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SUNDAY 12.10.17 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Church hosts annual Christmas pageant

Merriman Road Baptist Church will present event Dec. 16-17

**LeAnne Rogers**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Many churches hold holiday pageants, but Merriman Road Baptist Church hosts programs for both Christmas and Easter.

"We get a lot of outside (the congregation) people coming to the program. That's what we're looking for," said Russ Weathers, who directed the pageant. "We're not putting this on for our-

selves. It's outreach for the community to let them know what Christmas is really about."

Called "The Story of Christmas," the pageant has dramatic scenes and two narrators, but is heavy on music performed by the church choir, including a song in which members are joined by the children's choir.

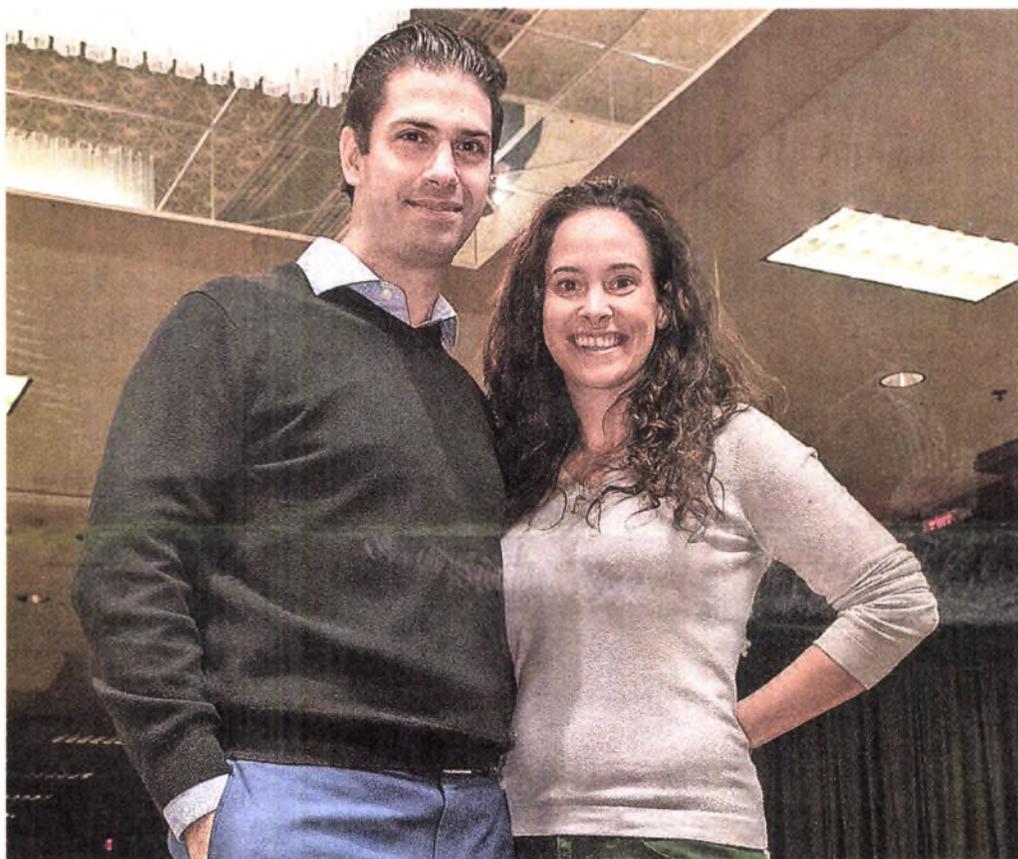
Performances will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17. There is no charge for the program and a nursery will be provided for children ages 3 and younger.

"We have modern and traditional



The Merriman Road Baptist Church Christmas pageant features the Holy Family played by Brian, Autumn and baby Leon Wade of Garden City.  
DEENA TREMBLAY

See PAGEANT, Page A2



The husband and wife team of Sam and Jessica Mass moved back from Chicago to become the third generation in the business.  
BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Meet the new owners of Burton Manor

Husband and wife return home from Chicago to run Livonia banquet hall

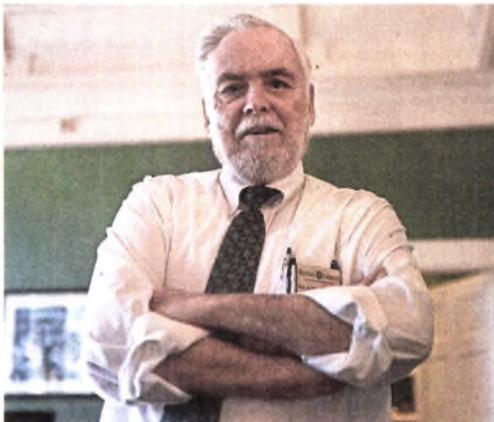
**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Sam and Jessica Mass were like many millennials who graduated from college at the height of the recession: they left Michigan and went to Chicago.

But several years later, the couple opted to get into the family business and move back to Michigan. Today, they're the new owners of Burton Manor Banquet and Conference Center, 27777 Schoolcraft, buying it from her father several months ago.

"We moved west a little bit to try and find some jobs and I got lucky and found a job in Chicago practicing," he said. "We were lucky to have the opportunity to take it over."

The couple, who met while they attended Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills, found work in Chicago after Sam Mass graduated from law school. When Jessica's father, William Burton Johnson, decided it was time to sell the business, he opted to pass it



William Burton "Bill" Johnson's daughter and son-in-law will take care of the headaches of the business. Bill will still be around for the fun parts. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See OWNERS, Page A2

## Principal tapped to manage LPS secondary programs

**Matt Jachman**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Daniel Willenborg, Franklin High School's principal for 17 years, is stepping into a new role at the Livonia Public Schools district's central office.

Willenborg was named Nov. 27 as LPS director of secondary programs and district services by a unanimous Board of Education vote. He is currently serving both as principal and in his new job during a transition period and will take on the new job full time in January, following the holiday break.



Willenborg

Officials are advertising the opening at Franklin within the district and externally and hope to name Willenborg's successor by mid-January.

Willenborg, a former U.S. Marine and an educator for about 30 years, has been with the district since 1996, when he started as an assistant principal at Churchill High School. He is in the midst of his 18th school year at Franklin, which has an enrollment of 1,451.

"Dan has left an indelible mark on the Franklin community. It is apparent that he put his heart into every aspect of leading the staff and students over the last 17 years," Superintendent Andrea Oquist wrote in an email. "He is a true Patriot in every sense of the word and we are so grateful for his leadership over the years."

Oquist added that "we're thrilled" Willenborg will become part of the district's administrative team.

Willenborg replaces Steve Archibald, an assistant superintendent who will run the district's human resources department. Archibald is replacing former Human Resources Director Dana Whinnery, who retired in the spring. Whinnery was not an assistant superintendent. The district had been contracting out human resources management services for several months.

In his new role, Willenborg will oversee all aspects — personnel, buildings and curricula — of the district's middle and high school-level programs. He will also manage programs such as adult education and its shared-time service, which, with state funding, provides extras like music, art and physical education to students at local parochial schools.

The job also involves other duties as assigned, such as heading up district-

See WILLENBORG, Page A2



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**OWNERS**

Continued from Page A1

along to his daughter and son-in-law. They've operated the business since September.

"It was about family and opportunity to buy the business," she said. "My dad really wanted to retire.

"He just needed a break."

In addition to owning Burton Manor, the couple also runs Karas House, 23632 Plymouth, in Redford.

Her family has worked in the catering business for decades and has owned and operated Burton Manor the last 20 years. Looking toward retirement, Johnson said it was the perfect opportunity to reunite his family in Michigan.

"I wanted them to come home from Chicago," said Johnson, a Livonia resident. "It's been fun, but it's time."

Johnson's father began a catering business in the 1953, working out of the hall at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Livonia and then out of a bakery on Plymouth Road, then moving to a banquet hall in Westland and before retiring in the 1960s. Johnson bought the catering business in the 1970s. Later, he ran Karas House in Westland, mov-



The husband and wife team of Sam and Jessica Mass moved back from Chicago to become the third generation in the business. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

which featured former Detroit Lions kicker Jason Hanson, took place there.

With the couple's background — his in law and hers in culinary arts — they're able to separate some aspects of running the business. When it comes to food, Sam said he hands that off to his wife and the hall's executive chef.

"They're the culinary masterminds," Sam said. "I stay out of their way in the kitchen."

The couple, who currently live in Sterling Heights, but hope to move to the Livonia area with their children, said they are excited at the opportunities at the banquet center, especially with all the development in the Schoolcraft/Inkster area: two new hotels have opened, new restaurants and shops have popped up along Middlebelt and plenty of renovations are taking place at other businesses in the area.

"You see it when it wasn't developed," he said. "Now, you've got the two brand-new hotels, you've got the whole shopping center to the west, you've got the distribution center right behind us."

"It's really encouraging."

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**WILLENBORG**

Continued from Page A1

wide committees and special projects.

The salary for Willenborg's new position is still under negotiation, district spokeswoman Stacy Jenkins said.

Willenborg graduated from Michigan State University's James Madison College in 1983 and served in the U.S. Marines for three years after that. Before joining the district, he taught in Clarkston, Dearborn and Fremont, Mich., where he was also varsity football coach and wrestling coach. He was the assistant high school principal and athletic director at the high school in Fremont for two years.

In a Facebook posting to the Franklin community, Willenborg said it had been an honor and a privilege to serve as principal. The new job, he said, will give him the chance



Daniel Willenborg, Franklin High School's longtime principal, is taking a job at the district's central office. FILE PHOTO

to be a greater voice in the education of more students.

"My 17½ years at Franklin have filled my life with wonderful people and rich memories," Willenborg wrote in an email. "It is strange to imagine myself in this new role, but just as I've told students to get out of their comfort zone and seek challenge, I guess it's time for me to apply that to myself."

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**PAGEANT**

Continued from Page A1

songs. The traditional songs will have modern arrangements," Weathers said. "There are three scenes, so there isn't a lot of drama. The program lasts about an hour."

Drawing from a congregation of approximately 500, Weathers

ing to Redford in the early 1980s. Johnson, who said his father was a Livonia special police officer in the 1950s, then bought Burton Manor in the 1990s, which was formerly called Roma Banquets.

**Moving forward**

The banquet hall is hoping to connect with larger brands for things such as honeymoons, dresses and tuxedos so that brides and grooms can get info on everything they'll need leading up to their wedding day, a move that they hope make the hall an attractive option for couples

from across metro Detroit.

They're currently renovating a room in the executive office to display the partnerships, as well as a sample display of items such as chairs, chair covers and linens.

"So it's a one-stop place for everybody," Sam said. "Just trying to make it easier."

Burton Manor holds nearly 1,000 events a year, including weddings, corporate events, funeral wakes, birthdays and city events. The State of the City has taken place at the center, while this year's Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast,

said the choir has 40-50 members who will be participating, along with the children's choir and another 20 people performing in the dramatic scenes.

"All told, we have about 100 people involved in the Christmas program. That's nowhere near as involved as the Easter program," Weathers said. "The choir has been working on the

Christmas program for two or three months."

Located on Merriman, just south of Ford in Garden City, Merriman Road Baptist Church draws worshipers from a number of communities. A choir member, Weathers lives in Livonia. He added that his wife Elaine has been a big help as he directed the production.

The holiday programs draw a good number of

people. Weathers noted at Easter, it's usually standing room only and extra chairs are added.

"A lot of churches don't have a choir anymore, they have a praise or worship band. A lot quit because they just didn't get enough bodies," Weathers said.

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# Clinic dedicated at Schoolcraft College

**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Adding an urgent care clinic to Schoolcraft College's Livonia campus was something President Conway Jeffress had an interest in. So he spoke to several people at the college and worked to get the process in motion.

"With that, I said, 'Get it rolling, do something,'" Jeffress said. "We wanted a health care presence."

Two years later, the campus is home to a St. Joe's Urgent Care clinic, located in the Jeffress Center at Seven Mile and Haggerty on the first floor. The clinic, which opened earlier this fall, was formally dedicated Nov. 30 with a blessing ceremony.

The clinic is open to both students of the college and non-students and features two consultation rooms, six exam rooms, a room for taking X-rays and a procedure room, which can be used for suturing or other smaller medical procedures.

"This is really the first step and a pretty major one for the evolution of the pre-existing partnership (with) Schoolcraft College on this campus," David Spivey, CEO of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, said at the blessing of the facility. "They're very interested in extending health care services here on their campus and this is an important part of that pillar."

The facility offers several services, including physicals, drug and alcohol screening, pregnancy tests and vaccina-



Officials from Schoolcraft College, the St. Joseph Mercy Health System and the city of Livonia cut the ribbon on the new St. Joe's Urgent Care clinic in the Jeffress Center at Seven Mile and Haggerty in Livonia. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tions. It's open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday and holidays. It's open 365 days a year.

The facility, the first urgent care clinic operated under St. Mary Mercy Hospital and leased from the college, was opened for tours after the Rev. Luke Iwuji, a chaplain at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, blessed the facility with holy water.

"Almighty God, you have chosen us for this sacred work of ministering to the sick," he said. "Today, we gather to ask for your blessings

upon this new urgent care center."

The new clinic is just the latest new development at Schoolcraft College in the past few years. Masco Corp. opened its new facility earlier this summer and the new St. Joe's Soccer Dome opened for competition last fall.

Jeffress said bringing the clinic continues to add to the college's identity in the area, making it known not only as a place with excellent culinary programs and sports, but as a place one can come if they need basic medical treatment.

Partnering with an organization such as the St. Joseph Mercy Health System, Jeffress said, made the most sense and is a decision that appears to be working.

"What were we going to do that was unique and what were we going to do to develop partnerships to develop? Because we didn't have the money to do these things on our own," he said. "I think this is going to work out very well."

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The Rev. Luke Iwuji offers a blessing at the St. Joe's Urgent Care clinic at Schoolcraft College.

DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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# Samaritas receives grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation

Samaritas recently received a \$50,000 award from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation to address mental health concerns among people served by the Samaritas Family Center in Westland.

The two-year grant will allow Samaritas to bring a licensed family therapist on-staff at the family center, which provides accommodations and support for families experiencing homelessness. The Samaritas Family Center has a strong partnership with Wayne State University and the University of Michigan School of Medicine to provide a one-day-per-week health clinic

on-site, which addresses physical health concerns. However, mental health has not been part of the services provided.

There has been much research about the co-occurrence of mental illness, chronic physical health conditions and economic instability. Among the homeless population in Wayne County, a disproportionate percentage of individuals suffer from all three. Many people served by the family center need treatment to address behavioral health problems so they can achieve permanent housing without enduring another cycle of homelessness.

