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# CANTON OBSERVER

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## Some see huge spike in water bills

Canton residents' bills approach \$1,000

Darrell Clem  
hometownlife.com

Canton has received a barrage of complaints from residents whose water bills have skyrocketed, some reaching the \$1,000 mark for the latest quarterly billing cycle.

The complaints follow a 6.9-percent rate hike and a dry summer that pushed up consumption among residents watering their lawns.

By contrast, officials in Plymouth and Plymouth Township, where water-sewer rates are lower than in Canton, say they have received few complaints.

"We're not getting a lot of inquiries about water rates," Plymouth Township Treasurer Mark Clinton said.

In Canton, an average residential consumer using 22,650 gallons of water would typically pay about \$300 for a three-month billing cycle, Municipal

Services Director Tim Faas said.

But some residents, especially those with large properties, were socked with huge increases when their latest quarterly bills recently came due for summer months.

"We had some customers who had water bills as high as \$1,000," Faas said.

Canton officials sought to explain the increases earlier this month, when residents brought their complaints to a Canton Township Board of Trustees meeting. Faas said this past summer was the driest since 2012, prompting heavy lawn-watering by some homeowners.

Canton Supervisor Pat Williams said the township will honor requests by some residents to have their water meters checked for accuracy. Going forward, he is hopeful



This photo from September shows the water storage facility being built on Canton's north side. Officials hope it will ease water rate hikes.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See WATER, Page A2

## SANTA PLEASE?

### Area youngsters share their wishes

The Observer asked kids from our readership area to share their wishes from Santa. Here's what they offered, just as they wrote it:

**Dear Santa,**

How are the Reindeer? How are you? I wot the hot wheels flir. My mom wants jewelry. My Dad was a now boti. My sister was the Somr Chip.

P.S. wake me up.

**Love, Marley Farhat**

**Dear Santa,**

How are you? Can you take breaks? Can you do what ever you want? Can you git me a kory mushen? Can you git me a baby dol? Can you git my mama macup?

**Love, Skylah Scott**

**Dear Santa,**

How aer you? How aer the elves? Can you bring my dad tools and my mom some jewelry? I want a BBS.

**Love, Griffin Whiteside.**

P.S. Wake me up wan you git thre!

**Dera Santa,**

How are you doing? Can you bring a hoch amal for Bella Wade? Can you bring me a hoch amal like Bella pleeeeeeeeeeeeeees!

Have a safe trip,

**Love, Sophia Wade**

P.S. I'm going to springkl deer food on the grass for your deer wite Bella.

**Dear Santa Claus,**

How are you doing? Could you bring my mom a new necklace? You are a Holly jolly fellow!

Has my elf on the shelf, Holloy, been talking to you these nights? Cause when I woke up this morning I found Holloy hanging from the top of my bunk bed.

Also, can you bring me a Xboxone?

**Love, Maliyah Arielle Cunningham**

P.S. Could you bring me little live pets? How old are you really?

**Dear Santa,**

How many elves are there? Can you get Mrs. Zuzo a car and children. Good job!

**Love,**



MAYBURY FARM

See LETTERS, Page A3

Santa not only heard directly from area youngsters, but he received letters from them as well.

## Canton woman earns national athlete honors

Darrell Clem  
hometownlife.com

Canton resident Janet Brady's athletic skills have earned her 128 awards in just eight years.

Brady, 58, has accumulated honors in horseshoes, hammer throw, javelin toss, shot put and other events in local, county, state and national competitions, often in senior games. She believes in staying active.

"I'm just getting out there and doing what I can," she said. "You just keep going. That's what you've got to do."

Brady has achieved a new milestone by becoming one of five athletes — including three from Michigan — selected as athletes of the year in this year's National Congress of State Games. She qualified after already winning an athlete of the year award in the Meijer State Games of Michigan.

Brady became the only adult female to clinch the NCSG award for her athletic abilities in track and field. Michigan twins Colette and Elyse Levens of Lake Orion captured the youth female awards for multi-sport competition. Other national winners came from Oregon and Nebraska.

"It's a great honor," said Brady, who went to a conference in Atlantic City to accept

See ATHLETE, Page A2



The award won by Janet Brady.



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# Is it the end of quality or the beginning of — what?

As we approach another new year, I have asked myself a question about the many columns I've written this past year: "Have you written anything of positive nature during the past 12 months?"

The answer is very little, because the negative stands out like never before. Ask anyone what they think about products made in China and a few other foreign countries and I bet you hear the word "junk" in that conversation. I've been writing about the 1.8 million recalled appliances currently in American homes where homeowners don't have a clue whether they have one or not, which prompts the need for a new law making manufacturers responsible for informing every person who owns their brand name products.



**Joe Gagnon**  
APPLIANCE  
DOCTOR

For example, let's take the name Samsung. No one seems to know what a terrible job it did with major appliances until they hear about the telephone debacle. It did admit to a big problem and refused to announce a recall on the product until the Consumer Product Commission stepped on its hands and Samsung cried uncle.

Only then did it decide to play ball and, following that episode, came the top load washer, which blows up in the laundry room and causes injuries. It sells almost 3 million washing machines before this problem is discovered which, as far as I'm concerned,

is a bunch of bunk. I knew of this problem several years ago and did nothing to protect consumers and now, because of all this repeated national exposure, finally Americans are becoming noticeably aware.

I could fill 10 pages of this column with past recalls on major home appliances and most of you wouldn't have heard one word about them! Some 1.8 million recalled appliances which are in homes today and haven't been repaired. That is a small amount compared to the actual amount of recalls announced in the past 20 years. Some 8 million refrigerators which have parts attached to the compressor which catch fire without any warning day or night. Light bulbs that stay on even when the refrigerator door is closed. Ovens which

*I could fill 10 pages of this column with past recalls on major home appliances and most of you wouldn't have heard one word about them!*

ignite by themselves during the middle of the night — the list goes on and on and on.

If you are reading this column, you have an obligation to your family to investigate what I am writing about. Go to the website [www.product.safetycommission.gov](http://www.product.safetycommission.gov) and read and study the recalls of products listed and make sure that one of those is not being used in your home. This past summer, I met with state Rep. Gary Glenn in Lansing and he wrote a bill (HB 5679) that would make all manufacturers responsible for inform-

ing every consumer of recalled products in their homes. I have not heard back from him in months and I suspect that some lobbyist for some trade association has put the crunch on this bill.

Time will tell, I'm sure. Now, let's go back to the original subject of Samsung exploding washing machines. Watching the Canadian news the other night, Samsung made front page. It refuses to pay owners of these washers any rebate offered unless the consumer purchases another Samsung product. It will also not pay

any expenses in the delivery or removal of this exploding washer. I happen to know quite a few Canadians and can prove a pretty tough bunch who won't take this sort of stuff lying down. This South Korean company can expect a cross-check across a forehead.

Now, my final plea is that you will contact Glenn and urge him to get this HB 5679 passed and into law in Michigan. It will save lives and prevent millions of dollars in property damage and put the awareness responsibility square into the hands of those people who deserve it. The manufacturers are selected. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. each Saturday on WAAM-M (1600). You can email your problems and questions on appliances to [appldr@twm1.rr.com](mailto:appldr@twm1.rr.com).

## CANTON OBSERVER

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## ATHLETE

Continued from Page A1

her award.

In all, 30 state-based games nominate their top athletes for NCSG competition. This marked the first time Michigan athletes had been selected for the national award.

Brady competed in track and field at the Michigan games, earning 13 gold medals in shot put, discus, javelin and hammer throw during three years of state game competitions. She also serves as co-queen of a Red Hat Society group and volunteers with a group that makes dresses for children in Africa and scarves for area veterans.

Brady is a volunteer for the Canton Senior Advisory Council and previously volunteered at her children's school. She was a Cub Scout leader and a Girl Scout leader for her children and was active in the



Janet Brady of Canton was named Athlete of the Year by the National Congress of State Games.

Canton Historical Society.

The Meijer State Games of Michigan, modeled after the Olympics, welcomes athletes regardless of age or ability level and embod-

ies sportsmanship and healthy living among Michigan residents.

NCSG is an organization of 33 summer state games and 11 winter state games organizations and is a member of

the United States Olympic Committee's Multi-Sport Organizational Council.

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## WATER

Continued from Page A1

Canton can slow the increase of water rates once a new water storage facility on the north side goes into service in the spring.

Moreover, he said, "We're looking at all our costs internally to make sure there's no waste on the items that we control the costs on. That's an ongoing effort that is never-ending to minimize the costs for all customers."

Canton residents pay \$12.49 per 1,000 gallons of water, compared to \$11.63 for Plymouth and \$9.45 for Plymouth Township. Communities set

their rates based on what it takes to recoup their expenses for water-sewer service, along with offsetting what they have to pay the Great Lakes Water Authority for water.

Plymouth Township actually reduced its water rates by 50 cents per 1,000 gallons last summer, which officials say could be one reason why complaints there have been few. Canton raised rates by 6.9 percent and the city of Plymouth by 2.5 percent.

Plymouth Municipal Services Director Chris Porman said the city hasn't had a flurry of complaints about the latest water bills.

"We haven't had hardly any calls from people

questioning their bills or upset about the amount of their bills or anything to do with the summer usages," Porman said.

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said the city a few years ago had some double-digit rate hikes to compensate after the city had a decade or so of flat rates.

"Our costs were going up, but we weren't recouping the costs," Sincock said.

He said rates have leveled off, even though Plymouth still has ongoing costs to replace its water-system infrastructure.

"That's an ongoing battle," he said.

In Canton, meanwhile, officials are hopeful the new water storage facility will help. It will allow Canton to store water and release it during morning and evening hours when consumer usage peaks. That, in turn, places less strain on the regional water system and should help to ease water rates.

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## Ask Dr. Stewart

Dr. James Stewart is a general dentist from Livonia, MI. Today, he answers a question about sleep loss.

### SHOULD WE TRY AND MAKE UP FOR LOST SLEEP?

**Dear Dr. Stewart:** Is it true that we should try and make up for lost sleep?

**Dr. Stewart:** Yes. When we lose sleep over the course of a few days or weeks, we can build up a sleep debt. The average adult needs to get seven to nine hours of rest per night to function properly during the day. Losing sleep can mean moodiness, difficulty concentrating during the day, weight gain, and even a higher risk of memory loss and heart disease. Fortunately, with the holidays you have an excellent chance to settle some or all of your sleep debt. To do so, I urge you to go to sleep at a reasonable time and continue to sleep until you wake up naturally. No alarms, just several days of a good night's rest. Once you are caught up do your best to avoid building up a new sleep debt by trying to get to bed and wake up at the same time every day as many days as you can.

