

Novi News

A GANNETT COMPANY



SWIMMERS DIVE INTO NEW SEASON SPORTS, B1

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015 • hometownlife.com

Cover design contest

Students can take part in a contest to design the cover of the State of the State address program.

Gov. Rick Snyder is conducting the contest and the winning artwork will appear on the front of the program for his Jan. 19 State of the State address. The winner will have the opportunity to meet Snyder and attend the address with one guest.

Students can submit their designs through Jan. 3. The top five designs will be announced Jan. 5. The winning design will be determined by most likes on Facebook by the end of the day Jan. 8.

Entries should be sized to fit on a 5½-inch by 8½-inch cover. Students on a separate sheet should include their name, phone number, address and email address, as well as their parent or guardian's name, phone number, address and email address.

Students can submit their designs via email to sots@michigan.gov or via mail to Gov. Snyder's Communications Office, P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909.

Liquor license to augment Rose Senior Living offerings

James Mitchell
Correspondent

It wasn't the usual request for a liquor license transfer, but city officials hardly expect a state-of-the-art senior living community to become "the corner bar" at the Providence Park Hospital campus in Novi. "I don't think that we've

moved a liquor license into a residential district," Councilman Andrew Mutch said of the request by Edward Rose Entertainment to transfer an alcohol sales permit to developers of Rose Senior Living-Providence Park. Mutch said he understood that the planned complex — which broke ground in October — won't suddenly become a

drinker's destination, but the request raised several questions before council unanimously approved the transfer.

"Technically, this is located in a residential zone," Mutch said during the city council's Dec. 7 meeting. "It's a little different to have this open to the general public."

As planned, the 190,000-

square-foot community now under construction near Beck Road and 11 Mile Road includes a variety of on-site offerings for residents of its 182 units. Multiple dining venues and a cafe are planned. Rose Senior Living requested a special land use permit and permission to trans-

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GETTING CRAFTY



Joan Yearby works on a creating a holiday-themed frame during a Dec. 2 craft session at Novi's Meadowbrook Commons activity center. The afternoon get-together was sponsored by the city of Novi Older Adult Services.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi native comes home in 'Newsies'

Julie Yolles
Social Scene Columnist

Disney's Tony Award-winning musical *Newsies* opened Tuesday on the Detroit Opera House stage and is here for the holidays, through Dec. 27. Novi native Iain Young, who joins the *Newsies* cast onstage starting Dec. 19, was so busy rehearsing that we did this interview via email while Young was on a plane between New York and Memphis, which was the last stop prior to Detroit.

Q: Where were you born and where did you grow up?

A: I'm born and raised in Novi. I went to Walled Lake Schools all the way until high school. For high school, I was home-schooled. I took extra performing arts classes during the day.

Q: Where did you train?

A: I trained at Dance Dynamics Performing Arts Center in Walled Lake. I was also in the cast of many musicals at Walled



Iain Young, a Novi native, joins the cast of "Newsies" in Detroit this Saturday.

Lake Western High School.

Q: How old are you?

A: 21.

Q: What's your rehearsal schedule?

A: We rehearse eight hours each day, with a day off on Mondays. Detroit will be my first performance with the tour, but I do not start performances until (Saturday) Dec.

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christina Pierce opened Japanese Family Services, a consulting firm, on Grand River Avenue in Novi a few months ago. She offers translating services, assistance in learning conversational English and general help on families moving to America for the first time.

Novi business helps Japanese adjust to their life in America

Jessica McLean
Correspondent

Coming to a new country is not always an easy transition to make, especially for Japanese families living in America for the first time or who are temporarily transferred from Japan to the Detroit area for work.

Japanese Family Services, USA, a Novi consulting company that specializes in helping

Japanese families adjust to life in America, is trying to make it a little easier.

Geared mostly for wives, moms and children, JFS provides a refuge where Japanese families can go to get translations, support and advice on living in the U.S. It also offers classes and recommends services in the area, including English as a second language les-

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LIQUOR

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for a Class C permit from Battaglia's in Auburn Hills to Providence Park Senior Living.

Mutch said that similar questions had been raised in 2012, when city council approved a liquor license for Fox Run retirement center, and that the expansion in recent years of senior community offerings could produce further requests.

"There's a trend to facilitate something beyond just an individual having alcohol in their own space," Mutch said. "I'm a little concerned about the precedent."

Eric Eggan, an attorney with Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn, spoke on behalf of the applicant and

agreed that the availability of alcoholic drinks at select areas in a contained community wouldn't likely become a public nuisance.

"This is a very modern facility," Eggan said of the Providence plans. "The goal is for the convenience of the folks who live there and enjoy having a drink with their meal. It's not convenient for them to jump in a car and drive to Applebee's."

Development of the complex has been a collaborative effort between Rose Senior Living, St. John Providence and the city of Novi. Once operational, the community is expected to provide up to 100 full- and part-time positions and will be managed by Ecumen. Rose Senior Living is expected to welcome its first residents in summer 2017.

JAPANESE

Continued from Page A1

sons or getting oriented to the community.

"The biggest thing, though, is our book series. It's called *Hajimete no America*, which means 'First Time to America,'" said Christina Pierce, company CEO. Pierce authored the three books in the series. "It's basically 12 years of other people's experience combined into a series so that new people who are just coming can gather

all of that experience all at once instead of making mistakes on their own."

Pierce said she started the company last year to make a difference in the lives of Japanese families and because she was seeking a new challenge.

But her inspiration for the company really got started much earlier, when she majored in French and history with a focus on Japan at Willamette University in Oregon. She also met her roommate and longtime good friend, who got her interested in the topic of Japanese language and

culture.

As Pierce got more involved in the Japanese community, she eventually moved to Japan to stay with friends, where she got a job teaching English to Japanese students.

Pierce lived in Japan for five years, married, had two children and returned to the U.S. for her husband's job in Kentucky and, eventually, Detroit. She continued consulting Japanese families from home.

"I've been translating and supporting and advising families for about

13 years in America, so I just thought I would make it official," Pierce said.

The company recently moved its offices above One World Market and Mirai Japanese Entertainment store in Novi, a local hub for the Japanese community. The move signifies the official transition out of Pierce's home into a regular office space.

For more information, contact Kathy Lynch, corporate marketing liaison for JFS, at connect@jfsusa.com. Lynch or go to www.jfsusa.com.

NEWSIES

Continued from Page A1

19.

Q: Is it serendipity that you're opening in front of a hometown audience or were you a sudden replacement?

A: I've known about it for a little while. I'm thrilled that a spot opened up and I'll be able to make my tour debut at home!

Q: You were in the original company of *Newsies* on Broadway and now you're on tour with the show. Tell us about the roles you played.

A: Each one of the newsboys has a full character and back story. That was something that Jeff Calhoun, our director, really stressed in the rehearsal process. On Broadway, I was Henry; he enters the stage with shaving cream at the beginning. That's how I always told my family to find me at first. I joined the Broadway company in August 2012, just a few months after graduating high school. I stayed with the show all the way until closing night in August 2014. Now on tour, I will be playing Finch. You can spot him by looking for

DETAILS

Performance times for *Newsies* appearing through Dec. 27 at the Detroit Opera House, located at 1526 Broadway, in Detroit, are:

- » Tuesday through Saturday evening performances at 8:00 p.m.
- » Sunday evening performances at 6:30 p.m.
- » Saturday matinees at 2 p.m.
- » Sunday matinees at 1 p.m.
- » Monday, Dec. 21, performance at 8 p.m.
- » Wednesday, Dec. 23, matinee at 1 p.m.
- » No performances on Dec. 24 or Dec. 25
- » Sunday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m. is a special open-captioned performance

Tickets for *Newsies* range \$35-\$89 (includes parking and facility fees), available at all Ticketmaster locations, by phone at 1-800-982-2787, online at www.broadwayindetroit.com or www.ticketmaster.com or at the Detroit Opera House and Fisher Theatre box offices. Tickets for the open captioned performance may be purchased in person only at the Fisher Theatre box office or by phone at 313-872-1000, ext. 0.

The Broadway in Detroit Series at the Fisher Theatre and Detroit Opera House is sponsored by Chrysler. As part of this sponsorship, the latest and hottest Chrysler vehicles will be on display at the theatre.

For more information, visit newsiesthemusical.com, facebook.com/newsies, twitter.com/newsies and www.broadwayindetroit.com.

the guy with the sling-shot.

Q: What was it like performing with fellow *Detroiters* in the show?

