

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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LOCAL GRADS TO COMPETE IN BOWL GAMES SPORTS, B1

Plymouth ushers in 35th ice festival

Nearly 100,000 visitors expected at 3-day event

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

World-class ice sculptors, horse-drawn carriage rides, a children's ice playground, an animal petting farm and a winter market will greet as many as 100,000 visitors as the

Plymouth Ice Festival marks a milestone, 35th year.

"We're super excited to get going," festival organizer James Gietzen said.

He conceded it's difficult to estimate the size of crowds attending the three-day festival, which runs Jan. 6-8 in

Kellogg Park and all through Plymouth's picturesque downtown. But, officials believe the event draws 75,000 to 100,000 people.

It's billed as one of Michigan's biggest — and best — winter festivals.

"It's definitely in the top five in the state in the winter-time," Gietzen said.

E.G. Nick's, a popular res-

taurant and bar, draws crowds to its patio ice bar — yes, it's really made of ice, just for the festival — where patrons can try specialty Svedka vodka drinks. Others may choose the warmth of a heated tent where live bands play at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

"It's a lot of fun. The people really love it," manager Karen Russo said.

Tony Bruscato, Plymouth Downtown Development Authority director, said the Plymouth Ice Festival is regional in scope and gives an economic boost to local restaurants and retail shops, both during the event and beyond.

"I think a lot of people do come looking for something to

See ICE FEST, Page A2

The year In(stagram) review



12
29

This image of Tanya Panizzo breaking seven concrete blocks at the Plymouth Fall Festival is just one of hundreds posted to Instagram by staff photographer Bill Bresler during 2016. Bresler compiled a sampling of his images from both assignments for the Observer & Eccentric and during his personal travels that can be viewed on page A4 inside and online in a gallery at www.hometownlife.com. Bresler uploads photos made with his professional cameras to the phone, processes the files through Instagram and posts those to his feed. To join his Instagram feed search for user [bbresler](#). Click on +Follow.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State Rep. Pagan to lead state Democratic campaign to win House



Pagan

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

State Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, is confident Democrats can make gains in the state House in 2018 if they listen to voters' concerns, recruit viable candidates and develop an effective campaign

strategy.

Pagan, a second-term state lawmaker, is one of four House Democratic Caucus leaders chosen to lead the 2018 campaign amid hopes that Democrats can win support from voters and potentially take majority control of the House. Come Jan. 1, Republicans will have

63 seats compared to Democrats' 47.

"I think Democrats have to have a new approach. We're not winning and we need to change that," Pagan said.

Pagan and state Rep.-elect Kevin Hertel, D-St. Clair Shores, will chair the 2018 campaign while state Reps.

Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo, and David LaGrand, D-Grand Rapids, will serve as finance chairs. The team was selected by incoming state House Democratic Leader Sam Singh, D-East Lansing.

"The road to taking back the

See PAGAN, Page A2



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PRICE: \$1.50

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Volume 130 • Number 42

Home Delivery: (866) 887-2737 | Return Address: 29725 Hudson Dr., Novi MI 48377

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Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Canton Township will once again honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a special tribute, "Canton Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." on Monday, Jan. 16, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

A punch and cookie reception will begin at

the Village Theater at 6 p.m., followed by the main program at 6:30 p.m.

This annual event is presented by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts, and Heritage, members of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Subcommittee, and Canton Township.

This year's keynote

address, "Be the Difference" will be presented by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Monica L. Merritt.

Merritt, who hails from Alexandria, VA, has extensive experience as a teacher, principal and administrator and resides in Plymouth Township with her family. She

is the daughter of Carol and Herman Boone, who received great attention and accolades for his time as football coach of the TC Williams High School, as



Merritt

portrayed in the Disney movie, "Remember the Titans" (2000).

The program will also feature music by the Workman Elementary School Choir under the direction of Keri L. Mueller. Additional music will be provided by the Interfaith Community Outreach Choir directed by Inderjeet Talwar,

along with a presentation by spoken word artist Khadega Mohammed.

Tickets to this year's program are available at the door \$2 per person or \$5 per family; exact cash appreciated. The reception is sponsored annually by Darian and Ralyn-da Moore of Keller Williams Realty of Plymouth.

ICE FEST

Continued from Page A1

do and to see the ice sculptures, and they want to see what we have (in Plymouth)," Bruscatto said. "I think that encourages people to come back. Certainly they can't hit everything in the few hours they are downtown."

Bruscatto said organizers have been careful to schedule the ice festival prior to the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, so that they aren't competing for visitors.

Geitzen said the festival is a way for Plymouth to show its pride.

"It's really the hidden gem of Wayne County," he said.

An ice company delivers 400 separate 300-pound blocks of ice that get used to create about 70 different, finely detailed ice sculptures, Geitzen said. He said 35-40 ice sculptors are expected, including participants from Canada and Ohio and also college students who are learning to weave ice sculpting into their chosen field.

Bruscatto said the festival draws some "world-class" ice carvers.

Geitzen said organizers will begin moving ice into downtown Ply-

mouth as early as Jan. 3 for the festival.

Among the highlights:

» A dueling chainsaw competition, which gives ice carvers 15 minutes and one block of ice to create their art, happens at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7.

» The lights will be flipped on at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, to illuminate an ice garden that can be seen each night in Kellogg Park.

» On Penniman Avenue, a winter market will feature vendors offering Michigan-made food and products. Hours are 5-8 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

» Weather permitting, the festival will feature horses, donkeys, goats, sheep, alpaca and a calf from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday during a petting farm.

» A three-mile family walk/run happens at 8 a.m. Saturday, departing from Kellogg Park and ending up back there. No registration is needed and it's free. Five- and seven-mile also are available.

Geitzen said the festival is completely sponsorship-driven. To get involved, call 248-817-8836. The festival website is plymouthicefestival.com.

dclm@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919



FILE PHOTO

Ice carver Aaron Whitten eyes the details on the sculpture he carved at a previous Plymouth Ice Festival.

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

Published Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Media

Community Office:

29725 Hudson Drive • Novi, MI 48377 • 866-887-2737
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
hometownlife.com

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734-469-4128
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Subscription Rates:
Newsstand price: \$1.50 Thursday and \$1.50 Sunday
\$8.25 EZ pay per month
\$52.00 six months
\$104.00 per year
\$91.00 six months mail delivery
\$182.00 per year mail delivery

Home Delivery:
Customer Service: 866-887-2737
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PAGAN

Continued from Page A1

majority in the state House begins today, and I have faith in these leaders to build our caucus and return the voice of working families to the state Capitol," Singh said in a statement released this month. "I look forward to working with this team to recruit promising candidates around the state, helping them reach out to voters and raising the resources to take this campaign to

every corner of the state."

Pagan has won two state House races and said she is up to the task of moving Democrats forward.

"I think my experience running and winning competitive elections brings a lot to this team," she said.

Pagan said Democrats need to inspire more voters and candidates to get involved in the election process and to use technology to run effective campaigns. She called for efforts to "recruit top-notch candi-

dates, train them to run very strategic campaigns and coach them" to win.

Pagan said a strong Democratic gubernatorial candidate in 2018 also can help legislative candidates in the state House and Senate.

"I hope it will be a good year for Democrats," she said.

In her first term, Pagan served on the House Appropriations and House Oversight and Ethics committees and was viewed by Democrats as a strong advocate for pay equity, school funding and do-

mestic violence and sexual assault prevention. She has a bachelor's degree in education from Western Michigan University and a master's degree in political management from the George Washington University.

As the 21st District state legislator, her district includes Canton, Belleville and Van Buren Township.

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Still time to donate to Salvation Army Red Kettle effort

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit says there is still time to give to the 2016 Red Kettle fundraising campaign. All tax-deductible donations made through the campaign's official end date of Saturday, Dec. 31, will be doubled thanks to

matching support by Detroit area businesses and community leaders.

The nonprofit organization is 10 percent behind in donations, and needs more than \$3.5 million to reach its \$8.4 million goal.

While the iconic red

kettles left storefronts on Christmas Eve, select Kroger locations will host bell ringers and kettles throughout metro Detroit.

"The Salvation Army is grateful for the generosity of those supporting the Red Kettle cam-

paign," said Major Russ Sjögren, general secretary and metro Detroit area commander for The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division.

"There is still great need to help those in the metro Detroit communi-

ties and 87 cents of every dollar donated goes back into the community."

Red kettle donations help support programs and services that assist families and individuals throughout the year across Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. To make a tax-deductible

contribution to The Salvation Army, visit www.salmich.org, text SALMICH to 41444 or call 877-SAL-MICH.

Send a check or money order, made payable to The Salvation Army, 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075.

Trinity House show celebrates Blind Willie

Concert will celebrate music of Blind Willie Johnson

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

The performance will benefit Neighborhood Service Organization.

