

NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY 12.29.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



AREA
GRADS
TO CLASH
AT GLI
SPORTS, B1

Northville educator wins grant

The National Society of High School Scholars has awarded a \$500 International Baccalaureate educator grant to Ashleigh Apostolovski, an IB mathematics teacher at Northville High School.

The funds will provide additional resources to IB educators seeking to deepen and enrich curriculum content and increase student engagement. One of 20 US high school educators selected from 14 states, Canada and the Virgin Islands, Apostolovski will use her grant to purchase a subscription to Snowflake, an online program with rich manipulatives and demonstrations to illustrate difficult mathematical ideas. "NSHSS recognizes the vital role educators play in the success of high-achieving students," NSHSS President James Lewis said. "IB teachers are challenging our students to strive for excellence and our organization is pleased to be able to enhance their efforts."

School's theme: Lead with kindness

Student says all ages can make a difference

Maria Taylor
Correspondent

Nobody's too young to make a difference.

That's the message Caleb White had for students at Thornton Creek Elementary in Northville last Friday, as kids got

ready to head home for holiday break.

He ought to know. Caleb, a former Amerman student who's now a freshman at Detroit Catholic Central High School, is a nationally recognized volunteer. He has his own nonprofit, the Caleb White Project, and he's won America's Top Youth Volunteer for his work with the homeless and underprivileged in De-



SUBMITTED

See KINDNESS, Page A2

Caleb White gives high-fives to students after the assembly.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nationally, it is a year many would like to put behind them. From natural disasters, tragic shootings and a tumultuous election there was plenty not to like about the year 2016. But national events, while headline grabbing, may not impact our lives locally. Often it is the everyday things in our lives that shape what kind of year it has been and where memories are made. Here South Lyon Firefighters join together to "roll in" their brand-new Engine No. 1 on June 28 after a ceremony at the Whipple Street station to christen the new rig. For a look back over the past 12 months in our local communities through the lens of staff photographer John Heider, turn to page A4.

LOOKING BACK AT 2016



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Skateboarders and bikers head down toward Main on Commerce Street in Milford on Aug. 1 as the village celebrated the reopening of the road.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Parkview Elementary School Principal Jennifer Michos asks some kindergartners to raise their hands on Sept. 6 to show their enthusiasm for their first day of school.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Veterans and their friends and family members salute or place their hands on their hearts at the playing of taps at the end of the Nov. 11 Veterans Day ceremony at Northville's VFW Post 4012.

Fire forces Northville family out of house

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

Occupants of a house in Northville safely escaped a Dec. 15 fire that apparently began in the garage and touched off fireworks stored there.

The fire on Elmsmere Drive, north of Eight Mile and west of Taft, was reported shortly before 6 p.m. Dec. 15, said Chief Steve Ott of the Northville City Fire Department.

Firefighters responded from Station 1 in Northville and Station 2 in Plymouth, and the Novi Fire Department provided mutual aid, sending a truck and four firefighters, Ott said. Community EMS provided medical monitoring at the scene, but there were no injuries.

Ott said fireworks being kept in the garage exploded in the blaze and the explosions were heard by two police officers who were the first emergency personnel at the scene.

The attached garage was engulfed when firefighters arrived, and the fire had spread to the attic of the house, the chief said. Firefighters attacked the fire in the attic after pulling down parts of the second-floor ceiling.

The fire was declared under control just after 7 p.m., but firefighters remained on the scene for nearly four more hours, helping with salvage work.

"They did a great job, they worked hard and they saved this from becoming worse than it was," he said.

The fire, Ott said, apparently began in an area of the garage where a space heater was being used, although the exact cause had not been determined.

A resident reported she had been making trips to the garage, where a refrigerator was kept, while cooking in the kitchen, and on one of those trips found the garage filled with smoke, Ott said. She and at least one other person evacuated the house, Ott said.

The garage was destroyed, along with a 2015 Ford Fusion being kept in it, and the house sustained heat, smoke and water damage and is temporarily uninhabitable, Ott said. "It will take some extensive repair work to

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Warm up with Plymouth Ice Festival

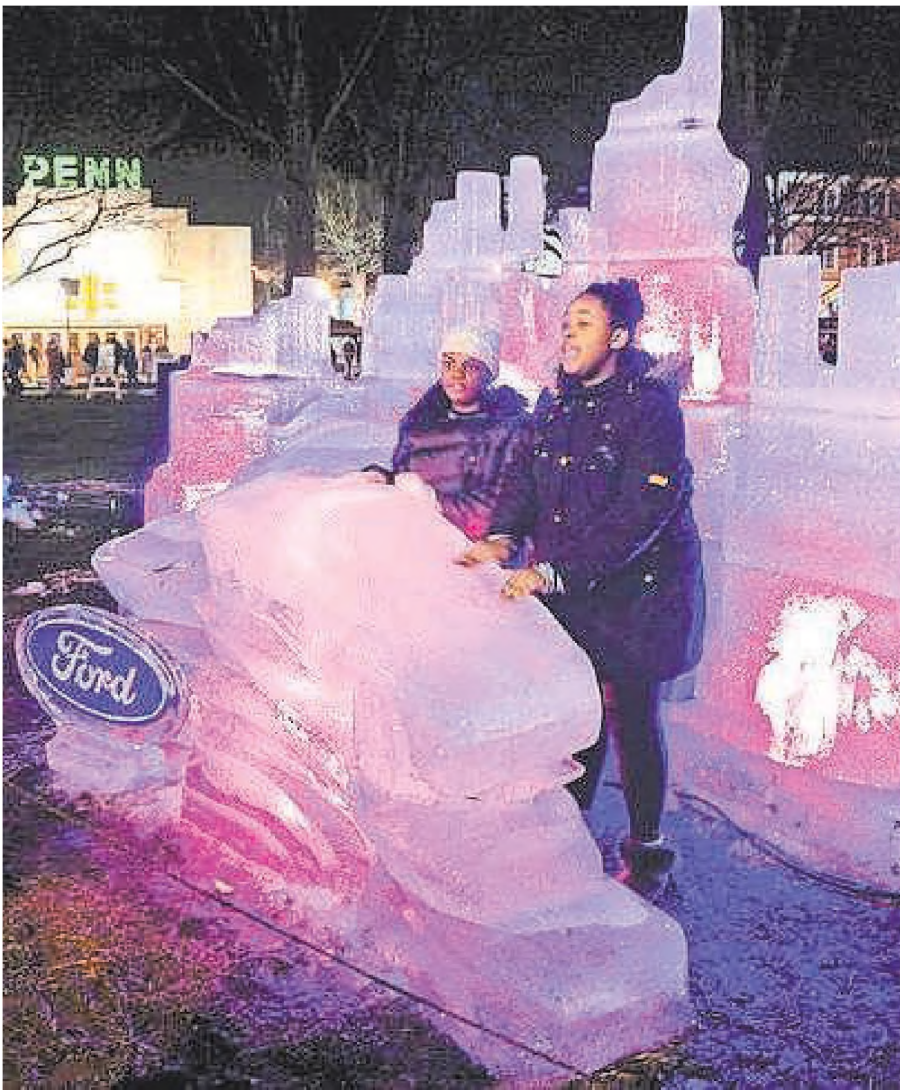
Downtown Plymouth Michigan will host the 35th annual Plymouth Ice Festival Jan. 6-8. The Plymouth Ice Festival has a long-standing history of turning downtown Plymouth into a magical winter wonderland filled with ice sculptures and family activities. More than 100,000 individuals and families from all over attend each year.

This year's event will bring back fan-favorite activities like the Ice Playground, Fire and Ice Towers and the Dueling Chain Saws Competition. New attractions include the Winter Wonderland Michigan Market and horse-drawn carriages.

The WWMM area will showcase small Michigan merchants from throughout the state displaying their unique goods and wearables to festival attendees. The market location will be on Forest Avenue between Ann Arbor Trail and Wing Street.

The annual Collegiate Ice Carving Competition presented by Genysis Credit Union will host two carving competitions for various Michigan colleges and universities. Saturday, Jan. 7, will be the individual contest starting at 9 a.m. Competitors will have three hours to carve their masterpieces. On Sunday, Jan. 8, the ice-carving competitors will take part in the team competition starting at 8 a.m. Teammates will have to work together to build and sculpt their ice carving. The winners of each contest will be announced and receive trophies each day at 1 p.m.

Opening ceremonies for the event begin at 7 p.m. with the inaugural ribbon cutting, immediately followed by a live ice-carving demonstration sponsored by IHA. Once the live ice carving is completed, there will



The 2017 Ice Festival in Plymouth is set for Jan. 6-8.

be music with the IHA entertainment DJ that night and again on Saturday evening.

Once again, families can enjoy learning how to ski together at the Blue Care Network Cross-Country Skiing Zone presented by Sun and Snow. Seasoned professionals will explain the gear, help guests suit up and set them off on the cross-country skiing trail in Kellogg Park.

The Ice Playground interactive area is full of games carved out of ice and has plenty of opportunity for pictures while

the kids play with the ice.

The EG Nicks Party Lot on Forest Avenue will have cold beer, drink specials and live music. The Party Lot has become the place to be for the evening crowd. There will be live entertainment from Big Ray and the Motor City Kings on Friday, Jan. 6, and Fifty Amp Fuse on Saturday, Jan. 7.

Other Event Highlights:

Opening Ceremony & Ribbon Cutting
At 7 p.m. Friday, Jan 6, the 2017 Plymouth Ice

Festival will open. City of Plymouth commission members help cut the ribbon on the 2017 event.

DFCU Financial Lights the Ice
The Plymouth Ice Festival Ice Garden glow with color at night. Join DFCU Financial and the Plymouth Ice Festival, each night as they Light The Ice. The switch will be flipped during the opening ceremony at 7 p.m. Jan. 6.

Dueling Chainsaws
The Dueling Chainsaws Competition will be



Last year, James Seeterlin competed with the Oakland Community College team.

held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7. Ice carvers have 15 minutes, one block and their chainsaws to create some of the most amazing ice carvings.

Interactive Ice Sculptures
Visitors can take pictures with some of the most amazing ice creations around. There are a number of opportunities to take a “selfie” with an ice sculptures.

Fire and Ice
See two basic elements of the world light up the night sky. Fire and ice are combined to create a dazzling display on Friday, Jan. 6, and Saturday, Jan. 7. Towers are lit at approximately 7:30 p.m. each evening and will burn for approximately two hours.

The Hot Spot Heated By Ehlers Heating & Air Conditioning
Warm up at The Hot Spot, heated by Ehlers Heating and Air Conditioning. Located under The Gathering directly across from Kellogg Park. The Hot Spot features local vendors, businesses, product demonstrations, a sitting area to take a load off your feet and lots of heat. The Hot Spot is open during all of the official open hours of the Festival.

For more information, visit www.plymouthicefestival.com.

MILL RACE MATTERS

Mill Race Historical Village is located at 215 Griswold St., north of Main Street near Ford Field. Grounds open daily dawn until dusk. Mill Race relies on rentals and memberships to maintain the Village. Consider becoming a member or making a donation today; visit www.millracenorthville.org for details.

Upcoming Events
Grounds closed for Wedding: 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 31.
The office and the archives will be closed for the holidays through Jan. 9.
Lecture Series: When Amelia Came to Michigan: 7 p.m. Jan. 25. New School Church at Mill Race Village. No fee. Donations accepted.
Clara Ford Tea: 1-3:30 p.m. Feb.18.