"We are grateful for this award and the support from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation toward addressing mental health concerns for the people we serve at the family center," said Sam Beals, Samaritas CEO. "This is a huge step forward in empowering families experiencing homelessness with the tools they need to be successful in achieving permanent housing and economic stability."

This grant will provide behavioral health screening for family center families, using a screening tool known as VI-SPDAT, within five days of arrival to the

family center, to determine behavioral health needs. Samaritas professionals are optimistic that the additional resources and treatments will lead a majority of people served by the family center toward permanent housing once they leave the shelter.

Samaritas has operated the family center in Westland for 25 years, providing families a private room, on-site services including licensed child care, daily meals, a library, computers and transportation for children to and from school, among other services.

For more information, go to [www.samaritas.org](http://www.samaritas.org).

## WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS

### Package stolen from porch

A resident who lives in the 8200 block of Woodcrest came into the Westland police station Dec. 1 to report a package stolen from his porch.

He said he ordered a necklace that was reportedly delivered Nov. 22 to his home, dropped off at the front apartment door. He said he never found the package and believes it was taken.

### Another package stolen

Another resident stopped in at the police station Dec. 1 to report a package had been stolen from their residence in the 500 block of Van Sull.

The resident said the package was dropped off at the residence the day before by UPS. The pack-

age, which contained a salt spreader, was later taken and the resident did not know what happened to it. He said he checked with the neighbors and no suspect information was available.

### Rocks thrown through windows

Police were called Nov. 30 to a residence in the 37000 block of Oakview on the report of some damage done to the home's windows.

The resident said she was sleeping and awoke after hearing rocks being thrown through the windows of her apartment. Police saw the window was shattered, but the resident did not know who would have done this. No suspect information was available.

— By David Veselenak

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## WAYNE POLICE BRIEFS

### Wallet taken from vehicle

A resident who lives in the 35700 block of East Michigan Avenue filed a police report Nov. 13 reporting the theft of a wallet from his car.

The resident said he and his wife went out to their vehicle to go to the

grocery store. When they got outside, they noticed the doors were open and checked if anything was missing. It was apparent later on that his wallet was missing.

### Trespasser reported

Wayne police were called Oct. 16 to the T-Mobile store at 35161 E.

Michigan Ave. on the report of a trespasser at the business.

Officers arrived and recognized the suspect, as he had been trespassing at the store four days earlier. He was arrested and taken to the police station for processing.

### Lug nuts removed from truck

A resident who lives in the 4400 block of Howe filed a police report Nov. 21 to report some damage done to his property.

He said someone had recently loosened the lug nuts on his vehicle and he did not know it had happened. The wheels then fell off the car while he was driving, which caused damage to the axle, rotor and wheel rims.

— By David Veselenak

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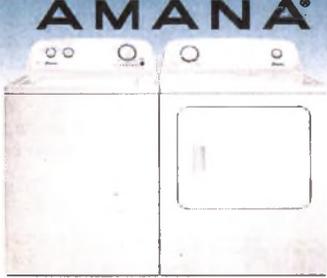
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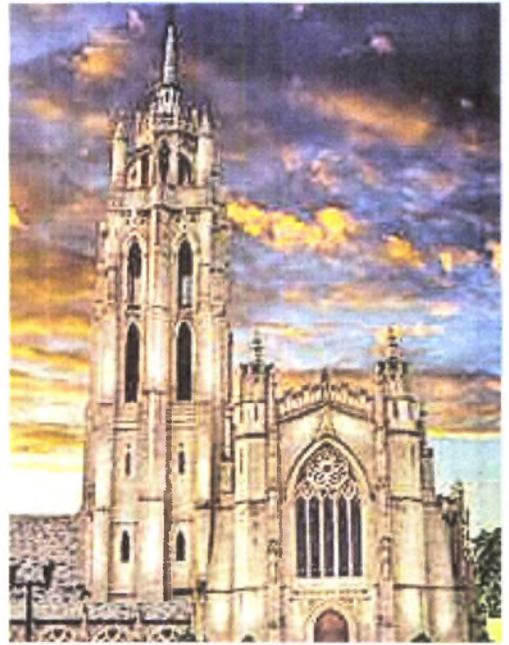
# Three Cities Art Club to host exhibit at Westland City Hall

The Three Cities Art Club will present some of the finest artwork and photography this area has to offer during its sixth annual juried open call for artists exhibition at Westland's Gallery at City Hall. The best of original fine art, including oil, acrylic, watercolor, printmaking, air brush, collage, pencil and photography, were selected for inclusion in the show by well-known photographer, writer and teacher Monte Nagler. He had to narrow the field from 113 pieces submitted by 33 artists to about 60 pieces.

In addition to jurying the works for the exhibition, Nagler also chose the winners for prizes awarded for best of show, first, second and third place, plus three honorable mention prize winners in the two categories – photography and all others. Westland Mayor William Wild once again selected his favorite piece for his personal \$100 Wild about Art Award. These prizes total more than \$1,100. The public is invited to attend the free art and appetizers reception 4:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, when many of the

artists will be available to talk with attendees. Winning artists will receive their awards at 6 p.m. and Nagler will talk about why he judged selections to win prizes. Live music will be provided by Alvorada. The Gallery at City Hall, 36300 Warren, is a beautiful venue for showcasing works of arts. The exhibition continues through the end of January and is open to the public anytime city hall is open. Free guided gallery tours are available for individuals or groups, which can be arranged. Art can be

purchased by calling Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939. Book your next meeting, luncheon or special event to be held either in the Gallery or one of the banquet/conference rooms by contacting parks and recreation at Parks@cityofwestland.com or calling 734-722-7620. The event is sponsored by Michigan Chiropractic Center and D&M Art Studio. To learn more about the exhibition, attending the event or about Three Cities Art Club, go to [www.threecitiesartclub.org](http://www.threecitiesartclub.org).



Dennis Koski's "Kirk in the Hills" won the award for Best of Show in Photography.

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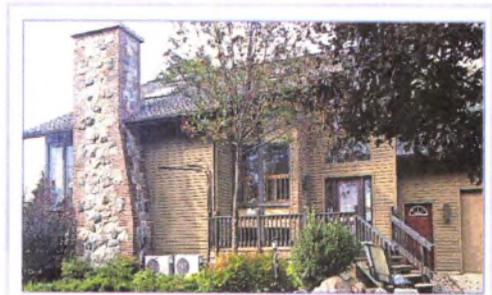
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### LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

#### Car goes through convenience store

Livonia police were called in the afternoon of Dec. 2 to 7-Eleven, 27435 Seven Mile, on the report of a vehicle that drove through the front of the store.

Police say the driver, a 60-year-old Redford woman, was parked facing south toward the building. She told police she thought her car was in the reverse, but was in fact in drive, sending the Chevrolet Sonic through the front of the store. No one was injured and no alcohol is believed to be a factor.

#### Resident scammed through Facebook ad

A 24-year-old Livonia woman came into the

police station Dec. 1 to report she had been scammed out of some money after responding to a Facebook ad the previous month.

She said she opened a link, which was for a "work from home" opportunity, and got connected to someone through a messaging app. That person told her they would assist in paying off some credit card debt of hers. After sharing information, it appeared to the victim that someone had deposited some money into her account, though it appeared it had just been moved. Later, she was contacted by someone else, who told her to purchase some iTunes cards to assist with paying off her debt. She bought \$1,000 worth of cards and transferred over the card numbers.



Later, she noticed it was a scam and could not reach the suspect. She reached out to Apple and filed a police report.

#### Grandmother leads grandchildren on retail fraud

Police were called to Walmart, 29555 Plymouth, on the report of a retail fraud suspect in custody.

A store employee said the suspect was seen via security cameras selecting a microwave and socks and placing them in a cart. She was then seen telling her grandchildren to select a Christmas tree. They

Livonia police say this vehicle drove through the front of the 7-Eleven store at Seven Mile and Inkster roads last week. No one was injured. LIVONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

then took those items and walked out of the store without paying for them. She was stopped and detained until police arrived and issued her a citation before releasing her.

#### GPS stolen from vehicle at mall

Police were called Dec. 2 to Von Maur, 37700 Six Mile, on the report of a larceny from auto that had taken place.

The victim said she went inside Laurel Park Place mall for work that afternoon. A few hours later, a co-worker informed her that her vehicle had been broken into. She went out and found a window on her vehicle had been smashed out. She found her in-dash GPS unit was missing.

— By David Veselenak

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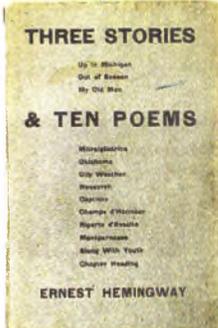
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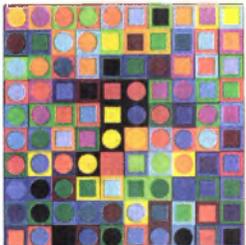
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## More vehicles broken into in Livonia

**David Veselenak**

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia police continue to ask residents to protect their valuables and lock their car doors after yet another string of vehicle break-ins took place across the city this past weekend.

Police say about a half-dozen vehicles were entered by criminals last weekend, mostly in the neighborhood west of the intersection of Seven Mile and Farmington roads. Most were reported Sunday morning and early afternoon.

Vehicles that were broken into in that area were parked at homes in the following blocks:

- » 18900 block of Whitby
- » 18300 block of Whitby
- » 18900 block of Norwich

A resident who lives on Norwich told police she saw that her husband's car had been broken into overnight. She said nothing appeared missing, but it was clear someone had entered the car.

The resident who lives in the 18300 block of Whitby said they left their vehicle in the driveway overnight before going to bed. Her son noticed his bicycle, which had previously been parked next to the car, on the front lawn that morning and mentioned it to his mother.

She went out and found the vehicle had been entered and had several items taken from it, including some phone chargers, some headphones and some loose change.

The resident who lives in the 18900 block of Whitby called police on the report of several vehicles that had been broken into overnight. An iPod, wallet and change was missing from the vehicles. It was later found out that the cards in the wallet had been used at various businesses in cities such as Novi, Dearborn and Detroit.

Someone who had been staying the night at a home across the street saw police at the home and then came over to mention her vehicle had been gone through,

though it appeared nothing was missing.

Also in the city that night was a larceny from auto that took place in the 18300 block of Lathers, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. In that case, a wallet and two cellphones were taken and papers were strewn all over the cabin of the vehicle.

All vehicles entered that weekend were left unlocked and no signs of forced entry were observed on the cars.

These cases are just the most recent cluster of vehicle break-ins in Livonia. Several cars had items stolen from them back on November in the Castle Gardens neighborhood, near Five Mile and Newburgh roads, and another rash of break-ins took place in October in the neighborhoods around West Chicago and Middlebelt roads.

Anyone with information regarding these cases is encouraged to contact Livonia police at 734-466-2470.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com  
734-678-6728  
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

## Magician Aaron Radatz returns to Village Theater

Las Vegas magician and Michigan native Aaron Radatz will be returning to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton for one show only, at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22. Tickets range from \$18 to \$24 and can be purchased online at [www.cantonvillagetheater.org](http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org) or by calling 734-394-5300.

Radatz, who was just recently featured on the global TV sensation "Masters of Illusion," will be presenting his show of magic and comedy. "This

is one of the shows I am always excited about all year as I get to return to my home state and entertain during this magical season," Radatz said.

A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Humane Society of Michigan. In addition, Radatz's new children's book, "The Adventures of Dingo the Dog," will also benefit the Humane Society with a portion of each book sale.

Radatz was born and raised in Detroit and

began his magic career at age 6. He continued honing his craft while attending Catholic Central High School and Central Michigan University, where he recently received the Outstanding Alumni Award.

Radatz is no stranger to the Detroit area, with performances over the years for General Motors, Chrysler, Soaring Eagle Casino, Andiamo's, Jeff Daniels, the Detroit Tigers and several others.



The Detroit Circus features performers who specialize in high-flying aerial antics. THE DETROIT CIRCUS

## Canton's Village Theater to host circus New Year's Eve

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will welcome The Detroit Circus for a special New Year's Eve performance at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31.

Spectators will be amazed by this locally-based, animal-free circus that features performers who specialize in high-flying aerial antics on fabric, trapeze and lyra. Additional acts will include contortion, juggling, feats of mind-bending strength and acrobatics. Past New Year's Eve performances

of The Detroit Circus have sold out at The Village Theater each year since 2015.

The Detroit Circus is entirely composed of Detroit-area performers who were discovered by founder Micah Adams. During their performance, skilled aerialists will dance, weave and flow through the air, while aerial hoop performers display flexibility as they contort and spin with grace, poise and astonishing strength. The Detroit Circus is

suitable for all ages.

Tickets are \$22 and can be purchased at [www.cantonvillagetheater.org](http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org), in person at the box office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday by phone at 734-394-5300. Tickets can be printed at home or held in will call at no extra charge. If available, they can also be purchased one hour prior to program time.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton.

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**HOLIDAY**  
RETIREMENT

# Progress made on Village Arts Factory

Former Ford building is being transformed

**Brad Kadrich**  
HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

From the outside, it doesn't look like a lot is happening with the Village Arts Factory project being built in Canton's Cherry Hill Village.

Sure, one building has been razed and the roof on another has been replaced. But most of the rest of the work has been on the inside — or in non-tangible area such as grant-writing — as the Canton Partnership for the Arts tries to create a monument to the arts and to veterans in the southwest corner of Canton Township.

So Jill Engel, the partnership's director, can understand why folks who pass by think there isn't much progress being made.

But she also knows they're wrong.

And she recently made a presentation to the Canton Township board, so that trustees — whose support the Partnership will need — know it, too.

"I wanted (trustees) to know all the Partnership did for Canton and not just Canton, but Plymouth-Canton," Engel said. "I think they were just stunned to see everything we've done and the things we're still doing."

The Village Arts Factory is being refurbished out of the old Ford property on 14 acres at Ridge and Cherry Hill roads. One building has been razed and the Partnership is currently rehabilitating the other three: an

old World War II dormitory, a factory and a warehouse.

The project is being built on property originally built by Henry Ford to house and help veterans. The Partnership bought it for some \$22,500 in 2012 and has since razed one of the four buildings that were part of the original layout.

Other things are happening. Work on the veterans dormitory continues, with an elevator and utilities installed. Dry wall has been hung, rooms have been repainted and are only waiting now for flooring.

Perhaps most importantly, the dormitory has its first tenant. The Ann Arbor-based Eisenhower Center, which specializes in traumatic brain injury care and rehabilitation, will house programs in the dormitory.

