestyle relay (senior Meghan Maikowski, junior Jenna Chen, freshman Morgan Davis).

## AWARDS

Continued from Page B1

**Candidates abound**

The lineman — also a stand-out on the Chiefs' defense — stressed that six Canton players received MVP votes, including Thornton's neighbors in the wing-T formation.

Those would be senior Markus Sanders (who set school marks for career yards and TDs) and senior Reid McDonnell.

Sanders led the Chiefs with better than 1,700 yards rushing in 178 attempts (9.6 average) and surpassed 6,000 for his brilliant career. He scored 17 touchdowns.

Meanwhile, McDonnell, a stalwart in the Division 1 first-round playoff win against Northville with 255 yards and four TDs, nearly gave Canton three 1,000-yard backs. He amassed 849 yards in 112 rushes (7.6 average).

Of course, Thornton also punished opposing defenses. He registered 1,064 yards rushing in 128 attempts (8.3 average) and scored 16 touchdowns.

All told, Canton linemen helped spring their runners to

4,350 yards in just 520 carries, an exceptional average of 8.4 yards. That means the first-down chains moved with nearly every carry.

"My passion for football would be much different if I was on another team," Warner said. "Freshman year, I wanted to be a fullback and a linebacker, so when coaches moved me to the line, I was kind of discouraged, but I had no idea offensive guard and defensive tackle would be so much fun.

"Being able to block for my brothers behind me, knowing that I'm the difference between a score and a loss, is what gets me hitting so hard. No one gets to my backs."

Thornton said Sanders and McDonnell both deserved to stand at the podium instead of him, clutching the MVP award.

"It easily could have gone to either of them," Thornton said. "They were both players that the team can count on to make big plays."

"You have Markus that is a three-year starter that has over 6,000 yards and Reid that plays a big roll in the offense and defense."

**Football family**

Thanks to the overflowing talent and determination, plus

the tone set by the Canton football program from top to bottom (something clear to anybody attending the banquet), the Chiefs had another outstanding season, with more in the pipeline.

Canton won the KLA South Division and Kensington Conference, finishing 8-3 and capturing eight straight wins.

A bounce here, a play there, is all that kept the Chiefs from defeating Saline Nov. 4 in the D1 district final. The Hornets won, 37-31.

And now, with the awards received and their high school careers over, both players said they will never forget their time with the Chiefs.

"There are no words to describe how I feel about the family that was made throughout the four years we played together," Warner said. "I am very proud to say we formed a bond that will never be broken and I know there are 30 other seniors who feel the same way."

"It humbles me knowing that I started both ways my whole high school football career, but it would mean nothing without the brothers who were out there with me each and every play."

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Offensive lineman Jake Warner (right) and running back Julian Thornton (left) stand side-by-side for the Canton Chiefs as they did all season. They won the team's co-MVP honors for 2016.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# C'ville connection lifts Grand Valley

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

As the elder statesmen of the No. 2-ranked NCAA Division II football team in the country, Grand Valley State's DeOndre Hogan is considered a father figure.

"I'm not grandpa, there's a couple of guys older than me," the sixth-year defensive lineman said with a laugh. "I have a daughter, so a lot of guys joke around and call me dad and stuff like that."

The Clarenceville High grad is one of the big reasons the Lakers (12-0) are undefeated and earned a first-round bye as the top seed heading into Saturday's NCAA Division II regional final at home against Ferris State (11-2).

It is Grand Valley's 18th playoff appearance in school history as the Lakers seek their fifth national championship.

The 6-foot-2, 280-pound Hogan, who red-shirted as a freshman (2011) and was a medical red-shirt (2014) after undergoing thumb surgery, is having another solid season. The honorable mention all-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection has eight solo tackles and 19 assists with 2.5 sacks.

In 2015, Hogan made second team all-GLIAC with 65 tackles, while in 2013 he was a first team all-conference pick with 80 tackles, including eight sacks.

**Busy schedule**

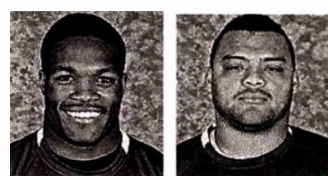
But Hogan has more than football on his plate these days after getting married over the summer. He and his wife Sonya, a school teacher, have a four-month-old daughter, Penelope.

Nicknamed D.J., Hogan is also currently attending grad school, working toward a master's degree in public administration. He was an academic all-GLIAC pick in 2012.

"I'm just doing what I can now, just provide and set myself up for the future," Hogan said. "I like taking advantage of these extra years of eligibility, helping pay for grad school and try and finish that degree. I'm getting a lot of support from my wife. She enjoys watching me play and she knows I love doing this. She has my back 100 percent and that helps out a lot. We're on the same page about everything. She knows this will lead up to better things and so do I. It's a good routine, consistent schedule. That's helping and it's making it real easy. We found a good baby-sitter to watch Penelope during the day. I drop her off before practice and my wife picks her up after work. It's going good."