If you have a question about your oral health or would like to schedule a complimentary cosmetic consultation, contact Dr. James Stewart.

Call 734.425.4400 or Visit [www.jamesstewartdds.com](http://www.jamesstewartdds.com)

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## LETTERS

Continued from Page A1

**Connor Riddell**

P.S. I want football cards! P.P.S., How tall are you?

**Dear Santa,**

How are you doing? Can you bring my Mom a small wallet? Will you get my DAD fancy pensols? Can you get my dogs a skwece? I wud like a rel lif kitten.

**Love, Zoey Silverman**

P.S. have a good trip. PPS, I love you.

**Dear Santa,**

How are you? Can you bring my mom earrings. PPS, can you bring me a real live robet? Have a safe trip.

**Love, Cooper Daiek****Dear Santa,**

How are you? Let me gase: Good? I thek? I don't know?

Would you bring my mom a fake garden? Can you bring my baby brother a box fov famlae? Would you bring dad a new reasr?

**Love, Josephine Paquette**

P.S. I want a Soign mshing. PPS, noke on my door?

**Dear Santa,**

Can you bring my Bro a PS4 and how are doing and Santa I wnt a bumblebee transfomes toy and I wn a camaro toy. Have a safe trip.

**Justin Sturdivant**

P.S. Can you bring cookies.

**Dear Santa,**

I hop you hav a grat trip and giv my mom a neclis! And giv my Dad a swimming sot, and giv my sistr som shoes and giv me a mrching monkey and a stachu of Batman. Bes Santa evr!

**Sami Amer**

P.S. I will lev you coces.

**Dear Santa,**

How are doing? Can you bring my mom some new glasses? For me I want some Pokemon. Are you rech?

**Love, Maddox Mayer**

P.S. can you wack me up?

**Dear Santa,**

How are you doing? Can you get Ms Zuxzo a Target gift card? Can you please give my dad a case for his phone? Have a safe trip.

**Love Jaylen Lazaro**

P.S. Can I have a ds? PPS I will leave the ranedear car-rots.

**Dear Santa,**

How are you doing? Can you bring a new neckalis for



Anthony Lack visits with Santa at the Novi Civic Center.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

my mom? Can you bring me a Xbox1 and play stackiy? Have a nice trip. I'll levi you a cooke and a glass of milk and a cartt for Rudof.

**Love, Jack Strucel**

P.S. can you take off your boots and go up stares and wake me up to see the rain-deers. PPS, can you give Ms Zuzo a Star Buckes free gift card?

**Dear Santa,**

How are you doing? I think you are working hard and good. Can you bring my mom a necklace that says Merry Christmas? Can you sister have a fluttershy stuffed animal? Can my dad have a new bowtie that is blue and back?

Can my cousin Nyvae have dress with a picture of you on it? Can I havea beanieboo cat that is brown and white and big?

**Love, Cailey Ann-Marie Hall**

P.S. Can you wake me when you get there so I can give you a hug? PPS. I love you big guy!

**Dear Santa,**

Can you do a backflip? Can you bring my cat a bed? I would like a remote control train. Have a good trip!

**Love, Preston**

P.S., you are AWESOME!

**Dear Santa,**

Santa, you like cookies? Can you bring my perents oreos?

Can I have a cat? I hope your elves are good!

**Love, Jed Hui**

P.S., you rock!

**Dear Santa,**

How are the elves? Can you git my mom a bidifl necles? And a tools for my dad and git me a X Boks One ples if you can? Hav a god trip, happye Crismis.

**Love, Caden Bronkhorsst-Opalewski**

P.S. Can you wack me up wen you get der ples?

**Dear Santa,**

How are you doing? Can you get my mom a gift? Can you get my dad a gift? Can you get my sister a lakai bracelet? Merry Christmas Santa!

**Gianina Rose Serapiglia**

P.S. I love ya big guy! PPS can you wake me up? PPPS, you are awesome!

**Dear Santa,**

How are you? Good? Is Rudolph nice? Are the elves nice? Are you nice, Santa? Are all the elves good and nice? Pink is my favorite! And I love you!

**From Adelaine Austin**

PS Wiit fro me Santa!

**Dear Santa,**

I hoep you are nics. I wot a ball of yarn for my cat and I wot a plants vs Zombies cos-tom to play with in the house.

**Love, Caleb Jubenville**

P.S. I hop you will llbring my costoms. I love you.

**Dear Santa,**

Hi! How are you? Are you busy getting ready for Christmas Eve? I have a pretty big wish list this year. Mom wants a now crpt. My sister wantas now bocks. My ur sister wants a now DS. I want a toy dog. I can't wait for you to visit on Christmas Eve. I will leave milk and cookies for you.

**Love, Sadie Anthony****Dear Santa,**

Hi How are you? Are you busy getting ready for Christmas Eve? I have a pretty big wish list this year. My dad wants shews. Can you get my mom some clows? Could you get Justin some books? Josh would like a game. Can you get me a Wii? I can't wait for you to visit on Christmas Eve. I will leave milk and cookies for you.

**Your friend, Jordan Banko****Dear Santa,**

I hope you have a excellent Christmas. I hope you give me shopkins. I'm going to try my very best to listen to mom and dad. I will treat my brother good. I will give you cookies and milk. Hoo Hoo Hoo!

**Love, Elizabeth****Dear Santa,**

Hi Santa! I hope you are excerising. Have you gottin the reindeer redy? I have many wishes this year. Would you please bring my mom a new pink dress and slippers. My dad wants a new blue van. Marco wants legos and Dire of a Wupe Kid. Would you please bring me shopkins and hatch-ip. Look for the cookies we made for you.

**From Sofia Dewitt-Campos**



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# Little Stars bring holiday cheer to senior citizens

The Little Stars, a Canton-based youth organization ([www.thelittlestars.org](http://www.thelittlestars.org)), brought holiday cheer to local nursing home seniors with holiday concerts and gifts at Canton and Westland, as they've done the last 10 years. The Little Stars per-

formed at Four Season Nursing Center in Westland, Waltonwood at Carriage Park Assisted Living and Waltonwood at Carriage Park Independent Living in Canton and also brought fuzzy socks as this year's Christmas gifts. The socks were pur-

chased with the funds the Little Stars raised through fundraiser activities.

The Canton Little Stars brought holiday spirit to seniors throughout Westland and Canton.



## Get yourself out of the house over the holiday break

LeAnne Rogers  
hometownlife.com

Once the presents have been opened and everyone's eating leftovers, there may be a limit as to how many video games can be played or television shows that can be binge watched.

During the two-week holiday break, there are plenty of places open for those looking for some culture, fun or just to get out of the house.

Here are some places to visit chosen on a totally random basis,

### Detroit Historical Museum

Located at 5401 Woodward, right across from the Detroit Institute of Art, the Detroit Historical Museum has permanent installations including an upgraded Streets of Old Detroit; an expanded Doorway to Freedom: Detroit and the Underground Railroad; the Kid Rock Music Lab, Legends Plaza; and Detroiters at Work. It's open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday during the holiday break. The museum is always closed Monday, except for a special opening Monday, Dec. 26.

A special event is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve. It lets kids too young to stay up until midnight celebrate the new year with a countdown, cookies and



The Detroit Historical Museum is open during the holiday break.

cocoa. Aimed at preschoolers and elementary students, along with their families, the program will let participants make their own noisemaker and write a time capsule letter. Admission is free.

### Flint Institute of Arts

The collection includes paintings by Auguste Renoir, John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, Thomas Hart Benton, Andrew Wyeth and Duane Hanson. Highlights of the Flint Institute of Arts collection include 15th to 18th century English, French and Italian decorative arts; a rare shaped panel by Peter Paul Rubens; a complete set of 17th century French tapestries; American and

French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings; Hudson River School paintings; regional and Great Lakes paintings; Modernist; and Abstract Expressionist and Photorealist paintings.

The museum is open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. It will be closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

The museum is located at 1120 E. Kearsley in Flint's culture district, adjoining the Sloan Museum, which features a fleet of 80 Flint-built cars. The museum looks at the area's history from fur trading and pioneer life, lumber and carriage making through the automobile era of General Motors.

The newest gallery is Wisner's Whizbang Emporium, which features toys from a bygone era.

Inside the Sloan is the renovated Longway Planetarium which has new seats, new dome, new 7.1 surround sound system, new cove lights and a new cutting-edge projections system, the first of its kind in the country. Michigan's largest planetarium offers public and group shows every day. In addition, hands-on science activities and special exhibits are presented throughout the year.

### Motown Museum

Arguably the Detroit area's biggest export besides cars, Berry Gordy's development of Motown Records and its impact through music is

at the heart of the Motown Museum, 2648 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit. Look for display of favorite songs and musicians. You can even sing a few bars in legendary Studio A.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, although closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. It's always closed Sunday and Monday.

### Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum

Coin-operated games dating from the early 1900s to modern devices are featured at Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum in Farmington Hills. The always growing collection of games provides something for everyone's taste and skill levels.

Noting people often bring out-of-town guests to visit the mechanical museum, it will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Christmas Eve and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Christmas Day. New Year's Eve and Day hours are yet to be determined. The normal hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. It's located at 31005 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

### Holocaust Memorial Center

"Holocaust by Bullets, Yahad-In Unum — 10 Years of Investigations," a special exhibition at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington

Hills, runs through Friday, Dec. 30. It's based on 10 years of research and investigation by the French organization Yahad-In Unum and its founder, the Rev. Patrick Desbois.

Known as "Holocaust by Bullets," the systematic killing of all Jews and Roma started before the creation of concentration camps and took place throughout the former Soviet Union from 1942-44, continuing until the end of World War II. The form of genocide detailed by the exhibit is unlike any other study of genocidal activity ever conducted and presented.