The programs, according to Eisenhower Vice President Devin Hutchings, will focus on rehab and therapy for female veterans. Veterans to be helped include those who are part of the center's After the Impact program, which helps athletes who've suffered concussions and veterans suffering PTSD.

Hutchings said the Village Arts Factory is the perfect location for such programs.

"Most of the focus goes on male veterans and not so much for the females. ... Women lead the way in concussions," Hutchings said. "This history of the site ties in to what we're doing. Ford had the insight to make it a place to give back to veterans. It's perfect for us to do the same thing. It gets (veterans) back



Crews work on the roof of the arts factory on the old Ford property in Cherry Hill Village. CANTON PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ARTS



Volunteers painted the rooms in the dormitory, which will be used for programs by the Eisenhower Center of Ann Arbor. CANTON PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ARTS

into the communities and gives them some of the therapies they need."

It looks like dormitory participants will have a parking lot for their cars. The partnership recently secured a \$90,000 grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Culture Affairs.

"I literally started

crying when I read how much we were getting," Engel said.

Engel said the Ford factory renovations have begun, with structural, mechanical and electri-

cal engineering. The mansard roof was removed and elevator and utility work either has been done or is near being started.

Like with the dormitory, the focus is beginning to shift on finding a tenant for the factory. The Partnership is looking at potential education tenants, who could bring skilled trades programs to the factory.

Schoolcraft College took a brief look, but backed away. Engel said the partnership is now "full-force looking at others."

"These type of vocational programs are needed in our state," Engel said. "They would align more with the original use that Henry Ford started in 1944."

Once a factory tenant is found, the partnership will focus on getting tenants for the warehouse building along Cherry Hill. With housing construction beginning to boom in Cherry Hill Village, the partnership will focus on a food/beverage tenant.

"We're looking at a brew pub or a micro-brewery because that's what people out here want," Engel said. "We want to make it a destination location."

There's a lot of support for what the Partnership is doing. Grants have come from CDBG money (\$75,000), the Ford Fund (\$107,000) and from the state (\$45,000). Businesses have donated, too, the largest to date coming from Pulte (\$50,000) and Reliable

Carriers and Pinnacle (\$35,000 each).

It's the kind of support the project needs, because it'll be good for Canton, according to former Supervisor Tom Yack, who is on the partnership's board.

"Cherry Hill Village would benefit from the completed project, because it would bring greater vitality to the village," Yack said. "People would come to the arts factory not only to take classes and be engaged in studios, but the idea is it would become a destination for tourists."

"The vitality of Cherry Hill Village would be enhanced by people coming to the village, not just during the day, but people from outside the village coming as a destination," Yack added.

Yack said the project will be a win-win. Veterans and others will have a place to explore the arts and Canton gets rid of what he called a "derelict building."

"It's in the top two or three, maybe No. 1, of our buildings that do nothing to enhance the community," Yack said. "What really needs to happen is that it all needs to be rehabbed and it'll take between \$1.5 million and \$2 million to get that accomplished."

"(But) it'll give us a place where people in Canton and outside Canton can experience the arts in a way they may not have been able to do before."

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## DIFFERENCES START CONVERSATIONS

With equality for all a goal, Chris Lassiter gets people talking

**PATRICK HITE**  
STAUNTON NEWS LEADER  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about Americans doing exceptional things, visit [onenation.usatoday.com](http://onenation.usatoday.com).

STAUNTON, Va. — It's a solemn Chris Lassiter, not flashing the smile that the 41-year-old is so well-known for around his hometown of Staunton, Virginia.

He's sitting on the front steps of his house situated in a historic African-American neighborhood of this small city in the Shenandoah Valley. It's two days after the violence of Charlottesville, and although Staunton is 45 miles and a mountain range away, the Unite the Right rally, the clash of supremacists and protesters and the one violent death, have taken their toll here, too.

Lassiter looks into the camera and tells those watching him on Facebook Live that he understands it can be emotionally draining. He tells them that he feels a bit distraught over everything that happened. It's still difficult, 48 hours after the events, to comprehend what happened.

But then, in typical Lassiter form, he also tells the viewers that he wants to do whatever he can to be part of the solution. And so he invites those watching to join him the following Saturday morning for an hour of prayer.

And then he extends another offer. "Right after that, just a couple of friends and I are getting together to talk," he says. "The friends who have said, 'Hey, I'll come' are a diverse group, so it will be different cultures, different takes on theology, all of that stuff. We're just going to get together and talk and help each other work through it."

Anyone who wants to join the group is welcome.

How much can talking help? Lassiter believes a lot.

One of Lassiter's favorite sayings is "Proximity breeds compassion." He has

**CHRIS LASSITER**

Age: 41

Location: Staunton, Virginia

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Chris Lassiter believes organizing community discussions can help start a healing process. MIKE TRIPP/STAUNTON NEWS LEADER

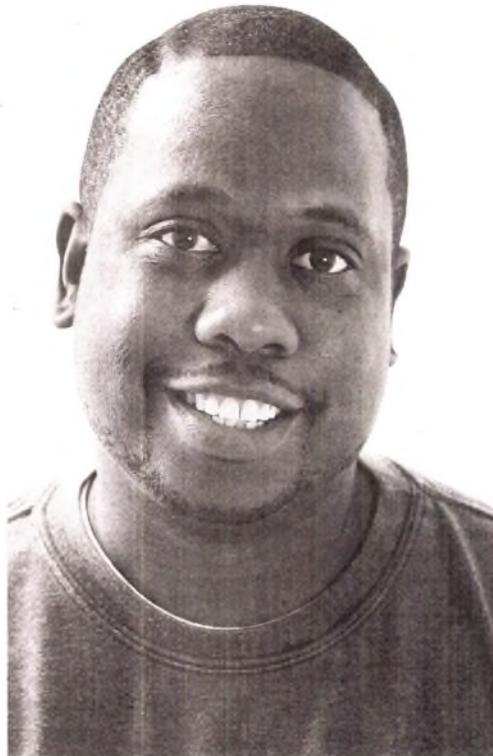
seen far too many arguments over social media, arguments that resolve nothing and ratchet anger, leaving everyone more entrenched.

But, he believes, having face-to-face talks with those who disagree with you can actually start the healing. "A huge part of being human and showing you that I value you is taking the time to listen," he said. "And not just listen to form a response, but just listen because you're important enough to listen to."

He knows the black experience in the United States has been a painful one.

He admits that can be infuriating. At the same time, he wants to stay focused on the end goal of equality for everyone.

"It's all justice for all people at all times, and doing that graciously," Lassiter said. "And at the end I think that helps you fight for reconciliation rather than



## Q&amp;A WITH CHRIS LASSITER

**What does it mean to be an American?**

I think the first thing I think about as an American is privileged. I've been to parts of the world that don't have running water. Not only do I have running water, I control the temperature of the water. I love the melting pot aspect of America, and my neighborhood is a prime example. As an African-American, I'm well aware of the many painful chapters in America's history, too. We appreciate what we have in America, and my friends and I work where we see areas that need justice and reconciliation.

**What moment motivated you to become part of this effort?**

In 2005, I got to meet the legendary John Perkins of the Christian Community Development Association in Los Angeles. His strategy of living in the neighborhood where you want to make a difference shaped the trajectory for my wife, Emily, and me. I've met so many people I'd consider true heroes at Urban Youth Workers Institute and the Legacy Conference in Chicago who have inspired me. Outside of that, I've always just wanted to be part of the solution, and I know I got that from both my parents.

**What gives you hope?**

The apostle Paul tells the church in Colossae that the meta-narrative of the Bible concludes with the creator reconciling all things. Right now our world is both beautiful and broken. The promise is that one day it will only be beautiful, and so we work toward healing the brokenness and restoring the beauty in our own small way here.

**What concerns you?**

It's hard not to look at the most recent school shooting or similar events in the world and not feel a great deal of concern for the world we are passing on to my five kids.

**What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?**

I guess I hope to accomplish two things. The first is to create an environment where people can again be friends with people with opposing views, or at the very least agree to disagree as we work together to see our society flourish.

just your own people group."

After Charlottesville, he held a community discussion on both a Saturday and Sunday morning, a week after the violence. One of the discussions was at a coffee shop and the other at a fast-food restaurant. Combined, the two sessions drew more than 30 people.

"We had more people and we probably also had a more diverse group than we've had."

He has been a teacher in the high school from which he graduated. He has been a Young Life leader, he has led Bible study for incarcerated youths, he has been a campus minister. He's been a newspaper reporter. Lassiter is constantly trying to find ways to serve the community he loves.

"One of the things I wanted to do," he said, "was put the personhood back in people as we have those conversations."

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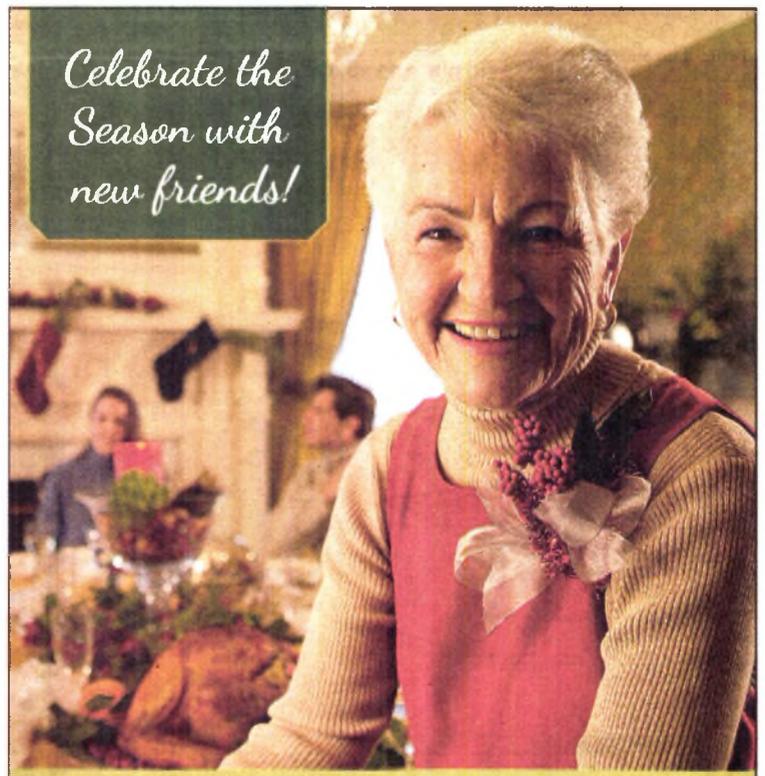
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AREA EVENTS

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

**Citizens for Peace potluck**

The Citizens for Peace annual veggie potluck highlights its holiday meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road. Everyone can bring their favorite vegetarian dish to share. Donations are appreciated. There will be a silent auction and a raffle of a variety of baskets to add to the festivities. All are welcome to bid on items.

For more information, call 734-425-0079 or go to www.citizens4peace.com.

**3D Photography Club**

The 3D Photography Club will hold its next meeting 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

All are invited to come and see the award-winning 3D images. The meetings are free to attend and visitors are always welcome. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent.

The meeting will begin with the annual holiday potluck dinner, with live musical performances from some members. There will also be an exhibition of stereoview cards made by members and many 3D items on display and for sale.

For more information, go to www.Detroit3D.org or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

**Inspire Theatre produces 'Ultimate Christmas Program'**

Inspire Theatre rings in the holidays with "The Ultimate Christmas Program." The show runs through Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday.

The Westland Center for the Arts is located at 33455 Warren Road. Tickets are \$16 for all seats and are available at https://inspiretheatre.ticketleap.com. More information is available at http://inspiretheatre.com or by calling 734-751-7057.

The Westland Community Foundation is also hosting its annual Christmas reception at Inspire Theatre. The reception will be 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, prior to that night's performance. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be prepared by students from the Culinary Arts Department of William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

Cost for the reception and play is \$35 per person, plus two unwrapped new toys as a donation for the children of the Westland Salvation Army. For the reception only, cost is \$20 per person, plus two unwrapped gifts.

Limited seating is available for the play, call Lynette Hobyak at 734-595-7727. Cash, check and credit cards are accepted.

**Livonia Towne Club meetings**

Livonia Towne Club, a nonprofit women's organization that brings together women for social interaction, meets the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May (except in November and December, when it's the second Thursday).

The program for Thursday, Dec. 14, features harpist Charles Walker. Call Vicki at 734-591-3254 for more information.

The club meets for lunch and a program at different restaurants in Livonia and surrounding areas. The program could



Inspire Theatre rings in the holidays with "The Ultimate Christmas Program." The show runs through Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday.

be an informative speaker, bingo, fashion show, music entertainment and more, plus an occasional local day trip.

**Timothy Lutheran cookie walk**

Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Road, in Livonia will host a cookie walk Saturday, Dec. 16. Pre-sale starts at 9:30 a.m. (\$2 admission) and the regular sale starts at 10 a.m. Cookies are \$7.50 per pound and other baked goods are individually priced.

**Livonia Civic Chorus concert**

The Livonia Civic Chorus will sing both secular and sacred music of the holidays during its

SING We Now of CHRISTMAS choral concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, in the Clarenceville High School Schmidt Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia.

As the first of two concerts of their 53rd season, members will present secular music during the first half, while the second half is devoted to sacred music. Students from Emerson and Frost Middle School, under the direction of Lori Porter, will sing "The Sleigh Ride" and join the chorus several times during the program.

Tickets are available from chorus members, at the Livonia Recreation Center or at the door. The pre-sale ticket prices are

\$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. At the door ticket prices are \$15 for all. For more information, call 734-542-9071 or email info@livoniacivicchorus.org. For more information on the chorus, go to http://www.livoniacivicchorus.org.

**Polar Express Party**

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne, 3 Town Square, is inviting families to the Polar Express Party. It will be held 12:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, and will feature crafts, refreshments and the movie. Parents must stay with their children.

All ages are welcome. Suggested donation: a

non-food item such as laundry soap, toilet paper, etc. to help our neighbors in need. You must reserve your family's tickets by Dec. 15. Call the church at 734-721-4801 or email the staff at fumcww@yahoo.com. Provide your name, how many are attending and phone number.

**Wayne Memorial parents night**

Wayne Memorial High School will be hosting an eighth-grade parents night at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018, at the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium, 3001 Fourth Street.

This evening is for current eighth-grade

students and their families or families interested in getting more information about Wayne Memorial High School for the 2018-19 school year. Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to participate in this event.

Topics covered will include scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extracurricular activities and much more. All are welcome to attend and questions are encouraged.

Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. For questions, contact the Wayne Memorial counseling department at 734-419-2215.

**Livonia Neighbors and Friends**

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

For more information, go to http://livonianeighborsandfriends.tripod.com.