Hogan also monitors and manages a serious medical condition as a type 1 diabetic, but yet has evolved as a team leader.

"I'd say over the last couple of years, I've been getting more vocal," Hogan said. "And there are guys listening to what I say, which gave me more confidence. When guys are confident in me, I'm more confident in myself. I was a captain last season and voted



Bryant Hogan

a captain again this year, so there are guys still looking up to me. It's been pretty much a consistent role since my sophomore year, just a leader on the defense and defensive line."

**Teammates again**

One of those Grand Valley players who have literally followed Hogan's lead is third-year wide receiver Jalen Bryant, who was a freshman on the JV squad at Clarenceville when Hogan was a senior on the varsity.

"I watched every varsity game, so I knew him," said Bryant, who has five solo tackles and three assists as a special teamer to go along with a 6-yard TD return following a blocked punt against Truman State. "When he graduated, I really didn't know what Grand Valley was. I was just, like, 'Hey, man, congrats and four years when you come back I'll be signing my letter of intent somewhere.' And, sure enough, I came and next thing you know, I'm at the same school as him. It really helped a lot when they started recruiting me, because I already had somebody that went to my high school. Basically, I had a big brother who let me know and showed me the ropes being a college athlete, telling me do's and don't's and everything like that."

As a senior at Clarenceville, Bryant rushed for 1,423 yards and 20 TDs as the Trojans made it all the way to the MHSAA Division 5 state semifinals.

After sitting out as a red-shirt freshman, Bryant is making the transition this season to another position in his third season.

**Team chemistry**

Both Bryant and Hogan agree that this current Grand Valley team has created a special bond.

"We have a close group of guys," Bryant said. "We really emphasize our team chemistry and working along side each other. We know we're one-11th of the offense, defense and special teams. When we go out there, we're going to fight for the man who is next to us and we're going to do whatever we can to get the job done. Our coaches really enforce that on us in practice. We make sure everything is right. We never get complacent. We want to be the best that we can be. I think that really helps us on the field and, actually, off the field for us. That's what is helping us push through the season, knowing the person next to you is doing his job and then you do your job."

The Lakers not only finished the regular season 11-0, but also won the GLIAC's North Division crown.

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## FOOTBALL

Continued from Page B1

and he takes off running," said Mach, who was making his 17th state finals appearance. "He's an accurate passer. He causes you a lot of trouble besides all the other trouble he causes you."

CC hung for a half, trailing by only seven, 21-14.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Well before the late TD by CC, the outcome had become a moot point, but it didn't start out



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

SALWAN GEORGES | DETROIT FREE PRESS

that way, at least during the first two quarters.

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

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

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

But Cass Tech, getting good field position on the ensuing kickoff, drove 59 yards on eight

plays as Hall hit Allen over the middle at the goal line for a 20-yard TD to tie the score at 14-14 with 9:17 to go in the first half.

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

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

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

Mach, who used sophomore

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

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

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

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

"You don't understand how fast some of those guys are until you play them. You see them on film, it's one thing. You

see them live and they take off, you're guys are missing tackles that you usually make. It's one of those things."

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

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

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

"The defense did a great job and I'm so happy the kids settled down and they did what they were supposed to do today. We made a couple of mistakes on defense, but one or two mistakes didn't kill us like before. I'm just very, very happy they went out and played Cass Tech football. We left here playing true Cass Tech football."

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## HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

taxing on the body, but we handled it well."

With St. Cyr showing big-time compete level and post-to-post movement despite his 5-8 frame, he turned aside 24 Pointers shots to help the U.S. win all three games during the home stand.

The U.S. opened the stretch with an 8-5 win Nov. 23 over Muskegon (United States Hockey League) and followed up with Saturday's 6-3 victory over the University of St. Thomas.

### Net presence

"I think the victories are nice," head coach John Wroblewski said. "I'm more a believer in the process, how we get to those victories."

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

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

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

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

But through 40 minutes Sunday, the U.S. was not playing like the high-flying squad that scored 14 goals the previous two games.

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

The Pointers drew even at 18:15, when Willem Nong-Lam-

bert buried a shot at the right post past St. Cyr, just as a U.S. penalty expired.

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

### On target

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

Center Evan Barratt slid a cross-crease feed to linemate Scott Reedy, who snapped a shot into the Pointers net from near the right post. Also assisting was defenseman Quinn Hughes.

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

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

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

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

"I look on the bright side and say pretty thankful that we were home, at least, we weren't traveling," Reedy said. "But we found a way to stay focused and not be too sidetracked by Thanksgiving and the holidays. I think it was good for us to have that challenge."