The artists who will perform include Joel Mabus, Shari Kane and Dave Steele, Jo Serrapere and John Devine, Lac La Belle, Danny Kroha and Rollie Tussing.

Blind Willie Johnson was a gospel blues singer and guitarist who came to prominence in the 1920s and 1930s. The American based record label, Alligator Records, recently celebrated his music with a tribute CD called "God Don't Never Change - The Songs of Blind Willie Johnson."

The album received two Grammy Award nominations.

Joel Mabus made his first record for a small Michigan label in 1977 with mandolin legend Frank Wakefield guesting. Three years later, he signed with Flying Fish Records for a two-record deal. In 1986 he was one of the first indie folksingers to start his own label (Fossil Records), even before the advent of the home studio and compact disc, which makes the practice so common today.

Mabus has toured widely and makes his living at music, though he is flying under the radar of American pop culture. Whether you label him folk, Americana, or a singer-songwriter, Mabus remains a one-off, walking that lonesome valley, making and marking his way as a working artist outside the confines of the usual music business.

As an acoustic blues duo, Shari Kane and Dave Steele throw a four handed guitar party of original and time-honored blues, gospel, swing and ragtime. Steeped in Daves smoky vocals, percussive rhythm and innovative lead lines, Shari's crisp picking style, rootsy leads, and stinging slidework, their music has been described as street swing and stomp blues, such as a testament to sounds once heard on the streets of Harlem, the juke joints of Mississippi, or from the jug bands of Memphis.

Jo Serrapere (sarah-pear), a songwriter from Detroit, started playing guitar at 23 when seeking out lessons from Delta Blues guitarist, Shari Kane. Shortly thereafter, Jo began writing her own songs while completing her college studies in clinical psychology.

She now plays at music venues throughout the United States. Whether recreating old songs from the Mississippi Delta or performing songs in her own confessional style, Jo's music stands original while always reflecting her love of American roots music. Her eclectic writing and performance fuses elements of various modern and traditional folk music, old-time and electric blues, roots rock, garage surf, swing and alt-country.

John Devine, also a Detroit native, attended masters classes in classical guitar at Miami Uni-



Rollie Tussing

BRIAN CALLAWAY



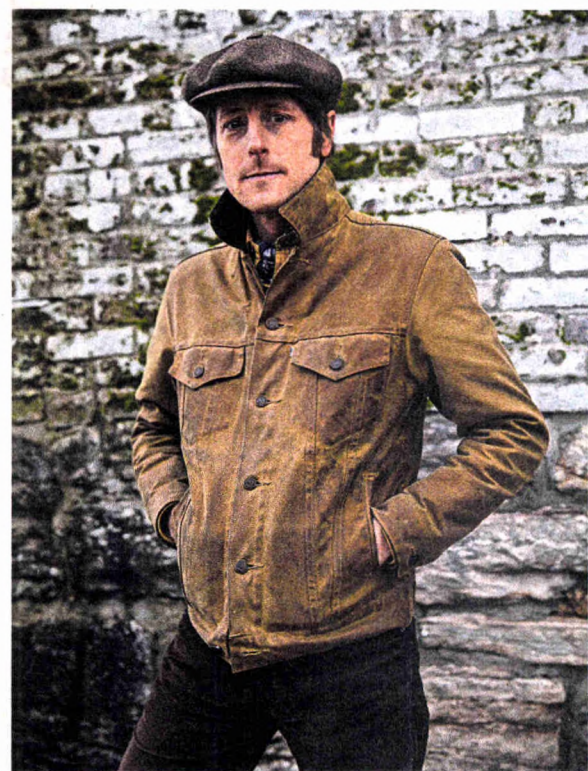
Shari Kane and Dave Steele

SUBMITTED



Joel Mabus

ZOLTON COHEN



Danny Kroha

SUBMITTED

versity. He went on to explore traditional blues styles and develop a love for the race records of the 1920s and 30s. John performed as a solo blues artist and songwriter before teaming up with Jo in 1998. He continues to explore other forms of American roots music and teach his craft.

Lac La Belle is an acoustic duo from Detroit, Michigan. Made up of multi-instrumentalists Jennie Knaggs and Nick Schillace, Lac La Belle is influenced by early Americana, blending history with the present to create stories that capture the human experience via accordion, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, organ, harmonizing vocals, and finger-picking resonator guitar.

What sets this acoustic duo apart is their utilization of their varied experiences; Schillace has a separate career performing his instrumental guitar pieces, and he wrote the first academic work on the recordings of John Fahey; Knaggs has history with New Music compositions and improvisations, including her vocal work in Matthew Barney's film River of Fundament. Their separate experiences learning folk and blues in Appalachia, American roots binds the duos compositions with a heavy thread.

Danny Kroha is a singer, songwriter, guitar player, record producer, and performer who has been working and performing in Detroit since the 1980s. In the last 30 years, he has been a

member of eight bands, including the influential blues-punk group the Gories (singer and rhythm guitarist) and the minimalist, performance art garage trio the Demolition Doll Rods. Danny has recorded albums and singles which have been released by various record labels in the U.S. and Europe.

His tours have taken him across the U.S., through Europe and to Brazil. His work has been extensively written about, including his first solo full-length album, Angels Watching Over Me, released in 2015, featuring traditional gospel, blues, and folk songs performed on a range of instruments including mouth harp, diddley bow, and slide guitar.

Award-winning guitarist, educator and performer Rollie Tussing has performed in concert halls, major music festivals and sidewalks all over the United States and parts of Europe. His raggedy brand of music is informed by the era of 78 rpm records, juke-joints, and street performers. He composes a lot of his own songs and has a knack for re-working an old obscure tune, finding beauty in the forgotten scratches, pops and grooves of his esoteric record collection.

After winning the National Slide Guitar Competition in 2001 Rollie moved with his wife to Portland Oregon. He spent the next decade touring, performing, writing songs and playing with some of the best

regional and touring musicians the West Coast offered. In 2007 he formed Rollie Tussing & the Diminished Seven. The band enjoyed many enduring residencies in some of Portland's finest venues as well as a devoted following.

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Tickets are \$20, \$17 for subscribers and are available at www.trinityhousetheatre.org.

Winter 2016/2017 concerts

» Mark Jewett, Jan. 6, 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

» Celebrating the Music of Blind Willie Johnson, featuring Joel Mabus, Shari Kane and Dave Steele, Danny Kroha, Jo Serrapere and John Devine, Lac La Belle and Rollie Tussing, Jan. 7, 8 p.m. \$20, \$17 subscribers

» Empty Chair Night featuring Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and Ed Scruggs, Jan. 8, 7 p.m. \$12, \$9 subscribers

» Luti Erbeznik, Jan. 13, 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

» Heather Styka with Rachele Eve, Jan. 14, 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

» The Younce Guitar Duo, Jan. 18, 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

» Claudia Schmidt and Sally Rogers, Jan. 21, 8 p.m. \$20, \$17 subscribers

» Shari Kane and Dave Steele with Eleanor Ellis, Feb. 3, 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

» Sam Corbin, Feb. 4, 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

» May Erlewine, Feb. 10, 8 p.m. \$20, \$17 subscribers

» Tia McGraff, Feb. 11, 8:00 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

» Empty Chair Night featuring Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and Amy Petty, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. \$12, \$9 subscribers

» Songwriters Anonymous Showcase, Feb. 17, 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

» UnValentines Day Show featuring John Latini, Jamie-Sue Seal and Dave Boutette, Feb. 18, 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

» Tim Grimm Family Band, Feb. 24, 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

» Jill Jack with Carly Bins, Feb. 25, 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 subscribers

For more information, call 734-464-6302 or visit www.trinityhousetheatre.org

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal For Student Pictures for Fourteen Elementary Schools and one Early Childhood Center. Specifications of the Request for Proposal (RFP) are available on at PCCSK12.com, under departments and business office or by contacting Kristen Hennessey, Director of Procurement, and Plymouth Canton Community Schools at kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com. Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals at PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on/or before **Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 10:00 am**. Bids shall be labeled: Bid document enclosed. "Photography Service Bid". The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