General Info
Website: www.millracenorthville.org
Volunteers: The Northville Historical Society at Mill Race Village accepts volunteers in many areas and is in special need of Sunday store clerks to help with fundraising teas. Students and scouts can have volunteer hours verified.
Rentals: Call or email the office to rent the Cady Inn or Church for a wedding or party. Many dates are available.
Donations: Physical donations accepted from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays.
Archives: The archives are open Monday and Tuesday.
Office: The office is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Wednesday. All other times by appointment only. Call 248-348-1845 or email office@millrace-northville.org

LIBRARY LINES

The library will be closed for the holidays: Sat. Dec. 31 to Mon. Jan. 2. It will reopen at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Between the Lines Adult Book Discussion

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9
Details: Enjoy a lively discussion of Nina George's “Little Paris Bookshop”. The owner of a floating bookshop on the Seine prescribes novels to mend broken hearts.

Writing Your Memoir: Two-Part Workshop

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 10 and Jan. 17
Details: Write your memoirs for family and friends. This two-part workshop will get you started, along with other tips with Kathleen Ripley Leo, creative writing instructor. Register online or in person or call 248-349-3020.

Student Stressbuster

Time/Date: Noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14
Details: Teens studying for finals can take a break from stressing over finals and unwind in the library's meeting room. Hot chocolate, games, coloring pages, viral videos, and even a visit from local therapy dogs.

Foreign Film @ the Library

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23
Details: Enjoy a well-reviewed film in another language with English

Northville Library holiday puppeteer



Mary Penvose presents her Merry Holiday Caper Puppet Show on Dec. 6 at the Northville District Library.

subtitles. “The Dinner” is a drama about two brothers and their families and the tension that arises when a video of two teenagers beating a homeless woman to death shows up. Italian. 92 minutes. Just drop in.

Phil Hale Trio Jazz Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30
Details: Enjoy an evening of jazz with keyboarder Phil Hale and his talented group of musicians. Register.

helped the family salvage Christmas gifts before leaving the scene. The family, Ott said, has made provisions for temporary housing.

A fire investigator from the Oakland County

Battle of the Books Team Manager Meeting

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31
Details: Registration for this fun middle school reading competition ends on January 31. Team managers must attend this mandatory meeting.

Winter Storytimes

Details: For details about winter storytimes, visit northvillelibrary.org or call the library at 248-349-3020. Registration for certain storytimes begins in January.

Sheriff's Office was called in as a matter of routine, Ott said, but the origin of the fire did not appear to be suspicious.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
734-678-8432

FIRE

Continued from Page A1
get it back in shape,” he said.
Ott said firefighters



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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Heather Field, left, holds her daughter Ella, 4, as she tears into a store's wrapping paper Nov. 17 at Milford's Big Reveal party. They are joined by Wendy Valko who's holding Gabriella McCule.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
John Rae sits alongside his W. Main St. koi pond on July 5. Rae's pond will be part of a koi pond tour next weekend.

2016: The year in photos



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Robby Heil (24) gets a big hug from his mother Debbie after scoring a timeout touchdown during Novi's Sept. 16 home football game against South Lyon East. After the untimed, scripted play came with 10:59 left in the first half, players from both teams mobbed Heil in the end zone.



JOHN HEIDER
As the sun sets to the west, fans sit in the stands of South Lyon High's stadium on Sept. 1.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Cameron Last, 6, bundles up against the morning cold as he awaits the start of the Huron Valley Egg Hunt on March 19 at the Duck Lake Pines Park.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Lola Walter, 10, and many other youngsters tried to slide an Oreo cookie from their foreheads into their mouths during the June 22 "Chocolate Wars" event at Milford Public Library.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Trump supporter Laurie Abney, a Commerce Township resident, shows her support for Donald Trump on Aug. 30 at Eight Mile and Haggerty.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Construction crews work on laying down fresh concrete pavement on I-275 northbound near the Ten Mile overpass on July 27. Work on the northbound lanes began in early July. The southbound lanes were finished first.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Father Stephen Sanguinetti of the Miles Christi order talks about the group's Lyon Township spiritual community center.

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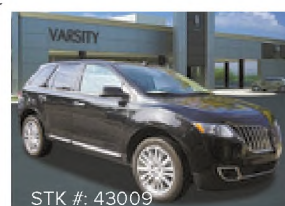
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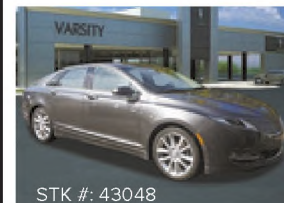
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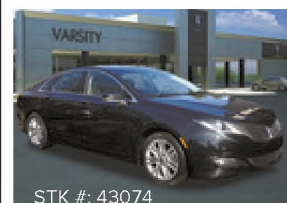
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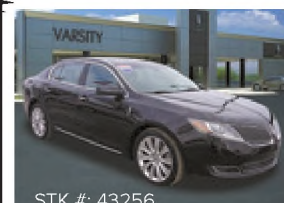
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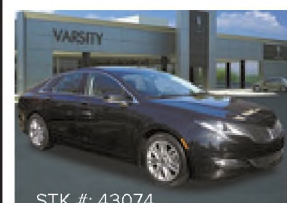
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SUBMITTED

Book launch

Art work from more than 90 Commerce Elementary students past and present is featured in the upcoming book called, “Stink Moves In.” The student art was used as illustrations in the book. Commerce Elementary hosted a book launch on Dec. 14. The book’s author, Tammi Landry-Gilder, involved students in the process by reading her story to students and asking them to form pictures or thoughts in their minds and use their imaginations to then draw what they thought the main characters looked like, setting, mood, etc. Pictured are Tammi Landry-Gilder (back, from left) and Christina Carlin, along with Lexi Moutafis (front, from left), Chloe Moutafis, John Gusumano and Robert Gusumano.

COLLEGE FUNDING WORKSHOP

Date/Time: Thursday, Jan. 12, 7-8:30 p.m.
Details: A free workshop on funding your child’s college education will be hosted at Livonia Stephenson High School. The speaker will be Robert Hoger, Certified College Planning Specialist with Michigan College Funding LLC. He will be discussing such topics as how to increase your eligibility for aid and how to find scholarships and grants you’ve never even heard of. Additional topics to be included:
• How to help your student decide on which colleges to apply to
• How to pick the colleges that

may give you the most amount of money
• How to help maximize your students potential to receive scholarships and grants
• What to do right now if your child is in high school
Admission is free but seating is limited by the size of the room, so please call 248-662-1300 to reserve your seats now.
MLK EVENT
Date/Time: Monday, Jan. 16, 5 p.m.
Details: The Walled Lake Consolidated School District hosts the 18th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration at Walled Lake Northern High School (6000 Bogie Lake Road in Commerce. The evening’s events

will include a Multicultural Dinner complete with ethnic food from around the world prepared by 12 different local restaurants from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and an exhibition of student work from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
The program will feature keynote speaker Irene Miller, who is a Holocaust survivor and author of the book “Into No Man’s Land: A Historical Memoir”. Ms. Miller will speak on the evening’s theme, “Be an Upstander, Not a Bystander: Be an Advocate for Social Justice.”
For more information, please call Alec Bender, Principal at Wixom Elementary, 248-956-3432 or contact Judy Evola, Director of Community Relations, at judyevo-la@wlcsd.org.

Amazon warehouse plan bringing 1,000 jobs to Livonia

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

You might see your Amazon packages shipping out of Livonia by next Christmas. That’s because the mega online retailing giant has decided to bring a product fulfillment center to Livonia, set to open next fall. With the opening will come an additional 1,000 jobs to the city once it opens next October. The Michigan Strategic Fund has approved a \$7.5 million grant to the company, a Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grant that will aid in the recruitment efforts. It’s expected that Amazon will invest roughly \$90 million in the center.

Dan West, president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said the decision for Amazon to come to Livonia not only benefits the city, but the entire western Wayne County region.

“It’s good jobs for our whole area,” he said. “From our perspective, this is great for our community.” Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright agreed, saying the announcement is nothing but good news for Livonia and surrounding communities. “It’s a real plus, though, for the people who live here, the people who work here,” he said. “This is good news for everybody.”

He said it’s expected some local tax abatement measures will also be requested for the site, with the expectation that they will go before the city council some time in 2017.

West said once Ama-



Amazon announced it plans to open a distribution center in Livonia.

zon opens in the city, it will instantly become one of the top 10 employers in Livonia, diversifying the type of industry within the city limits. Its location, West said, will also benefit the company and its future employees. The center is expected to move into the former GM Delco chassis plant at 13000 Eckles, off of Amrhein. “The site that Amazon picked, it’s right near the I-96/I-275/M-14 interchange,” West said. “We’re proud to welcome Amazon to Livonia and applaud the collaboration that took place to bring this significant capital investment and new, well-paying jobs to our community,” Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans said in a statement. “Time is everything in today’s global market and Wayne County was glad to do our part to ensure Amazon has the public infrastructure it needs to support its e-commerce operations.”

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On the trail of Bigfoot in the U.P.

John Carlisle
Detroit Free Press

SENEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — Maybe Bigfoot did this. Maybe.

Rich Meyer stood in an Upper Peninsula forest, calling his friend over to a spot along a trail. He'd found something.

A tall, thin sapling had been bent into an arch over the path, high above everyone's heads. Its tip was wedged in the underbrush, holding it down. This, Meyer said, might be a sign. Bigfoots, he explained, often leave signals to each other using sticks or trees. Arches are common.

"It can be a marker of some kind, almost like a road map," said the 39-year-old.

Meyer is the founder of the Upper Peninsula Bigfoot/Sasquatch Research Organization, dedicated to finding proof that Bigfoot is real and living in the U.P.

On that fall afternoon, he and Shawn Mullins, a fellow Bigfoot investigator, were scouting the woods at the edge of the Seney National Wildlife Refuge, 95,000 dense acres of unspoiled wilderness in the central Upper Peninsula. If Sasquatch is real, the investigators thought, this would be a great place to hide. And a likely place to find proof that he exists.

"Look at this," Mullins said, walking over to a spot where about a dozen long sticks leaned upright on one another to form a vague "X" shape. This, too, is said to be common in Bigfoot stick language.

"It's interesting because of how it's kind of interweaved like that," said Mullins. The 36-year-old looked it over carefully. "A lot of these branches were probably laying down right here, and it's almost like they were deliberately put up and weaved into an 'X' like this."

He wasn't convinced, though. "Could be something, could be nothing," he admitted.

It has been a busy year for the group. Bigfoot has been all over the news. First, there was a sighting in May of a possible Bigfoot seen on a camera mounted above an eagle's nest in a tree in Beulah, near the Platte River State Fish Hatchery in the northern Lower Peninsula. It made news all over the world.

Then there was the photo of a Bigfoot-looking something, taken by a trail cam mounted on a tree in the western Upper Peninsula this fall, as the mystery creature was combing through a campsite.

And the first-ever Upper Peninsula Bigfoot convention in August drew a hundred or so Yoopers to share their own Sasquatch stories, which many had kept to themselves for years.

"In the U.P., we're all pretty tight-lipped up



RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

A large Bigfoot statue stands outside Muldoon's Pasties in Munising. A lot of people in the U.P. have stories about Bigfoot encounters.

here. We don't like to share a lot anyway," Meyer said. "And with the stigma that's been with Bigfoot over the years, you got a lot of older people who think, 'People are going to call me crazy,' so they don't like to share unless they see a bunch of other people sharing."

It's not for nothing his group's motto is "Bigfoot research and counseling without ridicule."

Mullins and Meyer were in the forest that afternoon because the wildlife refuge is known as a hot spot for Bigfoot encounters. The investigators had been here before, hoping to have a Bigfoot interaction of their own. Later that night, in these woods, they'd get that interaction. Maybe.

"It would be one of the best things that happened to me, other than meeting my wife and having my son," Meyer said of encountering Bigfoot. "It would validate all the time and effort we've all put in."