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

"It's definitely a confidence-



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

RENA LAVERTY

booster to put eight goals in any night," Reedy said. "So I think we built off that and I think that helped drive us in the next games."

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

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

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

Also scoring were Dhooghe, Evan Barratt, Grant Mismash,

Graham Slaggert and Scott Reedy (one goal, two assists).

U.S. goaltender Adam Scheel made 23 saves.

**U18 8, MUSKEGON 5:** Getting their holiday celebration off and running Nov. 23, the U.S. jumped out to a 4-1 lead after one period, with defenseman Max Gildon scoring twice to put the home team in front to stay.

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

**OMAHA 6, U17 3:** Saturday night's game for the NTDP Under-17 team was going well

until the Lancers scored three times in the third period to break a 3-3 tie. Tyler Weiss, Oliver Wahlstrom and Trevor Janicke scored for the U.S.

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

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

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Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.875	0	3.125	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.875	0	3.125	0
Lenderful.com	1326443	lenderful.com	4.125	0	3.5	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	4.125	0	3.375	0.125
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	4.25	0	3.5	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 468-6113	4.125	0.25	3.25	0

Above information available as of 11/23/16 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at [www.rmcreport.com](http://www.rmcreport.com).

Ⓜ All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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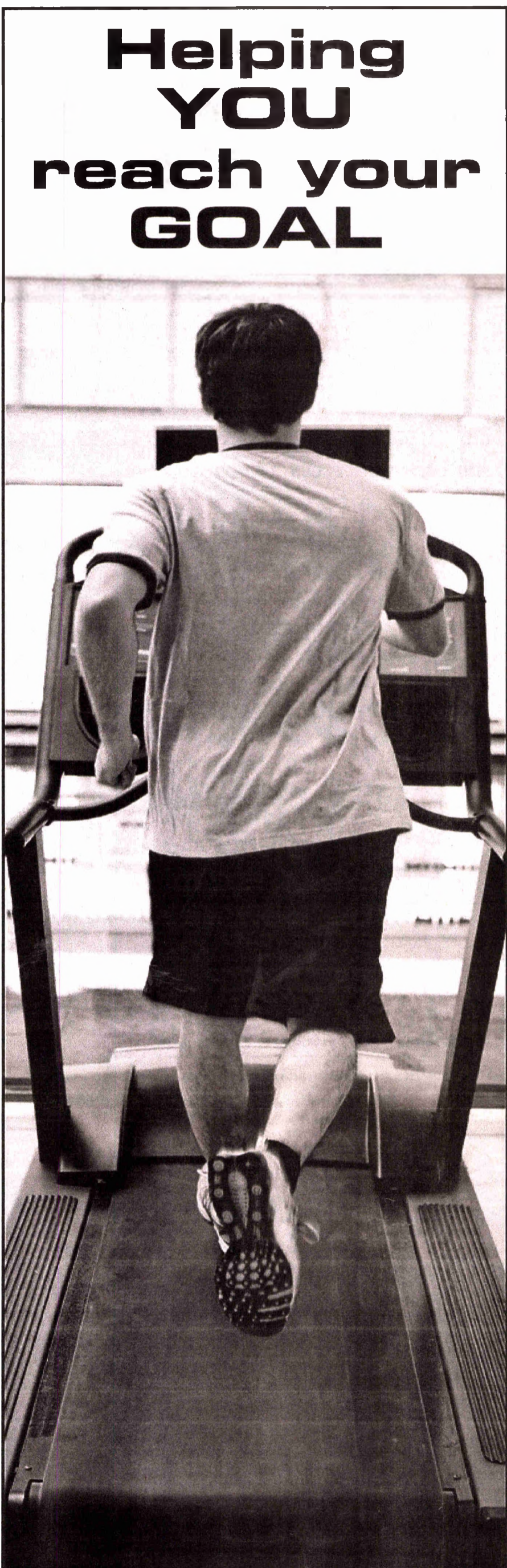
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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Roman god with a bow
  - 5 Knotting craft
  - 12 Move like a kangaroo
  - 15 Overquick
  - 19 Be a wanderer
  - 20 Moral
  - 21 Actress
  - 22 Comical Kett
  - 23 Jack London novel
  - 26 Dumbfound
  - 27 Flynn films
  - 28 Prone (to)
  - 29 Big name in credit cards
  - 30 Cake coater
  - 31 Writer Verne
  - 33 Easy targets to attack
  - 36 Lacking a musical key
  - 38 Writer
  - 40 Mystery novelist
  - 41 Relative of soul
  - 46 Infuse with oxygen
  - 50 Sphagnum, e.g.
  - 51 Cookie with a "Thins" line
  - 52 One-masted sailboats
  - 54 Chic, '60s-style
  - 55 Really, really quick
  - 59 Drive off
  - 63 Pretty low grades
  - 64 "That is — ask"
  - 65 "Picnic" playwright
  - 66 With William
  - 69 Sports org. with the eight teams featured in this puzzle
  - 71 Trip to a rain forest, maybe
  - 73 Vicious
  - 74 Eban of Israel
  - 77 Foreboding
  - 80 Shimon of Israel
  - 81 2011 Jim Carrey comedy
  - 86 Head sweller
  - 87 Tie up again, as shoes
  - 88 Don't skip, as an event
  - 89 Oaf's cry
  - 93 Waters off Eritrea
  - 95 2007-13 pickup truck model
  - 99 Clearasil treats it
  - 101 Designer Saarin
  - 102 Old TV tube
  - 103 Be engulfed in fire