Obituaries

TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Chruscial, Edward Harold	72	Canton	02-Dec	David C. Brown Funeral Home
*Gatto, Gregory	86	Dearborn Heights	03-Dec	John N. Santeiu & Son, Inc.
*Weisbrod, Elizabeth Jean	93	Trenton, MI	24-Nov	Bliley's Funeral Home

\* Additional information in display obituaries

Obituaries appear in print and online at www.legacy.com/obituaries/HometownLife

May you find comfort in family and friends

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php



Gregory Gatto

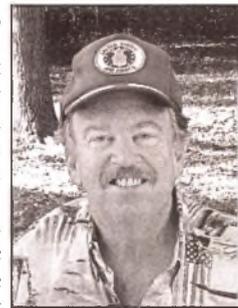
DEARBORN HEIGHTS - Age 86, December 3, 2017. Beloved husband of the late Mary. Dear father of Anthony, Patty and Michael (Kris). Grandfather of Brendan, Marisa, Olivia and Ava. Gregory was the owner of Roman Forum Restaurant in Canton. Funeral services were held. Family suggests memorials to Michigan Diabetes or Angela Hospice. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

**Kathleen Leahy**

ROCHESTER HILLS - Kathleen (Hendrickson) Leahy, 82, Rochester Hills. Our beloved mother & friend passed away on November 30, 2017. After a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease, Kathy passed away surrounded by love with family by her side. Memorial donations may be made in Kathy's name to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

**Edward Harold Chruscial**

CANTON - Age 72, long-time Canton resident, died Saturday at the VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor, after a courageous battle with Leukemia. He was born July 1, 1945 in Steubenville, OH, son of Edward & Charlene Chrusciel. He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam. He was a commercial airline pilot for numerous years before he retired. He loved air planes, flying, air shows, bowling, road trips-camping and canoeing. He was also a musician. He played his accordion on the Ed Sullivan show when he was twelve years old. Ed was a member of New Hope Church. Survived by five children: Rene Foggo of Coral Springs, FL, Tony (Lesley) Clark of Hastings, MI, Melinda (Phillip) Chruscial-Clemons of Ypsilanti, Heather (James) Janisse of Northville and Candice Chruscial of Belleville, 9 grandchildren and one great-grandchild on-the-way. Preceded in death by his wife Gloria, also daughter Torey Clark. Visitation 2-8 PM Friday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville (734-697-4500) with a 6 PM Time for Sharing. Funeral 11 AM Saturday, December 9, 2017 at New Hope Church, Canton. Interment Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton. www.davidcbrownfh.com



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**Elizabeth Jean Weisbrod**

TRENTON, MI - Elizabeth Jean "Betty" Weisbrod, 93, departed this life peacefully on Friday, November 24, 2017, at home, surrounded by family and her caregiver. Known to all as simply "Mom," she was preceded in death by her husband, John Arthur Weisbrod; and her three brothers, Karl, James and Robert Schwartz. Born in Fenton, Iowa, Betty graduated from Fenton High School in 1941. She received her degree as a Registered Nurse from the School of Nursing at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines in 1945. While serving at a veteran's hospital in New York City that year, she was reunited with a decorated WWII Navy lieutenant from her Iowa hometown. Following his recovery from injuries sustained during the initial assault to retake Iwo Jima, the couple married in 1946. Betty and John moved to Trenton, Michigan, where he was employed as a product designer for Ford Motor Company until his untimely death in 1962. While in Trenton, Betty worked as a private practice nurse. However, her first love was music. She taught piano lessons, served as church organist at Faith Methodist Church and frequently played for musical productions for the Wyandotte Community Theater. She continued to play the piano until a few months before her death. Betty moved to Richmond in 1980 to live with her daughter with whom she stayed for the last 37 years. She is survived by her son, Mark C. Weisbrod (Susan) of Canton, Michigan; her daughter, Mary Louise Linhart (Ted) of Richmond, Virginia; her granddaughter, Samantha Weisbrod; as well as two step-granddaughters and three step-great grandsons. Abiding by her wishes, there will be no visitation. Burial will be private. Betty's abiding passion was for Barksdale Theatre and all animals, large and small. Accordingly, in lieu of flowers, please consider the Muriel McAuley Fund of Virginia Repertory Theatre or the Richmond SPCA. Online condolences may be made at www.blileys.com.



# Don't add insult to injury on stock losses



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

**Q:** I have a tax question that I hope you can help me with. This year, I have taken some significant losses on my stock portfolio. A few years ago, I invested a substantial amount of money in a new start-up company. I knew it was somewhat of a gamble, but I was convinced that the stock would take off. Earlier this year, the company went into bankruptcy and went out of business. As a result, I have about

**\$100,000 in losses. My tax guy said because I don't have any gains, I can only use a very small portion of the loss. I went to see another tax person and they recommended I withdraw \$100,000 from my IRA and use the distribution to offset the taxes. He said it was aggressive, but he thought there was a good chance the IRS would let it slide by. My question to you is, do you think I should do it and, if not, do you have any other suggestions?**

**A:** I don't think offsetting your stock losses with an IRA distribution is too aggressive — I think it is just

unquestionably wrong. The laws and regulations are very clear on this point: Other than a nominal \$3,000 a year, you cannot offset capital losses that are a result of the sale of stock with ordinary income, which an IRA distribution is. The losses you cannot currently use can be carried forward into the future. For example, if the capital losses were \$100,000 and you offset \$3,000 in the current year, you can carry over \$97,000 in losses to future years.

When the tax person told you it was aggressive to offset capital losses with an IRA distribution, it's sort of like

saying that Hurricane Harvey caused some water damage in Houston. The hope that the IRS will let it slide by is not a good way to handle your taxes. If the IRS does not let it slide by and catches you, as I am sure it will, in addition to the taxes you would owe, you would also be liable for interest and penalties.

It is important to remember that you sign your tax return and ultimately are responsible for its accuracy. You have to be careful whom you take tax advice from and whom you let complete your return. Just because someone knows how to complete a return does

not mean they're qualified to give tax advice; just because someone knows tax laws does not make them qualified to prepare returns. Completing a tax return is totally different than giving advice on taxes. When it comes to taxes, you need to make sure you are dealing with a professional and someone who is dedicated to staying current on our tax laws.

It is not more patriotic to pay more in taxes than you have to. Our tax laws are constructed so that taxpayers pay the least amount of taxes legally possible. When there are gray areas in our tax law, there's nothing wrong

with using them to your advantage. However, you should always make sure there's some basis in the law for your interpretation. If not, the IRS will eventually catch up with you and not only will it assess you with taxes, interest and penalties, but you'll also have your fair share of grief. The bottom line: yes, it's OK to be aggressive when it comes to your taxes, just don't be stupid.  
Good luck!

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like him to respond to questions, email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*

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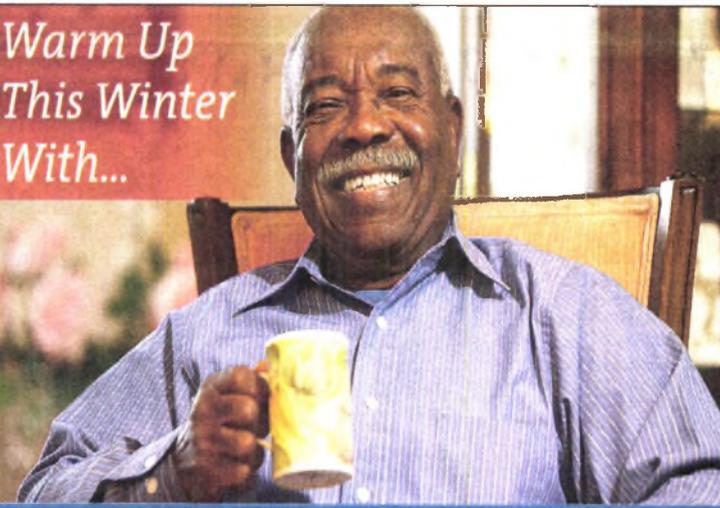


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# Athlete learning to walk again as disease strikes

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Makenzie Carpenter wanted to play basketball and volleyball in her sophomore year at Canton High School.

Instead, she is learning to walk again.

Makenzie, 15, was sitting on her bed and doing her homework when her legs suddenly went numb Nov. 9.

"I was just really scared, honestly," she said. "I didn't know what was going on."

It's the latest of many hurdles she has faced since she was diagnosed in October with dysautonomia, a disorder of the autonomic nervous system.

She feels faint when her blood pressure drops

low. She is fatigued. She has what her mother, Lori Carpenter, calls "mental fog." She was diagnosed with a heart murmur. She has fluctuating body temperatures. She can't properly digest food.

"We're in week 10 of vomiting 30-40 times a day," her mother said.

Lori Carpenter and her husband Doug are facing mounting medical bills that prompted friends to set up a GoFundMe account to help Makenzie and her family.

Makenzie has undergone numerous medical tests, spent five days in a hospital and has made the rounds in metro Detroit to see a neurologist, a cardiologist, a gastroenterologist and a physical therapist. What she really needs, her

mother said, is a dysautonomia clinic, where everything can be handled in one place by doctors who better understand the disease and work as a team to fight it.

The University of Toledo Medical Center has such a clinic, she said, but the family's insurance company has refused, thus far, to pay for Makenzie to go there.

"That's where we would love to have her go," Carpenter said, "but the insurance company is not wanting to help us out."

She said she hasn't received a satisfactory answer for the denial. She didn't want to name the insurance company, because she still is trying to resolve the problem so Makenzie can be covered in Toledo.

She just wants her



Makenzie Carpenter is learning to walk again after being diagnosed with dysautonomia.

Makenzie, who has a younger sister Chelsi, 13, has always been an active child. She has played soccer since she was age 4 and has been involved with the Canton Soccer Club. This year, she joined the Canton Celtic team that made it to the state finals, but she had to miss some games.

Makenzie — known as "Kenzie" or "Zie" — has kept a good attitude despite her illness.

"I'm really working hard to keep doing good in physical therapy so I can get back on the field," she said, adding that she gets strong support from family and friends. "It keeps me going and keeps me positive. It's really important."

Makenzie is learning

to walk again using a walker for short distances, but she uses a wheelchair for longer distances. She can't attend school, but friends bring math packets to her and she can participate in some classes online.

Carpenter has missed a lot of work at a fitness center where she is employed. Her husband, who works in job recruitment, also has missed some work. Friends who set up the GoFundMe account began with a \$5,000 goal, but the family's medical expenses could be much higher.

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

daughter to have the best chance possible to overcome a disease that has changed her life. She said some people do grow out of it.

## Homes for sale broken into, appliances taken

**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia police continue to investigate a pair of home break-ins this past week at residences that are up for sale.

The homes both had lock boxes with keys in them and both appeared to be missing.

The first home, located in the 12000 block of Cavell, had police called to it after noon Monday. The owner there said the home was for sale and left for several hours overnight. When he returned, he found the lock box containing the key missing.

When he went inside, he found the floor cov-

ered in water, as it was flowing from where the washer and dryer had previously been located. Both had been moved to the front of home near the front door.

Missing from the home was the hot water tank.

The second home broken into, located in the 27600 block of Lyndon, was called into police Monday afternoon. The resident told police she left the home for the weekend and returned home to find a door to the home off its hinges.

She went inside and noticed several items were missing, including the stove, refrigerator, microwave, coffee maker, television, furnace and water heater.

She said the home was for sale and had some showings over the weekend while she was gone. The lock box with the key to the home was missing and she believed it was used to access the house, as there was no signs of forced entry.

A neighbor told police they saw a white work van parked in the driveway some time over the weekend, but they could not remember which day it was there.

Anyone with information regarding either burglary is encouraged to contact Livonia police at 734-466-2470.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com  
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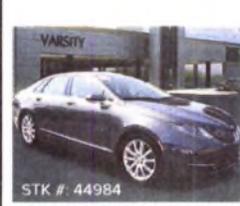
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PREP WRESTLING

# Franklin enters post-Atienza era

John Glenn Rockets on title quest; Salem also primed for season; Stevenson in rebuilding phase

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Will Livonia Franklin's varsity wrestling team be a victim of the football team's success?

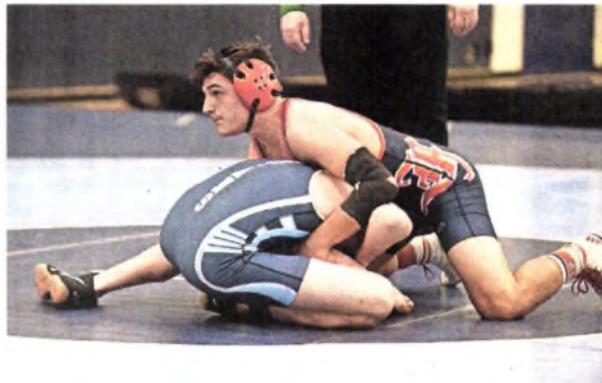
With several key wrestlers literally late to the mat due to football — the Patriots' Johnny DiPonio, Marino DiPonio and others helped their team reach the Division 2 football championship

game Nov. 24 — longtime wrestling coach David Chiola had to wait a while to get his full squad together for pre-season workouts.

"I think this season will start out slowly," Chiola wrote in an email to the Observer. "Our football team made it to the state finals and quite a few of our wrestlers are on the team, so we got a bit of a late start."

Chiola's worries might turn out to be short-lived. On Wednesday, Franklin won the Livonia City Wrestling Meet for the third consecutive year.

Individual champions were Russ Rusnell, Howie Whitaker, Jacob John-



Johnny DiPonio (top) gains an advantage against Livonia Stevenson's Max Davidek during a 2016-17 match-up. DiPonio is among a handful of Franklin football players now switching over to wrestling season. TOM BEAUDOIN

See WRESTLING, Page B2

COLLEGE RECRUITING



Senior Carter Stagner, who was Seaholm's second-leading tackler in 2017, will play D-I football next year at Eastern Michigan. MARTY BUDNER

## Seaholm's Stagner commits to Eastern Michigan football

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Carter Stagner committed to play football at Eastern Michigan University last summer. The Seaholm senior's visit to the Ypsilanti campus the first weekend of December only confirmed his belief Eastern is the place he wants to continue his gridiron career.

Stagner, who had also considered

Ball State, said he will sign his official letter of intent to play for the Eagles later this month.

"After I committed to Eastern Michigan, I decided that's the only school I wanted to take an official visit to," Stagner said Tuesday after a ceremony inside Seaholm's media center, which recognized nine Maples who are headed off to college to play their respective sport. "I just got back from my official visit this past weekend and,

after going out there, it only reassured me that that's where I wanted to go.