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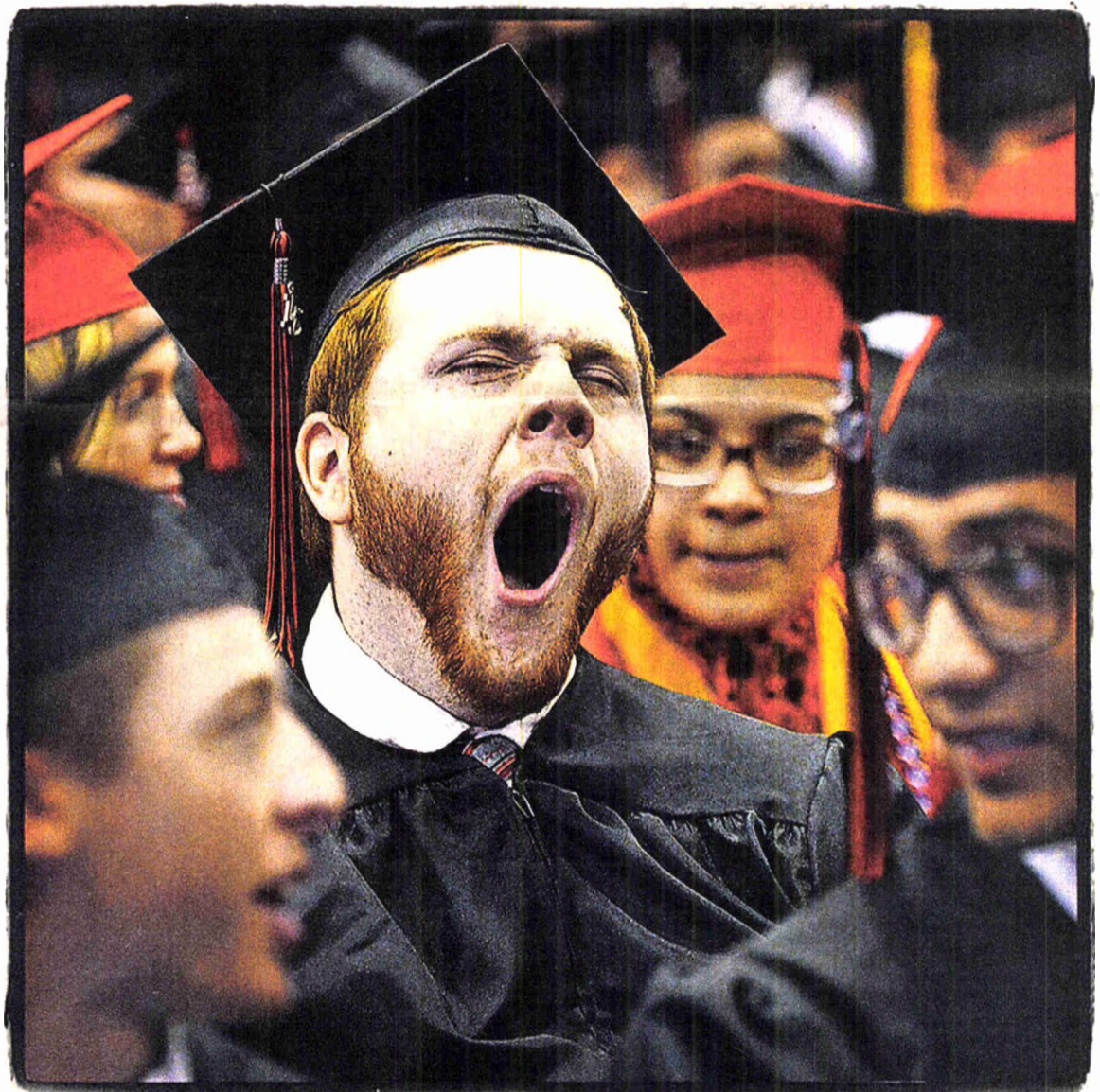


BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem High School cheer says "Believe in Blue."

2016 bbresler Instagram in review

Staff Photographer Bill Bresler uses the Instagram social media app to make quick, direct photographs of what he sees. These images are a look back at what he photographed during 2016 both on assignment for the *Observer & Eccentric* and in his personal travels. Bresler uploads photos made with his professional cameras to the phone, processes the files through Instagram and posts those to his feed. To join his Instagram feed search for user bbresler. Click on +Follow.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Timothy Brown has had just about enough of graduation ceremonies.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arlington National Cemetery.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Someone has her eye on the Westland Police Honor Guard.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kristen Bye selects herbs at the opening day of the Plymouth Farmers Market.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bubbles greets Sr. Nancy Marie Jamroz to the consternation of owner Cindy Wallet. Pet Blessing at Madonna University.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As the polls open on Election Day 2016, Kennedy Elementary School in Livonia.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Maria Taylor is a member of the Warnerettes Parasol Drill Team. Holly Days Parade in Farmington.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
John Kasich campaigns in Livonia.

Church hosts city's 'biggest' Christmas party

Maria Taylor
Correspondent

Holiday cheer was in high gear at Ward Church in Northville. Horses clip-clopped through the snowy parking lot, pulling wagons draped with garlands and red bows. In front of the main entryway, people waiting for rides stopped at a manger-themed petting zoo to say "hi" to the camels, donkeys and little goats.

Inside, the church was an array of lights, carols and general festivity for Ward's first-ever Jingle Jam event, a holiday carnival billed as "Northville's Biggest Christmas Party."

Indeed, it may have been: About 2,250 people attended. Admission was free, with attendees split pretty evenly among Ward members and non-members.

"We think that's great, because that was our goal," said Barry McKenna, Ward's executive director. "We just did major updates to the church facility, so it's a chance to invite our community to see what our church is like, as well as to have a big Christmas party for everyone. It's a gift that we would like to give to the community."

Susan Robinson of Novi, who spent most of the day working in the cookie-decorating room, was one of the 500 volunteers who helped staff the event. "It's so good to see the people that come — we love welcoming them here," she said. "The transformation in the church is amazing."

McKenna and his team pulled out all the stops. There was a DJ playing Christmas songs, several bouncy houses and a big green bouncy obstacle course that stretched the length of an entire hallway. "Who would have ever thought we'd have this in our



Bekah Greenman, 25, of Livonia, sings "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" in the show's finale.

MARIA TAYLOR

Greenman said. "Our goal is that what we do here transfers home and affects conversations. These big, dynamic productions ... provide talking points at home, keep conversations going all week long."

Dan Waidelich, dressed in Renaissance garb, was one of the actors in the production. In between shows, he hung out in the hallway, giving kids impromptu acting lessons. "Imagine someone just gave you the worst Christmas present ever — a box of rocks," he said as a crowd started to gather.

Aidan Stratton, 8, and Amaris Grubaugh, 10, followed his lead, making their best "shocked" faces and throwing their hands into the air. Both kids are Ward attendees, hailing from Livonia, and said they'd been having a great afternoon.

"We liked the playscape, the bumper cars, and of course the show — all about joy during the holidays and the story of Jesus' birth," said Christine Grubaugh, Amaris' mom.

Aidan couldn't pick a favorite activity. "All of it," he said.

Down the hallway, the Perez family got their photo taken against a snowy Christmas backdrop. They're not members at Ward, but they thought Jingle Jam was pretty neat. "I like it — I think it's cool," said Yvette Johnson as her family left the photo station.

That's exactly the kind of introduction to Ward that McKenna was hoping to provide.

"It's a large church; sometimes, people might be intimidated to come to regular church service," he said. "But then someone might come to this, think 'This is fun,' and come back. We're trying to break down those barriers."



Horse-drawn wagons crisscrossing the Ward parking lot.

MARIA TAYLOR

with a rousing version of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

The big, splashy FX shows are a monthly occurrence at Ward, where they tie into the church's Christian education program. "Every month, we talk about a different virtue — honesty, persistence, trust," said Cindy Ziembra, director of children's ministry. "We take a positive virtue and present it in a way that's fun." That means drama, music, high-energy performance, lights and sound, all with the goal of getting kids engaged.

Matt Greenman served as Jingle Jam project manager. He is Ward's director of elementary ministries and he runs the church's FX productions.

"We're very passionate about family ... reigniting that flame of family togetherness, especially at Christmastime,"