A: It was very cool. When I joined *Newsies*, there were three of us "Michiganders" in the show — Andrew Keenan-Bolger, Ryan Steele and I. Ryan and I actually grew up at the same dance studio.

Q: To be in the ensemble of *Newsies*, you have to be an incredible dancer and the show numbers are very rigorous.

A: Preparation is definitely a huge part of the job. I make sure to stay trained, even while in the show. I have to do a lengthy warm-up on a nightly basis to make sure my body and voice are ready for the show.

Q: Do you understudy any of the other roles?

A: I understudy the role of Crutchie (originated by Andrew Keenan-Bolger on Broadway).

Q: Do you still have family in the area?

A: Yes! I have a ton of family still in the area. Many of them are coming to see the show.

Q: It must be very special to be home for the holidays.

A: It will be amazing to be home for the holidays. Luckily, we have Christmas Eve and Christmas day off, so I will be able to spend that time with my family.

Q: Do you have any special haunts in the area that you plan to visit?

A: I love the Tigers. And even though it's the off-season, it will be cool to see Comerica Park on the way to work (at the Detroit Opera House) every day!

Q: Describe the "fan frenzy" at the stage door.

A: The self-proclaimed "fansies" are such a huge part of the success of this show. Their energy and enthusiasm is what keeps us going.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

NOVI NEWS

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Holiday fun for seniors, students, Rotarians



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Novi Middle School eighth-grader Paul Biberstein helps to serve lunch to visiting seniors during the annual Novi Rotary Senior Holiday Party.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Santa visits Dec. 3 with friends Virg Mitchell (left) and Mary Forrester during the Novi Rotary annual Christmas Party at Novi Middle School. The Rotary group and Novi Middle School gave visiting seniors a full morning of fun activities, including a choir and orchestra concert, a Christmas carol sing-along, visits with Santa and a sit-down lunch in the cafeteria.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Singers with the Novi Middle School choir lead their senior visitors in some Christmas carols.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Novi Middle School and the Novi Rotary welcome visitors to their holiday party.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Members of the Novi Middle School orchestra play for their visitors.

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People who work in schools want to make a difference for students

In November 1971, I was cut from the junior varsity basketball team at Sandia High School. It was a big mistake. I was really quite good. Evidently, what I saw in myself and what the coach saw in me were two different things. Before the tryouts began, I figured that I was a shoo-in for the team because the junior varsity coach taught with my mother. I had, as they say, an inside connection. Evidently, even with that connection, my play made the outcome obvious.

I made it through the first wave of cuts. That gave me hope, but it was not to be.

I was disappointed. My vision of my high school experience had me playing on that team. After I was cut, I didn't know what I was going to do.

I learned three things from that experience. First, I learned that high school offers a lot of opportunities for students. I didn't make the basketball team. While that seemed like the end of the world, it was not.

I had a theater teacher who encouraged me to try theater, so I did. I ended up having small parts in several plays. Theater provided me with an outlet. It also provided me with friends.

I also learned that I could be a good fan. My friends and I were regulars at basketball games, encouraging the team and enjoying ourselves.

Second, I learned that teachers and staff care about their students. After I was cut, several of my teachers reached out and told me their stories of disappointment in high school. They tried to reassure me that it was not the end of the world. I, of course, did not believe them then, but can see their wisdom now.

Growing up is not easy. Teachers and staff are there



Steve Matthews
 SUPER TALK

for a lot of the growing pains. They see students cut from teams. They see romances blossom and fail. They see friends drift apart, reunite and drift apart again. They see students make bad choices.

My experience has been that teachers and staff take it upon themselves to help students learn and grow. Teachers don't just teach. Staff members don't just do their jobs. People who work in schools want to make a difference. In my case, as in many cases, they have.

Here in Novi, we are blessed with a staff that cares deeply for the students who attend our schools. Staff members go out of their way to make a positive difference in the lives of our students. In the midst of disappointment or crisis or heartache or confusion or joy, I have seen Novi teachers, administrators, bus drivers, CARE workers, preschool teachers, secretaries and others go the extra mile to support our students.

A network of caring adults helps young children grow into caring, giving and successful adults. I am confident that here in Novi, the staff of our school district cares for our students and contributes in a positive way to their growth.

The third thing I learned from getting cut from the junior varsity basketball team in 10th grade? I am not very good at basketball!

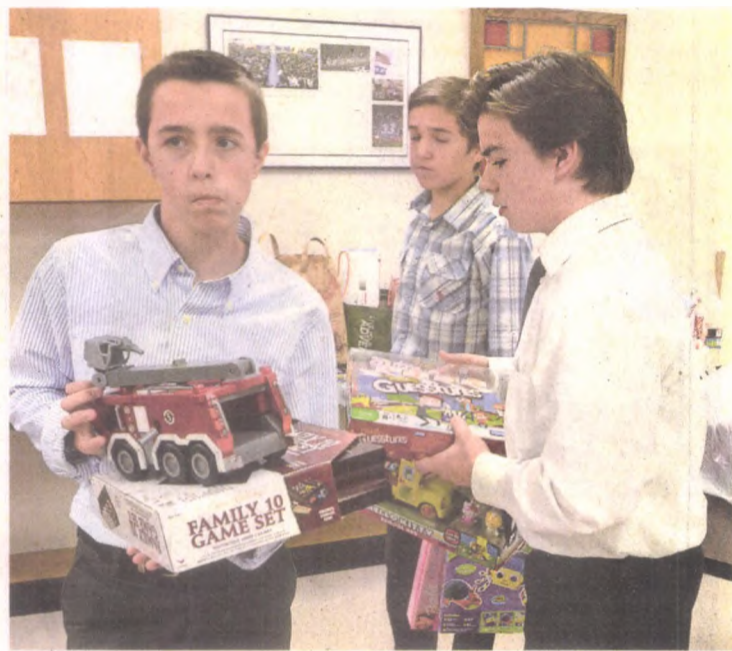
Steve M. Matthews, Ed.D., is superintendent of the Novi Community School District. He can be reached at smatthews@novischools.net.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Catholic Central High freshmen show some of the toys donated by the school during its week-long drive. The toys will be given to Volunteers of America for distribution.

CC students collect for Volunteers of America



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
 Detroit Catholic Central High freshmen Colin Stewart (left) and Aidan Walsh help to gather the results of the school's week-long toy drive earlier this month. The toys donated and purchased by CC students, parents and alumni will be going to Volunteers of America to be distributed.

Finding patterns



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A few Novi Woods Elementary School students work on a Juggle game Nov. 10 during the after-school math club. Juggle is where students are tasked with finding shapes in a pattern of four or five blocks. The math club meets each Tuesday after school. From left are Adam Goodhew, Paige O'Connor and Hope Wang.

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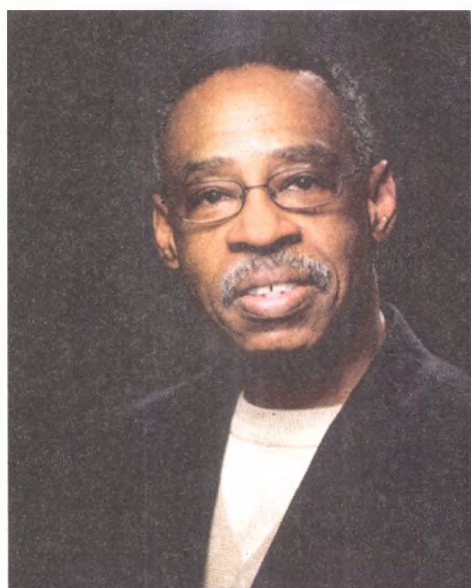
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LIGHT FROM DARKNESS

Annual worldwide candlelight vigil honors children lost too soon

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

For a long time after losing her son in a tragic car accident, Claire Cross didn't feel like talking to anyone, much less brave the big crowds that always turn out for the Compassionate Friends Candlelight Vigil every year.

This year, almost exactly two years since losing Ryan in the accident, there she was in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth, with others who've lost sons or daughters, brothers or sisters, friends or family too soon. It was the 19th annual vigil and Cross, a Canton resident, was among hundreds of folks who know exactly what she's going through.

"For a long time, I didn't want to have that commonality with people," Cross said. "Now, I'm ready to reach out more and get some hugs from people."

That commonality is something most people who attend the vigil, and join Compassionate Friends, are looking for — support from other folks who know what they're going through. The candlelight vigil is designed to honor children who've died too soon.

The vigils are held in every time zone worldwide, the idea being to form a ring of light around the globe and try to "bring light out of darkness." At the Plymouth vigil, poems were heard, music was played and more than 600 names were ready as locals honored their loved ones.