Born to be wild

There are legends about a Bigfoot-type wild man in the folklore of just about every culture in the world. In North America, it's part of the mythology of several Indian tribes, and the name "Sasquatch" is derived from the term for "wild men" used by tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

In general, Bigfoot is described as covered in fur, standing 8 feet tall or more, walking upright, making only fleeting appearances in eyewitness accounts, blurry photos and a lot of shaky videos. Some people believe it's a close relative of humans, something between man and ape with peculiar characteristics, like sometimes leaving woven stick gifts for homeowners near its habitat in exchange for things like marbles. He's said to communicate by howling or banging sticks on trees. And he reportedly stinks.

Concrete proof, though, has been elusive. "We don't have a body yet," Meyer said, summing up the plight of the Bigfoot believers community in general. "Once there's a body, or evidence where it shows someone being somewhere and a Bigfoot is

right next to them — where it's irrefutable — then the scientific community will jump on board."

Until then, modern science generally regards the Bigfoot phenomenon as little more than a scam, hoax and mistaken identity by overexcited observers — like that Bigfoot supposedly spotted on a trail cam this summer. A frame taken seconds later showed it was just a bear bending over awkwardly. And that Bigfoot seen on the eagle cam this year? The truth turned out to be even more absurd. More on that later.

In general, scientists say there's no way a giant ape-man could survive this long without a huge breeding population to sustain it. That if Bigfoots were real, one of them should have been killed or captured by now. And, they ask: Why are all the photos and videos of Bigfoot so blurry and inconclusive?

But a few outspoken dissenters point to recent discoveries showing that different species of hominid, like the Neanderthal, have coexisted with humans more recently than previously believed, suggesting Bigfoot's parallel existence is not so unlikely.

"Some of these branches of this now-bushy family tree have existed alongside us until the recent past," said professor Jeffrey Meldrum, an anthropologist with Idaho State University and the closest thing to a national Bigfoot expert. "Why not into the present? Why presume they're all extinct in the face of all the evidence?"

The 58-year-old professor has spent years studying Bigfoot lore, collecting evidence, following up on eyewitness accounts and presenting his findings at conferences. He's determined to approach Bigfoot using scientific methods, and the lack of scientific validation so far is disappointing.

"Of course it's frustrating, having to deal with the skeptics and critics in the absence of definitive proof," he said. "My goal is not to convince people that Bigfoot exists. I would like to demonstrate that Bigfoot exists with that evidence."



The evidence so far consists of plaster castings of supposed Sasquatch footprints, supposed Sasquatch hair samples that are often traced back to common wildlife, and so-called stick structures in the woods, said to be deliberately created by Bigfoot.

The problem with those, Meldrum admitted, s,as with much Bigfoot evidence, is that, as with much Bigfoot evidence, these stick creations could also have been caused by something else — like the weather, or the chance arrangement of fallen timber, or kids just making a fort. When it comes to Bigfoot, the evidence is often just a "maybe," never a "for sure."

"I've been out with people for whom every overturned log or upturned tree is immediately attributed to Sasquatch," Meldrum said. "If you find what you think is a tree structure, you need to have some associative evidence; that is, a scat pile next to footprints, for example, that points to Sasquatch."

As if this pursuit wasn't already difficult, Bigfoot seekers have to deal with outright hoaxes. For some reason, a lot of people like to pretend they've seen Bigfoot and provide faked evidence, like some guy named Rick Dyer who announced to much publicity a few years ago that he had a dead Bigfoot. It turned out to be made of rubber and camel hair.

"I don't know if they do it to muddy the waters or they do it just to get some attention," said Meyer, noting the time he once wasted on a two-week investigation in the U.P. woods that ended when the witnesses admitted they just made it up.

And with Bigfoot hunting more popular than ever, there's always the possibility of two groups of Bigfoot hunters unwittingly directing knocks and howls to each other in the woods.

"That's always the danger these days, with people going out broadcasting vocalizations or making wood knocks, is there might be another enthusiast doing the same thing on the other side of the ridge," Meldrum said with a laugh.

Seeking answers

Yet they persevere. Most Bigfoot hunters say they're compelled by their own Sasquatch sighting at some point in their past, driven ever since to find an explanation.

Mullins wants an explanation for the thing he

saw several years ago, standing on two legs and looking back at him from the woods with glowing eyes.

"I froze," he said. "I just couldn't believe it. And it just casually turned to the left, walked into the woods and it met up with like three others, 'cause we could hear three different locations a little bit further in, converging. And at that point I was like OK, that solidified the belief in me that they're really real and they're out here."

Meyer has been a Bigfoot hunter all his life, without knowing. After his dad died, his mom told him his father had a secret, lifelong belief in Sasquatch.

"She said, 'That's part of the reason the entire time you were growing up, you guys were out in the woods all the time,'" Meyer explained. "I said, 'I thought we were just out hunting and fishing, 'cause I grew up out in the woods.' She's like, 'No, he always knew there was something else out there, but he really didn't say anything about it to anyone.'"

Since then, he has taken up his dad's cause. He, too, has seen their eyes glowing from the woods, he said.

Since founding the UPBSRO four years ago, the auto parts store manager has become a magnet for people's Bigfoot stories.

As he sat enjoying a snack of fried mushrooms at Tovey's Jolly Inn in Germfask, located at the edge of the wildlife refuge, waitress Glenda Bowler overheard him talking, and she came over to tell him that she, too, had possibly encountered Bigfoot, while hunting. One time, it was a wild howl from the forest. Another time, something tried talking to her using wood knocks.

"Something would go crack! crack! crack! like they were hitting something with a stick. Like a signal," said the 64-year-old. But she admitted that in isolated spaces like the U.P., Bigfoot can become a catchall for anything unexplained. "We never did figure it out, so it became Bigfoot," she said. "Like, 'It must be Bigfoot then.'"

Amateur Bigfoot hunting groups like the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, or BFRO, which has 200 volunteer investigators nationwide; or Meyer's U.P. group, which collects these kinds of small-town eyewitness accounts, can be helpful if they approach their hunt scientifically, said Meldrum.

"The only harm that I think comes of it is if people are too enthusiastic, too eager and too quick to attribute questionable evidence to Sasquatch, because that dilutes the good, solid evidence we have, and that can be a distraction," he said.

Back to nature

Some people think Bigfoot is more than just a missing link. Some think he deserves to be worshipped.

Not long ago, Gawain MacGregor stitched some animal skins together, made a full body suit, put it on and went for a walk in a Michigan forest — looking a whole lot like Bigfoot.

That Bigfoot seen on the eagle cam earlier this year? That was him, he said sheepishly.

"I was up fishing with a friend at Crystal Lake and, as I often do, I performed a shamanistic ceremony where I walk in the woods dressed as an animal," he explained. "This may seem unusual, but it's actually a practice rooted in ancient tradition."

MacGregor, a 36-year-old fur trapper from Minnesota, does this as part of his spiritual tradition. It's a way to reconnect with nature, he said. It's also a way to throw another curve ball into the Bigfoot hunters' quest to gather evidence.

He unknowingly passed the eagle cam. Someone watching it spotted this bumbling, hairy figure struggling to get past a log in the woods. The video went viral. And suddenly, MacGregor and his fur suit were international news.

"Pretty quickly, I knew that was me," said MacGregor, who was reluctant to come forward. "I thought that I was going to get arrested and be on the news, and people would say I was crazy. And I didn't even want to get into explaining why I was doing that. I don't know if it's a protected site, so when I first saw the video, I was pretty nervous."

To him, Bigfoot is neither man nor ape. He's an angel. That's why nobody's ever caught one, or found a body, or gotten a clear photo, he said. He's not the only one. There's a strain of believers who think Bigfoot is not a physical being.

"People have been reporting seeing these things forever, and they never find a body, they never catch it, they never get good photos or anything," he said. "So either thousands of people are lying, or there's an aspect of this they don't understand. To me, it's incredibly obvious it's not an animal. We're looking at an angel of the forest."

He has a website — enkiduism.blogspot.com — where he expounds at length on his theory, offers a sample prayer to Sasquatch and shows how to make an edible Bigfoot effigy out of gingerbread. All of this under a fake first name, though. He's not eager for personal recognition.

John Carlisle writes about people and places in Michigan. Contact him: jcarlisle@freepress.com. Follow him on Twitter @johncarlisle, Facebook at johncarlisle.freep.

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Outlook for jobs and pay is good in Michigan

Matthew Dolan
Detroit Free Press

When Michigan checks its stocking this morning to see what Santa left for the next year, economists expect to see lots of jobs and not many lumps of coal.

That's because the state is approaching its eighth year of economic recovery, having created an average of 71,600 net

jobs every year from the Great Recession's low point in 2009 to this summer.

In 2014 and 2015, the state's total number of jobs grew by 70,000 jobs each year. Job creation is on pace for a similar gain of 69,000 this year.

The outlook is positive, but there are some key areas to watch closely in 2017 — from incoming President Donald

Trump's plans to increase U.S. manufacturing jobs to paycheck inflation to auto manufacturing to a potential increase in construction jobs, particularly in west Michigan.

Jobs gains in the state next year will pull back to a trot from a gallop, experts say.

"With the auto industry operating at peak production levels and

historically high sales levels and the state still significantly dependent on the auto industry, Michigan's robust labor demand growth may be coming to an end," Martin Lavelle at the Detroit branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago wrote earlier this fall.

They'll be gains of 41,600 jobs next year and 50,000 in 2018, according to an annual forecast from University of Michigan economists Gabriel Ehrlich, George Fulton, Donald Grimes and Michael McWilliams.

"We look for only modest momentum in the Michigan economy through early next year as auto production starts to ease in the state," said Robert Dye, chief economist at Dallas-based Comerica Bank. "Most major automakers expect slight declines in U.S. auto sales through 2017, and small-car production is being shifted out of the state, so manufacturing employment is expected to be a drag on the state economy next year."

per capita personal income and per capita gross domestic product all grew between 2010 and 2015. But Michigan still ranks 22nd in employment, 33rd in per capita personal income and 35th in per capita GDP compared with other states.

Here are some of the most important trends to watch:

Auto manufacturing

The engine of the Michigan economy continues to be the auto industry despite efforts at greater diversification.

Martin Zimmerman, former chief economist at Ford, and a clinical professor of business economics and public policy at U-M's Ross School of Business, said he thinks overall economic conditions suggest that auto industry sales will remain strong in 2017.

"Unemployment is low and expected to remain low in the coming year. Wages are beginning to improve. Interest rates, however, are rising in anticipation of stimulus from expected infrastructure spending and lower taxes as proposed by the new administration," Zimmerman said. "It will take time for the spending and tax changes to be implemented so, on balance, in 2017 we are likely to see sales strong, but off a bit from the record levels of the past two years."

Low energy prices have increased the demand for less fuel-efficient vehicles.

"This will make achieving the fuel standards tougher," Zimmerman said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration argue technology improvements make the standards feasible. At the end of November, the EPA formally proposed 2022-25 standards remain unchanged and set

the stage to implement that ruling before the new administration takes office.

"That action will make it more difficult for the new administration to change the standards, though there will be continuing pressure for some modification, perhaps extended deadlines," he said.

New jobs

Amazon made a splash this month when the online retailer confirmed plans to hire 1,000 workers at a new distribution center born from an old General Motors plant in Livonia.

The Seattle Internet seller billed the expansion into Michigan as a way to help invigorate the local economy.

"The average pay inside our fulfillment centers is 30% higher than that of people who work in traditional retail stores," the company said.

But Amazon declined to say how much it will actually pay its workers. The company also failed to say when the Livonia facility would open even though state economic development officials said it's expected to begin operations in October.

Moreover, the company netted \$7.5 million in state economic aid as well as expected local property tax breaks. And that's not always a great deal for taxpayers, according to a nonprofit group that tracks economic-development subsidies.