Tours of the memorial are lead by a docent, often a Holocaust survivor. The guide tours take about 2½ hours. The museum is normally open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with last admission at 3:30 p.m. Sunday and Tuesday through Thursday. Friday hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the last admission at 1:30 p.m. The center is open from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, but will close at 5 p.m. Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Due to the subject material of the center, the center isn't for children younger than middle school age. The center is located 28123 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

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## Early retirement can cast a big shadow over future

**Q: I would like your opinion as to my plan for retirement. I am divorced and no longer have any obligations to my ex. Currently, I make more than enough to cover my living expenses and I'm very secure in my job. However, I want to retire next year. I will turn 62 in May, when I will be eligible for a pension and Social Security. I figure I need about \$65,000 to cover all my expenses. My pension and Social Security will provide me about \$45,000. I plan to make up the other \$20,000 by withdrawing from my investments. I have about \$100,000 in investments. In addition, I plan to turn my hobby into a business. I think I**



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

**can make about \$15,000 a year on my hobby. You should know I do not own a home, I rent and I have no debt. My question is, should I plan to retire next year?**

**A:** I hate to be bearer of bad news, but I think it would be a mistake for you to retire. I see a number of pitfalls with your strategy that can cause you severe economic problems down the road.

The first is turning a hobby into a business. I have no idea what your hobby is and I have no idea if it's lucrative or not. What I do know is

that there is a big difference between a hobby and a business. Particularly in your situation, where you have to generate income, it is totally different than generating the enjoyment you get from your hobby. Many people have attempted to turn their hobby into a business and, unfortunately, find out that there are major differences. What would be tragic for you is to give up your job and to then find out you can't be profitable in your hobby. As a result, you could have a severe financial crisis.

What I would recommend from the hobby standpoint is to try it for a time to see if it can be profitable. To be fair to yourself and to make an informed decision, you

**By delaying retirement, you will increase your Social Security and your pension ...**

have to at least go through a business cycle; I recommend you give it at least a two-year period. In that way, you at least have a record to see if the business can be profitable and if you enjoy it.

I also potentially see another issue with the return you're expecting on your investments. If you do net \$15,000 a year from your business, that would mean that you would need about \$5,000 a year from your investments. Particularly, for someone who is retiring at a young age such as yourself, a 5-percent withdrawal rate is aggressive. In your situa-

tion, I would think a 3.5-percent withdrawal rate would be more appropriate.

Another problem I see in your strategy is you're not factoring in that you will need a rising income the rest of your life, not a fixed income. We all know the cost of living is always going up; as your cost of living increases, you may be forced to withdraw larger amounts from your investments, leaving you in a precarious situation.

My advice is that you should not retire. By delaying retirement, you will increase your Social Security and your pension and that will give you the appropriate time to determine whether your hobby can be profitable or not.

One of the toughest parts of my job is to tell someone who wants to retire that they cannot afford to. In order to retire comfortably, you have to provide for a

rising income throughout your lifetime. In the old days, the older you got, the less you needed. Fortunately, or unfortunately, those days are well behind us. Just look at our own situation and look what it cost to live 20 years ago versus today. I have no doubt that 20 years from now it will cost us substantially more to live than it does today. I truly believe that we live in the greatest country in the history of the world, but there's nothing worse in this country than to be old and poor. Therefore, to prevent you from becoming old and not having resources, sometimes the best course of action is to delay retirement.

*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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All interested persons are invited to attend.

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Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator  
201 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
(734)453-1234, Ext. 206



# Police search home in missing Farmington Hills woman case

**Robert Allen**  
Detroit Free Press

Police on Thursday night searched a Berkley home in connection with the missing-person case involving 28-year-old Danielle Stislicki of Farmington Hills, who hasn't been seen since Dec. 2, WDIV-TV (Channel 4) and WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) both report.

Investigators earlier this week said foul play is suspected in the disappearance of the woman, according to Farmington

Hills police. WXYZ-TV reports that Stislicki still has not been found and nobody has been arrested.

She was last seen at about 5 p.m. leaving her job at the MetLife insurance office building on Telegraph north of 10 Mile in Southfield. Her car, a 2015 Jeep Renegade, was found in front



Stislicki

of her apartment building in the Independence Green Apartments complex in Farmington Hills, where she lived, at about 6 p.m. the next day, police said.

A GoFundMe account by Friday morning had raised \$28,960 in reward money for information that leads to Stislicki being found alive. More photos of Stislicki, information and video of a candle-light vigil have been posted at [www.finddani.org](http://www.finddani.org).

WDIV-TV reports in a

statement from police: "The total possible reward money from Independence Green Apartments (\$50,000), MetLife (\$50,000) and a family friend's GoFundMe account (\$25,000) totals over \$125,000."

In addition to Farmington Hills police, detectives from federal and state agencies, as well as from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, have cooperated in search efforts. Farmington Hills Police are also asking help from the

public for:

» Anyone who may have observed Stislicki and/or her vehicle leaving the MetLife office building/parking lot Dec. 2.

» Anyone who may have observed Stislicki and/or her vehicle arriving at her residence between 5 p.m. Dec. 2 and 6 p.m. Dec. 3.

» Anyone who may have observed her any time between 5 p.m. Dec. 2 and 6 p.m. Dec. 3, when her car was located.

» Anyone who may

have seen or found a Samsung Galaxy Core Prime cellphone in a rose-colored case and key chain with a charm and two keys.

» Anyone with information on this case is asked to call the Farmington Hills Police Department at 248-871-2610.

Stislicki, 28, has been missing since last being seen around 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2.

Staff writer Bill Laitner and Hometownlife.com contributed to this report.

## WAYNE COUNTY EVENTS CALENDAR

### Featured artist

Gwendolyn Roth will be the featured artist at the Livonia Fine Arts Gallery for the month of January. Roth's media is photography.

Roth's passion for photography has led her to creating encouraging viewpoints that consider our world in an uplifting or surprising new light. In her artist statement she states, "There is so much to see and capture, and it's all real, and it is found all around us — we don't have to go far. Through my art I hope to transcend the indifferent and enrich our lives one picture at a time."

Visit the Gallery, located on the second floor of the Civic Center Library at 32777 Five Mile Road, between the Court House and City Hall. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. There is a new artist every month.

### Village Theater exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill exhibits an intriguing collection of abstracts and portraits



The Village Theater at Cherry Hill exhibits an intriguing collection of abstracts and portraits by Farmington Hills resident Nina Ashraf Asmi from Jan. 4-30.

by Farmington Hills resident Nina Ashraf Asmi from Jan. 4-30, in the Gallery@VT, located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton, MI 48187.

Asmi has been drawing the people of Metro

Detroit for several years now. She notes, "With my portraits, I like to depict our shared humanity, to go beyond superficial differences to embrace what makes us the same."

For additional information about Nina Ashraf Asmi, please visit [www.ninaasmiart.com](http://www.ninaasmiart.com). This exhibit at the Gallery@VT is free and open to the public Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; during performances at the theater, and by appointment by calling 734/394-5300. The Gallery@VT is closed on holidays

### Three Cities workshop

The Three Cities Arts Club hosts a glass fusing workshop 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, at D&M Art Studio in Canton to learn how to handle, prepare and cut glass to create your own fused dish or night light. Lori Barry will explain the glass fusing process from the type of glass and cutting supplies needed all the way through the kiln temperature schedule. Students will be able to use their own creativity to create their project. Inspirational examples

will be brought to class. Projects will be taken to be fired and available for delivery a week later.

For those interested in participating to create their own piece, there will be a materials fee of \$25. Registration is required by Dec. 29 by calling Marilyn at 313-231-3939 or emailing [marilynmeredith@wowway.com](mailto:marilynmeredith@wowway.com). Fee to be paid the night of the event.

### Secondhand Prose closes for renovations

Canton Public Library's Secondhand Prose Bookstore will be closed for renovations through Feb. 1.

In December, hardcover books and children's book will be sold at reduced prices. Friends of the Canton Public Library support the library through advocacy and fundraising for resources beyond the scope of the operating budget.

### Wayne Memorial Parent Night

Wayne Memorial High School will host an eighth-grade parent night for those transi-

tioning to ninth grade or interested in getting more information about Wayne Memorial High School for the 2016-17 school year.

Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to attend. The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium. Topics covered will include: scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extra-curricular 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 more information, call the Counseling Department at 734-419-2215.

### Free open skate

The Redford Ice Arena offers a free open skate at the Redford Ice Arena or all residents and students from 6:05-7:05 p.m. each Sunday. All residents and Redford students are free.

Cost for others is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and children. Skate rental is \$3. The arena is at 12400 Beech Daly Road.