"The coaching staff there is incredible. They are all very nice people and they can relate with the players. I didn't know a whole lot about Eastern. It was sort of one of the schools that was out there for me, possibly, but I didn't look too much into them until one of the coaches actually came and

See STAGNER, Page B2

BOYS BASKETBALL

## Canton outmuscles No. 2-ranked Belleville

Big games by Meredith, Noah Brown spark Chiefs to season-opening win over fast, physical Tigers

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

About a month earlier, Belleville's No. 1-rated Division 1 football team was knocked out of the postseason by the Canton Chiefs in a heart-stopping district championship game.

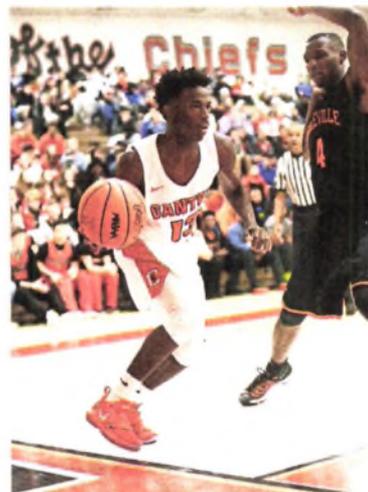
On Tuesday, players from both of those teams became reacquainted on the basketball court in the 2017-18 season opener.

In a contest with plenty of energy, emotion and full-speed action, the Chiefs came away on top again at Bob Blohm Court, 65-61.

One of several Canton football-basketball players to make an impact was senior forward Chase Meredith, who tallied 18 points and 10 rebounds and was a physical menace as far as the Tigers were concerned.

"I would definitely say there was a little (carry-over) fire," Meredith said. "Belleville basketball team is very good, so we had to come out and play a good game."

See CANTON, Page B3



Driving the baseline is Canton's Vinson Sigmon (left) against Belleville's Davion Williams. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



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## BOYS HOCKEY

## Franklin's past meets present on special night

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Nostalgia permeated the air Dec. 1 at Livonia's Devonaire Ice Arena.

But an alumni night for Livonia Franklin's varsity boys hockey program could be launching something special for the future.

One of the Patriots' first captains, Dan Longeway (1974 graduate) and longtime head coach Terry Jobbitt participated in pregame ceremonies, which were emceed by current coach Dan Phelps.

"I played defense, I wasn't fast enough to play anything else," Longeway said with a laugh following the festivities. "We had a league of our own in Livonia, it was Franklin, Churchill, Stevenson, Bentley. ... The games were played at what was called Ford Field, which is now Eddie Edgar.

"It was indoor. Our first year, they didn't have glass, so it was still

fencing ... we practiced here at Devonaire. It's much nicer now."

When Longeway played (1972-74), the head coach was Paul Ferguson. The original team, in 1970-71, was coached by Ron Hellier and Bob Golata was the captain.

During the 1980s, Jobbitt took over the team and coached it for 25 seasons.

"Dan Phelps is an excellent coach, putting on a program like this, getting all the alumni involved," Jobbitt said. "I think it's a fabulous idea. ... Hopefully, we'll bond (and) get Dan more of an alumni association. That's what he wants to do."

## Center stage

Longeway and Jobbitt both dropped a puck at center ice, with players from the current Franklin (co-captain Jonah Pollack) and Dearborn Unified teams (Andrew White) sharing the moment.

Franklin then made it a truly special evening



Livonia Franklin's original captain, Dan Longeway, waves to the crowd before he and longtime Patriots coach Terry Jobbitt both drop a ceremonial first puck Dec. 1 at Devonaire Ice Arena. Flanking them are current Franklin co-captain Jonah Pollack (left) and Dearborn Unified captain Andrew White.

TOM JUDGE

with a 5-1 win. Scoring two goals each were Trey Ziebol (four-point night) and Jacob Cox (three-point night), with the fifth goal scored by Ric Anderson.

The winning goal was co-captain Will Augustine as the Patriots improved to 4-1-1 on the young season.

A number of friendly

faces from Franklin's past packed Devonaire (admission was free, but they were asked to fill out questionnaires to gauge interest in ongoing alumni events and activities).

Longeway shook hands with one of his Franklin teammates, Harold Vella. They posed for a selfie and briefly

kibitzed about decades gone by.

"I've been waiting for this for a long time," Longeway said. "Just to see Franklin hockey come back, to see the school come back and just to be part of it."

"Hopefully, the program takes off. It's exciting for us, just trying to give back a little bit."

According to Phelps, in his second season as head coach, Devonaire was chosen for the alumni night instead of Eddie Edgar because "it's close to the campus and it used to be a quasi-home for Franklin. ... It brings a nostalgic twist of the neighborhood and the community right around Franklin."

## Tradition matters

Phelps said he is hopeful that the event will bring old friends together and spark a connection with the current program. But it is important for today's players to honor the past.

"The current team, we're trying to instill in them a culture we're

trying to develop," Phelps said. "Part of that is, we have a poster at Eddie Edgar, 'From Our Past We Forge Our Future.'

"We want these guys to honor and understand that, because 20 years goes by fast. Someday, these guys we hope a tradition can be carried on and they'll be part of it."

Phelps added that he wants to get something started that has staying power.

"You think about the great schools, the Notre Dames, the Harvards, all the great collegiate schools," Phelps said. "Even great preps like Catholic Central and Divine Child and Orchard Lake St. Mary's, their alumnus are a big part of their programs."

"We're trying to do that here with Franklin. It's in a very embryonic state."

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## WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

son, Nick Zajdel, Ethan Cooper, Jake Swirple and the Diponio brothers (Johnny, senior, 130 pounds; Marino, junior, 145; Rocco, freshman 125).

And Marino DiPonio was the meet's "most valuable" wrestler.

"I really didn't know what to expect today," Chiola said about the city meet. "Many of our guys were wrestling up one and even two weights of where they will eventually be, but they were able to pull it off."

"Our conditioning and technique isn't where I want it to be, but it's further along than I thought considering the late start the football players got. This was nice, because we were able to do it with only two seniors in the lineup."

Johnny DiPonio is one of the seniors, along with Whitaker (119) and 215-pound Emmanuel Wilie.

It might take a while for the lineup to jell, but the Patriots should again be competitive in the KLAA. They are now in the KLAA Black Division instead of the former South.

Of course, the team has a huge void left by the graduation of two-time state champion Nathan Atienza (now wrestling at Michigan State). The squad (district champion last year

after posting a 21-10 record) also lost Devin Visnaw to graduation.

"I like that we have a really good mix of experienced kids and new kids in the lineup," Chiola said. "It's a pretty good freshman class, but we have some veteran kids that have to step up this year. I think once we get everyone down to weight, we'll have a pretty solid team."

"We'll definitely have some holes, but I like how they've been working. We have some team and individual goals we have set; hopefully, we stay healthy and keep improving."

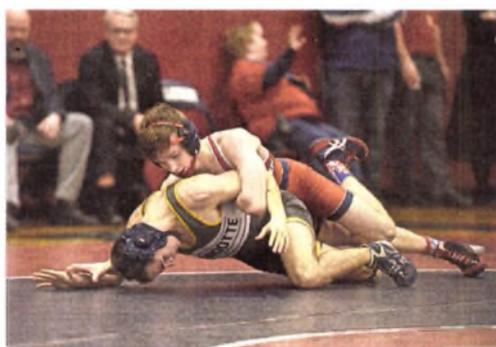
In addition to Whitaker, Willie, Johnny DiPonio and Marino DiPonio, the 2017-18 lineup will include returnees such as juniors Johnson (140), Rusnell (112), sophomore Swirple (heavyweight).

Promising newcomers are freshmen Rocco DiPonio, Jager Kwiatkowski (103) and Nick Jaynes (130).

## Mars to spark Rockets

Westland John Glenn head coach Bill Polk, entering his 20th season, once again is overseeing a loaded lineup — and he didn't lose an elite all-stater to graduation the way Chiola did when Atienza left the Franklin fold.

Senior Mikey Mars, who was an individual state champion in 2016 but lost in the 2017 finals at 119, is back and mov-



Part of an impressive 2017-18 roster is Westland John Glenn senior Mikey Mars, shown during a match from last season.

FILE PHOTO

ing on up to the 130-pound weight class.

Other all-state returnees include seniors Isaac Lefler (135) and Anthony Gibson (145) and junior Kyle Borthwell (125) and Polk estimates they could be part off a large group — perhaps as many as 12 — who will find their way to the podium at the 2018 finals.

With the abundance of talent, John Glenn could have a season matching or surpassing 2016-17 (29-7 overall, including KLAA South Division, conference, association, district and regional championships).

The Rockets remain in a tough division (KLAA Black in the new-look association) with Livonia Franklin and Salem, among others.

Given that run of success and with Mars still around, the Rockets will now look to scale the last hurdle and win it all.

"We are looking to

take the next step as a program toward a state title," Polk said. "We had a great year last year, qualifying for the team finals and taking eight individuals and placing six."

"Several of those wrestlers are back this season and will lead the way for more accolades. We are loaded with hard-working talent and look forward to seeing who will be the next group of all-state wrestlers."

A newcomer to watch out for is freshman Ty Cowan as the Rockets map out long-term success.

## Salem is 'Rock' solid

Despite the graduation of state qualifiers Bruce Haslitt, Akash Rai and Taj Traylor, fourth-year Salem head coach Jeremy Henderson (entering his ninth season with the program) is optimistic that 2017-18 will be a successful year.



Stagner

DeWald

won the school's Nick Deanne Memorial Leadership Award this past season.

Defensively, Stagner led Seaholm last season in tackles for loss (nine) and sacks (four). The 17-year-old Birmingham resident registered 55 total tackles, second on the team. He was in on 12 tackles in a game against Rochester and totaled nine tackles against OAA White champion and Division 3 state finalist Farmington Harrison.

"Carter's non-stop motor on the field this year was inspiring to his teammates," DeWald said. "One play during the Bloomfield Hills game, he came close to

sacking the quarterback, only to have the quarterback throw to his check down route.

"Carter then got off the ground and chased the receiver down, making a TD-saving tackle 50 yards down the field," he added. "That hustle and heart can't be coached, that is just how he is wired and that is why he will be successful at the next level."

## Realizing potential

Stagner got called up to varsity his sophomore year and that's when he began to realize he had the potential to be a good football player.

He simply began working hard to improve his overall game, making terrific progress after taking defensive line classes at Wayne State University, where he upgraded his pass-rushing moves. He also changed his diet in an

effort to gain more weight.

Stagner said current defensive line coach Steve Jarrett and former Seaholm defensive coordinator Adam Korzeniewski — now Brother Rice's head coach — both played a huge role in his development.

All the hard work has paid off handsomely and the reward is a scholarship to Eastern.

"In the beginning, I didn't really think about getting a football scholarship all that much," Stagner said. "In my freshman year, I thought it was just going to be four years of high school and that was probably going to be it."

"From sophomore year to junior year is when I started to think about it a little more. After junior year is when I decided this is something that I wanted to do. I wanted to put all my

effort into going to college and this is something I needed to do.

"I'm very excited to get my career started at Eastern Michigan," he added.

DeWald, who played football at Western Michigan University, has no doubt Stagner can make an impact at Eastern.

"I see a very successful college football career for Carter," DeWald said. "Playing D-I football is not easy — only the strong survive. He is strong I am excited to watch him in the future. It was an honor to coach him."

Stagner is one of 12 Seaholm players who have moved on to play college football since DeWald took charge of the program in 2012. DeWald expects Stagner's teammates Nick Lang and Vaish Siddapureddy to be added to that list in the coming months.

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## STAGNER

Continued from Page B1

recruited me at school.

"I started to talk to him and he invited me to a camp over the summer," he added. "Once I went out there to a camp, they offered me that day and that's when it really started to take off with Eastern."

## 'Perfect mindset'

Veteran Seaholm head coach Jim DeWald noted Stagner has the perfect mindset to play Division I football.

"I am very excited for him and his opportunity," DeWald said. "He has worked very hard during his four years here at Seaholm. (EMU head coach) Chris Creighton has done a great job at EMU and his message and coaching style will fit Carter perfectly."

"In order to play D-I football, many things have to line up. First of all, you have to pass the eyeball test, then you have to have the athletic ability and, finally, and most importantly, you have to have the correct mentality and work ethic."

"Many kids have one or two of the traits listed, but in order to make it, you have to have all the traits," he added. "Carter's mentality and work ethic has been a D-I mindset since he came to Seaholm. That mindset is a credit to his parents and his upbringing."

Stagner, a 6-foot-4, 215-pound lineman, was a captain who made his presence known on both sides of the ball. The three-year varsity letter winner figures to play defensive end at Eastern.

Stagner was voted Seaholm's Lineman of the Year in both his junior and senior seasons and

## COLLEGE RECRUITING

## College-bound Plymouth athletes sign early

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK —  
MICHIGAN

There is still plenty left to do before Plymouth senior student-athletes walk across the stage and snag their diplomas.

But it's always a good thing to have college plans wrapped up earlier rather than later.

For Logan Dziadzio, Evan Good, Ethan Byrnes, Paige Saunders, Erin Johnson and Anthony Crump, that's exactly what they have done — all six announced Nov. 15 they had signed to play their respective sport at the collegiate level.

**Baseball duo**

Dziadzio will play second base beginning in 2019 at Madonna University. He will take a .372 batting average and 3.5 grade-point average a few miles east to the Livonia campus.

"I just wanted to get it done (signing) before I started working out for the season," Dziadzio said. "So I'm solid with where I want to go, just be done with my signing, so I already know where I'm going to be after the season's over."

He described his style of infield play as "aggressive" and said he can't wait to become a Crusader.

"This was like a really big step in my life," Dziadzio said. "Ever since I was a little kid, I've always been wanting to continue my career with baseball and I thought Madonna was just a really good choice for me."

Ditto for third baseman/pitcher Good, slated to play Division II baseball at Northwood University in Midland.

Last year, Good had an excellent season hitting (.485 average) and pitching (4-1 record).

"I'm very blessed and it's always a good thing knowing you'll play four more years of the game you love," said Good, who came to Plymouth from Dearborn Divine Child during his freshman



Six Plymouth student-athletes recently signed national letters of intent (from left): Logan Dziadzio, Evan Good, Anthony Crump, Erin Johnson, Ethan Byrnes and Paige Saunders. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

year.

Good said that the decision to change schools proved to be the correct one on many levels.

"I came here and I was able to be myself," Good said. "I just felt really good here, it felt like home."

Their coach with the Wildcats, Jason Crain, was on hand for the signing ceremony.