"States and localities have given retail juggernaut Amazon almost a quarter-billion dollars in economic development subsidies in the past two years for warehouses the company must build to fulfill the rapid-delivery service tied to its Amazon Prime business model," the group Good Jobs First wrote earlier this month, estimating Amazon's total economic incentive haul at more than \$241 million since 2015.

Passages

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LONGRIDGE



DAVID L. JR. "DAVE" Longtime Northville educator and coach David (Dave) Longridge passed away peacefully with his family at his side on December 21, 2016. Known over the years for his kind demeanor and love of sports, he was a lifelong resident of Northville. Born David Liddell Longridge, Jr. on June 19, 1933 in Dearborn, MI to David and Bertha Longridge. Dave attended Fordson High School and graduated in 1951. A standout athlete, he was a three year varsity letter winner in both football and basketball. He was named to the All-Cities League in football in 1950 and basketball in 1951. Following high school, Dave served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1952-56. His proud service included sea duty aboard the USS Albany and later the Philadelphia Naval Reserve Fleet, 5th Naval District. He also captained the Philadelphia Naval District basketball team to a championship during his service. Dave earned a B.A. in Education from Eastern Michigan University in 1960 and his M.A. in Education from EMU in 1964. He was captain and quarterback for Eastern Michigan's football team in 1959. He went on to spend his entire professional career with the Northville Public School District. He taught at the former Northville Junior High, was assistant principal at Northville High School from 1968-74, principal of Cooke Junior High from 1974-85, and principal of Meads Mill Middle School from 1985 until he retired in 1997. Students often referred to him as "Uncle Dave" and he more than once pulled a retainer from a trash can, performed the Heimlich maneuver a few times, and famously reminded students late to class that he was "not running a country club here!" Dave took great pride in being named Michigan Principal of the Year for Middle Schools and Secondary Schools in 1996 and Oakland County Basketball Coach of the Year for the 1961-62 season. During that magical season for Northville, he led his team to the MHSAA District, Regional and Quarterfinal Championships before falling to River Rouge in the Semi-Finals in 1962. Several well-known athletes benefited from the tutelage of Dave as their coach, including MSU All-American Steve Juday and University of Michigan basketball standout Dan Brown. Dave was a member of The First Presbyterian Church of Northville where he served as a trustee. He was active in the Northville community and enjoyed coaching youth sports for many years. He also teamed with longtime Northville residents Dick Ambler and Hal Wright to head up the annual Old Timers Luncheon, an event he always enjoyed. Dave was married for 57 years to his loving wife Margaret (nee Tudor). In addition to his wife, he leaves behind two children, daughter Karen (Matthew) Cullen, and son David (Sonia), and five grandchildren, Matthew, Ryan, and John Cullen, and Jason and Mely Longridge. He also leaves a sister, Carole (Bill) Rankin and several nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. The family will greet friends from 4-8 p.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap Street in Northville. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2017, at 11 a.m. at The First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville with a luncheon following at Genitti's, 108 Main St., Northville. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial tributes be made to the Northville Educational Foundation or The First Presbyterian Church of Northville

SALAZAR



LORI ANN a longtime resident of Milford, passed away peacefully on December 26, 2016, surrounded by her family after a valiant battle with ovarian cancer. She was 54 years old. She is survived by her husband of thirty five years, Roy Salazar; dear children, Kristi Salazar (Nadeen Peters), Roy (Deborah) Salazar III, Tami Salazar (Joe McElhiney), Charles (Stephanie) Salazar; cherished grandchildren, Samantha, Laine, Janna, Aidan, Roy "RJ", Morgen, Tanner, Donovan; great-grandson, Alexavier; parents, Jan Hill and the late David Hill; sisters, the late Cheri (Kenneth) Loper, Heidi (Joe) Crisi; brothers, David (Brenda) Hill, Harlan (Angel) Hill. She is also survived by a multitude of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and many dear friends, especially her customers and colleagues from Milford and Walled Lake Post Offices. A Funeral Service will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford on Friday, December 30, 2016 at 11 a.m., with visitation beginning at 10 a.m. Pastor Robert Wendt officiating. Entombment Christian Memorial Cemetery, Rochester. Friends may visit the funeral home on Thursday, December 29 from 4-9 p.m. Memorials may be made in her name to Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance, PO BOX 32141, New York, NY 10087-2141. For further information phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchandSonsMilford.com

RIGO

SALLY K. Age 77, of Northville, formerly of Canton, passed away December 19, 2016. She was born September 21, 1939; daughter of Walter and Marie (nee Tice) Stapleton. Sally was united in marriage to Donald W. Rigo in 1983; they spent 33 loving years devoted to one another. Sally was a secretary for the Plymouth-Canton Schools; she retired in 1983. She was an active volunteer with St. Christine's Soup Kitchen in Detroit and was truly dedicated to helping others. Sally was also active with the Highland Lakes Social Committee; she enjoyed making her subdivision a fun and beautiful place to live. Sally spent numerous hours designing and tending to the serenity garden by the beach at Highland Lakes. She liked to cook and was known for making delicious beef jerky. Most importantly, Sally loved her family and cherished the time she spent with her grandchildren. Sally is survived by her husband Don; her children, Mark (Kristina) Belding, Dianne (David) Myers, Nancy (Matthew) DeMattos and David (Mary) Rigo; her sister Dianne (Glenn) Fritsch; her brother Terry Stapleton; and her grandchildren, Brian Myers, Samantha DeMattos, Erik Myers, Dylan Myers, Tanner Belding, and Taylor Belding. She was preceded in death by her parents and her first husband Larry D. Belding in 1977. A family service was held Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at Casterline Funeral Home. She was laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. A memorial gathering will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the American Cancer Society. Please share condolences at casterlinefuneralhome.com

MATTHEWS

JEAN age 86, passed away December 18, 2016. Services were held at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. www.phillipsfuneral.com

RIXIE

JAMES February 6, 1935 -December 15, 2016. Expressions of sympathy may be made to obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

FROGNER



JEANNE 91, died peacefully on December 18, 2016, listening to classic Christmas carols and surrounded by loving family including her two great-grandchildren. She was born in Eveleth, Minnesota, on September 11, 1925, to Mabel (Benson) and Aubrey Decker. Her brother, Hilton (Marvel) preceded her in death. She married the love of her life, the late Herbert James (Jim) Frogner, and had sixty-two years of wedded bliss. She was a loving mother to five children, Kristine (Steve), Chuck, Jim Jr. (Ellen), Ann (Russ), and David (Laurel) and to many of their friends. A wonderful grandmother to Adrienne, Joran (deceased), Erica, Madeline, Sara Jeanne, Kristen, and Jimmy III, as well as two great-grandchildren, Aiden and Ella. She was a champion greens seller for the Northville Garden Club and a member for fifty plus years. Jeanne was curious, patient, resilient, and loved much about the world- reading, gardening, music, sewing, knitting, Bridge, golfing and travel. She will be missed by all who knew her. A celebration of her life was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 201 Elm St., Northville, MI, 48167, on Tuesday, December 27. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to St. Paul Lutheran Church, where her family were members for over fifty years. She will be laid to rest at Acacia Park Cemetery in Beverly Hills, Michigan.

SMALL

AUDREY JUNE A longtime resident of Milford, passed away in the loving care of her family on December 21, 2016 at the age of 88. She was preceded in death by Duane James Small, her beloved husband of 37 years. Audrey is survived by her children, Cindy (Mike) Gardner and Brian (Rose) Small; grandchildren, Bradley (Cara) Gardner, Brent (fiance Brittany Acker) Gardner, Ryan (Kasey) Gardner, Steven (Kathleen) Small, Mark Small, and Matthew Small; great-grandchildren, Mason and Brock. A Memorial Service will be held from Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford on Thursday, December 29th, 3:00 p.m. with gathering to begin an hour prior at 2 p.m. Memorials to Henry Ford Hospice, checks payable to Henry Ford Health System, Development Office, 1 Ford Place #5A, Detroit, MI 48202; and Adopt-A-Pet, 13575 Fenton Rd., Fenton, MI 48430. For further information, please phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit LynchFuneralDirectors.com.

MILLER

CHARLES (CHUCK) LOUIE Was born on November 5, 1932 to Eva Allen and Douglas Miller at Herman Kiefer Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. Chuck is survived by his wife of 62 years, Ginny Miller; sister, Virginia Selph; children, Beverly Traylor (Anthony), Michael Miller (Teresa), Valerie Bauersachs (Jim), and Richard Miller (Cathy); grandchildren, Bradley Bartel, Michelle Miller, Steve Bartel (Heather), Erin Whitworth (Pace), Joshua Traylor (Karen), Catey Traylor, Rachel Miller, Jessica Miller, Andrew Miller, and Cameron Miller; along with nine great-grandchildren and his best buddy Smokey the dog. www.phillipsfuneral.com

CARLSON

PATRICIA January 19, 1938 - December 11, 2016. Expressions of sympathy can be made at www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be wary, knowledgeable

If you are a supporter or detractor of Donald Trump, all citizens should/could be concerned about the latest tweet from the President-elect.

On Dec. 22, he recommended the U S should expand its nuclear program. The policy is contrary to the usual policy, which seeks to have agreements with other powerful nations. President Obama launched a modernization of nuclear weapons, but not an increase.

The same day Vladimir Putin gave a three-and-one-half-hour news conference in which he agreed with Trump. In addition Putin denied any connection with interfering with the 2016 presidential election. Also Putin interfered with actions in the United Nations relating to Israel . These events are serious and dangerous.

As we experience the Trump years, I urge everyone to be knowledgeable about history, civics, the Constitution, plus fake news as opposed to the truth. Citizens must start now to be wary, involved and vocal every day.

Changes must occur in the midterm elections in 2018.

Hannah Provence
Donigan
Commerce

On Presidential vote totals

Unless you've been stranded somewhere and totally out of touch with the rest of the world, you have to be aware of all the charges about how unfair the recent presidential election was and Hillary Clinton should be declared the winner since she actually won

the popular vote and damn the Constitution.

Hillary evidently has a fairly short memory, maybe conveniently so. In 1992 Clinton's husband, Bill, ran against then President George H. Bush and won the election despite winning just 43% of the popular vote. Couldn't happen that way you say! Not only could but did. H. Ross Perot, another conservative republican from Texas, decided he would run against Bush and did quite well. Matter of fact he did so well that he won 19% of the vote and together with Bush's 37% gave the conservatives a total of 56%. But Clinton was declared the winner and next President of The United States, exactly as he should have because we don't elect presidents by popular vote.

Like it or not this country is not a democracy but is in fact a republic. When we pledge allegiance to our flag we refer to it as a republic. And at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, Ben Franklin was asked, "What have you wrought?" He answered " a Republic, if you can keep it."

There has been quite a cry from a lot of people in high places asking if the time has now come that we should consider changing the constitution and our form of government. I hope that when things cool down a little most of these people will come to their senses and realize that the framers were indeed intelligent and very forward thinking men. They made sure that the majority wouldn't be able to run rough shod over and have their way with the minority. I think that in itself is worth biting your tongue and trying to

make the most of the next 4 or 8 years.

Dave Shingler
Novi

Election was one of hate

With all the experts coming out with their take on why Hillary Clinton lost and Donald Trump won, I have heard little said of the hate.

This election was all about hate. Hate of those that Trump railed against (Muslims, immigrants, minorities).

Hate of Hillary that Republicans have pushed for decades through false charges and accusations.

Hate for President Barack Obama because he won the 2008 election and he is a Democrat.

Hate of our own government and hate for the Republican-controlled Congress (justified).

In their quest to rule Republicans have used hate to divide us.

Now they have lost control of it to a billionaire con man that cares more for money than country leaving this country more divided than ever.

Even if you do not feel you cast your vote in hate, if you voted for Trump you stood with the haters.