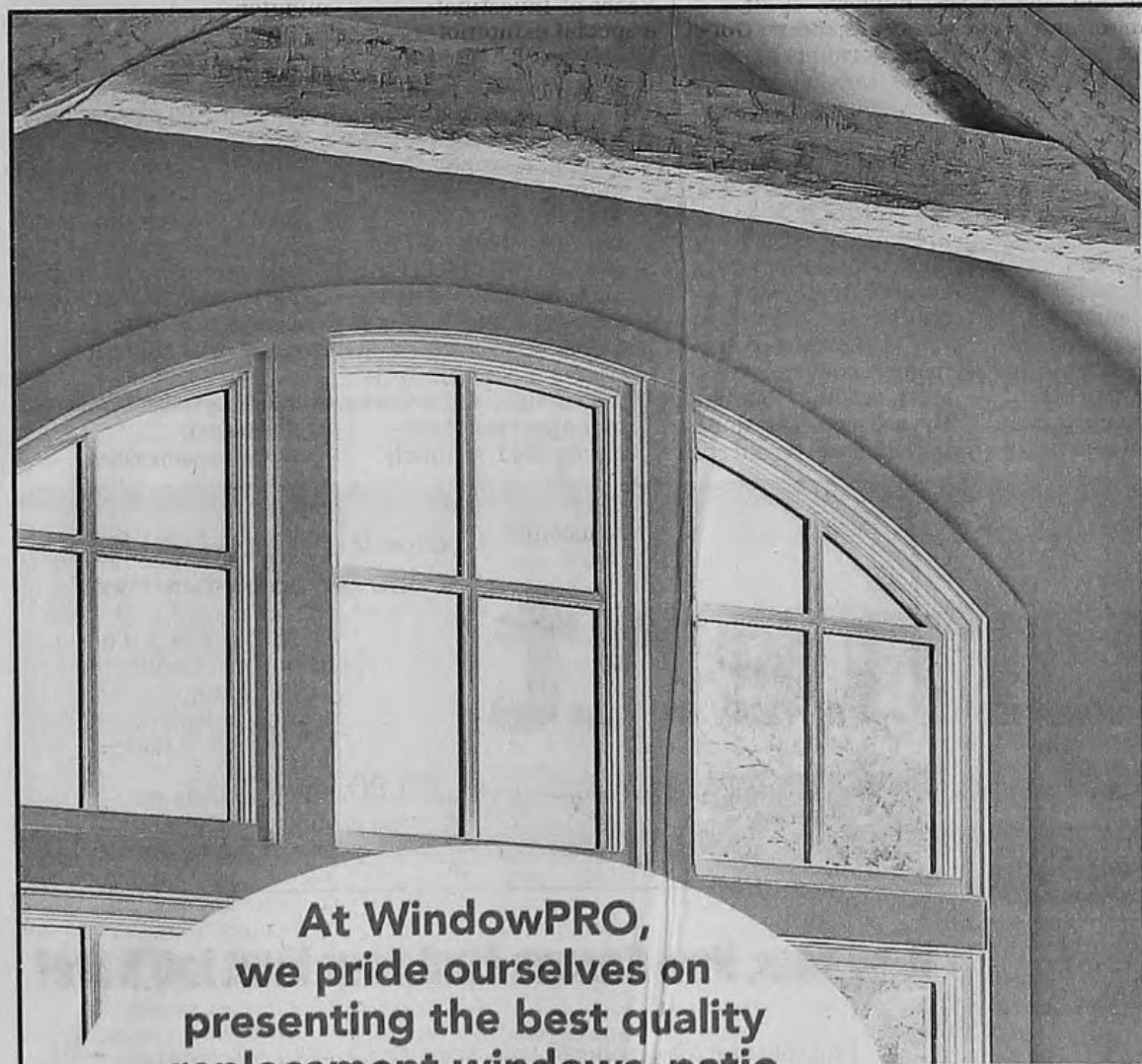
The annual Resident Appreciation Skate is set for 4:30-6:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29. All Redford residents and students are free. Skate rental is free though the number of skates is limited.

The holiday skate schedule is: 1:30-2:50 p.m. Dec. 26-28, 1:30-2:50 p.m. Jan. 3-4 and 1-2:20 p.m. Jan. 5

All Christmas skates are \$3 per person. Skate rentals are \$3.

### Winter Survival Gear Drive for the Homeless

Crossroad Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia, will host a drive for the homeless from 10:30-12:30 p.m. through Sunday, Feb. 12. The church is accepting donations of men's new/used work boots, men's new/gently used white socks, ladies new/gently used turtle-necks. For more information, go to [www.crossroadsnow.org](http://www.crossroadsnow.org), email [info@crossroadsnow.org](mailto:info@crossroadsnow.org) or call 734-338-5149



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# Family trying to help longtime parapro

Jill Halpin  
Correspondent

Jennifer Glidden has spent many years giving a helping hand to others — as a paraprofessional for the Livonia Public Schools, as a parent volunteer for her three now-grown children's school activities and more.

Now, perhaps it is time for the lifelong Livonia resident to receive some help herself.

On Nov. 23, the day before Thanksgiving, Glidden was home alone prepping the holiday meal for family and friends, when she tripped and fell. Although the step in her home on which she tripped was small, the damage from the fall was not.

As a result of the fall — while still recovering from emergency gall bladder surgery just two weeks prior — Glidden broke the bones of both her upper arms, between the elbow and shoulder. Her mishap has resulted in the loss of use of both her arms and doctors have predicted a six-month recovery.

"It has been really difficult," said Joe Glidden, who has been married to Jennifer for 24 years. "Jennifer is in a great deal of pain and requires 24-hour care. She is unable to do anything with the use of her arms."

As if the pain and



Taking care of Jennifer Glidden has been a group effort.

suffering weren't quite enough, the burden has been multiplied by the loss of her income, he added.

Currently employed as a secretary in Farmington Public Schools, Jennifer Glidden has not been able to work since the accident, leaving the family without her paycheck during the recovery time.

"We are a two-income family; both of us work very hard to support our family and it cannot be done with just one income Joe Glidden said. "We are trying as hard as we can, but between the loss of income and the medical bills piling up, we are very concerned

that we are going to lose our home."

It is one reason that Jennifer Glidden's mother, Judith Fitzpatrick, also of Livonia, started a GoFundMe page called "Jennifer's Journey Two Broken Arms" for her daughter.

"You don't plan on things like this happening," Fitzpatrick said. "They are a two-income family and they need her income. They have two children in college right now; there are a lot of expenses. This is hitting them all very hard."

Fitzpatrick said that it is difficult to see her daughter in so much pain, both physically and emotionally — especially

at this time of year.

"Jennifer is always so generous and giving, it is hard to see her discomfort and watch her worry about the future," she said.

Fitzpatrick, who lives nearby, has joined her son-in-law as caregiver for her daughter.

"The progress is very slow. She needs 24-hour care and cannot be alone, ever," she said. "She can't do anything on her own without the use of her arms. I come over in the morning and stay with her until her husband comes home from work and he takes over on the next shift."

While care taking can be a bit taxing, Fitzpatrick

said, "That is what mother's do — they take care of their children. You never stop being a mother, do you?"

Fitzpatrick said her grandchildren — Allison, 23, Zachary, 21, and Melissa, 18 — have all been extremely helpful in caring for their mother as well.

Allison is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, but the other two are college students and busy with studies and work.

"Taking care of Jennifer has been a group effort and I am hopeful that she can get back to normal," Fitzpatrick said, "and the kids have been so great in helping their mom. They love and appreciate her very much."

That love and appreciation was evident to all Thanksgiving Day, when the family — along with some friends — converged on Jennifer's room at St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia.

"Jennifer was in the hospital recovering from surgery on her arms and shoulder on Thanksgiving. My daughter and a family friend prepared the food and Jennifer told us just to go ahead and eat at home and then come visit her," Joe Glidden said.

"When I told my children, they insisted on going to the hospital to share their meal with her. My son

said, 'I am not eating Thanksgiving dinner without my mother.'"

Joe Glidden said the hospital was very accommodating to them, praising St. Mary's staff for obliging their request to share dinner with Jennifer.

"We have been very lucky. People have been very kind and helpful to us," he said.

Having to ask for assistance is both extremely hard and humbling, he admitted.

"I really hate having to ask anyone for help; it is not a pleasant thing to do," he said. "But there is no other way to put it: we need both of our incomes and, without them, we are really struggling."

Unfortunately, Jennifer Glidden's recovery has been disrupted by some unexpected bad news from her doctors. In addition to the first surgery — a partial shoulder replacement — her other arm is not healing properly and will require surgery as well.

It is another unexpected step in "Jennifer's Journey," but family members are keeping their spirits up with hope that Jennifer will at least be able to be discharged from the hospital in time for Christmas.

For more information about or to make a donation, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/GoForGlidden>.

## Couple pays off \$20K of layaways at local Kmart

Matt Jachman  
hometownlife.com

For dozens of families who shop at the Kmart in Garden City, Santa Claus lives not at the North Pole, but in southern California.

And Santa visited the store Sunday, Dec. 18, in the form of a couple who paid for nearly \$20,000 worth of merchandise that had been put on layaway plans that had expired or were about to expire.

Steve and Samantha Bryson, who live in Bixby, Calif., near Long Beach, said they got the idea from a news report about a similar incident in Pennsylvania and stopped at the Kmart on Ford Road on their way to Detroit Metropolitan Airport that day. They were about to fly home after a visit to the area



Steve and Samantha Bryson spent about \$20,000 on Dec. 18 to pay off customers' layaway bills at the Garden City Kmart.

for a friend's Christmas party and 50th birthday celebration.

"It was cold and some of the areas we drove through were just so not in a good place," Samantha Bryson said by phone Thursday evening, describing their spur-of-the-moment decision.

A couple paid nearly

\$20,000 to retrieve the layaway merchandise, a Kmart spokeswoman confirmed. The man also handed cash to some customers at the store, the spokeswoman said.

"Each year, Kmart has generous individuals that anonymously pay off members' and customers' layaway contracts to get

into the holiday spirit. Although a majority of these instances occur during the holidays, it does occur all throughout the year," the spokeswoman, Bridgette Potratz, wrote in an email.

"It was a fun couple of hours," Samantha Bryson said.

Some 65 accounts were paid off, one by one, with the idea that people who had recently put items on layaway there were probably making Christmas purchases, Samantha Bryson said.

As the cash register spit out receipts, she said, she and her husband were able to confirm the items were necessities and modest gifts: shoes, winter clothing, a few toys.

"There were no electronics, no frivolous stuff, nothing," Samantha Bryson said. The store immediately began con-

tacting people whose accounts had been paid.

Steve Bryson said he encountered two women at Kmart who had just paid off their layaways and reimbursed them.

It wasn't the first time the Brysons had paid off customers' layaways. They did the same thing at a Walmart in Memphis, where Steve Bryson grew up, on a recent visit there.

The couple is being showered with thank yous and good wishes.

"We've seen pictures of kids on bicycles they wouldn't normally have gotten," Steve Bryson said. People touched by their generosity in Garden City, he added, have been "nothing but gracious and kind."

The Brysons, who own Global Electronic Technology Inc., which works in the payment processing field, routinely

help charitable organizations in their area, such as the Long Beach Rescue Mission, at the holidays. They raise money for those organizations, Steve Bryson said, and match it, or more than match it, and this year had money left over.

They hope their kindness is contagious.

Steve Bryson said he is motivated by having grown up amid hardship and violence in Memphis and seeing many of his siblings die prematurely because of illnesses.

"We did what we had to do to get out of there," said Bryson, who joined the U.S. Army at age 17 and served in the 82nd Airborne Division. "When I got out, I really had a good, solid bearing."

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# Christmas comes early for Hicks students

**LeAnne Rogers**  
hometownlife.com

Christmas arrived early for the students at Hicks Elementary School in Inkster.

On the last day of school before the two-week holiday break, students got lunch and presents at a surprise event in the cafeteria/gym.

"You guys have been so good this year, Santa made a visit to Hicks," Principal Amy Gee told the students as they sat down for lunch.