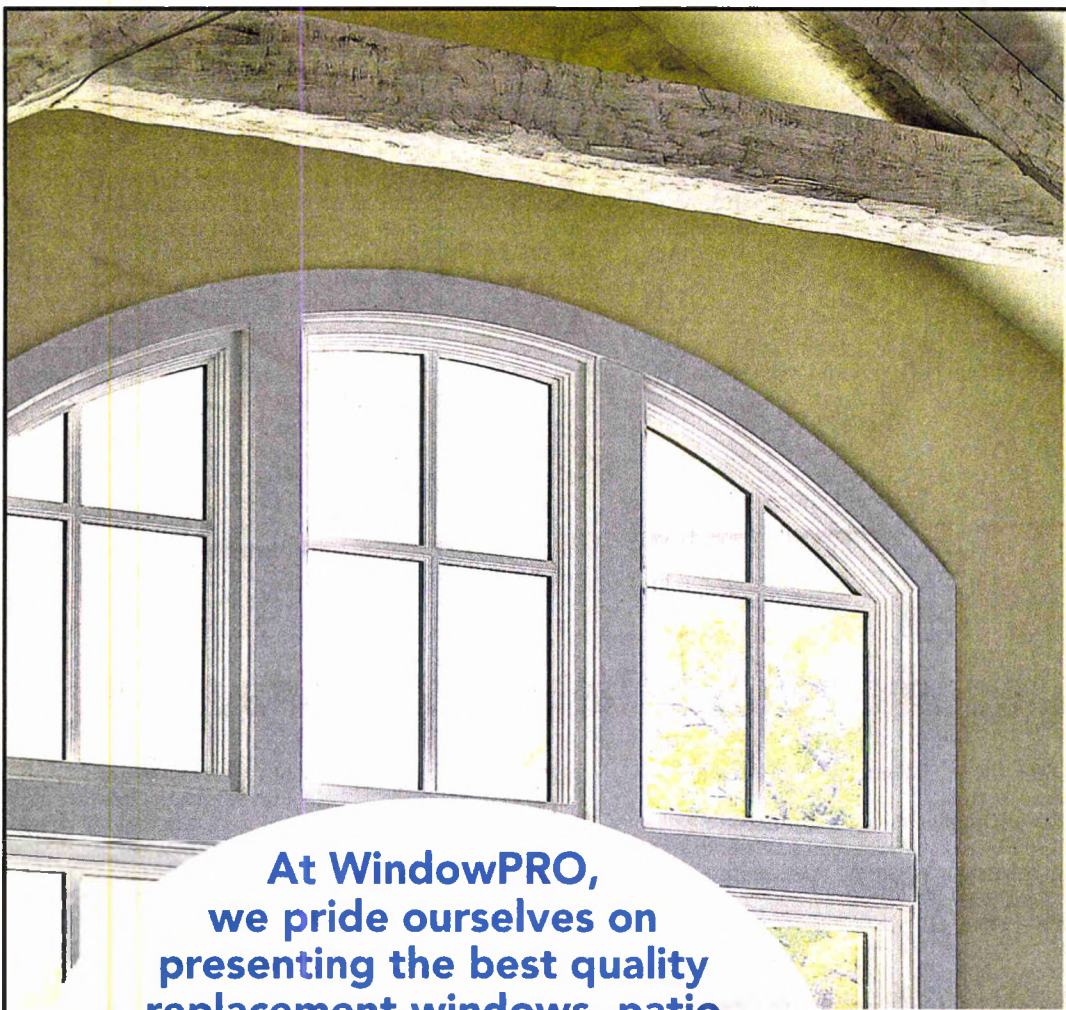
narthex?" McKenna said, laughing.

Around the corner, near the church's brand-new cafe and indoor playground, several motorized trains whistled their horns, waiting to take kids and their par-

ents through a tunnel of lights to several rooms with bumper cars, games, crafts and cookie-decorating stations.

Highlighting the day were three performances of a special Christmas show, put on by the

church's FX or "Family eXperience" production team. Green and red lights swirled through the darkened auditorium as performers and a live band acted and sang the Christmas story and its message of joy, finishing



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Gift giving brings joy to first-graders, seniors

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

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

More than 60 first-graders from Botsford Elementary walked into the dining room at Botsford Commons and sang holiday songs with their innocent voices and smiles of pure joy. The sounds of ecstatic kids echoed in the room when Santa walked in – a tear-jerking moment for many who were there. Santa greeted the students and asked if they'd



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

been good this year. Of course, the answer was yes and, with that, the gift giving began. Santa's helpers included staff and teachers, but the real helpers were the gift donors.

“A special thanks to staff, families and residents at Botsford Commons for donating funds to purchase brand new, hand-picked books from Scholastic for each student,” said Colleen Kashawlik, manager of business development at

Botsford Commons. “A gracious thank you goes to the two anonymous donors who purchased Michigan sports blankets from Pro Sports Zone and brand new, cuddly stuffed animals for every student as well.”

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

This year, a shining

“star” was placed on top of the beautiful event. It came in the form of a conversation between Fritz Putkela, a resident at Botsford Commons, and Santa. In front of the entire room, they chatted about when Putkela was a boy 100 years ago, plus all the Christmas Eve visits Santa had made.

Santa told Putkela this Christmas Eve would be his favorite visit, because he would get to see him on his 100th birthday, a gift that knows no price.



First-graders from Botsford Elementary in Livonia walked away with presents, courtesy of generous donors.

While listening to a room full of Putkela's friends, literally from 1 to 92, sing “Happy Birthday,” it became clear. Santa has been very good to Fritz Putkela, a charming, 100-year-old storyteller from the Upper Peninsula. Every birthday, on Christmas Eve, Putkela was gifted with time — the one gift that everyone wants, but is never guaranteed.

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

Substitute teacher shortage is reaching critical stage

Lori Higgins
Detroit Free Press

You've probably seen the billboards on highways across Michigan, screaming in bold, blue letters, “SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED.” They underscore a crisis afoot in school districts all over the state.

Substitute teachers are becoming increasingly scarce, causing a shortage that is making it difficult for schools to cope when there are absences due to illness or family emergency, or for those times when a teacher needs to be away for training. Many tie the shortages to declines in the number of people pursuing teaching as a full-time career.

“We're all competing for the same group of employees,” said Clark Galloway, president of EDUStaff, which provides staffing, including substitute teachers, to more than 300 school districts statewide.

“It's a huge problem,” said Wendy Zdeb, executive director of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals. “You are seeing

IF YOU WANT TO BE A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Michigan issues four types of substitute teacher permits. The most basic is the daily substitute permit. Among the requirements:

- 90 semester hours of satisfactory credit from one or more regionally accredited two- or four-year colleges or universities.
- Satisfactory credit means a grade of C or better
- Limited in a single teaching assignment to no more than 90 days

Other permits cover longer-term assignments. For information, go to www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Permit_Overview_529841_7.pdf

Want to sub? EDUStaff works with more than half of the school districts in Michigan. You can call the company at 877-974-6338. Other companies provide subs to schools, too. Contact the local school district you're interested in working in and find out who you should contact.

principals having to cover classes on a regular basis.”

It's Galloway's company that has put up about 40 billboards on state highways, hoping to lure people into considering subbing.

Michigan law requires substitute teachers to have completed 90 college credit hours. But many districts go beyond those requirements, opting only to take on people with a teaching certificate.

In some districts, administrators are offering incentives to get

people in the door.

In Wayne-Westland Community Schools, for instance, the daily rate for subs who take on long-term assignments and retirees who return to sub have been increased from the standard \$90 a day to \$110 a day.

But the problem still persists. And it's not just in Michigan. Galloway said the fill rate — the percentage of open positions — has declined from about 95 percent in 2012 to as low as 85 percent in 2016.

That means a school

district that needs 100 subs on a given day may only get 85 openings filled.

“That means we have 15 classes that do not have a teacher, that do not have classroom management, that do not have a mentor,” Galloway said.

Schools then have to scramble to combine classes, enlist principals to help or have teachers give up their preparation time to cover classes for absent colleagues.

“You can imagine the disruption at the building level when we're unable to put a substitute in place,” Galloway said. “Children are not receiving proper education during those situations. If it's one unfilled position or it's 15, it's still a problem.”

Judy Pritchett, chief academic officer for the Macomb Intermediate School District, said “it's a symptom of a much bigger problem.”

She and others cite a drop in the number of people pursuing teaching as a career. In April 2015, the Free Press reported there was a 38 percent decline in enrollment in

teacher preparation programs from the 2008-09 to the 2012-13 school years.

A decade ago, Galloway said, the typical sub was a recent college graduate with a teaching certificate. Graduates would be lined up out the door, he said, to take on substitute teaching positions because it was often a gateway toward a more permanent position.

But the number of people receiving teaching certificates — now those who actually pursue teaching after going through a prep program — is dropping significantly. In Michigan, the numbers fell from 6,058 during the 2009-10 school year to 4,559 during the 2016-16 school year, according to the latest figures from the Michigan Department of Education.

Now the typical sub is 43, predominantly female and a returning-to-work mother without a teaching certificate, Galloway said.

A more specific sign of the times: During the 2014-15 school year, the Wayne-Westland district received 695 applications

for elementary teaching jobs, Superintendent Michele Harmala said. During the 2015-16 school year, that number had dwindled to 270. At the high school level, the numbers declined from 299 to 85 during the same period.

“The state really needs to do something,” Harmala said. “We have to look at ... why are students not going into education.”

The decline is due to a number of factors, with some saying the profession has become less attractive because of increased demands, pay cuts, weakened bargaining rights and cuts in salaries and benefits.

Harmala said this school year is her first in 30 years in education in which she had full-time elementary jobs go unfilled until late October.

She used long-term subs to staff those classes.

“I've been trying to get the message across with our legislators, to help them understand that the reality of a potential shortage isn't looming — it's here,” Harmala said.

Rising interest rates will hurt some people, help other consumers

As expected, for only the second time since the Great Recession, the Federal Reserve has decided to raise interest rates. The feds raised interest rates one-quarter point and gave every indication that we would see more rate increases in 2017. I've frequently been asked if it is good or bad for ordinary people when the Federal Reserve raises interest rates. My answer — rising interest rates are good for some people and not so good for others. It all depends on your situation.

