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**POLICE SEEK INFO ON ARSON THAT INJURED THREE**  
LOCAL NEWS, A3

## Changes decrease pension liabilities

Changes in retiree health care help cut legacy costs by \$27 million

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

Thanks to changes in benefits to current and future municipal retirees, Westland reports its unfunded legacy costs will be reduced by more than \$27 million.

The Other Post-Employment Benefits, or OPEB, currently is at about \$250 million that is unfunded after the savings. It includes health care, dental, optical coverage and life insurance.

"This year's OPEB valuation, some-

thing all municipalities must undertake every two years, was the first to fully reflect the scope of all changes the city has made over the past eight years," Mayor William Wild said. "Strategically, we knew reducing liabilities related to legacy costs could not happen overnight."

Those changes, negotiated in collective bargaining agreements with the city's employee unions, include shifting retirees to Medicare at 65 and



Wild

providing a stipend for supplement insurance and no longer providing retiree health care for new hires.

"The retirees always had health care at no charge. For a while, the retirees under contract paid for a portion of their health care," city Finance Director Steve Smith said. "Now, there is a stipend to help buy supplement insurance."

Since 2010, Wild said the city has taken a methodical and steady approach to reducing retiree costs. Through attrition and retirement incentives, he noted the city's workforce has been reduced from a high of 405 full-time workers in 2009 to 320 employees in 2017.

Beginning in 2016, 220 existing retirees over age 65, which is roughly half of the city's current retirees, were transitioned from the city's PPO health plans to customized Medicare Advantage plans. These plans mirrored the coverage these Medicare-eligible retirees had been receiving, but with less costly plans that better coordinate with Medicare, Wild said. This change alone saves the city roughly \$600,000 annually in retiree health care costs, he noted.

"The city becomes the secondary coverage if something is not covered by Medicare and pays for it," Smith

See PENSIONS, Page A2



Livonia Franklin players Marcus Martin (left) and Jake Swirple console each after the Division 2 state championship game at Ford Field. The Patriots, who reached the state final for the first time since 1975, lost to Warren de La Salle, 41-6. For more on the game, see Sports, B1. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Play focusing on senior dating coming to Livonia

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

It's not just college students and young people meeting for dates online these days. Laura Levine Gumina is one example of that.

"I met somebody," the 67-year-old Oak Park resident said. "And it was a relationship that worked because we both wanted to be happy right now."

"We couldn't look at 'Was this forever?' That wasn't relevant. There is no 'forever' anymore."

That experience led Gumina to pen a one-act play detailing the struggles, challenges and successes of a demographic not typically portrayed in the online dating community: seniors.

The performance, "How Old is that Photo?" will take the stage starting this weekend at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 Six Mile, in Livonia. Shows will take place at 8 p.m. for the next two weekends: this Friday and Saturday and Dec. 8-9.

The show features six players ages 59-80 and from several area communities, including Canton, Ann Arbor, Wayne and Garden City.

Gumina said there are millions of seniors actively looking for companionship that doesn't necessarily come with the intimacy of a romantic relationship, though admits some do look for that.

The constant between 20-somethings who date online and 60-somethings that seek a deeper connection is, Gumina said, the fear of the pain.

"Everyone is afraid of getting hurt. That's a constant for any age on a dating site," she said. "But you take a risk."

The performance began rehearsing in October and continues this week before the show opens.

Mike Morgan, an actor in the performance, said he's not had any personal experience dating online — he's happily

See PLAY, Page A6

## OH, SO CLOSE

Thousands of fans were on hand Friday at Ford Field to watch the Franklin Patriots battle Warren de La Salle for the Division 2 state championship. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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# Woman scammed by suspect on 'sugar daddy' website

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

Wayne police are warning residents to be wary while connecting with people online after a resident was scammed out of several hundreds of dollars through a dating site.

Police say the resident, a 23-year-old woman, came into the station to file a report. She said she was talking to someone she met on a site called sugardaddy.com, a dating site, on Oct. 27.

She said the suspect asked for her bank account info four days later, on Halloween, so he could send her some money.