Catherine Walker of Walled Lake lost her brother, Kevin Kalahar, in November 2010, then

lost her son, Brandon, eight months later.

"We have a special bond," said Walker, one of the chapter leaders of the Livonia Compassionate Friends, who sponsored Sunday's vigil. "People find someone who knows what you're going through ... they're not afraid to talk about their children."

Westland resident Amy George lost her infant granddaughter, Morgan Adele, nine years ago. She lost another granddaughter, Alice Annebelle, just nine weeks ago. On Sunday, George read a poem in their honor.

She said the sheer size of the group attending the vigil used to be intimidating; now, it's comforting.

"When I first came here, it took my breath away to see that large of a group," George said. "Each time I come ... your heart just breaks for everyone in that crowd."

Leona McKinnon of Belleville lost her son, Sean, nine years ago. There she was Sunday, helping people light their candles in advance of the vigil.

She said she finds solace in the spirituality of the evening.

"This is probably the most spiritual place you could be," McKinnon said. "There's more compassion, more unity, more love and more joining of spirits than anywhere you could ever be."

To find out more about the Compassionate Friends Livonia Chapter, go to tclivonia.org or call 734-778-0800.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich



Tara and Keith Kohler, with 5-year-old daughter Kendall, remember Tracey Rondy, Tara's sister. The Kohlers are from Northville.



Kellogg Park is the setting for the Worldwide Candle Lighting, sponsored by the Livonia Chapter of Compassionate Friends.



Anthony Nelson is known for his wheelchair hockey skills.



Seven-year-old Jacy Walker of Saline sits on Mary Ann Grant's lap. Grant is from Taylor.



Jettowynne Barnes of Livonia honors the memory of her son, Idones Barnes.

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U-D to host Military Appreciation Day

Attention veterans: The University Of Detroit Mercy will host a Military Appreciation Day at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, as the Titans host Central Florida at Callahan Hall.

All veterans with proper ID can receive tickets in advance or on game day and an additional ticket for a friend or family member. Others in the group can purchase tickets for half-price.

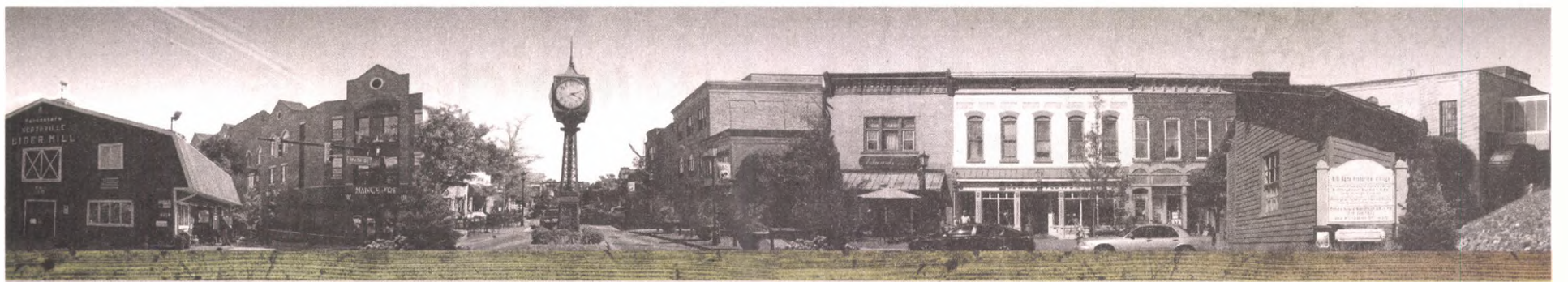
The Titans have joined forces with the Michigan Veterans Foundation. Executive director Tyrone Chatman said: "It is an honor to participate in this great event and we will be busing in at least 100 of our finest veterans to enjoy a good ballgame. We are also happy to be providing a colorful honor guard and one of our vets will also be singing the national anthem."

In addition to the ticket promotion, the first 2,000 attendees will receive Camouflage Rally Flags sponsored by WADL-TV (Channel 38), the team's official TV home.

For tickets, visit the Callahan Hall ticket office (open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday), call 313-993-1700 or go to detroit-titans.com/tix.

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Ho Ho Ho! These vehicles are ready to go at Varsity Lincoln in Novi!

Get the Varsity Advantage! Varsity Lincoln of Novi is gearing up for the holidays with a HUGE Certified Pre-Owned vehicle sales event.

Visit Varsity Lincoln for the three-day event during the following dates and times:

- » 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17
- » 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18
- » 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19

Right now, Varsity Lincoln is also offering a Complimentary Maintenance Plan for Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln vehicles. This includes an oil change, tire rotation and multi-point inspection every 7,500 miles for 1 year/15,000 miles.[^]

In addition to service specials, more than 100 Certified Pre-Owned vehicles are on-site and ready to go. Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln vehicles are available for as little as \$16,995.*

Varsity Lincoln is number one in pre-owned sales globally. Come find out why. An astounding 540 Certified Pre-Owned vehicles were delivered in 2014 at Varsity Lincoln.

The dealership has held the honor of highest volume sales dealer globally since 1997.** Varsity offers a newly remodeled showroom, indoor delivery area and service reception aisle. Varsity Lincoln works to make their customers feel number one.

Varsity Lincoln recently celebrated their 20th anniversary and won six prestigious automotive awards. They encompass the Triple Crown Award, Lincoln Leaders of Excellence, President's Award, Ford One Hundred Club, CPO



Ruby Red 2013 Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln MKX AWD.

COURTESY OF VARSITY LINCOLN

Sales Leadership and Premier Club.

"Certified Pre-Owned has a wonderful warranty...it goes up to 100,000 miles on the warranty," said long-time Varsity customer John Kilby.

Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln vehicles come with many benefits including:

- » A meticulous, 200-point inspection by factory-trained technicians
- » 6-year/100,000-mile comprehensive warranty coverage
- » Complimentary 24/7 roadside assistance

"To get a Certified Pre-Owned that comes with warranty, definitely get quality checked,

that's important, especially with two girls in college," said five-time customer Julie Wilk.

"There are numerous benefits of purchasing a Certified Pre-Owned, including the outstanding warranty that comes with the vehicles," said Jere Law, Varsity Lincoln's General Sales Manager and Pre-Owned Director.

"The 100,000-mile free bumper to bumper warranty that comes alongside all Certified Pre-Owned purchases is better than a new car warranty! Additionally, any time the vehicle is in for a service visit, you can receive a loaner for no cost exclu-

sively at Varsity Lincoln!"

"The warranty is key. With Certified Pre-Owned, you get the best from Varsity Lincoln," Law said. Certified Pre-Owned financing is available for as low as 0.9% APR.***

"Leasing or buying from the number one dealer in the country gives you the best selection, price and service," Law said. "Our dealership is ready to assist customers with anything, whether it is special financing or a specific request. We can handle every unique situation."

"Loaded with features, a Lincoln will satisfy any

customer," Law explained. "Certified Pre-Owned vehicles not only provide peace of mind on the road, but also provide a combination of sportiness and luxury. Drivers will also enjoy peace of mind from knowing that Lincoln vehicles will hold their value. Any depreciation has already been taken on by the previous owner. Plus, advanced styling and dependability add to a Lincoln vehicle's value."

This dealership provides The Varsity Lincoln Advantage. Varsity Lincoln team members are selected based upon their unwavering focus on customer care and

satisfaction.

"Our customers speak for themselves and how their experience is. When you read the reviews our customers write online, you can see how happy they are, before, during and after the sale," Law concluded.

^{*} Subject to availability. See Varsity Lincoln for details.

^{**} Based on 11/2015 Total Certified Pre-Owned Lincoln Sales Report.

^{***} As low as 0.9% APR for up to 36 months on select vehicles for qualified customers with Tier 0-1 approval through preferred finance source. Offer subject to change at any time. See Varsity Lincoln for details.

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OUR VIEW

Kindness counts: Keeping the peace at family gatherings is key during holidays

Feeling stressed? The holidays will do that to even the best of us. Unfortunately, we sometimes lash out to those close to us.

This newspaper put several questions related to cordiality at family gatherings to Julie M. Ribaldo, clinical associate professor of social work at the University of Michigan.

Do family gatherings such as the holidays put additional stresses on people?