When they first entered the gym, the students were pretty quiet

— some stared at the decorations and stacks of wrapped gifts with their mouths open. Pretty quickly, the students got over their surprise and began cheering with delight.

Like any good Christmas morning, many of the kids and staff were decked out in their best pajamas — it was also pajama day at Hicks.

Calling the event "Miracle on Helen Street," using the school's location, Gee organized the party to send off students on a high note for their break. The gifts and meals were all donated —

the mountain of gifts were wrapped by volunteers, too.

"I'm very, very happy. I'm overwhelmed. I've been crying my eyes out," said Gee, who was working the microphone and keeping the party — students came through in their usual three lunch periods — on schedule.

Teachers and central office staff were helping out with the party, including Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent Michele Harmala. So were a contingent of Michigan State Police troopers who work in Inkster through the Se-

cure Cities Partnership.

State Trooper Micah Keller learned about the "Miracle on Helen Street" after a mutual friend shared Gee's Facebook post looking for donations to put the party together.

"I saw it (the Facebook post). Since I work in Inkster, I thought it was a good opportunity to give back to the community," Keller said.

"Anytime you can engage with young kids, you do it. We want to be more community service-oriented. Soon as I heard about this, I was interested right off the bat. And I knew my squad would be interested."

The troopers helped younger kids open their bottles of water, helped distribute gifts and helped clean up between lunch periods to get ready for the next group of students. It was a kid-friendly lunch of chicken tenders, macaroni and cheese, green beans, apple slices and a cookie.

"We helped with the present donations. We helped serve lunch and clean up. We're basically Amy's (Gee) workers today," Keller said.

Ruth Clark was helping out at the holiday party. Her daughter, Taniyah Kitchen, is a paraprofessional at the school and twin grandsons Jamal and Jamar, 7,

are students at the school.

"I come to help at the school sometimes. I think this is magnificent. I've never seen anything like this; it's really nice," Clark said. "This is something for kids who wouldn't get anything."

The students each got several presents: Barbie dolls, Legos, games and other toys.

About 90 percent of

the school's students are eligible for free/reduced lunches, although Gee said the party was for all students, regardless of need.

"Boys and girls, we love you very much. Merry Christmas from your Hicks family," Gee told the students.

lrogers@hometownlife.com  
734-883-9039



Derionna Clemons, 5, right, shows Principal Amy Gee her present.



Brielle Ballard, 5, is excited to open her presents.

# Local man brings holiday cheer to those serving at Selfridge

**Jay Grossman**  
hometownlife.com

Santa Claus came to Selfridge, riding in a sleigh filled with gifts and laughter.

On Dec. 4, more than 100 Simon Group Holdings and Atlas Oil team members hosted 2,600 United States military service men and women and their families at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, home to the 127th Wing.

Bloomfield Hills resident Sam Simon, chairman of Simon Group Holdings, has organized the annual Christmas outing for the past 10 years.

"It gives us great joy

to host this family Christmas celebration for our military," said Simon, who hosts the annual event with his wife Nada. "It's the least we can do to show these courageous and selfless men and women how much we appreciate our freedom and their service ... we have the best trained and smartest military in the world and we can't take them for granted."

Brig. Gen. John Slocum added, "We always look forward to this celebration. It's an opportunity for the great men and women who tirelessly sacrifice so much to get an opportunity to pause for a moment and enjoy great company, music,

food and generous recognition."

The first holiday party was held in 2006. Simon was having lunch with a pair of retired Navy SEALs when he learned about 200 U.S. Marines being deployed from Selfridge three weeks before Christmas. The base wanted to give the Marines a holiday send-off, but it wasn't in the budget.

Simon and his wife quickly organized a party for the base. They've held one every year since, providing a little cheer for hundreds of military personnel on duty during the holidays.

"Christmas is about time with family and

friends and it's especially about the children," he said. "We're so happy we can bring military families together for a few hours each December to have fun with each other and to express our gratitude."

In addition to the festivities, toys were collected for the Marine Toys for Tots program. Marine Staff Sgt. Jimmy Pineda oversees the southeast Michigan program and, in 2015, the Marines distributed 120,000 toys to 30,000 local children, with help from generous sponsors and the community.

grossman@hometownlife.com  
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Bloomfield Hills residents Sam and Nada Simon have organized a holiday party at Selfridge for the past 10 years.



## Passages

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### BLAZO



**WILLIAM A. JR.** age 95, formerly of Birmingham, entered eternal life Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette in the loving care of his family. Born March 9, 1921 in Pontiac, a son of William and Eleanor (Lamb) Blazo, Sr., Bill graduated from Royal Oak High School, Class of 1939. He attended the University of Detroit until enlisting in the U.S. Coast Guard at the onset of World War II, later transferring to the U.S. Naval Air Corps. Bill received his commission in 1944 while stationed at Corpus Christi, Texas. While completing his naval training at Central Michigan University, he met and later married the love of his life, Mary Jean Coon on April 7, 1945. Following his honorable discharge, Bill was employed with the FBI as a field agent, then with Ford Motor Company as an investigator, followed by a career at Chrysler as head of executive security, and finally a 27 year "retirement" career as an investigator with Harness Dickey Patent Law Firm. In 1960, while serving as a pilot in the naval reserves on Grosse Isle, he survived a near fatal plane crash as a test pilot for the AD Sky Raider. Bill and Mary Jean enjoyed an active social life, sailing, traveling, and attending concerts at Meadowbrook. They also derived great pleasure from taking part in their children's and grandchildren's lives, attending their school and sporting events, while also serving as great role models. A natural athlete, Bill enjoyed playing tennis, basketball, baseball, track and field, running, cross country skiing, and stayed very active throughout his whole life. He loved and cared about people, making many friends in both his work and personal life. Generous with both his time and talent, he volunteered with the Royal Oak Court Probation program for many years and was a generous supporter of many community causes including the Couzens Foundation of Detroit Children's Hospital, Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay, Camp Oakland in Metro Detroit, and Cystinosis Research Network. He was a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church. Bill was a hardworking, generous, and conscientious, loving son, brother, husband, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He is survived by a son, Robert (Gail) Blazo of Baroda, MI and a daughter, Becky (Buzz) Berube of Marquette, MI; his grandchildren, James (Amy) Felgner, Jesse (Tala) Blazo, Jonathan (Mercedes) Blazo, Jacob (Ana) Blazo, Brooke (Pete Duex) Berube, Kelly (Juan Pablo) De Caro, Bridget (Walt Kyle) Berube, and 12 beloved great-grandchildren, Ana and Adelaide Felgner, Lucan, Samuel, Lia, and Adriana Blazo, Sophie, Nora, and Lake Skytta, Lucia and Gabriela De Caro, and William Duex. Bill was predeceased by his wife of 71 years, Mary Jean Coon Blazo; a son, William A. Blazo III who died at birth; an infant sister, Patricia Blazo; five brothers, John (Patricia) Blazo, Robert (Martha) Blazo, Donald (Gloria) Blazo, James (Donna) Blazo, and Barry (Hilda) Blazo. The family would like to express their appreciation to the caring staff of both Pine Ridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Stevensville, Michigan, and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bay Cliff Health Camp, P.O. Box 310, Big Bay, MI 49808; the Cystinosis Research Network, 302 Whytegate Court, Lake Forest, IL 60045-4705; or the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans Activity Fund, 425 Fisher Street, Marquette, MI 49855. Honoring Bill's request, private family services will be held. The Swanson-Lundquist Funeral Home, Marquette, is serving the family, where condolences may be expressed online at [swansonlundquistfuneralhome.com](http://swansonlundquistfuneralhome.com)

### SCHREIBER



**FRANK E.** age 75, of Westland, passed away December 15, 2016. Born in Wadsworth, Ohio, to Frank and Frances (nee Miller) Schreiber on August 11, 1941. Frank is survived by his children Frank and Christi Schreiber, and his sister Joan Hill. Frank was preceded in death by both of his parents. Private cremation services have been entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. A Memorial Service will be scheduled at a later date.

### SCHUMAKER



**RALPH E.** Died December 16, 2016, age 89. Former resident of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, St. Clair, Missouri, Gulf Shores, Alabama and most recently Chelsea, MI. Survived by his children Susan Kaminski (Pat), Joan Chadde, Julie Schumaker (Kevin Dombkowski, Janet Willard (Mark), Scott (Marilyn) Schumaker and the late Mark Schumaker, 12 grandchildren, and his dear friend Virginia Latierro. Private service has taken place with burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. [www.mccabefuneralhome.com](http://www.mccabefuneralhome.com)

### WESMAN

**MARY LOU** February 4, 1936 - December 18, 2016, age 80 of Livonia, Cherished wife of the late Robert for 50 years. Loving mother of Mary Osburn, Sue (Dave) Joiner, Patty Salazar, Chris (Walter) Mixon, and Beth (Sam) Kryzer. Dear grandmother to 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Also survived by brother Michael Pflueger. Passed away at home. Memorial service at a later date. Please visit the online guestbook at [cremationmichigan.com](http://cremationmichigan.com)

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PREP SPOTLIGHT

# 'Cats goalie Olepa has the right stuff

Plymouth junior relishes being last line of defense for his team

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Being a hockey goalie is something Brendan Olepa wanted to do ever since he saw himself in the mirror wearing brand new gear as a young child.

More than a decade later, Olepa wants nothing more than to be the best hockey goalie he can be for the Plymouth Wildcats.

"It's just having the game on your shoulders," the 16-year-old Plymouth junior said after a recent practice at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, about why he is so enthralled with being the last line of defense. "It's hit or miss for a goalie. You're either getting

*"It's just having the game on your shoulders. ... You're either getting blamed for everything or you're getting praise for everything."*

**BRENDAN OLEPA**  
Plymouth junior goalie

blamed for everything or you're getting praise for everything.

"The thing that gets me going is just the experience. Having that adrenaline rush that, yeah, if everything goes bad, they're counting on you." Olepa has loved having that

feeling ever since the first time he strapped on goalie pads.

"My first year of hockey, my first pair of goalie pads I was 3 or 4," Olepa said. "I did street hockey stuff and I absolutely fell in love with it."

"I have a picture my dad took where I was just standing in the mirror looking at myself in goalie gear. From there on, I knew what I wanted to do."