  - 109 Ate
  - 110 Writer Bret Easton —
  - 111 Know — fact
  - 112 Actor's help
  - 114 The blahs
  - 117 Rake feature
  - 118 Hawaiians and Tongans
  - 122 Tennis' Lendl
  - 123 TV producer
  - 124 In a very angry way
  - 125 Film's — Lund Laszlo
  - 126 Bird setting
  - 127 Sinuous fish
  - 128 Vilify
  - 129 Gambol
  - 5 Ex-Giant Ott
  - 6 Gazetteer shellmate
  - 7 Hew
  - 8 Falling-out
  - 9 Masquerade
  - 10 — jongg
  - 11 Chosen few
  - 12 Papa Doc's place
  - 13 See
  - 66-Across
  - 14 Inflate falsely
  - 15 Hero, often
  - 16 Top-floor storage site
  - 17 Reeked
  - 18 With
  - 56-Down, surfs like a pro
  - 24 God, in Islam
  - 25 Clever type
  - 30 Most lazy
  - 32 "St. — Fire" (1985 film)
  - 33 Hero in a dell
  - 34 Fluish, say
  - 35 Shown with explicit detail
  - 36 It has biceps
  - 37 However, informally
  - 38 Golf's Sam
  - 39 — of one's own medicine
  - 42 Dog cry
  - 43 Naval vessel abbr.
  - 44 Fitzgerald of song
  - 45 Loam, e.g.
  - 47 Key of "Für Elise"
  - 48 Mouth organ
  - 49 Lawn care tools
  - 53 Eye creepily
  - 55 — Baba
  - 56 See
  - 18-Down
  - 57 "... woman who lived in —"
  - 58 Evening, casually
  - 59 Rear-ending car, e.g.
  - 60 Arise
  - 61 Natural legume case
  - 62 Cube maker
  - Rubik
  - 67 Peninsula northeast of Boston
  - 68 Brother in Genesis
  - 70 Pre-O trio
  - 72 Mil. missions
  - 75 Bric-a — writer
  - 76 Yiddish Sholem
  - 78 Actress Samantha
  - 79 Italian for "new"
  - 82 Summary
  - 83 18th letter
  - 84 "Don't make — habit"
  - 85 Nick of "Warrior"
  - 89 Potato chip topping
  - 90 Singer Helen or actor Jerry
  - 91 Univ. award
  - 92 Envision
  - 94 Wise
  - 96 22nd letter
  - 97 "Indubitably"
  - 98 "Grease" actress Eve
  - 100 Erase
  - 103 Gain entry
  - 104 Drab color
  - 105 Forelimb bones
  - 108 Close-by
  - 107 "Exodus" protagonist
  - 108 Don's group
  - 109 Cuts down, as a tree
  - 112 Refer to
  - 113 Tech support seeker
  - 115 Bear, celestially
  - 116 "By Jove!"
  - 118 Adolescent leader?
  - 119 Taxing org.
  - 120 Beret, e.g.
  - 121 Senate vote

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19					20							21					
					24							25					
27						28					29				30		
36	37																
41																	
50																	
59	60	61	62														
66																	
73																	
81																	
86																	
93																	
103	104	105															
110																	
117																	
122																	
126																	

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

## SUDOKU

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

**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!

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

## COUNTRY STAR WORD SEARCH

WORDS	
ALABAMA	MANDRELL
ALDEAN	MATTHEWS
ATKINS	MCRIDE
BLACK	MCCRERY
BROOKS	MCCENTRE
BRYAN	MESSINA
CHESNUTT	MOORE
CROW	NELSON
DIXIE CHICKS	PAISLEY
DUNN	PARTON
HAYES	PICKLER
HILL	PRESLEY
HOUGH	ROGERS
JACKSON	RUCKER
JONES	SHELTON
JUDDS	TRITT
KEITH	UNDERWOOD
LADY ANTEBELLUM	VAUGHN
LAMBERT	WILLIAMS
LONESTAR	WILSON
LOVELESS	WOMACK
LYNN	YEARWOOD
LYNYRD SKYNYRD	

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

**Crossword Answers**

**Word Search Answers**

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**