Ribaldo: Many of us have memories of the awe of the holiday season. Some of us face it with dread, because it recalls memories of family arguments and tension and, sometimes, violence. In either case, our memories tend to shape what we anticipate as we gather with family. In addition, the extra tasks, financial worries and, for some, the sense of trying to create the "Hallmark" holiday can add extra anxiety or stress for adults. Children, often filled with their own extra level of excitement and anticipation, can feel the increase in tension in family members and often respond with an increase in temper tantrums, whining or clinging. So everyone can begin to feel and feed off tension. It can become the proverbial "vicious cycle."

What are some ways people can cope with these stresses and remain on cordial terms?

Ribaldo: At a basic physical level, getting enough sleep helps any of us manage stress better, so it is important to not short-change sleep. Developing and maintaining realistic expectations is also helpful. In a sense, accepting that Grandpa George is going to be anxious and grumpy or that your mother is going to be



Ribaldo

controlling and bossy, as she always is, helps us head into the family gatherings with more of a sense of peace. Spending a few moments thinking about how you want to respond, how you can manage your own responses, can be incredibly empowering and reduce a sense of stress. It can also help to focus attention on what you do like about family gatherings — which relatives you enjoy being with, watching the children delight in playing together and focusing on the joys of being connected with others can help us maintain a sense of balance. Finally, for parents of young children, making sure the children have one-on-one time with you in the midst of all the hustle and bustle can keep them even keeled as well.

In "keeping the peace" in families, is it sometimes acceptable to take a "time out" such as going for a walk around the block?

Ribaldo: "Hitting the pause button" when we are becoming too stressed is vital. None of us thinks or acts our best when we are becoming emotionally upset. Going for a walk, taking a deep breath or heading into a quiet room for a moment of respite can be beneficial; so can connecting with the less-stressed family members. In those moments, paying attention to why we are feeling stressed and talking ourselves down can help us maintain our own internal sense of calm. We cannot control others (as much as we might wish otherwise), but we can control ourselves. If you find yourself filled with "shoulds" (e.g., "Aunt Nancy

should learn to keep her opinions to herself"), it can help if we try to think gently about others and about ourselves. As much as others may anger or stress us — and we them — most of us are doing the best we can. If you can call to mind the gentlest person you know and think about how they have made you feel when you have been stressed, that can often help you feel calmer and more capable.

Ribaldo's research interests include psychotherapy, community mental health, child welfare, public health, early intervention, challenging infants, mental health, infant mental health and clinical supervision. She's a good person to ask about keeping the peace at family gatherings — but so are your own family members.

Think about others and their point of view when you're planning family gatherings. What will make the holiday celebration special for each person? What's most important to each and what doesn't really matter so much?

Mistakes will happen. If the turkey falls on the kitchen floor, maybe you'll observe the three-second rule, pick it up quickly and serve it to your waiting family. If a gift is less than perfect, perhaps you'll keep that thought to yourself and discreetly return it to the store later when things are calmer.

An old song noted, "You always hurt the one you love," but it doesn't have to be that way. Family gatherings create memories, hopefully good ones, so remember to practice kindness to your loved ones — and all you encounter on your daily rounds — this holiday season and into the new year, too.

Pay equity for women needs to be addressed now, not later

As a mother, I want my three daughters to achieve their dreams. I've taught them that they can do whatever they want with their lives. Every parent wants their children to have a better life than they did.

Unfortunately, my daughters still face the struggle that their mother and grandmother faced, which is to be paid equally for their work. Despite passage of federal legislation 50 years ago to close the wage gap, we've made very



Julie Plawecki
 GUEST COLUMNIST

little progress. In Michigan, compared to the rest of the nation, the outlook is even bleaker.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research found that full-time working women in Michigan earn nearly 30 percent less than their male counterparts doing the same work. Annually, that's a difference of nearly \$13,000. While every state has wage

discrepancy, Michigan ranks 36th in the nation when it comes to pay equity.

That's what we need to remember. Pay equity isn't just good for women — and it should be noted that more women than ever are the primary breadwinner in their household — it's good for everyone. Children, spouses, even businesses would benefit if women were paid what they deserve.

For these reasons, I can't understand why

ills to address the wage cap haven't received a hearing at the Capitol. My colleagues and I introduced bills on this issue six months ago. Since then, I've written multiple letters to the committee chairman asking for a hearing. I have yet to receive a response.

This is an issue of simple fairness. We don't need to wait for our grandchildren's generation for pay equity to appear on its own. We can do something about it

now. I will continue to fight for these bills to receive a hearing in Lansing and work to make wage discrimination a thing of the past.

State Rep. Julie Plawecki, D-Dearborn Heights, represents the 11th House District, which includes the cities of Garden City and Inkster and parts of Dearborn Heights, Livonia and Westland. She can be reached toll-free at 844-347-8011 or at JuliePlawecki@house.mi.gov.

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Bills zero in on vaccines, auto insurance rates

Kathleen Gray
Michigan.com

The state Department of Health and Human Services would be prohibited from imposing more stringent rules on vaccinations than is already allowed under state law under a bill that was introduced last week.

The bill also would prohibit the state from excluding students from schools based on vaccinations as a disease-control measure.

The debate over vaccinations flared late last year after an outbreak of measles hit Disneyland in California. The state health department issued rules that would require parents to attend a meeting with local health officials if they wanted to seek a vaccination waiver.

And the Detroit delegation in the House introduced a package of bills that would, in part, require auto insurance companies to reduce rates by 12% in cities with populations of more than 500,000.

House bills

HB 5121: Require notification to firefighters if a building is made of lightweight materials. Sponsor: Rep. Laura Cox, R-Livonia.

HB 5122 and SB 655: Create the Water Shutoff

Protection Act. Sponsors: Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit and Jim Ananich, D-Flint.

HB 5123: Require installation of arc-fault circuit interrupters in new residential home construction. Sponsor: Rep. Erika Geiss, D-Taylor.

HB 5124: Allow for inclusion of roads with a primary residence in determining distribution of snow-removal funds. Sponsor: Rep. Joel Johnson, R-Clare.

HB 5125: Require policies and procedures regarding the closure of a school building. Sponsor: Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit.

HB 5126-5127: Prohibit exclusion from schools for students without vaccinations and rules that are more stringent than in current law. Sponsor: Rep. Thomas Hooker, R-Byron Center.

HB 5128: Allow retired state employees to contract with the Department of Natural Resources for wildlife suppression without losing retirement allowances. Sponsor: Rep. Bruce Rendon, R-Lake City.

HB 5129: In driver training classes, require instruction on how to move over for cars pulled over with their flashers on. Sponsor: Rep. Peter Pettalia, R-Presque Isle.

HB 5130: Provide for

the definition of a hoop house in the construction code. Sponsor: Rep. Adam Zemke, D-Ann Arbor.

HB 5131: Eliminate flow-through entities from income tax withholding requirements. Sponsor: Rep. Jeff Farrington, R-Utica.

HB 5132-5133: Require direct-mail companies to comply with streamlined sales and use tax. Sponsors: Reps. Jeff Farrington, R-Utica, Wendell Byrd, D-Detroit.

HB 5134-5135: Require auto insurance companies to reduce rates in certain municipalities, change personal protection benefits, create fraud authority and provide tax credit for certain auto insurance policies. Sponsor: Rep. Brian Banks, D-Detroit.

HB 5136: Allow use of school sinking funds for safety and security improvements. Sponsor: Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton.

HB 5137: Designate a portion of U.S.-12 as the Officer Gordon Lewis Stevens Memorial Highway. Sponsor: Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton.

HB 5138: Revise requirements to restructure municipal health facilities into nonprofit corporations. Sponsor: Rep. Peter Pettalia, R-Presque Isle.

HB 5139-5141 and SB

648-650: Clarify the ability to create unequal joint interests in property conveyances and modify the procedures to determine whether there has been a transfer of property ownership. Sponsors: Rep. Peter Pettalia, R-Presque Isle, and Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba.

HB 5142-5144: Establish a 30-day license plate and require monthly proof of auto insurance policy; require certain nonrefundable charges in 30-day policies. Sponsors: Reps. Tom Cochran, D-Mason, Mike Cready, R-Birmingham.

HB 5145: Require that local units of government be given first shot at state sale of transportation equipment. Sponsor: Rep. John Kivela, D-Marquette.

HB 5146: Increase penalties for possession of a carcass of a deer or elk that has chronic wasting disease. Sponsor: Rep. John Kivela, D-Marquette.

HB 5147: Exclude credit union loan promotions and raffles from gambling and lottery crimes. Sponsor: Rep. Anthony Forlini, R-Harrison Township.