Those who typically will be impacted negatively are those who currently have adjustable-rate debt and those who are looking at borrowing money in the near future. There are many mortgages and credit cards offering adjustable-rate interest plans. When interest rates go up, so does your interest rate. People with adjustable-rate debt will see their interest increase at the next adjustment. Typically, adjustable-rate mortgages will adjust once a year, whereas adjustable-rate charge cards adjust more frequently.

In addition, people



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

who want to borrow money in the near future will be faced with higher interest rates. If you apply for a mortgage six months from now, I have no doubt that interest rates will be higher. As a result, you will be paying a larger monthly payment.

On the other hand, there are also many winners as a result of the Federal Reserve policy. If you're an individual who likes to travel abroad, with the Federal Reserve raising interest rates, it's more likely than not that the U.S. dollar will strengthen against foreign currency. Americans traveling abroad will see that their dollar has more buying power than it did before; their trip will be more affordable.

Others who will benefit from higher interest rates are those who save money in banks and such vehicles as CDs and money market accounts. Although I believe it will be a while before interest rates on CDs and money

markets will rise, those who save in these types of vehicles will see higher returns in the not-so-distant future. Particularly for seniors who typically keep a good portion of their money in banks, rising interest rates provide a great sense of relief for them. After all, over the last decade or so, with interest rates artificially low, it has disproportionately hurt our seniors.

Others who may benefit from rising interest rates are consumers who purchase imported goods. With interest rates rising, it once again will strengthen the U.S. dollar against other currencies. Prices on imported goods should be less expensive, helping consumers.

Even though interest rates are rising, others who could also benefit are those who need to borrow money but cannot. In many sectors of our economy, it has been difficult for people to borrow money for such things as starting a business. With higher interest rates, banks will now have a greater incentive to loan money. If banks do make it easier to borrow, it could spur economic growth, which

has been anemic in our economy as of late.

Rising interest rates can also be a benefit to stock market investors. As the Federal Reserve pointed out, it is returning to a policy of normalization and this may, once again, make stocks trade on their fundamentals. With interest rates artificially low, markets have been more difficult for investors to understand. A return to normalization could make the markets a little more predictable, which will help investors.

The bottom line is, in any move by the Federal Reserve regarding interest rates, there are going to be winners and losers. The key is if you are going to lose due to rising interest rates, look at ways to reduce the impact. That could be accelerating the payment of the debt or even converting an adjustable-rate mortgage into a fixed-rate mortgage.

One thing everyone should keep in mind is, although interest rates are rising, it is not going to immediately impact the rates that were paid on CDs and money market accounts. It seems those rates don't move until we have at least two or three interest rate

increases. Although the Federal Reserve has said we will see those increases in 2017, there can be all sorts of reasons that the Federal Reserve backs off from that policy. Therefore, people have to take a wait-and-see attitude as to exactly how much interest rates will rise on savings accounts, CDs and money market accounts.

I always tell investors to never overreact to changes such as the Federal Reserve raising interest rates or even change in tax laws. Too many investors feel that, when something happens, they have to react.

In many situations, I tell investors the best course of action is to do nothing. Remember, when making any investment decision, don't focus on what the stock market is doing or the direction of interest rates. The key is your situation. What your neighbor may be doing may be great for their situation; it just may not be good for you.

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

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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

BADENHOOP

BRANDON JAMES age 32, died December 23, 2016. Funeral service at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 28, at Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea. Visitation from 11 a.m. until time of service. Obituary at www.mitchellfuneral.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.





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WINE CELLAR

USA SWIMMING

Teen makes splash at National Championships

Plymouth-Canton Cruisers swimmer, 14, keeps getting better with help from 'Coach Z'

Tim Smith
Hometownlife.com

Cutting through the water and cutting to the chase is all good for Sophia Tuinman of the Plymouth-Canton Cruisers.

The 14-year-old Tuinman competed Nov. 30 through Dec. 3 at the USA Swimming AT&T Winter National Championships in Atlanta, Georgia.

She was one of only four girls ages 14 and under participating, and she came in 39th during preliminaries of the women's 100-yard backstroke with a time of 56.13 seconds. She entered the event with a seed time of 1:04.51, so her hard work helped shave a significant chunk of time.

"Going to a national meet was one of the most exciting

events that have taken place in my swimming career along with many other achievements," said Tuinman, a ninth-grader at Northville High School. "The national meet provided me with some experience and a list of things I need to improve on in order to qualify for World Trials."

See TUINMAN, Page B2



SUBMITTED
Plymouth-Canton Cruisers swimmer Sophia Tuinman (left) and her coach, 'Z' Morgan, share a moment at the recent USA Swimming AT&T Winter National Championships in Atlanta.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Catholic Central graduate Matt Godin is the starting nose tackle on Michigan's defensive line.

DARYL MARSHKE | U-M PHOTOGRAPHY



GARY SHOOK | WESTERN MICHIGAN ATHLETICS
Brother Rice grad Lucas Cherocci (No. 46) has been a standout special teams player for undefeated Western Michigan this season.

CC, Rice grads ready for bowl games

Godin, Cherocci making impact for U-M, Western

Mike Rosenbaum
Correspondent

Three Michigan schools earned invitations to college football bowl games in 2016, with each berth representing a significant milestone.

The University of Michigan will face Florida State in the Orange Bowl on Friday. While the Wolverines had legitimate national championship playoff hopes all season, the Orange Bowl berth is another step forward for the program that was revitalized by Jim Harbaugh's hiring as head coach two years ago.

Meanwhile, Western Michigan is preparing for the most significant bowl game in program history, as the

unbeaten Broncos square off with Wisconsin in the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 2.

Last week, Eastern Michigan capped a 7-win season by returning to bowl action after a 29-year drought. Despite a 24-20 loss to Old Dominion in the Bahamas Bowl on Dec. 23, the bowl berth symbolizes Eastern's improving fortunes.

See BOWLS, Page B3

GIVING BACK

'Crossover' charity game raises \$5,000

First annual basketball game between West and Liberty middle schools unites community

Cherise Rose
Correspondent

Basketball fans filtered in as the doors opened Dec. 16 at Canton's Liberty Middle School.

The game plan was to involve students, families, school staff and local business in an event to foster the spirit of giving back to those in need throughout Plymouth and Canton.

After Plymouth-Canton Community School teacher Marc Szalka reached out to the district and Educational Excellence Foundation, he was able

to organize the first annual Crossover Charity Basketball Game.

It was a success on and off the court. The game itself was a crowd-pleaser, and more than \$5,000 so far has been raised and donated to Plymouth Goodfellows, Canton Goodfellows, Liberty Intervention Fund and West Intervention Fund.

There were more than 300 people in attendance as the stands were full of energy, cheering and chanting either for West or Liberty middle school teams comprised of teachers, administrators, para-professionals and custodians.

During the first quarter, neither team was able to make a dent in the scoreboard. After many efforts of the mixed-ability teams, mostly non-basketball players, West managed to gain a lead.

Both teams had their school mascots, West Bulldog and Liberty Lion lighting up the crowds, leading spirited cheers for defense.

The game was intense as the score was within a few baskets for either team until the big upset in the fourth quarter. West's Brett Wells lit the gym

See GAME, Page B2



SUBMITTED
Wearing different colors didn't matter to these two youngsters, who enjoyed the Crossover game at Liberty Middle School.

PREP HOCKEY ROUNDUP

Novi pulls away from Patriots for 7-0 victory

Giragosian leads with 2 goals, assist

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Senior forward Alec Giragosian notched two goals and an assist Friday night as host Novi ran its unbeaten streak to six games with a 7-0 Kensington Conference boys hockey crossover win over Livonia Franklin at Novi Ice Arena.

The Wildcats, who improved to 8-2-1 overall and 4-2-1 in the KLAA's Central Division, broke open a close game by scoring five goals in the final period.

Novi, which won its fifth straight, jumped out to a 1-0 first period lead on Derek DuBois' goal at 2:14 from Evan Chippa and Ryan Wexler. The Wildcats then made it 2-0 at 3:02 of the second period on Ryan Fonda's goal from Giragosian and Chippa.

The floodgates opened in the third with Novi goals coming from Giragosian (from Chris Martin); Anthony Luongo (from Brandon Kour); Chippa (from Logan Londo and Mitchell Grinshpun); Alex Scarozza (shorthanded from Nathan Graff); and Giragosian (from DuBois and Chippa).

Meanwhile, Novi senior netminder Manny Legace Jr. posted his third shutout of the season.

The loss dropped the Patriots to 1-9 overall and 0-4 in the KLAA South.