I would rather stand alone than stand with haters. But I am not alone. Now that all the votes have been counted we see the majority did not vote for the candidate of hate.

Hate is a very strong emotion and people can do some dumb things when they let hate guide them.

It is too simple for the high paid political pundits to admit but hate won the election and our country lost.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Schoolcraft uses partnerships to improve campus

David Jesse
Detroit Free Press

When voters turned down a 0.6-mill millage request from Schoolcraft College in the fall of 2015 by a few hundred votes, things looked bleak for Schoolcraft officials’ plan to improve the school’s infrastructure and move forward on

new buildings on campus. Now, though, the outlook is much more positive, thanks to creative partnerships between the college and some private organizations. A couple of major projects were put back on the table, including the building of a \$6-million sports dome. The dome was built

with Universal Properties and Management Inc., which owns 7 Mile Crossing, a commercial building located within the college’s campus. The Michigan Wolves-Hawks Soccer Club signed a 25-year agreement to lease space in the building. It’s a space that can be used for the college’s own

sports. Also, the school’s renowned culinary program will staff a concession stand that will move past the normal junk food items and be a place where busy parents can feed their children in between school and soccer practice. Schoolcraft also entered into an agreement to build a 90,000-plus-

square-foot MASCO World Headquarters building on its property. Having MASCO on the college property will allow for Schoolcraft students to more easily do internships at the company. Company employees will also be able to attend Schoolcraft classes or classes through Wayne State

University, which has a satellite campus on Schoolcraft’s grounds. Infrastructure, including parking lots, a new road ringing the campus and a new traffic light at an access road from the campus to 7 Mile were also added in conjunction with Universal Properties and Management. The college has also started new programs, including a beer brewing degree.

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10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.
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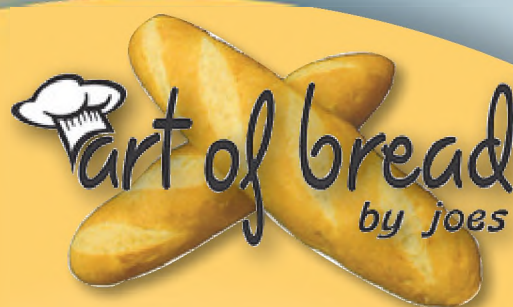
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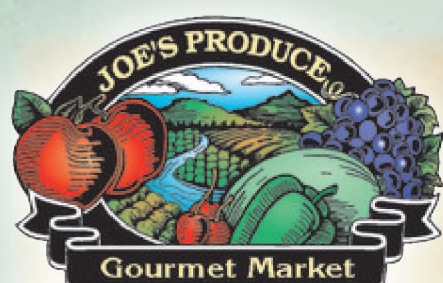
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BOYS BASKETBALL

Divine Child's late rally stuns Shamrocks

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Dearborn Divine Child's Quinn Blair would be the first to admit his performance resembled a famous psychological horror film rather than thriller movie.

It was mostly "Blair Witch Project" for the majority of the four quarters Thursday night, before the junior forward suddenly turned himself into "The Mighty Quinn."

The 6-foot-6 Blair nailed a huge 3-

pointer late, followed by the game-winning free throws with only 12.8 seconds remaining, as the host Falcons pulled out a 56-55 boys basketball win over Novi Detroit Catholic Central.

On three different occasions during the final quarter, CC enjoyed an eight-point advantage, but the Falcons were able to fight back as Blair scored six of his 14 points in the final 1:20.



Blair

None was bigger than his triple deep from the right wing to pull the Falcons to within one, 51-50. Up until that point, Blair had gone 3-of-14 from the field.

"I wasn't shooting well at all, obviously, probably one of my worst games of the year, but my teammates got me the ball at the end," Quinn said. "They knew I could hit the shot and I stepped up and hit it. Jordan (Jones) was huge. He carried us and got us down there to the end and he gave me the opportunity to hit it and, luckily, it went in at the end."

With DC down a point, 55-54, CC's A.J. Abdelnour missed the front end of a one-and-one with 21.3 seconds remaining. Jones, a stocky 6-foot-1 senior guard, grabbed the rebound.

Blair got fouled on the ensuing possession. He stepped away from the free-throw line to tie his shoe laces and calmly nailed both shots in front of the CC student section, which was trying to distract him.

"My mind was buzzing," Blair said.

See HOOPS, Page B2

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



DARYL MARSHKE, UM PHOTOGRAPHY, D. MARSHKE

Catholic Central grad Matt Godin makes a tackle during U-M's Sept. 10 victory over Central Florida.

CC, Rice grads lead local players in bowl games

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 un-

"I learned a ton from Coach Hoke and Coach Mattison. Those two taught me everything I know about playing defensive line, honestly."

MATT GODIN, U-M senior defensive lineman

beaten 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.

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

See BOWLS, Page B2

COLLEGE HOCKEY

Joe Louis hosts its final GLI tourney

Mike Rosenbaum
Correspondent

While growing up, Canton native Matt Roy enjoyed watching the annual Great Lakes Invitational hockey tournament.

"I attended as a little Michigan fan," said Roay, who will attend another GLI this Thursday, but he won't be rooting for the Wolverines.

Instead, he'll be skating for Michigan Tech.

This year's tournament features the usual trio of Tech, Michigan and Michigan State, along with Western Michigan. This will be the last GLI at Joe Louis Arena; the new Little Caesars Arena will play host to the 2017 tournament.

Roy's Huskies faced off against U-M in the 2015 GLI final, with the Wolverines prevailing. He hopes to reverse Tech's fortunes this season.

"Every year," Roy said, he and his teammates "go through our goals, as a team. And winning the GLI is always on there. Nobody on our team has won it yet ... so all of us are really hungry for it."

The Huskies last won the GLI in 2012, but will enter this year's event as the favorites, having posted a 12-7-3 record to date, including 11 wins and a tie in their last 14 games.

Roy is in his third year at Tech. After graduating from Canton High School, Roy played for the Indiana Ice of the U.S. Hockey League, winning a league championship in 2014. He chose to attend Tech because he was impressed by the school's coaches, facilities and small-town atmosphere.

He posted nine assists in 36 games and was plus-21, while blocking 88 shots, as a freshman. He added offensive flair to his game last season, finishing with seven goals and 13 assists in 37 contests, with a plus-24 rating, and earned second team all-WCHA honors. He has two goals and 10 assists in 22 games this year.

He credits a steady evolution of his game, along with some off-season work in 2015 — "focusing on my stick-handling and my shooting" — with sparking his offensive improvement.

The 2015 off-season was doubly significant for Roy, because he was selected by the Los Angeles Kings in

See TOURNEY, Page B3

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PREP WRESTLING

Northville starts year 11-3 in dual meets

Brad Emmons
hometownlife.com

So far, so good for the Northville wrestling team this season.

The Mustangs, under the direction of new head coach Tyler Schneider and assistant coach Adam Morris, are off to an 11-3 dual meet start after posting victories Dec. 21 over Canton (49-27) and host Milford (41-36).

It's been a reversal of fortunes so far this season as the Mustangs have exceeded expectations under Schneider, who was guardedly optimistic going into 2016-17. It was only a year ago that Northville went into the holiday break with a 3-8 record.

On Dec. 16, Northville finished 4-1 to earn runner-up honors at the Redford Union Invitational as the host Pan-

thers captured the team title with a 49-27 win over the Mustangs.

Other victories came against Melvindale, Lutheran High Westland, Redford Thurston and Garden City.

Northville freshman Grant Gattoni (103 pounds) earned the lower weights MVP honors by going 5-0 on the day, while Conrad Landis, Adam Lewis, Joey Nagy, Parker Dietrich, Nick Gattoni and Adam Zakaria each posted 4-1 records to earn silver medals.

The Mustangs return to KLAA Central Division action on Wednesday, Jan. 11 against Salem and host Livonia Stevenson, followed by another division quad on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at Novi against South Lyon and South Lyon East.

bemons@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bemons1



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Northville wrestling team took runner-up honors in the RU Invitational.

PREP SWIMMING

Northville 'lackluster' in victory

Brad Emmons
hometownlife.com

Despite a convincing 126-59 dual meet victory on Dec. 20 against Brighton, Northville boys swimming and diving coach Rich Bennetts wasn't doing any back flips.

The host Mustangs won eight-of-12 events to improve to 2-1 overall, but Bennetts believes there's a lot of room for improvement.

"Very lackluster performance," the veteran Northville coach said. "I'm trying to get our boys to value each and every opportunity we get to compete, and based on tonight's performance, they are not receiving the message. So it's back to the drawing board. I have to find a way to connect our message with this team. That is on me as a coach and tonight was a total failure of that objective."

Juniors Kirk Maibach and Trevor Degroot each figured in three first-place finishes for the Mustangs.

Maibach captured the 50-

and 100-yard freestyles in 22.41 and 49.95, respectively. He also teamed up with Arthur Greenlee, Nikolai Arton and Cameron Heaven for a victory in the 200 medley relay (1:42.53).

Degroot swept the 200- and 500 freestyles with times of 1:52.95 and 5:12.24, respectively. He led off the first-place 400 freestyle relay team that also included Heaven, Travis Nitkiewicz and John Duan (3:32.86).

Other Northville individual winners included Jason Nitkiewicz (100 butterfly, 57.03) and Greenlee (100 backstroke, 1:00.73).

Brighton's Drew Panzl earned firsts in the 200 individual medley (2:03.41) and 100 breaststroke (1:00.78), while Cade Hammond captured the 1-meter diving (261.10 points).

The Bulldogs' 200 freestyle relay team of John Louria, Shane Spangler, Evan Wilson and Dominic Fiorini (1:35.98), and Trevor Degroot (1:35.98) were also victorious (1:35.98).

DUAL MEET RESULTS
NORTHVILLE 126, BRIGHTON 59
Dec. 20 at Northville
FINAL EVENT RESULTS

200-yard medley relay: 1. Northville (Arthur Greenlee, Nikolai Arton, Kirk Maibach, Cameron Heaven), 1:42.53; 3. Northville (Ali Pazooki, Roman Grossi, Haotian Jiang, Craig Maibach), 1:50.67.

200 freestyle: 1. Trevor Degroot (N'ville), 1:52.95; 2. Jason Nitkiewicz (N'ville), 1:54.49; 3. Taiyo Ichikawa (N'ville), 1:56.26.

200 individual medley: Drew Panzl (Brighton), 2:03.41; 2. Travis Nitkiewicz (N'ville), 2:03.42; 3. David Alameddine (N'ville), 2:13.79.

50 freestyle: 1. K. Maibach (N'ville), 22.41; 2. Heaven (N'ville), 24.30; 3. Greenlee (N'ville), 24.60.

1-meter diving: 1. Cade Hammond (Brighton), 261.10 points; 2. Thomas Rys (N'ville), 197.60; 3. Nolan Thaxton (N'ville), 148.90.

100 butterfly: 1. J. Nitkiewicz (N'ville), 57.03; 2. Pazooki (N'ville), 59.61.

100 freestyle: 1. K. Maibach (N'ville), 49.95; 3. T. Nitkiewicz (N'ville), 53.36.

500 freestyle: 1. Degroot (N'ville), 5:12.24; 2. Ichikawa (N'ville), 5:16.18.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Brighton (John Louria, Shane Spangler, Evan Wilson, Dominic Fiorini), 1:35.98; 2. Northville (J. Nitkiewicz, Jiang, Jacob Grimmer, John Duan), 1:37.63; 3. Northville (T. Nitkiewicz, Greenlee, Arton, Degroot), 1:37.83.

100 backstroke: 1. Greenlee (N'ville), 1:00.73; 3. Orion Shi (N'ville), 1:03.31.