HB 5148: Prohibit operation of drones over the state Capitol without permission from the state Capitol Commission. Sponsor: Rep.

George Darany, D-Dea-born.

HB 5149: Create a legislative committee on state agencies. Sponsor: Rep. Jim Townsend, D-Royal Oak.

Senate bills

SB 642: Allow property owners to participate in clean energy programs and authorize issuance of general obligation bonds for alternative source clean energy programs. Sponsor: Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor.

SB 643: Create Human Right to Water Act. Sponsor: Sen. Coleman Young, D-Detroit.

SB 644: Revise requirements for the authorization to restructure municipal health facilities as nonprofit corporations. Sponsor: Sen. Jim Stamas, R-Midland.

SB 645: Establish uniform criteria for employee misclassification in the Fair Employment Practices Act. Sponsor, Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake Township.

SB 646: Provide for second parent adoption. Sponsor: Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor.

SB 647: Require instruction of CPR and use of automated external defibrillation as a requirement for graduation from high school. Sponsor: Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton.

SB 651-653: For tax

purposes, transfer commercial forest programs into qualified forest programs. Sponsors: Sens. Darwin Booher, R-Evart, Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba.

SB 654: Revise requirements for financial school aid support for attendance at post-secondary institutions. Sponsor: Sen. Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake.

SB 656-657: Modify applicability of collection practices in the occupational code. Sponsor: Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge.

SB 658: Allow five zoos — Binder Park Zoo in Battle Creek, Children's Zoo at Celebration Square in Saginaw, John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids, Potter Park Zoo in Lansing and the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak — to breed large animals to protect the species. Sponsor: Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge.

SB 659: Expand investment options for fostering futures scholarships. Sponsor: Sen. Peter MacGregor, R-Rockford.

SB 660-661: Create a state historic preservation office and require commission approval for changes to the exterior of historical sites. Sponsors: Sens. Wayne Schmidt, R- Traverse City, and Hoon-Yung Hopgood, D-Taylor.

Area youth to perform in 'Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas' play

Throughout the holiday season, The Phoenix Players Theatre Co. will be bringing one of America's best loved stories to the stage as it presents *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*.

The show will be presented at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19; Monday, Dec. 21; Monday, Dec. 28; Tuesday, Dec. 29; and Wednesday, Dec. 30; and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at

The Phoenix Players Theatre in the 1856 Historic Township Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Road, Green Oak Township.

This original play presents the poignant story of the "missing" two years in the life of the Ingalls family — the only substantial period that Laura chose not to write about in her Little House books.

Set in the Ingalls'

poorest winter when the family must deal with the death of baby Freddie, Pa Ingalls backtracks his family to Burr Oak, Iowa, to take over the running of a hotel. When wealthy Mrs. Starr asks for Laura as a companion to read to her in the afternoons, Laura is overjoyed to be invited into such a fine house. Later she is thrown in conflict though when she

overhears Mrs. Starr offer to adopt Laura as her own daughter to give her a better future and ease the burden of so many children. Despite Laura's fears that this is what is best "in the long run," all ends well when Laura finds out that the Ingalls family bonds are too strong to be broken.

Filled with Christmas songs, this play will leave audiences filled

with the joy of the season and with a new sense of the real meaning of Christmas. It is the perfect family entertainment for the holidays.

The production showcases the talents of Griffin Colbert of South Lyon; Ryan-Iver Klann of Green Oak, Julie Landry of Novi, Sophia Oyster of South Lyon, Jennifer Sulkowski of Plymouth, Mallory Townsley of

South Lyon and Emily Woodyard of South Lyon. It is directed by Anne Levy of Brighton.

Tickets are \$14 for all ages, but discounted if purchased in advance: \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students and \$8 for ages 13 and younger. To order tickets or for further information, email phoenixplayerstickets@gmail.com or call 810-588-3662.

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Visit Santa at Maybury Farm this weekend

Do you hear those jingle bells? Well, that's because Santa is on his way to Maybury Farm! Santa and his elves will be arriving at Maybury Farm from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19-20. Santa will be waiting to meet with kids of all ages on his antique sleigh in the Maybury Farm Welcome Center.

Santa's elves have decked the halls of the Welcome Center with all kinds of Christmas cheer and the fire in the wood stove will keep everyone toasty and warm. Children can bring their wish list and sit with Santa on his sleigh while moms, dads, grandmas and grandpas take all of the photos they want (don't forget your camera!).

Looking for gifts for the holidays? The Welcome Center shelves will be stocked with them! Look for delicious Maybury Farm honey, jams, jellies, popcorn and more! There are excellent options for stocking stuffers, hostess gifts and gift baskets.

Admission is just a smile and a small donation! All donations help to care for the animals at Maybury Farm throughout the winter months.

Maybury Farm is at 50165 Eight Mile Road, between Beck and Napier (do not enter at the state park). Parking is complimentary. For more information, go to www.northvillecommunityfoundation.org, call 248-374-0200 or find Maybury Farm on Facebook.

Looking for a great gift? Try Northville Gift Check

If you're looking for a gift for the hard to buy for person, consider the purchase of a Northville Gift Checks. Gift Checks make great gifts for employees, clients, friends, family or anyone on your shopping list.

More than 60 Northville Chamber member merchants and Northville Farmers Market vendors participate in this outstanding program. The list of available items includes everything from apparel, jewelry and specialty stores to services, entertainment and restaurants. You can be certain you found the right gift, since the recipient chooses where to redeem the Gift Check.

Northville Gift Checks are available for purchase at the Northville Chamber of Commerce office, 195 S. Main Street, in increments of \$5, \$10 and \$25. You can customize your gift with more than 10 different gift envelope options.

"Gift Checks are a great way to give a special gift while also supporting our local merchants," Northville Chamber Executive Director Jody Humphries said. "Supporting local businesses is so important and this is an easy and unique way to do so."

For more information, contact the Northville Chamber of Commerce at 248-349-7640 or go to www.northville.org.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Finding some perfect presents to give



Volunteer Kelly Vondrasek assists Hiyori Morita in making some selections during the Novi Woods PTO Holiday Shop.



Novi Woods volunteer Dave Howland helps first-grader Brandon Burns in looking for some gifts Dec. 8 during the school's PTO Holiday Shop. The afternoon activity allowed students the opportunity to Christmas shop for their family, friends and teachers with some anonymity.

LIBRARY LINES

Little Me Storytime for Babies & Little Ones

Time/Date: 10:30 -11:15 a.m. Friday, Dec. 18

Details: Littles ones, from 10 months to 2 years, along with parents and caregivers, enjoy music, simple stories and playtime with Miss Dorie. This special activity geared toward the very young is offered each month, and no registration is required. Infants and older children also welcome to attend.

Star Wars Original Movie

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19
Details: "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away" the Star Wars story began. Join us in seeing the original 1977 film on the big screen in the library's meeting

room. All ages welcome. Rated PG, 125 minutes. Registration required.

Drop-In Winter Break Movies & Munchies for Kids: Paddington

Time/Date: 12-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22
Details: Bring your lunch to the Library and enjoy the movie, *Paddington*. Snacks and beverages provided. Children of all ages welcome, those 4 and younger must attend with a caregiver. No registration required. Due to space limitations, we cannot accommodate special groups.

Drop-In Winter Break Craftapalooza

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28
Details: Kids of all ages use your imagination and get creative with a variety of fun craft supplies. No registration re-

quired. Due to space limitations, we cannot accommodate special groups.

Foreign Film @ the Library

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28
Details: Enjoy the French film *The Gilded Cage* (with English subtitles). Will Marie and Jose choose to leave their beloved Paris neighborhood to fulfill a lifelong dream? 90 minutes.

Battle of the Books 2016 Registration

Time/Date: Now through Jan. 29
Details: Register now for this fun reading competition for middle school students who live or go to school in Northville. Teams start your reading! Check our website for complete details.

Happy Holidays

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HIGH SCHOOL PREVIEW

Area boys swim squads seeking to be a cut above

Novi, Northville, Catholic all formidable as season gets underway

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

If the early-season returns are any indication, the Novi boys swim team could become even a bigger factor come March, when the MHSAA Division 1 state finals roll around in Holland.

The Wildcats are already off to a quick start with a 3-0 dual meet record while featuring several key performers off last year's squad, which placed runner-up to rival Northville in the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet and 21st at the state finals.

Among the holdovers who scored points at the state meet is senior Ryan Katulski, eighth

INSIDE

Boys swimming team capsules, B6

in the 50-yard freestyle (21.65) and 10th in the 100 freestyle (46.74). He was also a member of the Wildcats' 13th-place 400 freestyle relay (3:13.64) and finals heat qualifying 200 medley relay (1:37.35).