NORTHVILLE 7, CANTON 1: Senior Easton Rea notched his first varsity goal and added an assist on Dec. 21 as the host Mustangs (5-4, 2-2 KLAA Central) romped to a Kensington Conference crossover victory over the Chiefs (2-5, 1-3 KLAA at Novi Ice Arena).

"We did a nice job of crashing the net and generating offensive from that," said Northville coach Clint Robert, whose team out-shot Canton 47-18. "That is something as a



Canton senior forward Michael Tucker shown during a game against Plymouth earlier this season.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

team we wanted to make a bigger commitment to doing, so it was nice to see."

Northville led 1-0 after one period on Danny Scorzo's goal at 9:10 from Rea and Luke Skillman.

The Mustangs increased their lead to 5-1 after two periods, getting goals from Nick

Williams at 0:18 (from Nick Bonofiglio and Daniel McKee), Devin Laba at 4:35 (from Alex Iafrate and Scorzo), Iafrate at 9:27 (from Laba and Nick Bogenhagen) and Rea just 10 seconds later (from Skillman and Sanuda Gunaratine).

Emerson Taylor also tallied the lone goal for the Chiefs in

the second period.

Northville put it away with a pair of third-period goals from Skillman at 2:15 (from Iafrate) and Jimmy Dales (unassisted) at 12:30.

Brett Miller started in goal for Northville.

NOVI 6, BERKLEY 1: Senior goaltender Manny Legace Jr.

turned in a workmanlike effort, stopping 19 of 20 shots and senior defenseman Ryan Fonda collected four assists on Dec. 21 as the host Wildcats (7-2-1) skated to a non-league win over the Bears (2-6) at the Novi Ice Arena.

The Wildcats jumped out to a 3-0 first-period lead on goals by Nathan Graff at 9:51 (from Evan Chippa and Alec Giragosian), David DeNova at 16:23 (from Ryan Fonda) and Cam Czapski at 16:37 (from Fonda).

After a scoreless second period, Novi increased its lead to 4-0 at 1:51 of the third on a goal by Chippa from Ryan Wexler and Fonda.

Berkley spoiled Legace's shutout bid at 5:03 on goal by Kevin Jurvis.

But Novi put it away on Alex Scarozza's goal at 8:58 from DeNova followed by Giragosian's goal at 16:15 from Fonda and Anthony Luongo.

PLYMOUTH 7, SOUTH LYON 1: Josh Weber collected a goal and three assists to propel the Wildcats (7-0, 5-0 KLAA South) to a Kensington Conference crossover victory Wednesday over host South Lyon Unified (1-6-1, 0-5 KLAA Central) at the Kensington Valley Ice House.

Other top point-getters for Plymouth included Zachary Gallagher (one goal, two assists), Timothy Baldwin (three assists), Nathan Stoneburg (one goal, one assist), Adam Rebecca (one goal, one assist), Jack VanDenBeureury (two assists), Jack Chumley (one goal) and Colton Borke (one goal).

SLU got its lone goal on a two-man power play advantage 8:15 into the final period by defenseman Zach Vanhoven from Anthony Bagnasco and Sean Millane.

South Lyon starting goalie Jared Paugh played the first 37 minutes and 18 seconds before giving way to Nolan Smith. The two combined for 42 saves.

bemons@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bemons1

TUINMAN

Continued from Page B1

Her coach with the P-C Cruisers, Alexandra "Z" Morgan, said the progression the youngster continues to make is no surprise given her unrelenting work ethic.

"Sophia is very driven, yet down to earth," Morgan said. "She has big goals but very little fear. Most sports will label this an X-factor, because it is rare that kids, even at high levels of sport, don't have some type of fear of failure."

"Sophia can look at good and bad races, without a large range of emotions. She's a happy kid that likes to work really hard."

Does she ever. A typical workout week with the P-C Cruisers includes seven or eight trips to the pool, either at Canton High School or the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex.

"My coach, Z, has created workouts that push me to my limits every day at practice," explained Tuinman, in an email to the *Observer*. "She helps me focus on my short-term goals in my swimming career and what needs to be done."

"This past March, there were some distractions going on that pulled me away from my seasonal goal time."

"I remember telling Z short course states (25 meters instead of 50 meters) just didn't feel like a state meet and she reminded me of the expectations I had for this season at the beginning of the year. This made me refocus and chase after the time I wanted, during the race."

Less is more

Morgan stressed that, with the P-C Cruisers, her goal is for "quality over quantity" in terms of how many yards per workout Tuinman and others complete.

"Sophie is successful because she has teammates that

surround her with a hard-working ethic, (have) positive attitudes, and enjoy each other's company," Morgan said. "Right now she has a core group of nine other girls, and when the boys get back from high school season the group will grow to 18."

"All of these athletes swim year round and compete above a state level. This past August, Sophie and two other (P-C Cruisers) teammates, Eugene Li and Kevin Hao, travelled down to Atlanta for a meet one step below nationals."

Tuinman, Li and Hao have many teammates in the P-C Cruisers who are benefiting from Morgan's coaching approach.

"With the boys and girls at this level," Morgan explained, "my goal is to continue to enable them to accomplish more every season, whether that be physically, mentally, aerobically or mechanically."

"I think the continued success of our team though is sole-

ly dependent on the relationships that the kids maintain with each other, day in and day out."

Morgan was still earning a degree in mechanical engineering and a master's in hydrodynamics at University of Michigan when she started coaching in 1999 with the Ann Arbor Swim Club.

Her advanced college education informs her coaching, which she described as "mechanically driven."

To that end, Morgan's coaching — and hours in the pool, of course — help swimmers gain the muscle memory needed to perfect various movements and get faster and more efficient in the process.

Quick study

The daughter of Roeland and Kim Tuinman of Northville is a prime example.

With Morgan's coaching, she has made up for being a couple years behind other swimmers.

"It is true that I have started

competitive swimming a little bit late for the level that I am currently at," Tuinman said. "I started swimming when I was 8 years old while most start at 6. I gave up competitive figure skating to focus on swimming at the age of 10."

But she has shown herself to be a quick study, one with potential to at least perform for a college.

"Her level of swimming for her age is bigger than high school swimming," Morgan said. "Most colleges will come knocking on your door for just one of the cuts that she has made."

"She's already made it to a level that will catch the eye of top swimming colleges."

Indeed, Sophia Tuinman's next wave of success already is beginning. Where it takes her could be a journey worth keeping an eye on.

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GAME

Continued from Page B1

up with a shot from a special five-point box set up outside the three-point line. With only seconds ticking away on a 49-45 scoreboard, the Liberty Lions humbly accepted defeat as the Bulldogs let the clock run down.

Although, West Middle School took home the first annual Crossover Trophy, the whole community won.

In addition to helping those in need through Goodfellows, the Crossover charity established intervention funds to support at-risk student programs for academic interventions and assistance for Liberty Middle School and West Middle School.

To date, more than \$5,000 has been raised, a feat accomplished through business sponsorships, concessions, raffle tickets, T-shirt sales and admission fees.

Some lucky fans also walked away with some fabulous prizes like a set of four Detroit Red Wings tickets, a signed Dylan Larkin Red Wings jersey and other rewards.



After the thrilling basketball game on Dec. 16, members of the teams representing West and Liberty middle schools posed for a massive group photo.

SUBMITTED

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Haeger resigns from Madonna University post

Coach racked up 651 wins, 11 league titles

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Greg Haeger, who spent nearly half of his life connected to the Madonna University baseball program, has stepped down after 21 seasons as head coach.

Haeger, a two-time All-Big Ten selection at the University of Michigan and a former Detroit Tigers farmhand, said he has accepted a job at Total Sports in Wixom as its director of baseball operations.

"It's not the same Madonna that I've been working at for the past 19-20 years of my life; it was just a good time," Haeger said.

The 47-year-old Haeger, who ranks 17th among active NAIA baseball coaches in wins (651), recently submitted his letter of resignation to Scott Kennell, who is in the midst of his first year as MU's new athletic director.

"He just said this is just the

right time to step down from the position," Kennell said.

Madonna is undergoing a transition period with its administration after the installation of new school president Dr. Michael Grandillo during the fall of 2015.

Kennell replaced Bryan Rizzo, who left to take a similar position at Dearborn Divine Child High School in June. The school's head athletic trainer Beth Hubbard and sports information director Tim Johnston both resigned recently.

The Madonna athletic director said an immediate search has begun for Haeger's replacement, but he has yet to conduct any interviews.

Meanwhile, assistant coaches Mike George (whom Haeger replaced as head coach in June of 1996), along with Stu Rose and Mark Henkel, remain listed on the school's website as current baseball staff members.

"Obviously we want somebody to come in here is going to keep our program at a high level, just not in the playing



Haeger

realm, but also in the classroom as well," Kennell said. "Our student-athletes have done a great job in the program on the field and off the field, and that's something we take pride in and want to continue that throughout our program."