Plymouth varsity head coach Gerry Vento is glad that Olepa took that path — especially this season, when several games have come down to the poised teenager standing between the pipes.

"It's his maturity level and

See OLEPA, Page B2



TIM SMITH

Junior Brendan Olepa of the Plymouth Wildcats is providing clutch goalkeeping for his team.

GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL PREVIEW

## LAST CLASH AT THE JOE



GEOFFREY M. MILLER

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

Local skaters pumped up to play in the final Great Lakes Invitational at Joe Louis Arena

Mike Rosenbaum  
Correspondent

While growing up, Canton native Matt Roy enjoyed watching the annual Great Lakes Invitational hockey tournament. "I attended as a little Michigan fan," he said. Roy will attend another GLI this Thursday, but he won't be rooting for the Wolverines. Instead, he'll be skating for Michigan Tech.

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

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



DARYL MARSHKE | U-M PHOTOGRAPHY

Bloomfield Hills native Will Lockwood has enjoyed a strong freshman season at Michigan, but will miss the GLI with a shoulder injury.

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

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

### 52ND ANNUAL GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL

For the 14th time in the tournament's history, four Michigan-based schools will participate in the holiday tradition.

Where: Joe Louis Arena

Thursday, Dec. 29: Michigan and Michigan Tech will get things rolling, starting at 3:30 p.m. followed by the MSU-WMU contest.

Friday, Dec. 30: The two losing teams meet at 3:30 p.m. in the third-place game, while the winners meet for the championship at 7 p.m.

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

See HOCKEY, Page B2

BOYS BASKETBALL

## Divine Child's rally stuns CC

Brad Emons  
hometownlife.com

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

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

The 6-foot-6 Blair nailed a huge 3-pointer late, followed by the game-winning free throws with only 12.8 seconds remaining, as the host Falcons pulled out a 56-55 boys basketball win over Novi Detroit Catholic Central.

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

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

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

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

Blair

See RALLY, Page B2

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## RALLY

Continued from Page B1

grabbed the rebound.

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

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

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

"We didn't play very good defense late and we

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

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

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

***"The thing that hurt us is that we had some really major missed defensive assignments. ... We had opportunities late and they made two clutch threes ... give them credit for that."***

**BILL DYER**

Catholic Central coach

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

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

"He's such a tough guard," Divine Child coach Andy Dold said. "Who do you match up with him? He can blow by people, he can shoot it.

He's so strong. He was also good on the football team, so we're waiting for him to come around like that. I'm hoping it's here to stay."

In addition to Blair's 14, Urbanick came off the bench to score nine. Falcons 6-foot-7 senior center Liam Soraghan and 6-4 senior guard Scott Combs contributed eight and seven, respectively.

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

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

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

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

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

"It's kind of been a theme for us this year," Dold said. "I think the football thing affected both teams. When our football team made an

incredible run ... I actually emailed coach (Bill) Dyer and said, 'What do I do now?' He told me it was going to be tough. You'll have to grind it out. The guys won't be back until after Christmas, so he wasn't lying. It seems to be the case."

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

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

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bemons1@twitter.com

## OLEPA

Continued from Page B1

his work ethic," Vento said, discussing the characteristics that make Olepa such a big-game goaltender. "He's the hardest worker on the ice and (Wildcats goalie coach) Lonnie (Middaugh) really puts him through it out there, makes him work.

"The harder Lonnie pushes him, it seems the harder Olepa pushes back and it shows in games."

### Balancing act

Olepa and sophomore goaltender Josh Montroy flipped their gloves and stick to the side for a recent drill.

Middaugh had them hold onto a 12-pound medicine ball and do a series of crease movements — remaining as much in their stance as possible. The drills are designed to help them with balance and agility.

"He uses it for balance and for that extra weight on the ice, making it harder for him to get back and forth," Vento said. "So when it's game time, without the medicine ball, he's going to feel a lot quicker getting from post to post."

The extra work doesn't bother the 5-foot-8 Olepa. In fact, he seems to enjoy every minute on the ice.

Olepa — who earlier in his career had stints with Little Caesars and the Farmington Flames — also is thankful for having a goalie coach like Middaugh, who began working with him during eighth grade on



Calmly collecting a loose puck during a recent high school varsity hockey game is Plymouth junior goalie Brendan Olepa.

MICHAEL VASILNEK

the Plymouth Prep Team.

"Coach Lonnie has been an inspiration to me and has been a great mentor on and off the ice," Olepa said. "He's been my psychologist, teacher and friend. He's taught me many things on and off the ice that have really improved my game over the years."

Also helping him to push his way down the path he is happily taking were Darrin Silvester and Ron Hayes, both with a "learn to skate" program at Plymouth Cultural Center in the mid-2000s. Silvester later was Olepa's head coach with Plymouth Prep.

### Bring it on

Those coaches and others undoubtedly helped Olepa add to his growing goalkeeping tool box. But his love of the game and position remain paramount.

And the son of Ed and Barbara Olepa thrives



FAMILY PHOTO

The a-ha moment for Brendan Olepa came at age 4, when he liked the look of wearing goalie equipment. Here he checks out his first set of pads in the mirror.

under pressure, another trait that Vento raves about.

"I was really impressed with his composure in the Salem game (a 4-2 win Dec. 17).

That's always a nerve-wracking game, it's intense," Vento said. "But the saves he was making, he made them look easy."

"He just didn't get too high, he didn't get too

low. He's just really a mature goalie, especially for a junior."

The previous week, Northville scored back-to-back goals in 12 seconds to tie the Wildcats, with most of the third period to go. All Olepa did was shut the door the rest of the contest and Plymouth won 3-2 in overtime.

Whenever things do go off the rails for a stretch, he can take a deep breath and hit the reset button.

"It's mental toughness," Olepa said. "You got to go into the game thinking, 'Oh, I'm not going to give up.' Even if I end up messing up, you just can't give up and that's the mindset you need to have."

"After those two goals (against Northville) I just shook it off and said, 'You know what? It happens, you just got to keep going.'"

"If you dwell on it, stuff like that will hap-

pen later on in the period and you'll go deeper and deeper in the hole."

Olepa, owner of a 3.8 grade-point average with hopes of playing college hockey, added that whatever he can do off the ice to give himself an edge getting from Point A to Point B to get set for the next shot is a priority.

"It just takes time," he said. "Stretching helps, going to the gym a couple days a week. It's a lot of dedication, but it pays off at the end."

"What I do (at the gym) is core stuff and leg work to get my speed going. That's for explosive movement."

### In it together

He plays the hybrid style, a mix of butterfly and standup, depending on the action around him.

Of course, Olepa realizes his on-ice success doesn't take place in a vacuum. He completely shares any of his personal successes with Plymouth teammates.

"The success that we have had this season so far has really been a combination of teamwork and everyone working together," Olepa said. "Knowing that I have a strong team in front of me while I have been in the net has kept me calm and confident every time we step on the ice."

"I am very proud of my team with the success we have had this season and I am very excited to carry out the (rest of the) year with those guys."

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

## HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

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

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

The 2015 off-season was doubly significant for Roy, because he was selected by the Los Angeles Kings in the seventh round of the NHL Entry Draft, the 194th player taken overall.

Today, however, Roy is totally focused on his college career. Looking ahead to the second half of the season, he said Tech just needs to "keep playing the way we're



Michigan State senior center Thomas Ebbing helped lead Birmingham Brother Rice to the 2012 Division 2 state championship.

MATTHEW MITCHELL PHOTOGRAPHY

playing" so the team can retain the MacNaughton Cup as the WCHA regular-season champion and earn a trip to the NCAA tournament.

### Ready for the rematch

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

er, and they go into the GLI with an uncharacteristic 7-8-1 record.

The Wolverines boast several area standouts, including sophomore defenseman Nicholas Boka. A Plymouth resident, Boka played for the U.S. National Team Development Program for two seasons before joining the Wolverines for the 2015-16 campaign. A defensive-oriented defenseman, Boka tallied 10 assists in 38 games as a

freshman and enters the GLI with one goal and one assist in 15 contests this season, along with 35 blocked shots. Boka was drafted by the Minnesota Wild in the sixth round, 171st overall, in the 2015 Entry Draft.

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

Like Boka, Lockwood played for the U.S. NTDP for two years, totaling 13 goals and 20 assists in 59 games. Lockwood had six goals and six assists in Michigan's first 16 games this season before suffering a shoulder injury that will keep him out of the GLI. Lockwood is expected back on the ice some time in January.

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

### Green and white hopes

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

Among the Spartans' leaders is senior forward Thomas Ebbing, who helped Birmingham Brother Rice capture the 2012 Division 2 state championship. Ebbing is tied for third on MSU with eight points in 14 games, on two goals and six assists. He posted a

career-best 19 points last season (five goals, 14 assists) and blocked 59 shots, fourth-best among the nation's forwards.

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

Novi Catholic Central graduate Carson Gatt, a South Lyon resident, also helps man the Spartans' blue line. The defensive-minded junior defenseman has a goal and an assist in 10 games this season, after posting a career-high seven assists in his sophomore year. Senior forward Connor Wood, a Bloomfield Hills Lahser graduate, has found the net once in 12 games this year.

MSU also has a pair of area goaltenders, both freshmen. John Lettemon, who attended Farmington High, has a 4.76 goals-against average and .833 save percentage in three games. Spencer Wright, who backstopped Catholic Central to two consecutive state titles in 2014-15, has yet to see action this season.



## BOYS HOCKEY ROUNDUP

# Doyle's hat trick not enough for Churchill

Top-ranked Brighton ekes out 4-3 win over Chargers in thrilling KLAAs hockey tilt

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

John Doyle epitomizes the unselfishness of the Livonia Churchill varsity boys hockey team.

Even after the senior forward scored all three of his team's goals Wednesday night against Brighton — the top-ranked team in Division 1 — he lamented a couple of defensive miscues that cost the Chargers.

The Bulldogs broke a 3-3 tie with 1:29 to play at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia, when Keith Wikman swept a rebound past Churchill senior goalie Drew Broyles to clinch the 4-3 decision.

"We got to back-check a little bit more, a couple three-on-tuos that they capitalized on, which can't happen," Doyle said. "But overall, we learned we can compete with any team in the state, the best team in the state."