"Last year, we didn't any state cuts until the end of January," Novi coach Brent Pohlonski said. "We're already off to a flying start, feeling pretty confident about we can do this year. Last year, we were on the verge of being top 10 team, but unfortunately our 200 medley relay team got disqualified in the finals."

State placer Joey Berman, a junior, also returns for Novi after taking 16th in the 100 backstroke (53.77).

Others back for the Wildcats include state qualifiers Nayan Manivannan (100 breaststroke), a senior; Siddhardha Kareddy (200 IM and 100 butterfly), a junior; Maxwell Williams (100 backstroke), a sophomore; James Ciolli (diving), a senior; and Nathan Pellerito (diving), a senior.

"Novi is extremely talented again this year and we will have to be at our very best come February if we want to be in the mix," Northville coach Rich Bennetts said. "We have a very tough schedule this season, so we will get to see



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Northville senior Chris Geng returns this season after placing eighth in the Division 1 state finals in the 100-yard breaststroke.

where we are at very early with a quad meet in December (19) that has (Birmingham) Brother Rice, Saline and Bir-

mingham Groves." The Mustangs, who finished

See SWIM, Page B5

BOYS BASKETBALL



Novi senior guard Kam Hankerson (right) goes for the two-hand jam over Detroit Edison's Octavious Green.

DAVE DONOHER

EDISON'S DEJULIUS SHOOT'S DOWN NOVI

Sophomore guard pours in 36 points in 72-58 triumph

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

When the game was hanging in the balance in Friday night's game against host Novi, Detroit Edison's David DeJulius decided it was time to become "Mr. DTE Energy."

The 5-foot-11 sophomore guard, talented beyond his years, nailed a triple at the buzzer to end the third quarter as the Pioneers regained the lead, 47-46.

DeJulius then scored 11 of his game-high 36 in the final quarter to spark a 25-11 surge to power Edison (2-0) to a 72-58 victory over the Wildcats, who slipped to 1-1 overall.

Using a series of hesitation moves and dribbles to get to the basket, DeJulius made 14-of-26 shots from the floor while leaving Novi defenders grasping for air.

"(DeJulius) did a great job," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said. "Anybody who goes off for 36 will have some

plays go his way. We tried different guys, but it seemed he had a knack for getting to the basket and finishing. When he wasn't finishing, he was setting guys up. I'd say he was 90 percent of their offense tonight; hats off to him. He did a great job."

Despite DeJulius' sterling all-around play, Novi held a 53-49 advantage with only 6:51 remaining on a basket by senior guard Kam Han-

See NOVI, Page B2

COLLEGE SPORTS

Weber caps Penn State career with NCAA crown

Brad Emons
Staff Writer

When Penn State University women's soccer coach Erica Walsh caught her first glimpse of a prospective recruit named Mallory Weber, it didn't take long for her to offer a scholarship.

"The very first thing that you notice when you see is her is her work rate, which is absolutely unparalleled," Walsh said of the 2012 Northville High grad. "She drives her team, she's a winner, she's a competitor. It only took about 10 minutes (of) the game to see that we wanted her."

And Weber did not disappoint, culminating her stellar four-year career Dec. 6 in Cary, N.C. She assisted on the game-winning goal as the Nittany Lions captured their first NCAA women's soccer title with a 1-0 victory over Duke.

Penn State finished the year as Big Ten champion with a final record of 22-3-2, capped by six straight



Weber

See WEBER, Page B3



PENN STATE ATHLETICS

Northville High grad and Novi native Mallory Weber played a key role in Penn State's NCAA women's soccer championship run.

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It's easy to search unclaimed data base and worth the effort

Not too long ago, I was talking to a client who had recently lost her father. Her mother had died years ago, but her dad just recently died. During our conversation, she mentioned that her father was somewhat of a nomad; since the death of her mother, nearly 20 years ago, her father has lived in 10 different locations in six different states. As soon as I heard that, I automatically asked her if she has ever done a lost property search. Not surprisingly, she had no idea what I was talking about.

Every year, banks, financial institutions and other entities turn property and accounts over to the state if there has been no activity in the account for generally a five-year period. The state treats this property as unclaimed assets and hold onto them until the rightful owner comes forward. Of course, the great majority of people have no idea that they lost that property, so it just sits with the state as an unclaimed asset.

You may question how people can forget about their assets, but it is quite normal — particularly in our society today, where many people live in various locations throughout their lifetime. You see this happens a lot at banks. People think they have closed out their accounts, but there was



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

some interest left in it. Another example is a person leaves their employer, they were entitled to some type of compensation and now the employer can't locate the employee. In those situations, the bank or the employer are supposed to turn that property over to the state. The state then acts as a custodian for that money until it is claimed.

You may think in dealing with the state it is very difficult to locate and to claim unclaimed assets, but it's not. Just about every state has a data base online where you can search. To search the state of Michigan's unclaimed property data base, all you need to do is go to the Michigan Department of Treasury at www.michigan.gov/treasury and click on unclaimed property, where you can then do a search. Another good website is www.missingmoney.com, which allows you to search its data base of about 39 states at once.

I think it's not a bad idea for everyone to go to the websites of the various states where they have lived. You may be surprised to find that there is something that you are entitled to

that you had no idea about. My philosophy has always been that the money looks better in your pocket than it does in anyone else's. If you are entitled to the money, why not?

You might ask if it's easy to get the money from the state. Generally, the answer is yes. However, in the situation at hand, where the property may not be yours but a loved one's, there is a little more complexity. For someone who is deceased, a probate may have to be opened. The bottom line, however, is it's your money and it may be worth a little bit of aggravation and frustration to get it.

As I look outside and I see the green grass, it's hard to believe that it's mid-December. There's just something nice about seeing green grass in December. That being said, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy, healthy holiday season. In addition, let's not forget what the holidays are about. It's not about gift-giving, but rather it's about enjoying and appreciating your loved ones.

Good luck!

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

Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro serves up holiday beverage options

If you're looking to change up your beverages this holiday season, which may include wanting a new option to the ever popular, generations-old sherbet punch made with 7-Up, Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro, located at the Clock Tower Building of the Novi Town Center, has some creative and delicious ideas.

Lori Horton of Westland, a bartender and server marking 20 years at Diamond Jim's Brady's Bistro, shared some of her recommendations. Punch has been making a comeback and bartenders are creatively combining herbs, spices, juices and blends of alcohol (optional). The sharable nature of punch makes it the perfect addition to spice up your holiday party.

Horton gave insight on a twist to the classic holiday offering that includes a recipe that is a lightly sweet, effervescent gin-based punch made with chamomile tea and sparkling wine.

"You can also mix it up a bit, depending on your individual tastes," she said. "Maybe garnish with apples, pears and cinnamon sticks or citrus slices and pomegranate."

She also has a new drink at the restaurant called the Blushing Lady.

"It's made with a refreshing grapefruit juice, pomegranate liquor and Gypsy Vodka in a sugar-rimmed martini glass," Horton said.

This drink is a nice alternative to the more common martini cocktails, such as the cosmopolitan. She added that the Hazelnut Heater coffee drink has a devoted following. Made with



Bartender and server Lori Horton (left) prepares a martini, while bartender Maddy Freeman pours wine.

SPARKLING LIGHT PUNCH

serves 6-8

For the Citrus Sugar
1 lemon, zested
1 orange, zested
½ cup superfine sugar
For the Cocktail
4 tbsp. citrus sugar
6 oz. lemon juice
6 oz. gin
3 oz. St. Germain elderflower liqueur
3 oz. triple sec
10 oz. cold chamomile tea
8 oz. sparkling wine
Lemon and orange wheels,

for garnish
Pomegranate seeds, for garnish

Instructions

Make the citrus sugar: Combine zests and sugar in a food processor; pulse until combined. Makes ½ cup. Dissolve the sugar in the lemon juice in a punch bowl. Add gin, St. Germain, and triple sec. Add the tea, ice block, and top with sparkling wine. Garnish with lemon and orange wheels and the pomegranate seeds.

Cappuccino or coffee, Frangelico Hazelnut Liqueur, Bailey's and Kahlua, it's a great drink for cold winter days, "If we ever get one," Horton said, laughing.

Giving nod to Michigan, Bell's Brewery in Kalamazoo has some delicious seasonal brews. "Right now, Bell's Winter White Ale and their Christmas Ale, a Scottish

Ale style beer, have both been big hits with our guests," Horton said.