100 breaststroke: 1. D. Panzl (Brighton), 1:00.78; 2. Arton (N'ville), 1:04.54; 3. Jiang (N'ville), 1:07.40.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Degroot, Heaven, T. Nitkiewicz, Duan), 3:32.86; 2. Northville (J. Nitkiewicz, Grimmer, C. Maibach, Nicholas Mouakel), 3:37.22.

Dual meet records: Northville, 2-1 overall; Brighton, 0-3 overall.

bemons@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bemons1

HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

"There was 10 seconds left. We were down one and I had to hit them both and, like I said, luckily they went in."

CC senior guard Gio Genrich, who was stellar all night with a game-high 21 points (including six 3-pointers), drove to the basket on the game's final play, but his shot caromed off the backboard as time ran out.

"We didn't play very good defense late and we gave up a lot of baskets without a lot of pressure," said CC coach Bill Dyer, whose team slipped to 3-1 overall. "It kind of hurt us down the stretch there. We played well enough to win, there's no doubt about it. We were four up with stretches late and had the ball and we just didn't capitalize at the free-throw line late."

After Genrich made two free throws with 52.2 seconds left to put CC up 53-50, Blair got fouled with 38 seconds to play and split the pair. Genrich then canned two more from the line just two seconds later to give CC a four-point cushion, 55-51.

But the Falcons (4-1) closed the gap once again, to 55-54, when Cameron Urbanick found himself wide open on the left wing and nailed a clutch triple with only 24.3 seconds to go.

"The thing that hurt us is that we had some really major missed defensive assignments," Dyer said. "It was more on the defensive end. We had opportunities late and they made two clutch threes, so you've got to give them credit for that."

Jones finished with a team-high 16 points, including eight in the final quarter as he continually navigated his way to the basket.

"He's such a tough guard," Divine Child coach Andy Dold said. "Who do you match up with him? He can blow by people, he can shoot it. He's so strong. He was also good on the football team, so we're waiting for him to come around like that. I'm hoping it's here to stay."

In addition to Blair's 14, Urbanick came off the bench to score nine. Falcons 6-foot-7 senior center Liam Soraghan

and 6-4 senior guard Scott Combs contributed eight and seven, respectively.

Divine Child, which led 26-25 at halftime, but trailed 40-35 after three quarters, made 11-of-15 free throws (73.3 percent) and shot 19-of-47 from the field (40.4 percent).

In addition to Genrich's game-high 21, the Shamrocks also got 13 from senior forward C.J. Baird, who fouled out with 38 seconds to go.

Jack Morris and Davis Lukomski both added seven as CC went 5-of-9 from the foul line (55.5 percent) and 21-of-50 from the field (42 percent).

"We had a really good team effort from everybody, but we just didn't make winning plays down the stretch," Dyer said. "That's what hurt us."

When push came to shove, it was two schools coming off deep runs in the football state playoffs as CC reached the Division 1 state final, while Divine Child made it to the Division 3 semifinals.

"It's kind of been a theme for us this year," Dold said. "I think the football thing affected both teams. When our football team made an incredible run ... I actually emailed coach (Bill) Dyer and said, 'What do I do now?' He told me it was going to be tough. You'll have to grind it out. The guys won't be back until after Christmas, so he wasn't lying. It seems to be the case."

And that football mentality carried over to the basketball floor for the two Catholic League rivals.

"They're really strong, they're really tough," Blair said of the Shamrocks. "CC's always really been a tough school. They like to bully us a little bit and rightfully so. They're bigger than us and they deserve it. Like I said, we kept fighting until the end and, in the end, we came out on top and that's all that matters."

And despite a lackluster shooting night (4-of-15), Blair showed up down the stretch.

"Good players have bad games, but it's still their job to bring it home," Dold said. "And it's the second game in a row where he didn't shoot great, but he brought it home at the end — so I think we'll keep him."

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BOWLS

Continued from Page B1

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 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 opponent Wisconsin — ranked

eighth in the college playoff standings, compared to 15th-ranked Western — an "elite team" but adds that the Broncos "don't have anything to prove. We just have to be ourselves and we have play like ourselves and play like we know we can. ... And that's the way to win the game."

The Cotton Bowl marks Cherocci's last football game. After graduating this spring, he hopes to work as a parole officer while also developing his own fitness business.

Other Area Players

Cherocci's 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 receiver, 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.

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.



SCOTT CONFER
CC senior guard Gio Genrich scored a game-high 21 points in a 56-55 loss to Divine Child.

HOCKEY ROUNDUP

Novi pulls away from Pats for 7-0 win

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Senior forward Alec Giragiosian 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 Giragiosian and Chippa.

The floodgates opened in the third with Novi goals coming from Giragiosian (from Chris Martin); Anthony Lungo (from Brandon Kour); Chippa (from Logan Londo and Mitchell Grinshpun); Alex Scarozza (shorthanded from Nathan Graff); and Giragoshian (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 offense from that," said Northville coach Clint Robert, whose team outshot Canton 47-18. "That is something as a 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 Giragiosian); 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 Giragoshian's goal at 16:15 from Fonda and Anthony Lungo.

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 VanDenBeureuy (two assists), Jack Chumley (one goal) and Colton Burke (one goal).

SLU got its lone goal on a two-man power play advantage 8:15 into the final period by defenseman Zach Vanboven 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.

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PREP SWIMMING

Novi races past Hartland in dual meet

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

As they enter the holiday break, things couldn't have gone any better so far for Novi boys swimming the diving team.

The Wildcats, who won 10-of-12 events while going one-two-three in five individual races, ran their dual meet record to 5-0 on Dec. 20 with a 139-46 victory over Hartland.

Senior Camden Murphy earned three more MHSA Division 1 meet qualifying teams winning the 200-yard individual medley (1:58.46)

and 100 backstroke (53.13), while also swimming a 48.43 lead-off 100 freestyle leg on the first-place 400 freestyle relay which also included Siddhardha Kareddy, Joey Berman and Phillip Billiu (3:18.17).

Murphy also teamed up with Alexander Yuan, Kareddy and Joel Kotyk for a win in the 200 medley relay (1:40.63).

Meanwhile, Berman swept the 200- and 500 freestyles in 1:48.16 and 5:03.97, respectively. Other firsts for the Wildcats came from Jack McClure in the 1-meter diving (191.35 points) and Yuan in the 100 breaststroke (1:05.20).

The Wildcats also capture the 200 freestyle relay as Billiu, Yuan, Minjae Kim and Berman were clocked in 1:31.42.

Hartland's Cory Nelligan swept the 50- and 100 freestyles in 22.15 and 48.64, respectively.

DUAL MEET RESULTS
NOVI 139, HARTLAND 46
Dec. 20 at Novi
FINAL EVENT RESULTS
200-yard medley relay: 1. Novi (Camden Murphy, Alexander Yuan, Siddhardha Kareddy, Joel Kotyk), 1:40.63; 2. Novi (Minjae Kim, Daniel Chung, Brian Son, Adam Carozza), 1:48.23.
200 freestyle: 1. Joey Berman (Novi), 1:48.16; 2. Phillip Billiu (Novi), 1:53.14; 3. Maxwell Williams (Novi), 1:56.37.
200 individual medley: 1. Murphy (Novi), 1:58.46; 2. Son (Novi), 2:03.03; 3. Preston Harrell (Novi), 2:09.91.
50 freestyle: 1. Cory Nelligan (Hartland), 22.15;

2. Kareddy (Novi), 22.54.
1-meter diving: 1. Jack McClure (Novi), 191.35 points; 3. Kotyk (Novi), 124.25.
100 butterfly: 1. Billiu (Novi), 55.82; 2. Williams (Novi), 58.38; 3. Stephen Sitari (Novi), 58.90.
100 freestyle: 1. Nelligan (Hartland), 48.64; 2. Kareddy (Novi), 49.06; 3. Yuan (Novi), 49.40.
500 freestyle: 1. Berman (Novi), 5:03.97; 2. Son (Novi), 5:16.98.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Billiu, Yuan, Kim, Berman), 1:31.42; 2. Novi (Williams, Kotyk, Max Robbins, Carozza), 1:38.27.
100 backstroke: 1. Murphy (Novi), 53.13; 2. Erik Halboth (Novi), 59.66; 3. Chung (Novi), 1:01.76.
100 breaststroke: 1. Yuan (Novi), 1:05.20; 2. Kotyk (Novi), 1:06.63; 3. Harrell (Novi), 1:07.80.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Murphy, Kareddy, Berman, Billiu), 3:18.17; 2. Novi (Sitari, Williams, Chung, Son), 3:31.63.
Novi's dual meet record: 5-0 overall.

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GIRLS HOOPS ROUNDUP

St. Catherine hands Franklin Road first loss

Brad Emons
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Maryann Alexander scored 15 points and grabbed eight rebounds Tuesday as Wixom St. Catherine of Siena pulled out a 47-43 non-league girls basketball victory at Novi Franklin Road Christian.

Lizzy Turek added 11 points for the Siena Stars (5-2), who outscored the previously unbeaten Warriors (5-1) by a 15-11 margin in the final period.

Senior guard Danielle Fusco led Franklin Road with 14 points and six assists, while sophomore Chanelle Lochrie

added 13 points and four assists.

St. Catherine, which led 18-12 at halftime, made 3-of-6 free throws.

Franklin Road, which pulled even at 32-all after three quarters, went 3-for-5 at the line.

NOVI 46, SALINE 36: The one-two punch of Ellie Mackay and Cara Ninkovich carried the Wildcats (6-1) to a come-from-behind non-conference win over the host Hornets (5-3).

Mackay, a junior guard, finished with a game-high 26 points and seven rebounds as Novi rallied from a 21-17 halftime deficit by outscoring Saline 29-15 in the second half.

Ninkovich, a senior forward, added a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Sydney Javela scored 12 to lead Saline.

NORTHVILLE 58, SOUTH LYON 24: On Tuesday, senior center Brook Adams led a balanced scoring attack with 10 points as the host Mustangs

(4-1, 1-0) rolled to a KLAA Central Division triumph over the Lions (3-3, 0-1).

Kendall Dillon, Roan Haines and Ellie Thallman each added seven points for Northville, which led 28-15 at halftime before outscoring South Lyon 18-0 in the third period.

Samantha Swain scored eight points for South Lyon.

NOVI 53, SALEM 27: Junior point-guard Ellie Mackay finished with 18 points and three assists as the host Wildcats (5-1, 1-0) led all the way in a KLAA Central Division victory over the visiting Rocks (0-5, 0-1).

Cara Ninkovich chipped in with 10 points, while Julia Lalain added five points, four rebounds and a pair of assists for Novi, which led 30-4 at halftime.

Jessie Bandyk had four points, a rebound and an assist for Novi.

HOWELL 52, MILFORD 24: The unbeaten and ninth-ranked Highlanders (6-0, 1-0) opened KLAA West Division action with a convincing victory over the Mavericks (2-3, 0-1) as junior forward Amanda Cortren led three players in double figures with 14 points.

Howell led 29-8 at halftime outscoring Milford 17-5 in the second quarter as Alexis Miller added 10 of her 13 points. The Highlanders also got 12 points from

Leah Weslock.

Senior guard Mallory Barrett paced Milford with 11 points and 10 rebounds, while sophomore forward Allison Smith contributed six rebounds and three steals.

STEVENSON 38, SOUTH LYON EAST 25: Mackenzie Mallory tallied a game-high 11 points, but it wasn't enough as South Lyon East (2-3, 0-1) was held to five field goals in a KLAA Central Division setback Tuesday at Livonia Stevenson.

Sarah Tanderys paced the victorious Spartans, who led 19-10 at halftime and 24-17 after three quarters, with nine points.

Grace Lamerson chipped in with six points, seven rebounds, six blocks, while Elisa Lebron had six points and five boards. The Spartans were 2-of-6 from the foul line.

South Lyon, which couldn't hold an early 9-2 lead, made 14-of-21 free throws.