"Logan's a little spitfire. I tell people all the time that kid can play," Crain said. "I'm excited he's getting this opportunity. They have good coaches at Madonna. I think Logan's going to be in a great spot there."

"Evan found himself a nice home at Northwood. ... He has the tools to really take it to the next level and he's a fierce competitor, too."

**Running down a dream**

According to Byrnes, an all-state cross country runner at Plymouth, his choice to go to D-II Wayne State University has him excited about his college career.

Byrnes narrowed

down his list from about 10 colleges to a handful and, ultimately, decided the Detroit campus was his best choice.

"Once I started visiting schools, then it was just a matter of choosing the school that felt right to me," Byrnes said. "When I walked onto Wayne State's campus, it immediately felt like home to me. I'm more of a city guy."

"Just the feel for the campus, a huge campus, coming from P-CEP, which is one of the biggest high school campuses in America, it's nice to transition to a big (college) campus and be comfortable with it."

Byrnes said he won't have trouble transitioning in high school meets to the 8K he'll need to compete with the Warriors — he's used to hard work.

"I think high school, especially under (Plymouth coach) Jon Mikosz, has prepared me to work even harder in the college level," Byrnes said. "We do a ton of hard workouts; we get the reps in."

**Saunders is 'Golden'**

Division I's Oakland University is where Saunders will compete in women's track and field.

Saunders will take a record-breaking prep career to the Golden Grizzlies; she owns Plymouth records in the long jump (18 feet, 6.5 inches) and on two relays.

"At first, they weren't in my radar," Saunders said. "But then I decided to take a visit there and really loved it."

Before then, Saunders has two Plymouth teams to compete on. This winter, she will do floor, beam and vault with the gymnastics team; in the spring, she'll close out her prep track and field career.

Saunders actually is a relative newcomer to track and field, entering just her second season. She has a much longer background in gymnastics.

"Track was a new thing for me (last spring). I tore my rotator cuff my sophomore year doing (club) gymnastics," Saunders said. "I decided

to give high school gymnastics a try because it's more low-key.

"I just needed a spring sport, so I decided to do track and I like it."

Performing in one sport helps her in the other, she said: "Definitely, the strength I had coming from gymnastics definitely helped me in the long jump."

**Grand Valley-bound**

Johnson could have waited until the high-profile National Signing Day in early February to make her college intentions official, but she decided to close the deal now. She will play Division II golf at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, near Grand Rapids.

"It's like a weight lifted off my shoulders," Johnson said. "I have no more stress because that's part of the recruiting process. It's really stressful. So I'm glad to know where I'm going and have it all planned out."

Ever since visiting the campus (and knowing that former Plymouth teammate Katie Chipman

golfed for GVSU), Johnson had one college destination in mind.

"I knew I wanted to go to Grand Valley," she said. "So as soon as (the coach) offered me, I accepted it because I love the campus."

Johnson cited Plymouth coach Dan Young as having made a big impact on her rise as a golfer. "He pushed me because he knew I had potential and could be as good as Katie (Chipman) and make it to where I wanted to be," she said.

**He'll be a Bulldog**

Crump worked harder than many teens during the off-season in order to get quicker and stronger.

That effort — as well as his considerable skills as a basketball point guard — paid dividends when the 6-7 Crump signed to play at D-I University of North Carolina-Asheville.

"It's a big moment for me and I'm proud to say I'm a Division I player," he said.

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## CANTON

Continued from Page B1

The Chiefs (1-0) outscored visiting Belleville 10-6 over the final five minutes, helped by Tigers' 6-9 offensive stud Gabriel Brown being hampered by foul trouble.

Brown still finished with a game-high 25 points, including a pair of electrifying dunks in the third quarter — when a 21-point third quarter lifted Canton in front 51-48.

**Making them work**

Chipping in 14 for Belleville was Davion Williams, also a football cornerback.

"We were just trying to do our best to limit them (Brown and Williams)," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "I think, for the most part, there were a couple bad stretches, but Noah Brown, I can't say enough about the way he tries to guard people and how hard he makes it for people to score."

"I bet if you asked Gabe Brown, he had to work for his points tonight."

For those with short memories, Noah Brown played nose-to-the-grindstone defense for Canton's football team, too.

Canton opening the season over the team ranked second in the preseason polls "shows

everyone's underestimating us this year. We got a good team and I think we can really compete," Meredith said.

The Chiefs, meanwhile, also were sparked by a couple of players who were not on the football team.

Junior guard B. Artis White registered 18 points and three steals, while senior guard Eian Barker (18 points) and junior guard Vinson Sigmon (six points) all were thorns in Belleville's side.

"I just got stronger, doing pushups in the weight room and more growing," White said about his increasing role as a physical presence. "And getting my confidence higher and higher."

"This team, we've been together for a while. I call them my best friends, my brothers. All team chemistry."

Following are several takeaways:

**CANTON GRIT**

Leading 61-57 late in the fourth quarter, Noah Brown hit the floor to grab a loose basketball. That led to a nifty offensive play, with Sigmon dishing a pass to Meredith for the layup.

Moments later, with Meredith stationed down low, Belleville's Williams could not get a clear path to the basket and missed a dunk attempt. Barker went the other way and scored with a nice drive through the lane, opening



Canton's B. Artis White (right) looks to make a move around Belleville's Cameron Smiley during Tuesday's season opener. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

up a 65-61 edge for the Chiefs.

**BATTLE IN THE PAINT**

With Meredith and Brown, the Chiefs' forwards were able to hold their own down low against some big, talented opponents at both ends of the floor.

"No fear," Reddy said. "They try to block a lot of shots and I think our guys around the rim were excellent tonight. We missed a couple bun-

nies, two easy ones we could have made, but I think we made a lot of (baskets) around the rim that we didn't make last year. And we did a nice job getting fouled and getting Gabe Brown in foul trouble."

**TERRIFIC TRIO**

Reddy said White, Sigmon and Barker were spark-plugs against the Tigers.

"Those three guys are tough covers. They're

really good basketball players," Reddy said. "They got a good skill set, they can score at the rim and they can shoot it."

**DON'T FLINCH**

The Chiefs let an early lead slip away and walked into the locker room at halftime tied, 31-31. And there were stretches in the second half when Belleville had the momentum.

But, stressed Reddy,

the 2017-18 Chiefs apparently have some key intangibles that might not have been on the squad last season.

"We've talked a lot since day one, our meeting on the first day of practice, about not flinching this year," Reddy noted. "Last year, we were real close to being a good team. We just lost a lot of close games, a lot of one-possession games. And we've talked a lot about not flinching. We talked about that again at halftime. And if they make a run, we're not flinching."

"Our guys get the credit, because it was 55-all there for a while and the game could have gone either way. We just made a few more plays than those guys."

**STATEMENT GAME**

It was just the first game of the season, yet Reddy said earning a 'W' against a standout squad like Belleville could potentially yield benefits months down the road.

"This is what we've tried to do for nine years, (since Reddy took over the Chiefs), play good teams in the non-league," he said. "And we're just trying to get as good as we can get to by the time March rolls around. Obviously, playing a team like Belleville is going to help you do that."

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
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PREP ROUNDUP

# North Farmington rolls past W.L. Northern

Coaches and team representatives are invited to send game information and story tips to LIV-sports@hometownlife.com. Game information will be accepted up to 24 hours after the game ends.

### Girls basketball

**NORTH FARMINGTON 54, WALLED LAKE NORTHERN 39:** Sam Cherney played a huge role in this 15-point victory Tuesday as she registered an impressive double-double with 22 points and 17 rebounds. She added four blocked shots on the defensive end. Maya Kelly netted 10 points with four rebounds. Abby Hanus (six points), Madisyn Hoke (four points) and Natalie George (four points, five steals) also contributed to the offense. Khyra King-Ealy and Molly Simpson each hit a three-pointer. The undefeated Raiders (2-0) host West Bloomfield on Monday in their third straight home game to open the season.

**SALEM 32, SEAHOLM 23:** Visiting Plymouth Salem mustered just a little more offense than Seaholm in this non-conference game played Tuesday evening. The teams were tied 6-all after the first quarter and Salem skipped to a 19-15 halftime lead. Salem held on by outscoring Seaholm 13-8 over the final two quarters. Emma Stricter and Madalyn Simko each hit double figures with 12 and 10 points, respectively, for Salem. Seaholm's leading scorer was Riley Annear with eight points. Seaholm next hosts Lake Orion on Dec. 15.

**MERCY 44, DIVINE CHILD 43:** Farmington

Mercy opened Catholic League action at home Tuesday with this exciting one-point victory over Divine Child. The Marlins held a slim 29-27 halftime lead, but trailed 39-26 going into the fourth quarter. Mercy outscored the Falcons by an 8-4 margin in that final 12 minutes to win. With the game tied at 43-all, Mercy's Jess Mruzik hit one of her two free throws which turned into the winning point. Divine Child did not connect on its last shot. "It was a real hard-fought game," said Mercy coach Gary Morris, whose team is now 3-0 overall. "It was kind of sloppy at times, but both teams competed hard. We played hard to pull out the win and I am happy with that." Free throws proved the difference as Mercy made 15 of 28 while Divine Child hit five of eight. Julia Bishop (12 points) and Alexis Roberts (10) each hit double figures for the Marlins. Mruzik finished with eight points and teammate Bella Dugas added seven. For Divine Child (0-2), Emilie Reinhardt (14 points) and Maddie Rzepka (13) led the way offensively. Mercy plays at Macomb Lutheran North on Tuesday.

**MERCY 50, UTICA FORD 13:** Farmington Mercy's defense stood out in this non-conference game Dec. 2 which was part of the Calihan Challenge. The Marlins exploded to a 17-2 advantage after the opening quarter and went on to the easy 37-point triumph. Mercy did not allow the young Ford cagers more than five points in any quarter.



Farmington's Jake Justice (holding sign) is surrounded by teammates after posting his 100th career victory in wrestling Wednesday.

"Ford is a team which graduated a lot of seniors last year," said Mercy head coach Gary Morris. "They're inexperienced, but I like how our team kind of came out and took care of business, you could say." Jenna Schuller led the Marlins with 15 points and teammate Jillian Smith added 13. Bella Dugas (seven points) and Lindsay Lukomski (six points) also made notable contributions. "I'm happy with the win and everybody got significant minutes so that was a nice thing," said Morris, whose team made 10 of 19 free throws. The 'Calihan Challenge' matches opponents from the Catholic League and the Macomb Athletic Conference. Mercy begins Catholic League play Tuesday at home against Dearborn Divine Child.

**MARIAN 50, WARREN COUSINO 28:** Bloomfield Hills Marian got past last year's Class A state semifinalist in the Calihan Challenge Saturday at Calihan Hill on the University of Detroit Mercy campus. The Mustangs started slow against the Patriots, leading by just three points (17-14) at halftime. However, Mary Cicerone's squad broke

through with a 33-14 second-half scoring advantage en route to its second win in as many games. Olivia Moore (15 points) and Samantha Peterson (11) both hit double figures for the Mustangs. Cousino's leading scorer was Mackenzie Cook with 17.

### Boys basketball

**ROEPER 62, OAKLAND CHRISTIAN 51:** Birmingham Roper opened the boys basketball season Monday with this 11-point triumph over Auburn Hills Oakland Christian. The Roughriders were led by Josiah Smith who mustered a game-high 23 points. Evan Akkashian and sophomore Jacob Gladey netted 15 points apiece for Roper. Elisia Adams led Oakland Christian with 21 points.

### Boys hockey

**TROY 5, FARMINGTON 3:** Farmington had a strong opening period, skating to a 2-1 lead, but could not keep up the energy the rest of the game and fell to host Troy Wednesday at the Troy Sports Center. Farmington's first two goals were tallied by Will McCarthy and Joe Carbone with assists going to

Carter Wells, Eli Arnold, Tanner Neill and Tony Eaton. Carbone closed out Farmington's scoring with a late second-period marker. Farmington is now 2-3-2 overall and 1-1 in the OAA Red Division. The Falcons were scheduled to play in the D-3 Challenge this past weekend in Gaylord.

**ST. MARY'S 5, BROTHER RICE 2:** The teams were tied 2-all after two periods but visiting St. Mary's iced the battle with three-third period goals Wednesday at the Oak Park Ice Arena. Nick Marone and Garrett Moore scored for the Warriors. Luke Kafati and Ethan Nystrom assisted on both goals. The Eaglets had five different goal scorers — Nick Cloud, Tony Clark, Hunter Baudino, Bradley Ruppel (penalty shot) and Preston Hazelton (empty net).

**FARMINGTON 7, CLARKSTON 4:** On Nov. 30 at the Detroit Skating Club, Farmington trailed 3-2 after the opening period but rallied for the three-goal victory. The line of Tanner Neill (one goal, six assists), Collin Rea (four goals, one assist) and Joe Carbone (two goals, three assists) accounted for all the Farmington goals. Farmington goalie Nick Rogers made 24 saves on the 28 shots he faced.

**LAKE ORION 7, NORTH FARMINGTON-HARRISON 0:** On Nov. 30, Lake Orion scored two goals in each of the first two periods and iced the game with three more in the third at the Detroit Skating Club. On Nov. 25, the Flyers dropped a tough 6-5 non-conference game to Pontiac Notre

Dame Prep. With the back-and-forth game tied at 5-all, Prep scored the game winner with just second seconds remaining. North Farmington-Harrison did not score a goal in its previous two games and has been shut-out three times so far on the young season.

**TRENTON 4, BROTHER RICE 1:** This game played Dec. 2 at the Kennedy Ice Arena was a lot closer than the final score indicates. The host Trojans were ahead most of the game until the Warriors tied it in the middle of the third period. However, Trenton scored twice into the empty net to account for the final three-goal victory margin. Rice's lone goal was netted by Ethan Nystrom on assists from Jack Owen-Turner and Luke Kafati. Nic Moody scored twice for Trenton. Each team had 28 shots on goal.

### Wrestling

**FARMINGTON 42, NOV 41; NORTHVILLE 54, FARMINGTON 19:** Farmington opened the wrestling season Wednesday by splitting a pair of non-conference matches. Anthony Averiette (112 pounds), Jake Justice (135 pounds) and Jack Higley (130 pounds) each logged two wins. Justice pinned Northville's Joey Nagy at the 1:10 mark of the first period to register his 100th career victory. Higley defeated Northville's Ayush Triucci (14-3 decision) and Novi's David Shim (pin at 2:22).