In addition to his baseball duties, Haeger was also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of Ilitch Ballpark, as well as University Field's soccer and softball facilities. He also assisted in management at MU athletic events.

During his 21 seasons, Haeger posted a 651-413-5 overall record, capturing 11 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season (including four straight from 2008-11), along with five WHAC playoff titles.

The longest tenured head coach in the WHAC, Haeger guided the Crusaders to five NAIA National Tournament appearances (2009, 2010, 2013, 2015 and 2016). In 2010, MU won a school-record 48 games. He was named NAIA Region Coach

of the Year three times and NAIA Great Lakes Section Coach of the Year in 1998.

In his final full season (2016), the Crusaders finished 41-17, including a 24-4 mark in the conference. During the new WHAC fall baseball schedule, which ended in early October, MU went 5-3.

"He had a strong rapport with all the student-athletes," Kennell said. "I know he had a deep care for all the student-athletes at Madonna University, and it showed every day at work. He's someone we valued a lot at Madonna."

As a pitcher and first baseman, Haeger led Detroit Catholic Central to the MHSAA Class A state baseball title in 1987. The Livonia native was named Michigan Amateur Player of the Year and was drafted his senior year by the Tigers, but opted to accept a scholarship play under coach Bud Middaugh at U-M.

Haeger signed with Tigers' organization following his junior draft-eligible year at Michigan and moved up the minor league ranks, earning All-Star

honors for the Florida State League champion Lakeland Tigers in 1992.

But a knee injury prematurely cut short his pro career and he returned to U-M to earn his degree, while also landing an assistant coaching position under George.

"It was fun, I grew up there," said Haeger, who resides in New Hudson with his wife Jean and sons Trey and Evan. "Madonna is a very integral part of my life from the friendships across the board, the faculty, athletic staff, the coaches and then the players. I had an opportunity to get to know quite a few young men coming through the baseball program and other sports at Madonna. And those relationships are unique. I still appreciate how they helped me grow as a person and I hope they appreciate how I helped them grow. It was a good run. I definitely will miss it. I'll miss the kids, I'll miss what Madonna was to me, not necessarily recently, but I'll miss it."

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BOWLS

Continued from Page B1

Lucky Shamrocks

Michigan's success this year — a 10-2 record and No. 6 ranking in the playoff standings — has been founded on one of the nation's top defenses. Catholic Central graduate Matt Godin plays a key role on the Wolverines' stout defensive line as the starting nose tackle. Godin, a senior, has 25 tackles this season, with two tackles for loss, including a sack. Much of his contribution goes unrecognized on the stat sheet, however, as his success in plugging the middle of Michigan's line often provides other defenders the opportunity to shoot through gaps to make a tackle.

Godin joined U-M under head coach Brady Hoke, who played a hands-on role in coaching the defensive line. "I learned a ton from Coach Hoke and Coach (Greg) Mattison," Godin said. "Those two taught me everything I know about playing defensive line, honestly. It was great having a head coach who specialized in the defensive line."

When Harbaugh took charge prior to the 2015 season, former defensive coordinator Mattison became the D-line coach, providing Godin and his fellow linemen some continuity, and helping the Wolverines post back-to-back double-digit victory seasons for the first time since 2002-03.

The former Catholic Central All-Stater has played in 41 games at Michigan, with 15 starts, and earned honorable mention All-Big Ten notice this season. In his final college game on Friday, Godin says Michigan will emphasize stopping the Florida State running game, led by Dalvin Cook, to force third-and-long situations. "He's probably the fastest running back that we've faced," Godin says. Godin adds that the Seminoles have a strong offensive line and a "tough" freshman quarterback, Deondre Francois.

After the Orange Bowl, Godin will focus on training for Michigan's pro day, with the hope of continuing his football career in the NFL.

Friday could also be the last game for another CC grad, fourth-year senior Garrett Moores. The former Shamrocks quarterback became Michigan's holder for extra points and field goals this year. He performed flawlessly — and also ran in a two-point conversion — to earn the second national "Holder of the Year" award. The honor was originated last year by former Minnesota holder Peter Mortell, who gave the initial award to himself. Although it's not an official NCAA honor, Moores' victory was announced nationally on ESPN and was celebrated among the Wolverines.

"It's great to see him have some success," Godin says. "It's not easy to hold it and place it down as well as he has. He has a bigger role that some people think, and we're definitely fortunate to have him."

The Undeclared

Shortly after earning the first bowl game victory in Western Michigan's history in



Matt Godin, a Catholic Central grad, plays in U-M's 59-3 victory against Maryland at Michigan Stadium.

ERIC BRONSON | U-M PHOTOGRAPHY, E. BRONSON

last year's Bahamas Bowl, head coach P.J. Fleck told the team it was his "expectation" that the Broncos would appear in the 2017 Cotton Bowl, according to senior linebacker Lucas Cherocci.

The Brother Rice grad admits that the team initially felt Fleck's goal was "crazy," but as Western piled up victories this season — including wins over Big Ten foes Northwestern and Illinois — the players began to believe. "We had the vision, the people in the program did the work and now we have the ultimate goal," Cherocci adds.

Cherocci, who joined the Broncos as a walk-on, red-shirted in 2013, playing on the scout team and helping prepare the starters for each game. He saw the field as a special teams performer in 2014, and after the season, Fleck awarded him a scholarship. Cherocci has played linebacker but has mainly been a special teams player

over the last two years, a role in which he takes pride. In three seasons, Cherocci has 14 tackles in 26 games, with two tackles for loss.

At Western, Cherocci said, special teams performers are called "how" guys, which he defines as "a guy that plays with passion and plays with his heart."

"It sounds like a bunch of program (cliches), but that's how everyone operates on this team," Cherocci said. "Everyone's bought into the program, the culture. ... The big thing about our success this year is, we're a family. And I (compare) that to my time at Brother Rice. I always thought that my team at Brother Rice was a family. And then I came here and everyone's so tight-knit."

Cherocci calls Cotton Bowl opponents include Wisconsin redshirt freshman David Moorman, a 2014 All-State selection from Northville High, who played in all 13 games as a reserve offensive lineman this season.

Michigan's area talent includes senior tight end Michael Jocz from Novi High, who served mainly as a blocker and special teams performer, but also caught one pass for 12 yards, returned a punt for 27 yards and blocked two kicks. Country Day grad Maurice Ways, a junior wide re-

ceiver, caught two passes for 24 yards. Other local Wolverines who saw the field this year include sophomore quarterback Alex Malzone from Brother Rice; Plymouth native Nate Schoenle, a freshman wide receiver; and junior running back Joe Hewlett from Novi High, who carried the ball twice for -1 yards. Brother Rice grad Anthony Dalimonte, a senior safety, was named Michigan's scout team player of the year by the coaching staff.

Other area players

At Eastern, sophomore defensive back Ross Williams, a Birmingham Groves graduate, has played in 20 games in two years. He had 10 tackles and an interception this season. Sophomore defensive back Brandon Macklin from Novi High played in one contest in 2016. Offensive lineman Jeremy Hickey from Brother Rice played in 10 games in 2015 but didn't see action this season.

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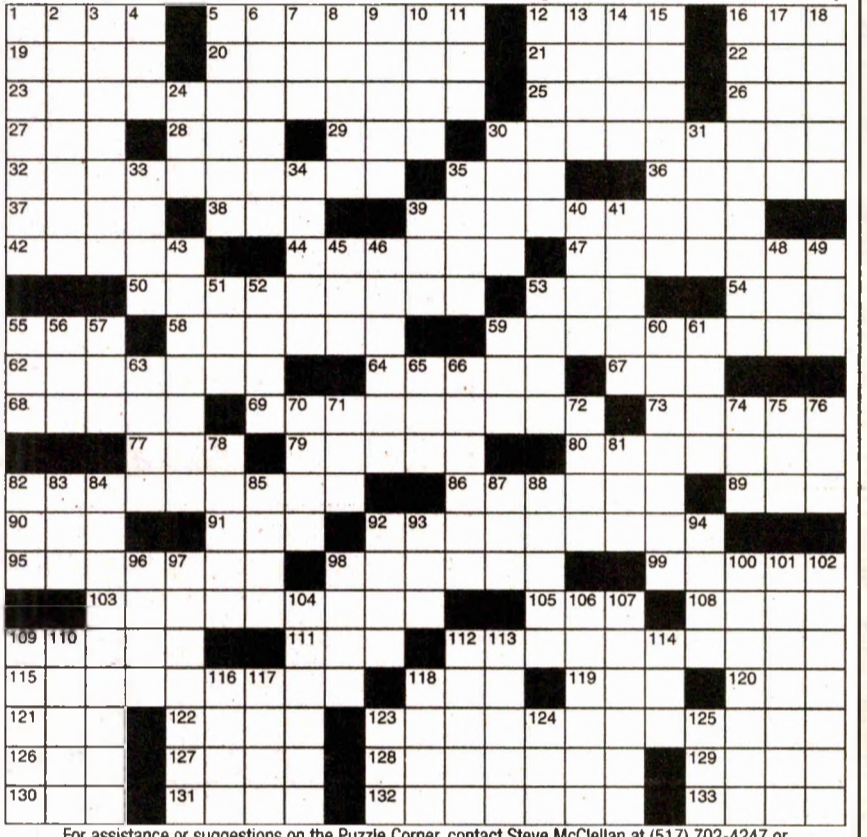