"We had tons of good opportunities, but just couldn't score," East coach Rob Leadley said.

TOURNEY

Continued from Page B1

the seventh round of the NHL Entry Draft, the 194th player taken overall.

Today, however, Roy is totally focused on his college career. Looking ahead to the second half of the season, he said Tech just needs to "keep playing the way we're playing" so the team can retain the MacNaughton Cup as the WCHA regular season champion and earn a trip to the NCAA tournament.

Ready for rematch

Earlier this season, as Tech struggled to a 1-5-2 start, the Huskies lost and tied in two games played against Michigan in Ann Arbor.

The Wolverines have been inconsistent lately, however, and they go into the GLI with an uncharacteristic 7-8-1 record.

The Wolverines boast several area standouts, including sophomore defenseman Nicholas Boka.

A Plymouth resident, Boka played for the U.S. National Team Development Program for two seasons before joining the Wolverines for the 2015-16 campaign.

A defensive-oriented defenseman, Boka tallied 10 assists in 38 games as a freshman and enters the GLI with one goal and one assist in 15 contests this season, along with 35 blocked shots. Boka was drafted by the Minnesota Wild in the sixth round, 171st overall, in the 2015 Entry Draft.

Other U-M area skaters include freshman forward Will Lockwood of Bloomfield Hills, who was selected in the third round of the 2016 Entry Draft, 64th overall, by the Vancouver Canucks.

Like Boka, Lockwood played for the U.S. NTDP for two years, totaling 13 goals



Canton native Matt Roy will lead Michigan Tech against Michigan in Thursday's GLI opener.

GEOFFREY M. MILLER

and 20 assists in 59 games. Lockwood had six goals and six assists in Michigan's first 16 games this season before suffering a shoulder injury that will keep him out of the GLI. Lockwood is expected back on the ice some time in January.

Senior forward Max Shuart, a 2012 Novi High School graduate, enjoyed his best college season last year, with six goals and nine assists in 38 games. He has seven assists in 14 games this season.

Green and White

Michigan State will face off with Western in the other GLI opening-round game Thursday. MSU is 4-9-1 so far and will hope for a strong GLI performance to jump-start a better second half.

Among the Spartans' leaders is senior forward Thomas Ebbing, who helped Birmingham Brother Rice capture the 2012 Division 2 state championship. Ebbing is tied for third on MSU with eight points in 14 games, on two goals and six assists. He posted a career-best 19 points last season (five goals, 14 assists) and blocked 59 shots, fourth-best among the nation's forwards.

Plymouth resident Zach Osburn is the Spartans' top-scoring defenseman, with two goals and five assists in 14 contests. Osburn had six goals – including five power-play goals – among 19 points as a freshman last season.

Novi Detroit Catholic Central graduate Carson Gatt, a South Lyon resident, also helps man the Spartans' blue line.

The defensive-minded junior defenseman has a goal and an assist in 10 games this season, after posting a career-high seven assists in his sophomore year.

Senior forward Connor Wood, a Bloomfield Hills Lahser graduate, has found the net once in 12 games this year.

MSU also has a pair of area goaltenders, both freshmen.

John Lethemon, who attended Farmington High, has a 4.76 goals-against average and .833 save percentage in three games. Spencer Wright, who back-stopped Catholic Central to two consecutive state titles in 2014-15, has yet to see action this season.

BOYS HOOPS ROUNDUP

South Lyon raises eyebrows in win

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Senior Nick Flynn scored a game-high 21 points Tuesday as South Lyon came away with a surprising 62-45 boys basketball victory over Northville in the KLAA Central Division opener for both teams.

The Lions, coming off a 67-39 loss last week to Wayne Memorial, also got 19 points from junior forward Noah Grimes to improve to 2-3 overall and 1-0 in the division.

"Noah Grimes was a force, both on the boards and getting to the basket," South Lyon coach Doug Host said. "That's exciting to see. When he does that we are a much more well-rounded team."

The defending KLAA Central champion Mustangs (2-3, 0-1) got a game-high 23 points from senior guard Jake Justice and 10 from sophomore guard Robert Johnson III.

Northville, which trailed 31-22 at halftime and 47-35 after three quarters, made only 5-of-15 free throws in dropping its third straight.

"We dug ourselves too big of a hole to get out of again tonight," Northville coach Todd Sander said. "Every error we seemed to make resulted in points for them, and we couldn't take advantage of their mistakes. We need to be more efficient and play smarter."

Meanwhile, South Lyon was 9 for 11 from the foul line.

"This was just a really good team win," Host said. "On the bench or on the court we had everyone filling a role and ready to play well when they hit the court. Northville is always very good. Todd's team's are always skilled and tough, so it is great to start out league play in this manner."

SALINE 63, NOVI 51: On Thursday, Calder Pellerin tallied 17 points and Jake Finkbeiner added 13 as the host Hornets (4-1) started strong and finished strong en route to a non-conference triumph over the Wildcats (3-3).

Saline, connecting on six 3-pointers, led 26-13 after one quarter. The Hornets led 36-26 at intermission before Novi rallied to win within two, 44-42, entering the final quarter.

But Wildcats were then outscored 19-9 in the final period.

"We were not even on the floor defensively that first quarter and we knew who their shooters were," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said. "We got blasted and we were shocked. Defensively we did close out or do the fundamental things. They played a really good zone defense, but for us it comes down to defense."

Senior center Jonny Davis led Novi with 12 points, while junior guard Traveon Maddox, Jr. and sophomore guard Giovanni Miles added 11 each.

Saline was only 14 of 28 from the foul line (50 percent), while Novi was 7 of 16 (43.7 percent).

ARBOR PREP 76, FRANKLIN ROAD 70: Abel Nelebec scored a game-high 25 points and Coleman Stocet added 20 as Ypsilanti Arbor Prep (3-2) rallied in the second half Thursday for a non-conference victory at Novi Franklin Road Christian (1-4).

Franklin Road, which led 41-26 at halftime before being outscored 50-29 in the second half, got a team-high 23 points from Maxwell Holleman.

Rahmon Scrugs added 19 points, while Josh Beck had a double-double with 16 points and 13 rebounds.

"We had a great first half, we controlled the game," Franklin Road coach Matt Mikel said. "Josh (Beck) got into foul trouble and we ran out of gas."

Franklin Road made 19 of 31 free throws (61.2 percent), while the Gators were just 9 of 24 (37.5 percent).

HARTLAND 39, SOUTH LYON 32: On Thursday, Brandon Harrison was the only player in double figures as the host Eagles (4-1) downed the Lions (2-4) in a low-scoring affair.

Nick Flynn led South Lyon, which trailed 22-15 at halftime, with a team-high eight points. The Lions committed 16 unforced turnovers.

The Lions closed the deficit to 24-23 after three quarters, but were outscored 16-9 during the final eight minutes.

Hartland was 13-of-21 from the foul line (61.9 percent), while the Lions were 11-of-16 (68.7 percent).

BEDFORD 65, SOUTH LYON EAST 47: In a non-conference game last Thursday visiting Temperance Bedford (3-3) handed South Lyon East (2-4) its fourth straight setback.

NOVI 91, SALEM 64: Traveon Maddox Jr. poured in a game-high 30 points on Dec. 20 as the Wildcats (3-2, 1-0) opened KLAA Central Division action with a victory over the host Rocks (1-3, 0-1).

The 6-foot-3 junior made 12-of-19 shots from the floor, including 6-of-7 from three-point range to go along with seven rebounds and four assists.

Senior center Jonny Davis added 14 points and eight rebounds, while sophomore guard Giovanni Miles contributed 12 points.

Jordan Ingram and Cameron Grace each tallied 13 points Salem, which couldn't overcome a 31-22 halftime deficit.

Novi was 6 of 12 from the foul line, while Salem was 7 of 14.

STEVENSON 79, SOUTH LYON EAST 68: On Tuesday, Devin Dunn scored 16 points and Parker Graham added 14 as Livonia Stevenson (4-0, 1-0) earned the KLAA Central Division win over South Lyon East (2-3, 0-1).

Stevenson jumped out to a early 10-point lead and took a 38-23 halftime advantage thanks to the hot shooting of Dunn and Ian Knoph.

East's Anthony Salter was the game's leading scorer with 22 points, while teammate Zack Guiets-Stafford added 16.

"I was very proud of the effort tonight," East coach Ron Levin said. "Guys like Salter, Guiets-Stafford and (Chris) Kaminiski just flat out play hard. We have spent the first month of the season really focusing on playing hard and competing at every thing we do. Our next step will be to start executing better both offensively and defensively while continuing to play hard and compete."

HOWELL 55, MILFORD 43: John Latham tallied a game-high 17 points on Dec. 20 as the host Highlanders (3-2, 1-0) opened KLAA West Division play with a victory over the Mavericks (2-2, 0-1).

Howell led 30-25 at halftime before breaking it open by making three straight triples in the third quarter to open up a double-digit lead.

Junior Aiden Warzecha scored 14 points and sophomore Gunnar Gustafson added 12 for Milford.

"We got killed on the boards in the first half and it's something we pride ourselves on," Milford coach David Gilbert said. "It changed the tone of the game. They (Howell) are very good, they're a solid team."

FENTON 41, LAKELAND 37: Greg Lukas scored a team-best 11 points on Dec. 20 as the host Tigers (2-2) earned the non-conference triumph over White Lake Lakeland (2-3).

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Community Announce

announcements, events...

Special Notices

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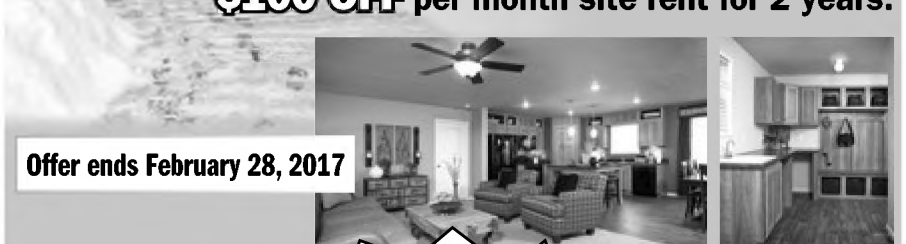
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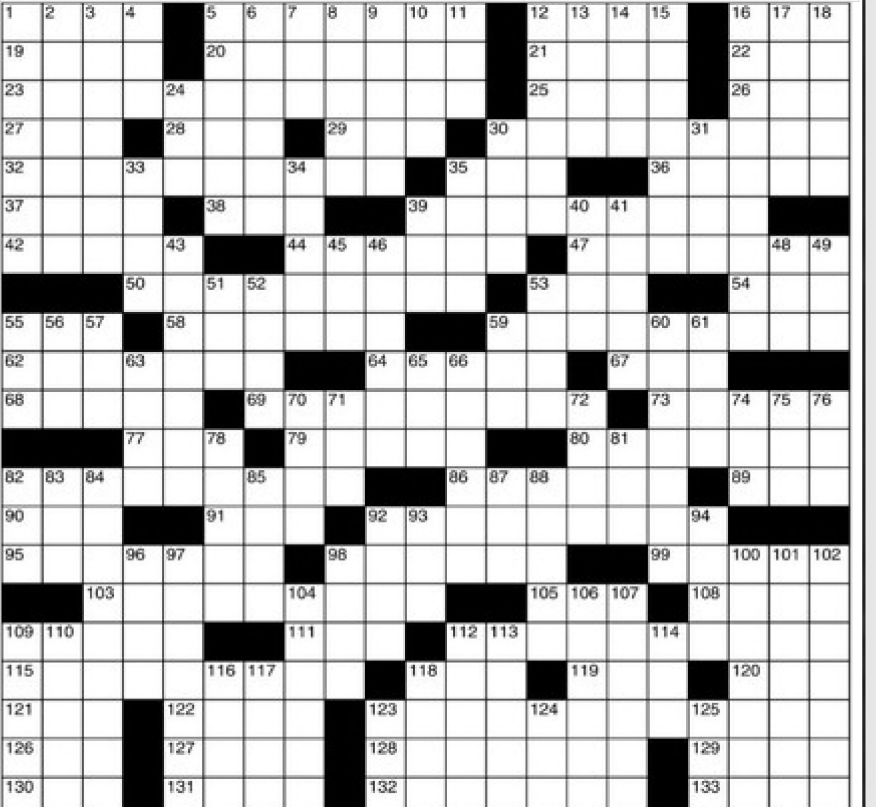
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 "You ... over there ..."
5 Significance
12 Wee bits
16 Pine—
19 Bi- + hexa-
20 "My — (Willie Cather novel)
21 Panache
22 Kin of mono-
23 Very hot shrubby
25 Law firm
26 Mutt's threat
27 Stuff making a big bang
28 Harlem room
29 45s' cousins
30 Average desert
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?
62 Vamoose
64 Actor Mueller-Stahl
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
126 Mil. rank
127 Feat of skill
128 Winds off a spool
129 "— boy!" ("All right!")
130 H.S. subject
131 See
132 Brand of Irish cream
133 Sonnet, e.g.
134 Limerick's rhyme scheme
135 Do in
139 Mil. rank
140 In the vicinity
141 Reason
143 Advice-giving Ann
145 Perpetually, in verse
146 Acid's counterpart
148 Small deer
149 Boatload
151 Co. biggie
152 Repetitive cry of pain
153 Song
155 Prez elected in '48
156 Wring (out)
157 Puppy's bark
159 Bill with Abe
160 Major rainfall
161 Bills with
162 College VIP
165 Nutrition
166 Unassuming
170 Seth's eldest son
171 Edict
172 Islamic chief
174 Third letter
175 With
131-Across, listening intently
176 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 Heady 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 whiskey
104 Topples
106 "I wish that were true!"
107 Accent
109 Maxim
110 Unit of light
112 Island off the Italian coast
113 Jacket flap
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 Puzzlers" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