**NORTH FARMINGTON IN NORTHVILLE QUAD:** Junior captain Anthony

See ROUNDUP, Page B5

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COLLEGE RECRUITING



Seaholm student-athletes (bottom, from left) Linnea Anderson, Michael Arpasi, Nikki Carey and Haley Dolan and (top, from left) Zoe Gaffney, Olivia Graham, Rachel McCardell, Emily Rooney and Carter Stagner announce their college commitments Tuesday inside the school's media center. MARTY BUDNER

# Seaholm student-athletes announce commitments

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Seaholm High School's media center was the center of excitement Tuesday as nine student-athletes announced their college commitments in front of family, friends, classmates and even a number of their coaches.

After a few opening statements from long-time Seaholm athletic director Aaron Frank, each student told the crowd where they planned to attend college to continue their athletic careers. The 15-minute ceremony ended with a grand photo session.

"Everyone here at Seaholm is proud of all nine of these student-athletes, who have really excelled in the classroom as well as the field of competition," Frank said. "We're very excited to watch them grow and shine and represent our school for the next four years."

"I think it's a great individual accomplishment for each one of them," he added. "But it's also a time to reflect on the teamwork and everything that goes into that success — teammates, coaches, parents and family. It's just a great reflection of teamwork that allows them to get to the next level like that."

Following is a list of Seaholm's student-athletes and the sport they plan to play in college:

**LINNEA ANDERSON:** A state champion swimmer, Anderson will swim at the University of Connecticut. "I chose UConn because of the amazing team atmosphere, athletics and academic opportunities," Anderson said. "I'm so excited to become part of an amazing team and can't wait for the next four years."

Anderson, the team captain this past season, helped lead Seaholm to a fourth-place finish at this year's Division 2 state meet and was a member of the 2016 state championship team. During her career with the Maples, she was a three-time state champion, a six-time All-American and a 14-time MISCA all-state performer.

**MICHAEL ARPASI:** Another standout swimmer, Arpasi will take his talents to Denison (Ohio) University.

"Swimming for Seaholm and coach Tom (Wyllie) has been an important and enjoyable part of my high school experience," Arpasi said. "I have made lifelong friends, learned the rewards of hard work and feel well prepared for the challenges of college swimming at Denison University."

Currently in his sec-

ond year as a team captain, Arpasi will enter this year's Division 2 state meet as the defending 100-yard butterfly champion. He is the school record holder in the 100 fly.

**NIKKI CAREY:** Carey served as Seaholm's volleyball captain this past season and will play at Cumberland (Tenn.) University next year. "I am thrilled to be able to continue to play the sport I love at a school that is a great fit for me," Carey said. "Go, Phoenix!"

Playing for head coach Heather Lippert, Carey made the all-OAA and all-regional teams. A member of the National Honor Society, Carey also earned academic all-state honors this year and is a two-time Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award recipient.

**HALEY DOLAN:** Dolan will swim next year at Boston College, where she is excited to begin a new career. "I chose Boston College for the outstanding coaching staff, atmosphere, academics and amazing team," Dolan said. "As soon as I arrived on campus, I felt right at home. I can't wait to become an Eagle!"

Dolan had an outstanding four-year varsity career at Seaholm, where she was a three-time relays state champion and a one-time individual state champion (last year as a junior in the 50 free). She also managed four All-America and 10 all-state honors.

**ZOE GAFFNEY:** Gaffney is an all-star soccer player who will be a two-year varsity captain for the Maples come next spring. As a sophomore, she gained all-league and all-district honors while being named the team's best midfielder.

As a junior, she was all-league, all-region and all-state and was named the best midfielder and most valuable player. Gaffney also was Seaholm's leading scorer last year to win the Golden Boot award. She will attend Liberty (Va.) University.

"I have felt that Liberty University is a very special place from my first visit on campus," Gaffney said. "I'm excited to have the opportunity to continue my academic and athletic career there."

**OLIVIA GRAHAM:** Graham will play her fourth varsity season next spring as a member of the girls soccer team.

She plans to play college soccer next year at Nova Southeastern University. Graham won Seaholm's Golden Boot award as the leading scorer in her freshman season in 2015 and earned all-league and

all-district honors in the process.

Last year as a junior, she was named all-league and all-district for the OAA Blue Division champion Maples. She also was a team captain at Seaholm and her travel team.

In addition, Graham played varsity football this past fall as the team's starting field-goal kicker. "I'm really glad I did it," Graham said about playing football. "It was a lot of fun."

**RACHEL MCCARDELL:** Once a runner, always a runner. McCardell couldn't fathom the thought of not competing at the college level, so Seaholm's track and cross country standout will take her talents to the Big Ten's Northwestern University.

"Running has always been something important to me and the idea of quitting after high school wasn't right," McCardell said. "I am very excited to continue my academic and athletic career at Northwestern University."

In cross country, McCardell is a three-time all-state star who also raced to league championship and regional runner-up honors during her prep career. She helped lead the Maples to the Class A state championship in her freshman and sophomore seasons. In track, she has earned all-state honors in two events.

**EMILY ROONEY:** Rooney, a member of Seaholm's 2015 Class A state championship squad, served as a cross country captain the past two years. She will continue running cross country and track and Columbia University.

"I am extremely excited for Columbia, because I know that it will push me to become a better overall individual, student and athlete," she said.

Rooney was all-region, all-county and all-state cross country in both 2016 and 2017. She also was the individual league champion and regional runner-up in 2017.

**CARTER STAGNER:** The three-year varsity player and team captain will play football next fall at Eastern Michigan University.

"I'm excited to join the Eastern Michigan football team," Stagner said. "Being a part of the team will encourage me to push myself, both academically and athletically."

Stagner was Seaholm's Lineman of the Year in both his junior and senior seasons. He was also named to the underclassmen Dream Team and was given the program's Nick Deanne Memorial Leadership Award this fall.

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**ROUNDUP**  
Continued from Page B4  
Williams won both his matches at Wednesday's Northville Quad while wrestling at 130 pounds.

Scott Hampton also won both his matches for the Raiders, including an impressive pin over Northville's 135-pounder. North's Jason Wade split his two heavyweight matches.

**Gymnastics**  
**FARMINGTON UNIT-IED 140.7, CANTON 134.25:** Farmington Unified opened the gymnastics season with this dual-meet victory over Canton on Tuesday.

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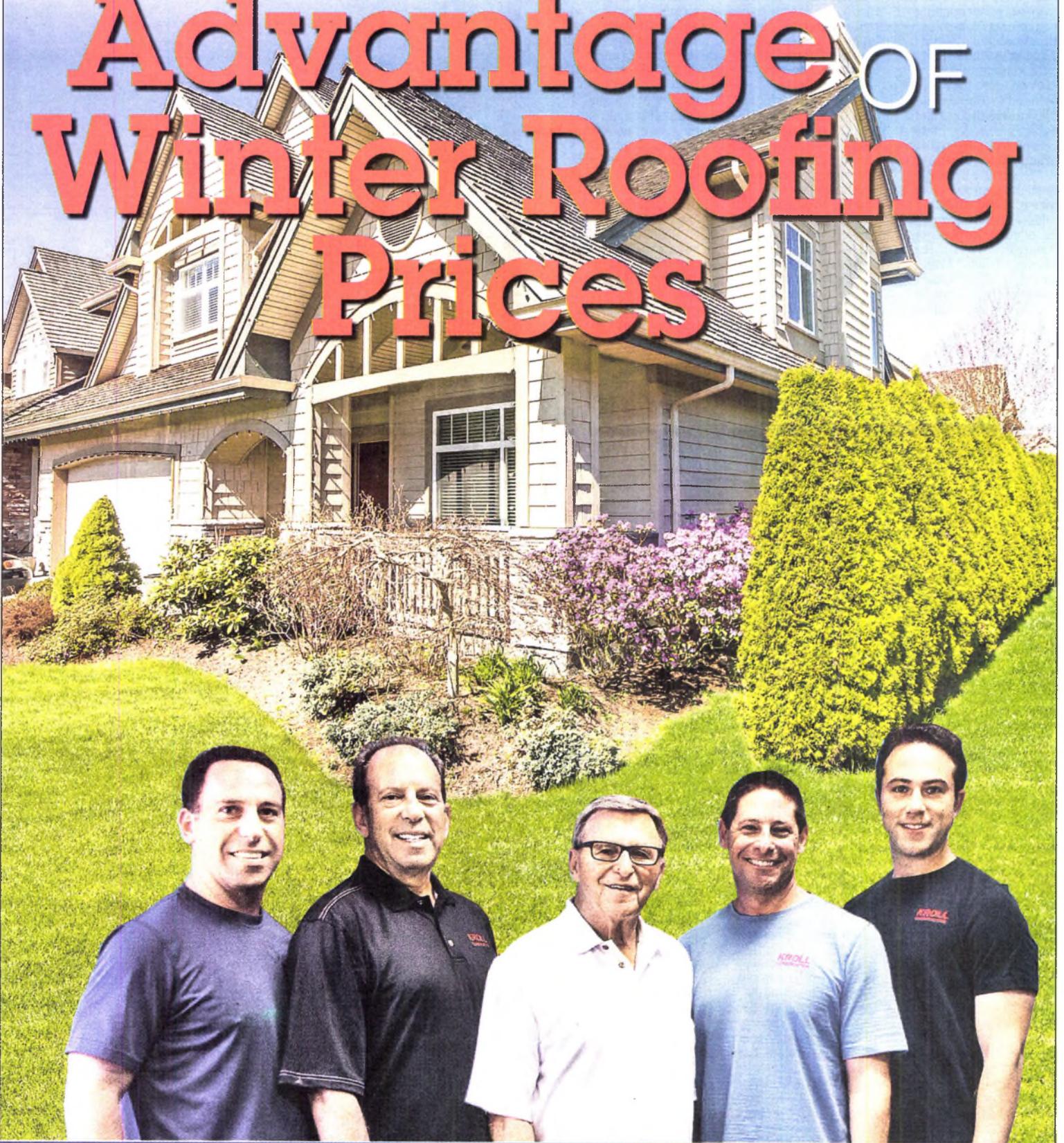
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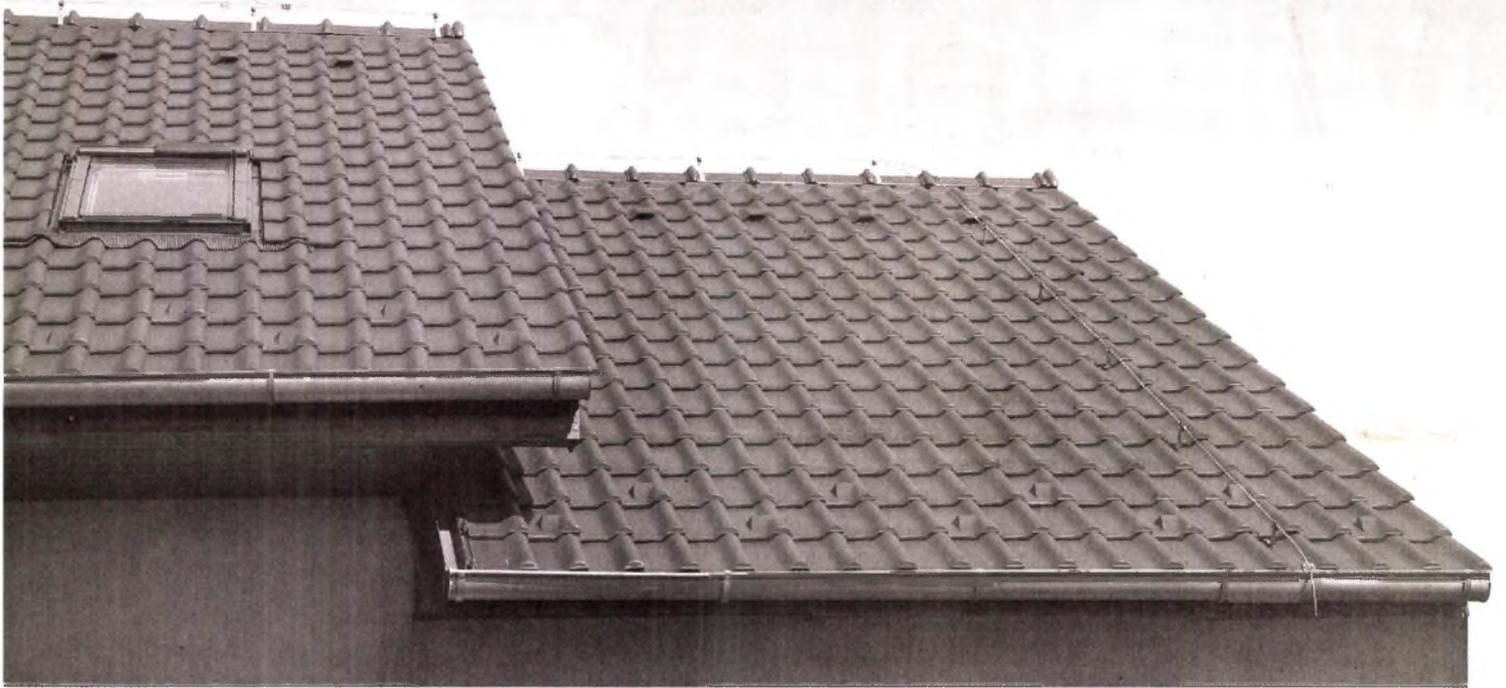
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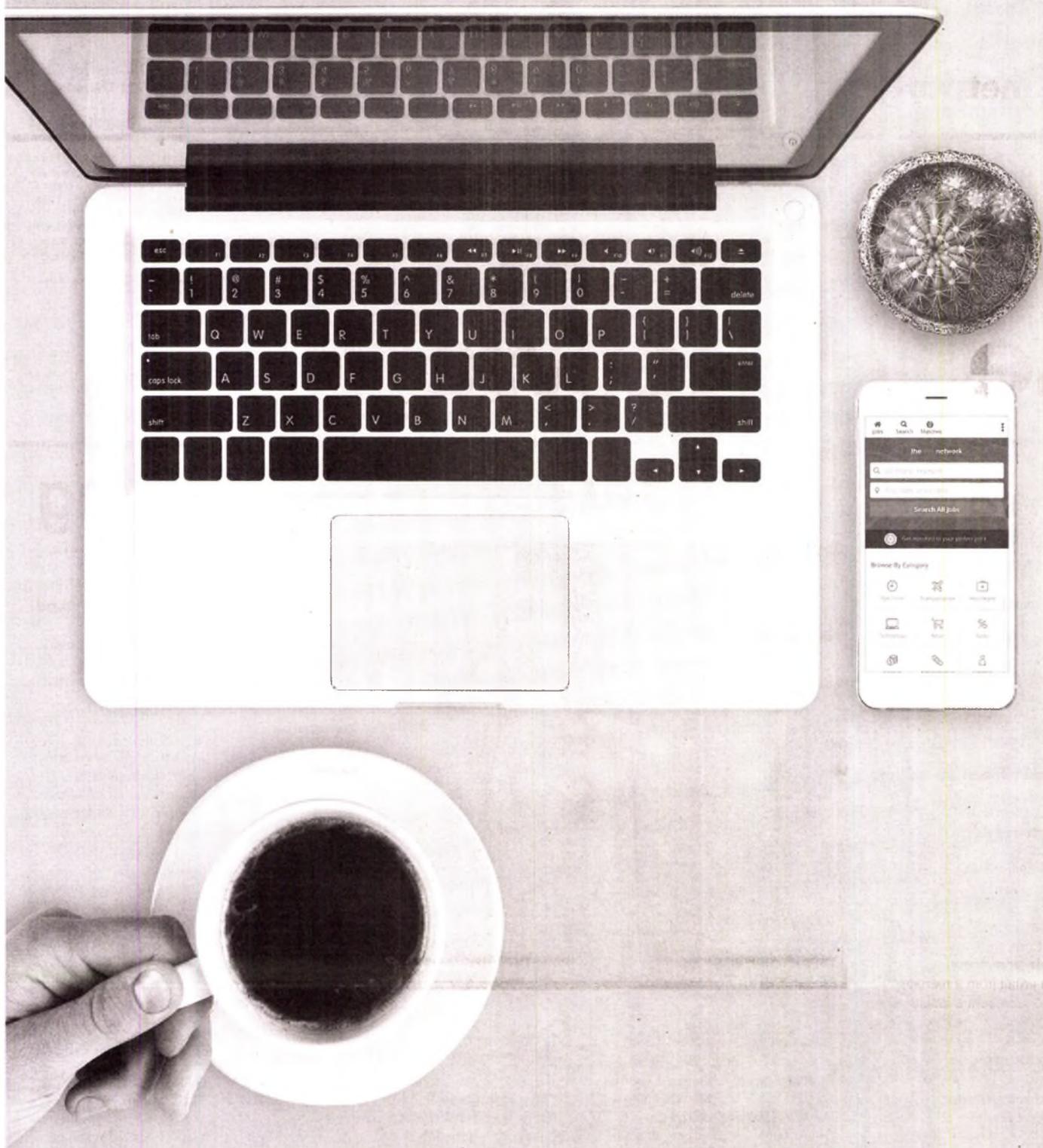
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## 10 ways to identify a fake job posting