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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 "You ... over there ..."
 - 5 Significance
 - 12 Wee bits
 - 16 Pine —
 - 19 Bi- + hexa-
 - 20 "My —"
 - 21 Panache
 - 22 Kin of mono-
 - 23 Very hot shrubby wasteland?
 - 25 Law firm aide, in brief
 - 26 Mutt's threat
 - 27 Stuff making a big bang
 - 28 Harlem room
 - 29 45's cousins
 - 30 Average desert drainage basin?
 - 32 Reaction to inhaling element #2?
 - 35 Without a — (very poor)
 - 36 Painful things to touch
 - 37 They may hold gold
 - 38 Big blue body
 - 39 Goldfish doing a funny circus act?
 - 42 Literary critic Connolly
 - 44 "C'mon, help me out here"
 - 47 Accept an insult humbly
 - 50 Paunch from overdoing it on Mexican food?
 - 53 Hellenic "T"
 - 54 Brit's lav
 - 55 "You, over there!"
 - 58 Jersey's largest city
 - 59 Mink coat taken by a thief?
 - 58 Jersey's largest city
 - 59 Mink coat taken by a thief?
 - 62 Vamoose
 - 64 Actor
 - 67 Vast time span
 - 68 Plains home
 - 69 One given a water shaft as a gift?
 - 73 Sports show summary
 - 77 Jackie's Onassis
 - 79 Waterfall nymph
 - 80 Tasty bits
 - 82 Steers a ship's front right or left?
 - 86 Otter cousin
 - 89 Yalie's nickname
 - 90 '50s prez
 - 91 Grafton's "— for Alibi"
 - 92 Twisted wit used by a film's actors?
 - 95 Character
 - 98 Dressed like many a Scot
 - 99 Small ducks
 - 103 Forward thrust in water polo?
 - 105 U.S. soldiers
 - 108 "I cannot tell —"
 - 109 "Need —?" (driver's query)
 - 111 Dads
 - 112 Fine dishes that have been split?
 - 115 Brush off a bishop's hat?
 - 118 Nanny's cry
 - 119 Gold, in Peru
 - 120 Chill (out)
 - 121 Pal, to Pierre
 - 122 Norse god
 - 123 Message spelled out by the 12 added letters in this puzzle
 - 126 Mil. rank
 - 127 Feat of skill
 - 128 Winds off a spool
 - 129 "— boy!" ("All right!")
 - 130 H.S. subject
 - 131 See 75-Down
 - 132 Brand of Irish cream
 - 133 Sonnet, e.g.
- DOWN**
- 1 After this, to a logician
 - 2 Set design
 - 3 Country's — Brothers
 - 4 Black gunk
 - 5 Little candies with shells
 - 6 Hold the interest of
 - 7 One "A" of NCAA: Abbr.
 - 8 Festive
 - 9 Like many smartphone game purchases
 - 10 Tiny peevish
 - 11 Exclamation of frustration
 - 12 Indiana university
 - 13 Jai follower
 - 14 Comic
 - 15 Is testy with
 - 16 Many a placebo
 - 17 One way to eat pastrami
 - 18 Former Italian coins
 - 24 Debtor's slip
 - 30 Hoodwink
 - 31 Byron, e.g.
 - 33 "That so?"
 - 34 Limerick's rhyme scheme
 - 35 Do in
 - 39 Mil. rank
 - 40 In the vicinity
 - 41 Reason
 - 43 Advice-giving Ann
 - 45 Perpetually, in verse
 - 46 Acid's counterpart
 - 48 Small deer
 - 49 Boatload
 - 51 Co. biggie
 - 52 Repetitive cry of pain
 - 53 Song
 - 55 Prez elected in '48
 - 56 Wring (out) whiskey
 - 57 Puppy's bark
 - 59 Bill with Abe
 - 60 Major rainfall
 - 61 Bills with Washington
 - 63 College VIP
 - 65 Nutrition
 - 66 Unassuming
 - 70 Sel's eldest son
 - 71 Edict
 - 72 Islamic chief
 - 74 Third letter
 - 75 With
 - 131-Across, listening intently
 - 76 Tire inflation abbr.
 - 78 Toothpaste brand of old
 - 81 Yoko —
 - 82 Advice tidbit
 - 83 Short guitar, for short
 - 84 Lifting again
 - 85 Iranian cash
 - 87 U.S. 10, e.g.
 - 88 Gnat relative
 - 92 Smokes
 - 93 Heavy quaff
 - 94 "You betcha"
 - 96 Carpet area meas.
 - 97 Make obsolete
 - 98 Trunk knot
 - 100 Aware of and interested in
 - 101 Striped
 - 102 Big name in
 - 104 Topples
 - 106 "I wish that were true!"
 - 107 Accent
 - 109 Maxim
 - 110 Unit of light
 - 112 Island off the
 - 113 Italian coast
 - 114 Bovine beast
 - 116 Mind product
 - 117 Arena part
 - 118 "Munich" star
 - 123 Nerve center
 - 124 "— hawl!"
 - 125 Talk noisily



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

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!

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

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

- WORDS**
- ADVANCEMENT
 - ANNIVERSARY
 - ANNUAL
 - BALLOONS
 - BIRTHDAY
 - CALENDAR
 - CELEBRATION
 - CHAMPAGNE
 - CHEERS
 - CONFETTI
 - CONTEMPORARY
 - COUNTDOWN
 - CROWD
 - CURRENT
 - DATE
 - DECEMBER
 - DECORATIONS
 - FAMILY
 - FISCAL
 - FRIENDS
 - HOLIDAY
 - JANUARY
 - KISS
 - LATEST
 - NEW
 - PARTIES
 - PHYSICAL
 - PREMIER
 - RESOLUTION
 - REVELRY
 - SINGING
 - TAXES
 - VACATION
 - YEAR

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

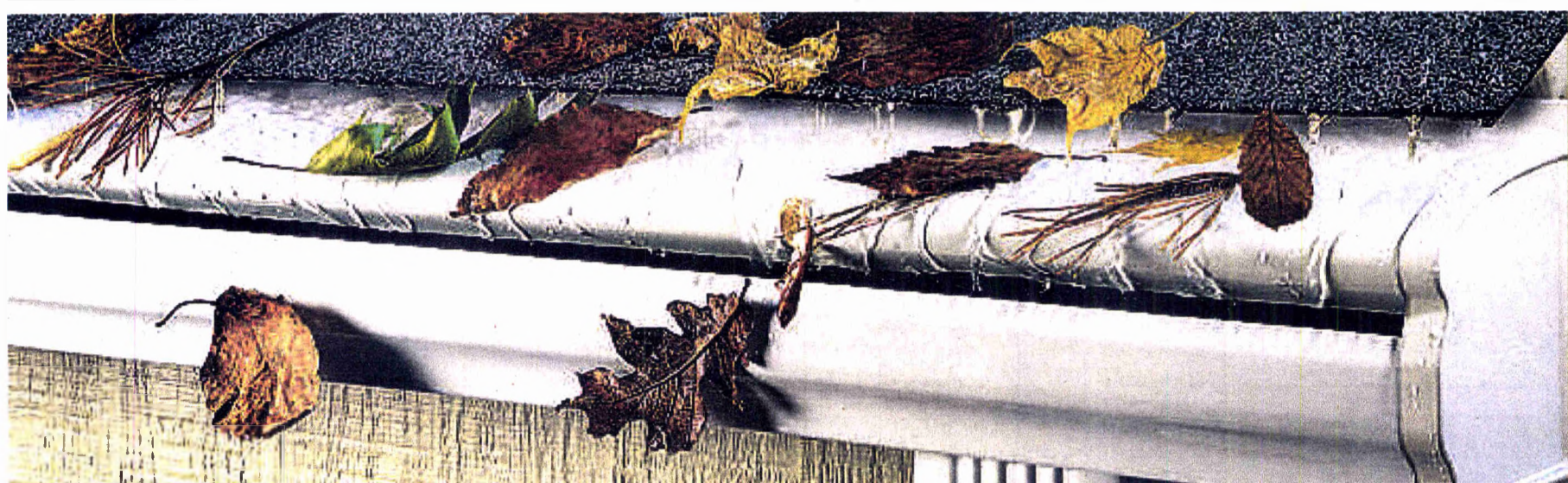
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Crossword Answers

1	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133
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Word Search Answers

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