In time for the holidays, Horton mentioned a drink that is now fermenting at the bistro that includes spiced rum, apple, orange, lemon and cinnamon sticks. When it's ready to be served, hot cider will be added. "One sip and you'll be hooked," Horton said.

Needed: Apprentices to replace baby boomers in building trades

Carol Cain
Michigan.com

As baby boomers continue to exit the job market and more construction projects pop up in Detroit and other places, the end result is a shortage of trained workers for those jobs.

And that includes apprentices for the building trades.

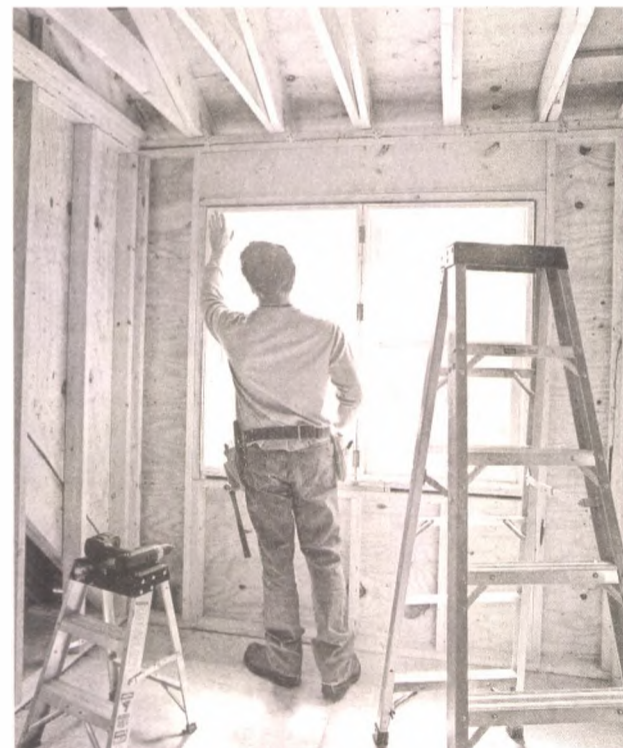
To address the situation, a coalition of skilled labor unions and organized construction contractor associations have teamed to launch a campaign to encourage young people to consider becoming an apprentice.

MUST, which stands for Management and Unions Serving Together, includes the Michigan Building Trades Unions and their contractor associations who employ that labor.

They launched the MUST Careers campaign in September with stories of people who have become apprentices. It is dotting area billboards, along with TV commercials.

"As both labor and management looked ahead at the growth in the market, we expanded the MUST brand to include MUST Careers to assist folks interested in joining the trades to more easily connect with our opportunities," said Donna Pardonnet, MUST Careers Management co-chair and executive director of ACT Michigan (Architectural and Construction Trades Michigan).

MUST began 15 years ago to help the construction industry with drug testing. Now it is addressing the talent gap, an



GETTY IMAGES

A coalition of skilled labor unions and organized construction contractor associations have teamed to launch a campaign to encourage young people to consider becoming an apprentice.

issue resonating with Gov. Rick Snyder, CEOs and small-business owners all talking about the need to find qualified talent.

"The goal is to connect those interested in a career in the building trades with the Apprenticeship Training Centers around the region to apply and begin their career," Pardonnet said.

The campaign comes at a fortuitous time.

"We're looking at roughly \$5 billion in construction work pending in southeast Michigan in the next three to five years," said Patrick Devlin, secretary/treasurer of the Michigan Building and Construction Trades

Council and also MUST Careers labor co-chair.

They hope to add 1,100 apprentices this year.

The advantage of an apprenticeship is that the person is paid while they learn and is usually debt-free when they graduate. Plus, they are guaranteed a job. They spend 90 percent of their time in the field on the job site, learning their craft working alongside a journeyman.

Apprenticeships last from two to five years, depending on the trade. Starting salaries range from \$12 to \$15 per hour. Some also earn health care and retirement benefits.

For more details, go to www.MUSTcareers.org.

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Firefighters urge safety with Christmas trees, holiday cooking

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. The National Fire Protection Association offers advice on fire safety with Christmas trees:

Picking the tree

Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree

Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2 inches from the base of the trunk.

Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.

Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree

Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.

Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.

Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

In terms of holiday cooking, the NFPA notes Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christ-



Christmas holiday living room with tree and fireplace in lights

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

mas Eve.

Cooking equipment was involved in 18 percent of home decoration fires. This can happen when a decoration is left on or too close to a stove or other cooking equipment.

What you should know

Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stove top.

Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.

If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stove top.

If you have a cooking fire

Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.

If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.

Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stove top. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Safety considerations for cooking with oil

Oil is a key ingredient found in the majority of today's kitchens. Whether a recipe calls for frying or sauteing, we include oil in almost all of our daily cooking. When using any of the many oils to prepare your meals like olive, canola, corn or soybean, consider the following safety tips when cooking:

Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stove top.

Keep an eye on what you fry. If you see wisps of smoke or the oil smells, immediately turn off the burner and/or carefully remove the pan from the burner. Smoke is a danger sign that the oil is too hot.

Heat the oil slowly to the temperature you need for frying or sauteing.

Add food gently to the pot or pan so the oil does not splatter.

Always cook with a lid beside your pan. If you have a fire, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again. Let the pan cool for a long time. Never throw water or use a fire extinguisher on the fire.

If the fire does not go out or you don't feel comfortable sliding a lid over the pan, get everyone out of your home. Call the fire department from outside.

The NFPA also urges caution with candle use, during the holiday season and all year.

Court of Appeals rules on private structures on park lands

Q: Our subdivision owners have an irrevocable easement over certain subdivision property in a parkland area. Now the board wants to grant some of that subdivision property to a private person to erect a private structure on the parkland. What do you think?

A: I think that your association is abusing its rights and privileges and you need to take affirmative action as quickly as possible to do so.

In the particular case I am thinking about, the Court of Appeals of Michigan ruled that the association did not have the authority



Robert Meisner

to grant permission to allow subdivision lot owners to erect private structures upon the subdivision unless it is for education, recreational or community activities for the use and enjoyment of all subdivision lot owners which the deed restrictions required. I would suggest that your association seek legal advice and/or that the members of the subdivision gather together to retain counsel to stop this purported action.

Q: We just purchased a townhouse subject to covenants with a provision allowing for subsequent amendments to the covenants by a two-thirds vote. I entered into a short term vacation rental, but after a number of complaints, the lot owners voted to amend the covenants for rentals for less than six months and to require Board approval of rental documents and advertisement. Now the board is threatening litigation against me. What do you think?

A: Although there is a split of authority among the states, courts generally adopt a case by case approach for determining whether the addition of new restrictions on rental activities is reasonable under a general amendment provision. Some states hold that a new restriction is per se unreasonable and some courts say that some amendments may go too far and change the nature of the original restrictions. Sometimes it depends upon whether it produces an unconscionable result, but some courts say you buy subject to having certain rights later restricted by amendment. You are best to consult with a knowledgeable community association attorney.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. Visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of July 27-31, 2015, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

Table of real estate transactions in Oakland County, listing address, city, and price. Includes sections for Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and Bloomfield Township.

Table of real estate transactions in Oakland County, listing address, city, and price. Includes sections for Commerce Township, Farmington, and Farmington Hills.

Table of real estate transactions in Oakland County, listing address, city, and price. Includes sections for Highland, Lathrup Village, Milford, Northville, and Novi.

Table of real estate transactions in Oakland County, listing address, city, and price. Includes sections for South Lyon, Southfield, and White Lake.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Aug. 17-21, 2015, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

Table of real estate transactions in Wayne County, listing address, city, and price. Includes sections for Canton and Livonia.

Table of real estate transactions in Wayne County, listing address, city, and price. Includes sections for Garden City and Plymouth.

Table of real estate transactions in Wayne County, listing address, city, and price. Includes sections for Northville and Westland.