Concurring with that assessment was Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds, whose team (7-2-0 overall, 4-2-0 in the KLAAs Kensington Conference) rallied from 2-0 and 3-2 deficits against the fast and physical

Bulldogs (8-1-0, 4-0-0) only to ultimately run out of time.

"It was really a character game for our guys," Reynolds said. "I think it's a real testament to not just how talented we are, but how hard these guys work. Win, lose or draw, I was going to come in incredibly proud of these guys for the effort they put in. I'm absolutely proud."

"You have to play teams like this in order to prepare yourself for the postseason. We were in a similar position last year, where we won the game against Brighton 4-3, in their house. It came to the third period, similar to this one."

"I guess maybe the hockey gods decided it was our turn to come up a little bit short this time around."

## Tough start

The Chargers, who compete in Division 2, could never get over the hump Wednesday.

At 13:47 of the opening period, Brighton senior forward Jake Crespi (goal, two assists) fooled Broyles with a wrist shot from the right-wing boards.

The Bulldogs made it 2-0 with 26 seconds left. Broyles sprawled to stop Ben Peterson, but Wikman chipped the rebound over the goalie.

At the conclusion of the period, the referees



Doyle

Sinclair (who left to be evaluated for a concussion at a nearby hospital, Reynolds said).

When the teams took the ice for the second period, Churchill enjoyed a five-minute power play and Doyle made the Bulldogs pay with two goals in a 36-second span to tie the game at 2-2.

"As I understand it, they said it was an elbow and decided to give (Crespi) the five-minute (penalty) after the fact," Reynolds said. "They came out and spoke to us after the buzzer had sounded and the boys were in the locker room and told us the five minutes were coming. So we knew to prepare accordingly and try to take advantage of that window of opportunity."

"We were fortunate. We jumped on it quickly and managed to pop a couple in and get back in the game."

## Power play connects

The first one was an unassisted goal at 3:24. Doyle took the puck from a Brighton player, curled into the slot and snapped a wicked wrist shot over

the glove hand of Bulldogs senior goalie Logan Neaton (23 saves).

At the four-minute mark, Doyle's one-timer of a cross-ice feed from junior linemate Jordan Venegoni beat Neaton cleanly inside the far post. Also assisting was senior defenseman and captain Joe Wozniak.

Of the two power-play goals, Doyle said he liked the second one better.

"We get out there early in practice and we run the power play," Doyle said. "We practice that (the one-timer) a lot. It's finally nice for it to come in use and finally get one from it."

Churchill's dangerous trio of Doyle, Venegoni and junior forward Tyler Haydu came close to putting the Chargers in front with about eight minutes to go in the period.

Doyle delivered a pass to Haydu, cutting in on the right wing. But Haydu found himself too close to Neaton when it came time to take a shot and the goalie easily kicked the puck away.

It was Broyles' turn to make a key stop in the period's final minute, when he blocked Crespi's redirect on the doorstep.

Broyles (23 saves) kept the game tied for a while in the third. After turning aside an in-close bid by Wikman, he snagged Crespi's slap shot taken from inside

the blue line following a Churchill turnover.

But Brighton did go up 3-2 with 5:23 remaining and Crespi was in the middle of the scoring play. He skated down the right wing and slipped the puck over to Peterson for the tap-in.

## Never say die

Just over a minute later, however, the Chargers showed their mettle with another equalizer.

Junior forward Josh Friend threaded a perfect stretch pass up the middle to Doyle, who collected the puck at the Brighton blue line and zeroed in on Neaton.

Doyle was stopped as he approached the crease, but the rebound caromed past Neaton to set off a Churchill celebration. A collision knocked the goal off its moorings, but the goal counted.

"I went with my move; the goalie stopped it," Doyle said. "But it ricocheted out and hit the defense and went back in. Huge turning point right there."

The Bulldogs, however, had their own response — and it turned out to be the final say for the evening.

"Similar to our situation, I'm sure they were looking for second and third opportunities in front of the net, looking for rebounds," Reynolds said. "Unfortunately,

they had a step on us coming into the zone, that rebound popped out and they had an open opportunity to pick it up."

"No different than what we were looking for when we were going up against Logan Neaton. It was just Brighton's night."

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

"We did a nice job of crashing the net and generating offense from that," said Northville coach Clint Robert, whose team outshot Canton 47-18. "That is something as a team we wanted to make a bigger commitment to doing, so it was nice to see."

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

The Mustangs increased their lead to 5-1 after two periods getting goals from Nick Williams at 0:18 (from Nick Bonifiglio and Daniel McKee); Devin Laba at 4:35 (from Alex Iafraite and Scorzo); Iafraite at 9:27 (from Laba and Nick Bogenhagen); and Rea just 10 seconds later (from Skillman and Sanuda Gunaratne).

Emerson Taylor also tallied the lone goal for the Chiefs in the second period.

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

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

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

SLU got its lone goal on a two-man power play advantage 8:15 into the final period by defenseman Zach Vanboven. South Lyon goalie Jared Paugh made 42 saves in the loss.

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## BOYS BASKETBALL

## Franklin's early blitz stymies GC

Patriots jump out to 9-0 lead and never look back in non-conference match-up

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Fans settling into the bleachers at Garden City were treated to the "Mark Mettie Show" in the early minutes Thursday, as the Livonia Franklin junior center scored seven of the game's first nine points — all banked by the Patriots.

Garden City's Jacob Sadowski finally put the Cougars on the board with a trey at the 2:30 mark, cutting the Franklin lead to 9-3. But the die had been cast in the non-conference varsity boys basketball game, with the Patriots never trailing in a 51-39 victory.

"We're not going to win many varsity games scoring 39 points," said Garden City head coach Rick Morton, whose team dropped to 1-4 entering a two-week holiday hiatus. "Got to figure out a way to score the basketball."

"We could get it (the deficit) to nine, get it to seven. But we couldn't get over that hump. Got to be able to score the basketball. Hats off to them, they shot the ball very well."

The Cougars actually got to 11-7 late in the first quarter. However, Mettie closed out the quarter strongly with two buckets in the paint in the final minute to give Franklin an 18-7 lead going into the second.

Back to back treys by Garden City junior forward Eian Castonguay (11 points, four steals) brought the Cougars to within 26-19 midway through the second, but answering with a 3-ball was junior guard Keyon Brown (12 points, five assists, four rebounds). That's pretty much how the rest of the game played out.

## Early dominance

Indeed, Mettie was a menace to the Cougars with 18 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks. The only negative for the 6-8 player was fouling

out late in the game, getting tagged with an offensive foul driving to the rim in an attempt to get to 20 points for the night.

Like in the previous game against Canton, Mettie was dominant in the first half (16 points) only to be stopped later on.

It was a similar pattern Thursday, when he had 14 points at the break with Franklin enjoying a 32-23 advantage. But he managed to hit just two field goals after that in a relatively even second half in which both teams struggled to score.

"(Mettie) gets off to hot starts," Franklin head coach Jon Djokaj said. "We need him to finish (games) a little better. We've seen it a couple games now, where teams have been able to take him away (in the second half)."

"He's learning and getting every better day, but it's a continual process. It's not just with him, it's with all our guys."

Another key contributor for the Patriots was junior guard Paytin Harris, with five steals.

"Paytin Harris brings a lot of energy for us, gets into passing lines, gets a lot of deflections and steals," Djokaj said. "Our sophomore, Ryan Hoyer, does a nice job, as well as does (junior) Roger Carpenter. They do a lot of good things pressuring the ball."

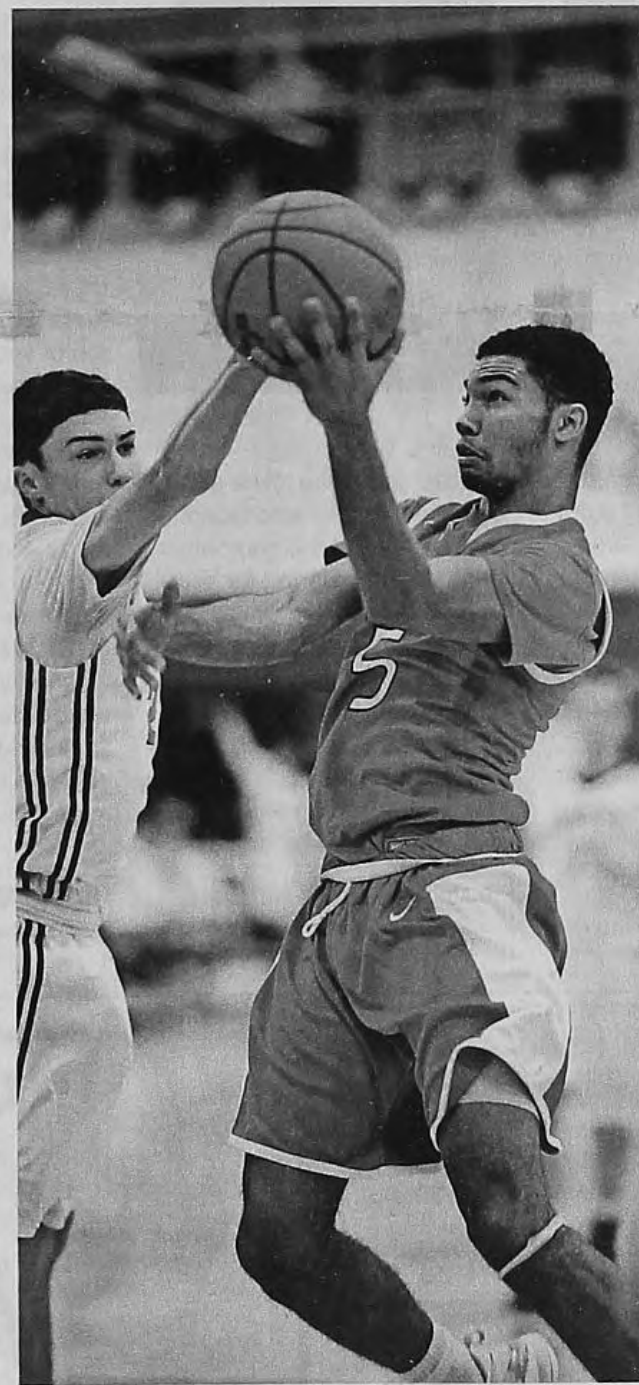
## Tall tale

For Garden City, Castonguay was a bright spot with a strong two-way game.