BY PETER JONES  
THEJOBNETWORK

The job market is hard enough to navigate without having to worry about a job posting that turns out to be a scam — or even just a dead end. Save your precious time and energy by being on the lookout for these simple signs that something just isn't right:

### 1. The company has no online presence.

You do your due diligence and try to verify the person, the company and the job listing and nothing is turning up in your online search. You can stop right there and step away. Legit jobs always have some sort of online trail.

### 2. The recruiter's email doesn't match their company.

You get an email from a recruiter who claims to represent a fabulous and well-known company. The company logo might even be at the bottom of the email. Look closely — does the email they want you to send materials to not end in the official company name (theircompany.com)? If the email associated with the posting or the invitation is a personal one (think Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo, etc.), you might want to take a pass. And don't respond and attach any personal documents unless you're sure you're dealing with the real deal.

### 3. You found it via a random social media post.

While it is possible to land a great job you found through social media,



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chances are if it's just posted there — or sponsored or advertised — it's probably not as sweet a deal as it seems. Remember that the overwhelming majority of jobs are referral based, come through legitimate channels or are posted on vetted job boards. Resist the idea that you can just surf Facebook and get hired.

### 4. They claim "No experience necessary."

Sure, maybe the job they're offering is entry level. Maybe they offer training. But if the posting leads with "No Experience Necessary," you can be almost certain there's a catch you won't

like. Most employers want you to come equipped with some skills.

### 5. The language is sloppy.

If the ad isn't well written, contains spelling or grammatical errors, is sloppily punctuated or IN ALL CAPS, consider it a red flag. A real job posting will be professional and polished.

### 6. They ask for an interview via chat or text.

You should be wary if your first interview is scheduled on some type of text messaging service. While remote interviews are becoming increasingly common, that means phone calls and

Skype, not a typed conversation in a chat window.

### 7. Anything about it is too good to be true.

You're hired immediately! The salary is crazy high! They contacted you out of the blue! When can you start? (Hint: If a job seems too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true.)

### 8. Everything about it is vague.

If you can't tell from the posting exactly what your role would be at the company, that's a problem. A bigger problem is when you can't really tell what the company does and get a sense of its mission or history. If all of this is very vague, leave this one in the "no" pile.

### 9. They want money.

If you're asked to pay anything — such as a fee to apply or for a software program to send in your application materials — consider the job a scam. A general rule of thumb: Never give your money away to total strangers.

### 10. Your gut says no.

The bottom line: Keep an eye out for these and other warning signs, but your best alarm system is your own gut instinct. Does something seem off to you? If so, let it go. There are other jobs out there.

*Peter Jones is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com, where this article was originally published. He investigates and writes about current strategies, tips and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.*

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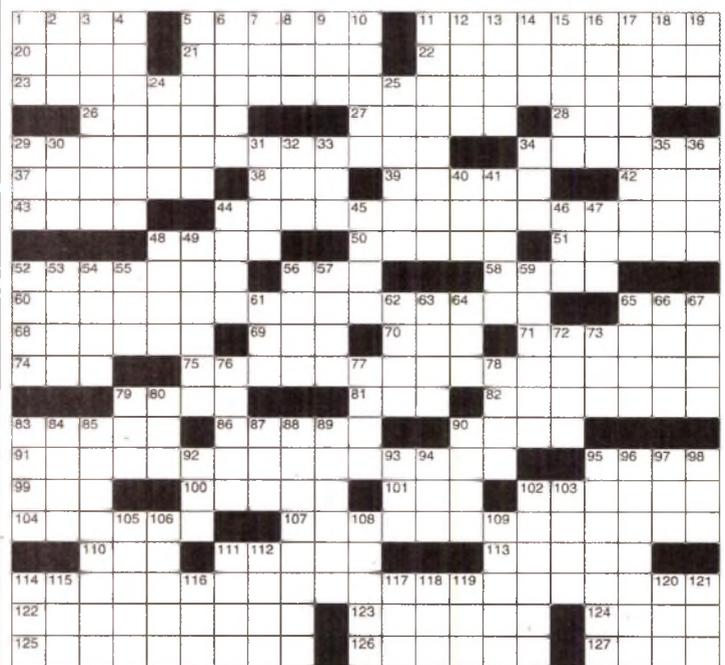
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  - 52 Was of use to
  - 56 See 29-Down
  - 58 "Nothing — it seems"
  - 60 FALL
  - 65 Suffix with host
  - 68 Certify
  - 69 Actress Ortiz or Gasteyer
  - 70 Ghost shout
  - 71 Marketing space in a newspaper, e.g.
  - 74 "L'i' of me?"
  - 75 STEAL
  - 79 Donne, e.g.
  - 81 Lead-in to history
  - 82 E.T.'s human friend
  - 83 Ranch rope
  - 86 Fizzy drinks
  - 90 Holiday song
  - 91 SUPPLY
  - 95 "Aloha Oe" instruments, for short
  - 99 Crux
  - 100 Czar's edict
  - 101 See 103-Down
  - 102 Mint-family herbs
  - 104 Gets more narrow
  - 107 CHANGE
  - 110 " — mouse?"
  - 111 Davis of "Hot Stuff"
  - 113 Eventual oak
  - 114 ERASE
  - 122 Proper noun in an atlas
  - 123 Ripped thoroughly
  - 124 Huge-scale
  - 125 Person on both sides of an issue
  - 126 Treats with malice
  - 127 Gas brand
  - 15 Don Marquis' — and Mehtabel"
  - 16 Poet Tate
  - 17 "It really seems to me ..."
  - 18 Moral failure
  - 19 Pithy remark
  - 24 Math subj.
  - 25 Cave beings
  - 29 With 56-Across, compele to obtain
  - 30 Suffix with czar
  - 31 LAX info
  - 32 Madras "Mr."
  - 33 Female sib
  - 34 Turner of an insurrection
  - 35 "Tall" story
  - 36 Mil. officers
  - 40 Rd. relative
  - 41 Physiologist
  - 44 Funny Fox
  - 45 English noble
  - 46 Special time bud
  - 47 Strikes (out)
  - 48 Heady drinks
  - 49 Docile
  - 52 Actor Driver
  - 53 "No" from a higher-up
  - 54 Italian wine area
  - 55 Luge surface
  - 60 Scale part
  - 92 Toys — (chain for kids)
  - 93 TV "Science Guy"
  - 94 Ruhr article
  - 95 Turnpike toll, e.g.
  - 96 Takes for ransom
  - 97 Wallach of "Nuts"
  - 98 Old aviation inits.
  - 102 What pull-ups work
  - 103 With 101-Across, thus far
  - 105 Actress
  - 106 Evaluated
  - 108 Sends cell messages
  - 109 Unclear
  - 111 Kind of gel
  - 112 Unchanged
  - 114 Photo —
  - 115 Deli staple
  - 116 Cut off
  - 117 Fizzy drink
  - 118 Geller from Israel
  - 119 Bottom-line
  - 120 Prefix with gender
  - 121 Prefix with friendly



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

## SUDOKU

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

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

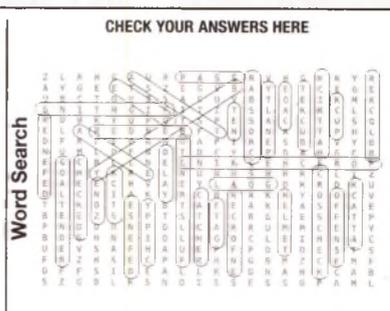
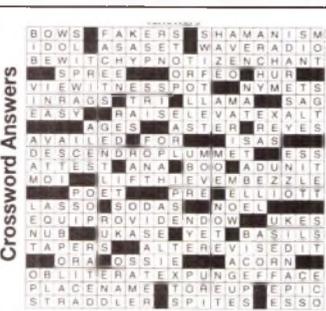
2	8	2	6	4	9	1	5	8
2	4	6	5	1	2	2	9	8
1	9	5	2	8	8	4	2	6
9	2	2	8	6	4	5	8	1
6	8	1	9	5	8	2	2	4
8	5	8	4	2	2	1	6	8
4	1	4	1	2	2	2	9	6
5	5	1	8	1	9	6	8	2
2	2	8	6	8	5	8	1	7

## ON THE ICE WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- APPLE
- ASSIST
- ATTACK
- BACKHANDER
- RENDER
- BLOCKER
- BUCKET
- BUTTERFLY
- CAGE
- CATCHER
- CHECKED
- CHIPPY
- CROSSBAR
- CROSS-CHECK
- DEFENDER
- DEFENSE
- DELAY
- DIVE
- ENFORCER
- FIGHTING
- FORE CHECKING
- FULL STRENGTH
- GATE
- GOAL
- GOALTENDER
- HAT TRICK
- HELMET
- NET
- OFFENSE
- OFFSIDE
- PASS
- PENALTY
- POSSESSION
- PUCK
- STICK
- ZONE



# Car Report

## BEFORE AND AFTER ITS CONTEST WITH A DASHING DEER, 2018 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE COMES OUT A WINNER



By Dale Buss

'Tis the season for deer-car crashes, and I had my first one several days before Thanksgiving. Good thing my wife and I were in the new, 2018 Chevrolet Traverse. We were completely enjoying the new version of the SUV when it became our best friend for unforeseen reasons.

We became part of a growing national automotive-safety problem that is likely to cause many thousands more collisions in Michigan and across the country before, someday, self-driving automobiles perhaps could eliminate them.

Until the fateful moment, we'd been enjoying the redesigned Traverse, which has a sleeker exterior appearance at the same time that it provides 7 percent more room behind the first-row seats than the outgoing model, 10 percent more behind the second row, and 17 percent more behind the third row.

We had a lot of stuff to haul around to a lot of places, and I didn't have to worry for a second that this capacious vehicle wouldn't be able to handle it -- and protect it all from the elements.

Indeed, Traverse's cargo volume is the biggest in its still-growing class of three-row SUVs. Also, the 2018 Traverse



The larger, leaner, more capable 2018 Chevrolet Traverse.



Traverse after the deer encounter.

provides 58.1 inches of front-hip room so that driver and passenger can stretch out.

I found the driving dynamics of the new Traverse to be very comfortable whether it was empty or fully loaded. It was stable, steering was deft, and with its 3.6-liter V6 engine, 310 horsepower and 266 pound-feet of torque, I

never was left wanting more from the accelerator.

Unfortunately, all of that enjoyment was interrupted by our intersection with an unlucky deer. On a road just west of Traverse City, the animal darted across the path of the Traverse from right to left, and with my quick-twitch intuition I did the right thing by not swerving. So

there was a good outcome for us. The air bags didn't go off and we weren't injured. We didn't veer into causing a problem for other motorists.

In any event, the crash obliterated the front left fender and headlights of the fine-looking Traverse and crimped the driver's door. After it became evident that debris from the crash also poked a slow leak into the left-rear tire, the friendly manager at Williams Chevrolet in Traverse City -- who fixed the tire for free -- figured the damage to the three-row utility vehicle was about \$5,000 to \$6,000.

But impressively, the car held up well

protective factor to attribute to the fine engineering of the new Traverse, how much to the fact that we simply were in any big and heavy vehicle that stood a pretty good chance against a smallish deer, and how much to the particulars of this encounter.

Unfortunately, the deer ended up dead in a gnarled, unsightly heap on the side of the road just several steps from where I hit its haunches at about 55 mph.

Deer crashes are a huge problem for motorists in many parts of the country, and it's a growing one. Michigan alone has nearly 50,000 crashes reported each year, and it is one of the states where motorists are most likely to encounter the creatures who seem out of their element loping across roads and freeways.

So the deer-automobile contest between irresistible momentum and very moveable objects will continue.

But just like many people who hit a deer, I wondered: Why are there so many deer-car crashes? Is it purely a matter of randomness?

Some experts think not -- that the weirdly high number of intersections between these handsome animals and cars is partly due to other factors such as that most accidents happen near dawn and dusk, when deer -- and commuters -- are most active.

Whatever the reasons, the scourge continues. May you avoid becoming part of it.



The unfortunate victim.

to the impact and was fully drivable. I had to wire up the felt insulation pad inside the wheel well so it wouldn't brush the tire; and General Motors wisely made us swap out this damaged model for another Traverse. But I would have been fully comfortable driving it all the way back home to Oakland County. I don't know exactly how much of this

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