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

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

NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH

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

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

Crossword Answers

PSST
OCTA
TINT
HELIO
ORES
CYRIL
TACOB
HEY
SKI
TEPEE
TURN
LIKE
PERSON
AQUA
ALIFT
DUST
AMI
GEN
ENG

Word Search Answers

MEANING
ANTONIA
GHEATH
ODA
LPS
GASP
SEA
BEAPAL
CABELL
NEWARK
WELL
ARI
PSPROW
AIS
KILTED
LUNGE
PAS
MITER
ODIN
DEED
EARS

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SOU
CLOWNCARP
EATDIRT
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FURSTOLEN
ARMIN
DONEE
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ERMINE
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- Home has three suites, two on main level and one off the billiard wing
- A Must See

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Exquisite Custom Built Brick Home!

- Four bedrooms, four and half bathrooms on 2.4 acres
- Wrap around cedar deck overlooking Proud Lake
- Fully finished walk out basement
- Two story barn with three horse stalls

MLS 216108469 248.684.1065 \$539,995

Great Location!

- Four bedrooms, one and half bathrooms, Cape Cod
- Original cove ceiling and hardwood floors throughout
- Tremendous curb appeal
- Great room with installed bow windows

MLS 216101543 248.684.1065 \$279,900

Immaculate Home!

- Four bedrooms, two and half bathroom, beautiful Colonial
- Kitchen with new granite and hardwood floors
- Master bedroom with huge walk-in closet and private bath
- Great private yard

MLS 216071707 248.684.1065 \$299,900

Quiet, Secluded with Stunning Views!

- Three bedrooms, one and half bathroom, on over a half acre
- Located on a peaceful court in Cobblestone Village
- Enjoy wonderful views from your screened in porch
- A must see Colonial!

MLS 216107592 248.684.1065 \$265,000

Corner Lot Colonial!

- Four bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms, charming Colonial
- Stone fireplace, custom cabinets
- Professionally finished basement with full bath
- Deck overlooking play area and lake privileges on Lake Chemung

MLS 216104747 248.684.1065 \$289,900

Stunning Ranch!

- Three bedrooms, two bathrooms
- Over 3,000 of finished gorgeous living space
- Dream kitchen with updated cabinets, granite countertops with stainless steel appliances
- Finished basement with full bar

MLS 216113048 248.684.1065 \$ 285,000

Completely Remodeled Colonial!

- Three bedrooms, one and half bathrooms, with lake access
- Stunning kitchen with granite countertops, tile backsplash and stainless steel appliances
- New paint, custom trim and carpet throughout
- Gorgeous 400 square foot cedar deck

MLS 216109602 248.684.1065 \$229,900

Stunning Condo! Great Location!

- Three bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms, end unit condo
- Elegant kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counter tops
- Convenient first floor laundry
- Finished basement with full bath and wine closet

MLS 216107766 248.684.1065 \$229,000

Cute Colonial!

- Four bedroom, two and half bathrooms
- Large foyer with hardwood flooring, formal dining room
- Master bedroom with walk in closet, private ceramic bath
- First floor laundry

MLS 216111444 248.684.1065 \$300,000

Highlands Best Kept Secret!

- Four bedrooms, three and half bathrooms on 10.55 acres, that allows horses
- Picture yourself in this stunning well maintained gorgeous Colonial
- Enjoy swimming or boating on all sports private lake
- Lower level is great for entertaining, including a full kitchen

MLS 216099425 248.684.1065 \$749,000

Beautiful House, Perfect Setting!

- Four bedrooms, one and half bathrooms, on 2.5 acres
- Great home with lots of updates and charm
- Master bedroom with walk in closet, and large pantry
- Three car garage with loaded storage racks

MLS 216114009 248.684.1065 \$299,900

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Car Report

By Dale Buss

Say this for Tesla owners: They stick by their brand. Despite red flags ranging from the Autopilot-fatality disaster to gull-wing doors getting stuck on the Model X, Tesla still ranked as No. 1 in the new, just-released Consumer Reports Annual Owner Satisfaction Survey.

Just as last year, following Tesla were Porsche, Audi and Subaru. Interestingly, however, some brands were on the move from 2015 to 2016, including Lincoln, which climbed from No. 21 to No. 12; and Hyundai, which rose to No. 13 from No. 24.

Meanwhile, some brands swooned, such as Ram, which tumbled to No.

17 from No. 5 in last year's rankings; BMW, which took what may be seen as a surprising fall to No. 14 from No. 6; and Volkswagen, which took a not-so-surprising dive to No. 24 from No. 16.

No. 5 through 10 were Toyota, Honda, Mazda, Chrysler, Chevrolet and Lexus. Ranking at the absolute bottom was Fiat at No. 29; Fiat Chrysler Automotive had four brands in the bottom 13 with Ram at No. 17, Dodge at No. 23, Jeep at No. 25 and Fiat. Infiniti and Nissan Ranked No. 27 and 28.

Each of the brands that ranks 1 through 4 once again is, arguably, a marque for which perceptions and emotions carry the day over the merit of each company's individual vehicles or even its overall product line, and over other criteria such as vehicle quality and utility. Those subjective notions absolutely pulse through the survey results.

The all-new 2018 Audi Q5 will add to the brand's progressive reputation

For Tesla, of course, there is the fierce brand loyalty generated by the company's pioneering role in making a truly fine all-electric automobile, its daring pivot into mainstream-priced EVs with the upcoming Model 3, and the high-profile leadership of the always-kinetic Elon Musk, who keeps Tesla and its iconoclastic mission continually in the news -- whether he's defending Autopilot as being better than human drivers; defying Wall Street by continuing to report losses and missing production deadlines; boasting about his Gigafactory gambit; or saying he wants to die on Mars.

Even Consumer Reports -- an early fan of the Tesla Model S which once considered it such a perfect vehicle that it broke the magazine's rating scale -- has more lately been regularly knocking Tesla.

About the Model X 90D crossover, for example, a version of Tesla's second model, the magazine said that, "Beyond the brag-worthy magic" such as the gull-wing doors and a "jet-fighter-like canopy windshield," the car "largely disappoints. The rear doors are prone to pausing and stopping. The second-row seats can't be folded, limiting cargo-carrying ability. The big windshield is neat but not tinted enough to offset the brightness of a sunny day, and wind noise is excessive."

Or take Porsche. The VW-owned sports-car brand has managed to extend itself nicely to SUVs and crossovers over the last several years, winning a whole new corps of buyers even as the brand continues to satisfy sports-car diehards with its iconic 911, Boxster

The 2017 Subaru Outback exemplifies the brand's all-wheel-drive platform.

The lone thing for Audi yet to accomplish is to get sales volumes in the American market that match its relative levels elsewhere in the world, where Audi regularly challenges its national rivals for the global luxury-sales volume title.

Subaru continues to amaze as a volume-restricted brand that seemingly can do no wrong. Tom Doll, the American executive and former bean counter who has masterminded the brand's rise in the United States, has unapologetically pursued only certain niches: all-wheel-drive aficionados; tree-hugging progressives; parents concerned about safety. In their eyes, the Subaru brand is absolute magic.

And by expanding the company's Indiana factory and circling back to nail certain nameplates, such as the impressive little 2017 Impreza model, Subaru still seems to have a lot of runway in this country

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Focus on getting a new job in the new year

BY MATT TARPEY
CAREERBUILDER

Finding a new job is one of the most common New Year's resolutions — but not all resolutions come to fruition. If a new job is at the top of your list of goals, here are some tips to help you make it happen.

Get specific.
The most important step you can take is to make sure the resolution itself is clear and quantifiable.
"Those that deal in specifics seldom fail; those that deal in generalities seldom succeed," says Heather Monahan, a career and business expert and chief revenue officer for the Beasley Media Group. "This Jan. 1, be sure to create very specific goals in order to give yourself the chance to achieve them. A general goal like 'I want to find a new job' is setting yourself up for failure, versus a very specific goal like 'I want to get into the PR business, and I have targeted these three companies as my first choice.' The devil is in the details, and we all need the details in order to deliver on the resolution."

Have a plan.
Just as a very specific end goal is important, it's also crucial that you set a clear



GETTY IMAGES

course for achieving that goal. A plan is an essential part of any New Year's resolution.
"Failing to plan is planning to fail. In order to achieve your goal, you are going to need a plan," Monahan says. "Many people tap a mentor or a friend that has had success in the area you are working on to build the plan. Building a comprehensive plan will ensure you are taking the next

right step toward achieving your goal."
Commit to a schedule.
One of the most common excuses people offer for giving up on their New Year's resolutions is that they simply didn't have the time to keep at it. Avoid this pitfall by designating a specific block of time each week to spend on reviewing job postings and

researching your industry.
"The most important part here is sticking to your allotted time," says professional development coach Laine Schmidt. "It might require giving up a leisure activity, but the outcome in the end will be well worth it. If it's something you've discovered you're truly passionate about, the time spent researching will be enjoyable."

Track your progress.
As part of your resolution to find a new job, be sure to include smaller goals linked to the number of jobs you apply for and new connections you build during the process. The satisfaction of meeting these smaller goals — or the guilt over falling short — can help keep you motivated beyond the first few weeks of the year.
"Keep a detailed spreadsheet or list of where you apply, whom you speak with, when résumés are sent and networking opportunities," says Heather Rothbauer-Wanish, owner of Feather Communications. "Even when the job search becomes difficult — and it can be — this list or tracking will show you how far you have come and what you have accomplished."
There are always external factors at play, but ultimately, whether you follow through on your New Year's resolutions or not comes down to how seriously you commit to them. Follow these tips, and there's no reason 2017 can't be the year you land that great new job.

Matt Tarpey is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. He researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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