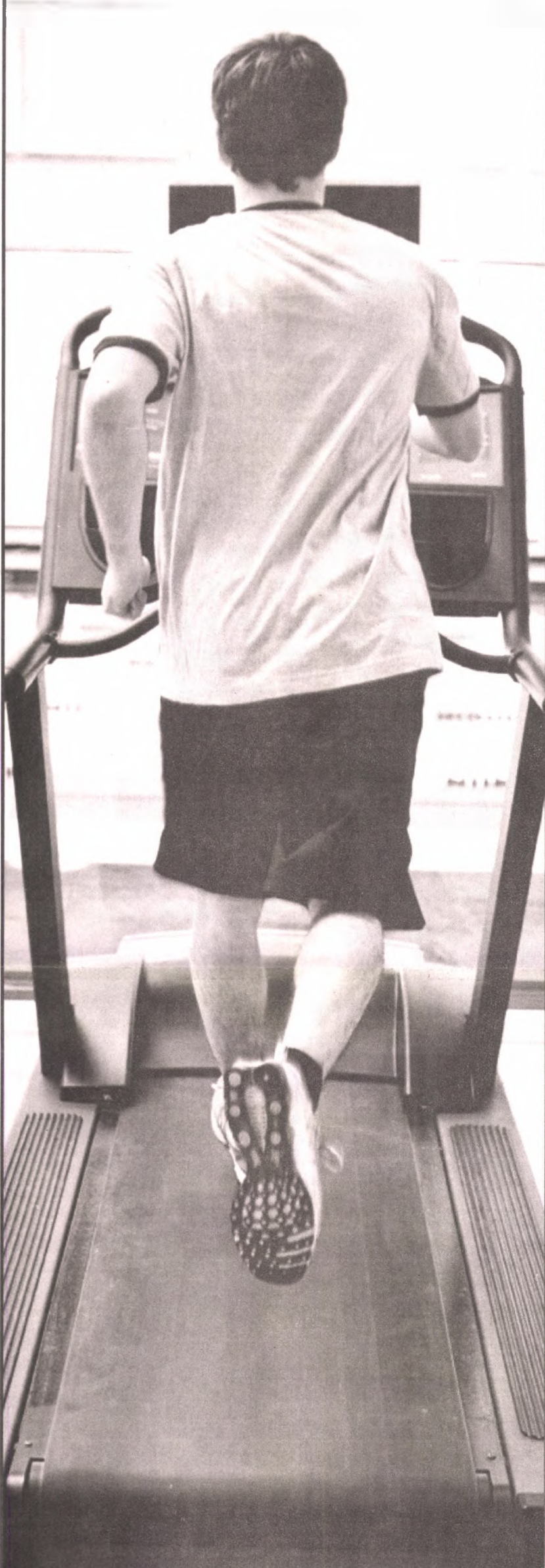
Table of real estate transactions in Wayne County, listing address, city, and price. Includes sections for Westland and Whitefish Township.

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Meet and greet

Several Realtor members of the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors, a local trade association for real estate professionals, gathered at the ConCorde Inn of Clinton Township on Dec. 4 to meet with Macomb County legislators. Legislators in attendance included Rep. Derek Miller, Rep. Jeff Farrington, Rep. Andrea LaFontaine, Rep. Ken Goike, Sen. Steve Bieda, Rep. Anthony Forlino, Commissioner Kathy Vosburg, Rep. Peter Lucido, and Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh. This annual meet and greet is a GMAR staple that helps maintain the relationships between Realtors and politicians. The Legislative Breakfast affords them time and place to discuss matters pertinent to protecting home ownership and real estate. The GMAR Government Affairs Committee plans to meet to discuss the possibility of similar undertakings in Oakland and Wayne counties.

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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
1 Plans
7 Form of trapshooting
12 2001-09 U.S. pres.
15 BLT condiment
19 Creature on a slide
20 1923 Nobel-winning poet
21 Jump to clear
23 Start of a riddle
25 Making changes to
26 Preceder of tee
27 Pack animal
28 Pro-bono TV ad
29 Slanting
30 Riddle, part 2
37 "Now it's clear"
39 Big coffee container
40 Look lewdly
41 Gets dirty
42 Riddle, part 3
48 Rollaway bed
49 Turndowns
50 "O Sole —"
51 "—hool!"
- 52 Fit for consumption
55 "Thwack!"
57 On the — (escaping)
60 Juneau locale
63 Bullfight bull
66 Riddle, part 4
71 Quite heavy
73 "The rest — to you"
74 Cole Porter's "Well, Did You —?"
75 Mobile, e.g.
76 Riddle, part 5
80 Princely school
81 At peace
82 "Gloria in Excelsis —"
83 Cleans up copy
85 Tabriz residents
88 To the rear
91 Masters peg
92 Awful
95 Eggs
97 Riddle, part 6
102 Actress Palmer or Soprano Lehmann
105 Send out
106 "Alley —!"
- 107 Look lewdly
108 End of the riddle
114 Mojave, e.g.
115 IRS datum
116 Sculling need
117 Lofty poem
120 Sellers with cellars
123 Riddle's answer
126 Meet at a point
127 Inundate
128 Use mouthwash audibly
129 Really regrets
130 Ballpark amt.
131 Plants of the lily family
132 Prize greatly
- DOWN**
1 Postpaid enc.
2 Ralite birds
3 #1-ranked tournament entrant
4 Summer mo.
5 Ship sinker
6 Outdated
7 Wd. of like meaning
8 Frat house beer bash
9 Depletes little by little
10 Hawke of "Hamlet"
11 Philosopher Lao- —
12 Fake peeper
13 Having good manners
14 Ulan —, Mongolia
15 Rita of "West Side Story"
16 Lead-in to fauna
17 Longing
18 Pt. of NOW
22 Diarist Samuel
24 Neighbor of Leb.
29 Realm
31 Neighbor of Kan.
32 Mon.-Wed. linkup
33 Architectural wing
34 Cry after a three-pointer
35 "Hold On Tight" rock gp.
36 Q-U linkup
37 Knighted actor Holm
38 — cone
43 Thurman of the screen
44 Kelly of morning TV
45 Teasing knuckle rub
46 Silent film vamp Negri
47 Gorilla observer
48 Fosse
53 Radar signal
54 Flogs
55 Suitable for a Seder table
56 "What — thinking?"
58 Work without — (act riskily)
59 Ovid's 1,506
61 Cousin of lotto
62 Yemeni port
63 T-bars, e.g.
64 Tony relative
65 Court do-overs
67 Newsmen
68 Duel sword
69 Clock part
70 "It was forced on me"
72 Sicilian peak
77 Egg sources
78 Wyle of "ER"
79 In — of
84 — Aviv-Yafo
86 Potential ship sinkers
87 Writer W. — Maugham
89 Trudge
90 Like four-person basketball
92 "I say!"
93 WWW giant
94 As yet unpaid
95 Dated
96 Compete
98 "Sounder" director
99 Ending for ordinals
100 PC "brain"
101 DeLuise or DiMaggio
103 Many flat-screens
104 Cara of "Fame"
109 French river
110 "It's — bet"
111 Body digit
112 Sponge
113 Killer whales
118 Mete
119 K-6: Abbr.
120 TiVo precursor
121 Debt memo
122 Vane dir.
123 Punting figs.
124 — and outs
125 Technique

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

SUDOKU

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

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

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

NATIONAL PARK WORD SEARCH

WORDS

- ACADIA
- ARCHES
- BADLANDS
- BISCAYNE
- BRYCE CANYON
- CARLSBAD
- CONGAREE
- CRATER LAKE
- CUYAHOGA VALLEY
- DENALI
- DRY TORTUGAS
- EVERGLADES
- GLACIER BAY
- GRAND CANYON
- GRAND TETON
- GREAT BASIN
- HALEAKALA
- HOT SPRINGS
- ISLE ROYALE
- JOSHUA TREE
- KATMAI
- KENAI FJORDS
- KINGS CANYON
- KOBUK VALLEY
- LAKE CLARK
- MAMMOTH CAVE
- MOUNT RAINIER
- OLYMPIC
- PETRIFIED FOREST
- SAGUARO
- SEQUOIA
- WRANGELL
- YELLOWSTONE
- ZION

Crossword Answers

SETS UP SKEET GWB MAYO
 AMOEBAEATS LEAPOVER
 SUPPOSINGTHE ALTERING
 ESSASSPSASASLOPE
 ENTERTAINERSBYRNNER
 ISEEURNLEER SOILS
 ANDBURNETTPLAYEDCOT
 NOISMIOYOOEEDIBLE
 KAPOWLAMALASKA
 TOROAGAMEANDFINISHED
 OBESEISUPEVAPHONE
 WITHTHEIDENTICALTON
 SERENEDEIDEDITON
 IRANISAFITTEE BAD
 OVA SCOREHOWCOULDYOU
 LILLIEMIT OOP OGLE
 DESCRIBETHATOUTCOME
 DESERTSSNOAR ODE
 VINTNERSYULTIARDCAROL
 CONVERGE DROWN GARGLE
 RUES EST SEGOS ESTEEM

Word Search Answers

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