"Eian Castonguay is a great player, he's so fast," Morton said. "He plays really hard, attacks the basket."

Adding eight points was junior forward Cameron Walter, while senior guard Sadowski scored seven.

Morton tipped his cap to Mettie and the Patriots, but added that guarding taller players will



Garden City's Jacob Sadowski (left) contests a shot attempt by Livonia Franklin's Paytin Harris.

continue to be a challenge because his team lacks size.

"We're used to not having the tallest guys around," Morton said. "That's going to be a concern as we play the rest of the year as well."

"Mettie was really, really good. When he can shoot the ball and then take the ball to the basket, that's a very tough combo for our team."

Just like Garden City, the Patriots now will take a lengthy break before returning to action Jan. 6 at home against Ferndale.

**SALEM TOPS CHURCHILL:** On Thursday night at Livonia Churchill, the Rocks improved to 2-3 with their 76-68 victory.

Salem was led by sen-

ior Cam Barden (25 points) and senior Cameron Grace (15 points, 10 rebounds). For the Chargers (2-4), Alan Hammett scored 30 points.

**TRACTORS ROLL C'VILLE:** Abdullah Bushamie scored a game-high 13 points Thursday to lead host Dearborn Fordson (2-4) to a 60-20 victory over Livonia Clarenceville (0-4) in a crossover matchup between Western Wayne Athletic Conference teams.

Clarenceville, getting seven points from Torre Bowen, couldn't overcome a 30-7 halftime lead. The Trojans were 3-of-6 from the foul line, while the Tractors hit 8-of-15.

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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Garden City takes charge

After early struggles, Cougars turn aggressiveness into 52-30 victory

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

After a sluggish opening quarter Thursday at Livonia Franklin, the aggressiveness switch was flipped for Garden City's varsity girls basketball team.

Following her team's 52-30 non-conference win, Cougars head coach Michele Tyree might consider making T-shirts to give to her players with the slogan "Garden City Strong" on the front — although there isn't time to print and wrap them for Christmas.

Garden City (2-5) trailed 9-6 after the first quarter to the winless Patriots, after which Tyree had a chat with her players to up the intensity. They got to the rim with vigor (and drew fouls in the process) during a 14-7 second quarter, giving the Cougars a 20-16 halftime lead.

It was more of the same the rest of the way, with Garden City outscoring Franklin by wide margins of 19-10 and 13-4 in the third and fourth, respectively.

"We started to attack the basket after the first quarter," Tyree said. "We got to the free-throw line often. We still need to improve at the charity stripe, but we went 5-of-8 from the line in the second."

One of the spark-plugs was junior guard Haleigh Maszatics, with 10 points off the bench.

Even stronger was senior guard Alea Montgomery, who tallied 11 points and 10 rebounds — with seven of her points in the third quarter.

"I told her at halftime that she could take over the game," Tyree said.

Other Garden City stalwarts included senior guard Brittany Radtke (11 points, six steals) and senior guard Kayley Hewer (eight

points, 11 boards).

For the Patriots (0-6), sophomore guard Hannah Strosser scored eight points.

Evidence of Garden City's aggressiveness on offense was a wide edge in free-throw chances. The Cougars stepped to the line 29 times, making just 13, however.

Franklin managed to sink 7-of-10 opportunities.

## Burton lifts Eagles

Bryanna Burton scored a game-high 20 points Thursday as host Redford Thurston (5-2) overcame an early 10-0 deficit to earn a 51-43 non-conference win over Melvindale (0-6).

Burton went 11-of-12 from the foul line (all in the first quarter), while Gillian Drake added 11 points for the Eagles, who led 26-19 at halftime before stretching their lead to 20 in the final quarter.

Courtney Waltonbaugh scored a game-high 22 points and Danielle Tubbs added 16 for the winless Cardinals.

## RU romps, 51-1

On Thursday, Johnnia Steele scored 12 points as Redford Union (4-2) routed host Taylor Prep (0-5) for the second time this season in a non-league game, 51-1. The Panthers led 37-1 at halftime.

## Trojans fall short

Myla Hoskins-King scored a game-high 14 points, but it couldn't save Livonia Clarenceville (1-5) from falling Thursday at home against Ferndale (3-3) in a non-conference encounter, 48-23.

The Eagles, who led 25-14 at halftime and 42-14 after three quarters following a 17-0 run, got 12 points from Kayla Boyd and nine from Cacy Thorton.

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## Do your research before a job interview

 BY MATT TARPEY  
 CAREERBUILDER

Researching potential employers is an essential step in the job-seeking process. Not only does it help you determine whether the open position is one you're actually interested in, but doing the right research can also give you the advantage once the hiring process gets underway.

What information will help you land the job? Here's some advice.

### The basics

It should go without saying, but if you don't know the name of the company or the industry in which it operates, don't even bother showing up for the interview. It's so easy to find basic information on any company that there is absolutely no excuse for not knowing it.

"Explore the company's website, especially the About Us' section," says Marisa South, general manager of Vet & Pet Jobs, an Australian career website for the animal-care industry. "Learning how a company wants to represent itself and what it considers valuable can be used in your interview as you're trying to explain how your values and objectives match up."

Knowing how employees



GETTY IMAGES

perceive the company can be just as enlightening — if not more. "Websites like Glassdoor do an excellent job at collecting information about companies, including salaries, experiences and what the company's atmosphere is like," says Ola Danilina, CEO and founder of PMBC Group, a technology public-relations firm based in Los Angeles.

"Better yet, if you know somebody personally who works or has worked at the company you are interviewing for, plan a time to sit with them to ask any questions you may have prior to your interview."

### The role

Be sure to have as thorough an understanding of the position as possible before going

into the interview. Review the information provided in the job listing, and if there is something you're unclear about, make a note to bring it up with the interviewer.

"Even with the necessary skills to complete the role, most candidates often fail to fully understand what the job actually is and look unprepared in an interview," says Sacha Ferrandi, founder and director of human resources at real-estate firm Source Capital Funding Inc. "Employers want to see that you are familiar with the industry because it will reduce the learning curve if you get hired."

### Current events

Knowing the company's mission statement and history can help you identify with its goals, but the mission statement isn't likely to be on the top of your interviewer's mind. Your research should also focus on where the company stands today. Knowing about things such as recent product launches, mergers, partnerships and new initiatives can help you come into the interview one step ahead of other candidates.

Employers are looking for candidates who can begin work at full speed. When you're able to discuss real issues facing the company during your job interview, you're

not just showing that you could hit the ground running, you're showing that in some ways, you already have.

### The competitors

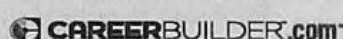
No matter how much information you're able to find about a given company, it's not very useful without something to gauge it against. To gain a broader understanding of the industry and where the company fits within it, read up on the other top companies in the field.

"You should try to figure out what sets the company apart from its competitors," South says. "By educating yourself about how a company is doing things differently, you'll be better prepared when your interviewer asks you what attracted (you) to the company."

Preparing for the interview with targeted and thorough research makes it easier to give more specific responses. Most interviewers will recognize and appreciate that you aren't wasting their time with generic answers, giving you a considerable leg up on the competition.

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

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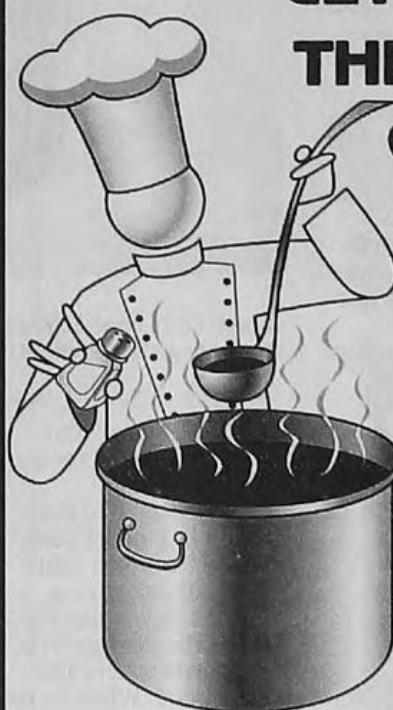
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# Car Report

## TESLA, PORSCHE, AUDI, SUBARU: CONSUMER REPORTS WINNERS KEEP DELIVERING ON MATCHLESS POWER OF BRANDS



By Dale Buss

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

roadster and Cayman two-door coupe.

"The Porsche DNA is still baked into every model with confident high-performance handling," as Consumer Reports puts it, "a controlled ride, superb braking performance, a thrilling exhaust note, and beautifully crafted interiors."

Audi, of course, is one of the ultimate brand-ascension stories of the auto industry's last decade. Beginning under the leadership of Johan de Nysschen and continuing under current U.S. boss Scott Keogh, Audi managed to parlay a steady expansion of its product line in every significant direction, a strategy of planned retail "scarcity" of its halo cars, some clever and humorous marketing, and the notion of "progressive technology" that appealed to younger buyers into a brand that rattled the hold of Mercedes-Benz and BMW on the German luxury category in the United States.

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

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

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



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

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|-------------------------------|---------|----------------|--------|-------|--------|------|
| 1st Choice Mortgage Lending   | 138560  | (734) 459-0782 | 4      | 0     | 3.25   | 0    |
| Accurate Mortgage Solutions   | 164511  | (800) 593-1912 | 4      | 0     | 3.25   | 0    |
| AFI Financial                 | 2431    | (877) 234-0600 | 4.125  | 0     | 3.25   | 0    |
| Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.      | 127931  | (248) 740-2323 | 4.125  | 0     | 3.25   | 0    |
| Dearborn Federal Savings Bank | 399721  | (313) 565-3100 | 4.25   | 0     | 3.5    | 0    |
| Fifth Third Bank              | 403245  | (800) 792-8830 | 4.375  | 0     | 3.75   | 0    |
| Lenderful.com                 | 1326443 | lenderful.com  | 4.25   | 0.125 | 3.625  | 0    |
| Ross Mortgage                 | 107716  | (248) 282-1602 | 4.5    | 0     | 3.75   | 0    |
| Zeal Credit Union             | 408356  | (734) 466-6113 | 4.375  | 0.25  | 3.625  | 0    |

Above information available as of 12/22/16 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a

\$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment

calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at [www.rmcreport.com](http://www.rmcreport.com).

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

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