He told her he would direct deposit \$1,950 into her account, but told her to take \$1,500 of that and purchase 15 iTunes gift cards for \$100 each. She could then keep the balance, which equaled \$450. She purchased the cards at multiple locations and sent images of the cards' backs to the suspect via email, allowing them to access the funds.

The suspect contacted her again Nov. 6, this time saying he'd send \$1,980 and that she could keep \$180. The suspect

once again instructed her to purchase \$100 iTunes cards and provide them with the information on the back of them. She did so and sent him the numbers on the back of the cards.

She was later contacted by her credit union, which discovered the suspect's account was closed and not valid. They told her she would be liable for the funds she had spent on the cards and that she needed to pay them back. She then came to the police station to file a police report.

Apple warns its customers on its website to be wary if someone asks another individual to

purchase gift cards for them, whether it be for payment for services or other scams.

"If you're approached to use the cards for payment outside of the iTunes Store, App Store, iBooks Store, or Apple Music, you could very likely be the target of a scam and should immediately report it to your local police department as well as the (Federal Trader Commission)," the company states on its website.

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(1 blk. North of E. Michigan Ave.)

## PENSIONS

Continued from Page A1

said. "If they are under 65 and previously retired, the city pays for health care. We have a few recent police retirees who contribute to health care."

Along with eliminating retiree health care for new hires in some employee groups, other negotiated changes include offering new hires a health care savings plan as their retiree health care. These plans provide funding the future retiree may use to purchase health care or pay for non-reimbursed medical expenses.

Retiree health care at age 65 for all current employees hired prior to 2010 has been eliminated. At age 65, these retirees

will instead receive a health reimbursement account. Those funds may be used to purchase Medicare Advantage plans or otherwise pay for non-reimbursed medical expenses.

"It was with the support of city council, partnering with all of our unions through many years of negotiations, and the trust placed in us by current retirees that these changes that will reduce liability and increase sustainability for years to come made this \$27 million reduction possible," Wild said.

The work of Plante Moran Employee Benefits Consultants, a division of the independent public accounting firm, members of his administration (including the Finance and Personnel Departments) and the employee groups repre-

sented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, United Auto Workers, International Association of Fire Fighters and the Police Officers Association of Michigan, was praised by Wild.

"Unfunded retiree health care benefits are among the most serious economic pressures facing public entities globally. In Michigan, it is estimated that unfunded OPEB liability exceeds \$13 billion," Wild said. "In the coming years, the city must continue to monitor OPEB liability. Today, I am proud of the collective effort undertaken by so many to reduce this liability here in the All American City."

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# Police seek info on arson that injured three

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

Westland police continue to ask for the public's help with information regarding a house fire that took place earlier this month.

Police say the home, located in the 33000 block of Allenton, was set ablaze just before 4 a.m. Nov. 11. The fire, which is believed to have been arson, burned the home and sent three individuals to the hospital, including one who was in critical condition.

A message seeking more information on the case was left with Westland police Monday morning.

Police and Crime Stoppers of Michigan are offering a \$1,000 reward to anyone with information regarding the arson. Tipsters can remain anonymous. Anyone with information is encouraged to call Crime Stopper at 800-SPEAK-UP, send a tip at 1800speakup.org or via text message to 274637.

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Westland police are looking for info on a fire that took place Nov. 11 at this home in the 33000 block of Allenton. WESTLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

## WAYNE POLICE BRIEFS

### Vehicle broken into at church

Wayne police were called Nov. 5 to Cornerstone Church, 39390 Michigan Ave., on the report of a vehicle that had been broken into while its owner was inside at church services.

The victim said she parked her car at the church that morning and went inside. She came out to find a window shattered and radio/navigation missing from the dashboard. A Blu-

etooth device and a phone charger were also taken. A witness said they saw the suspect's vehicle in the parking lot.

### Pills taken from car

Police were dispatched Nov. 19 to the 37100 block of Thinbark on the report of some vehicles that had been broken into.

The resident said he believed he locked his doors the night before, but came out the next morning to find the vehicles ransacked. One vehi-

cle appeared to be missing nothing, though another vehicle was missing some pills.

### Car stolen

Police were called Nov. 19 to the 36900 block of Greenbush on the report of a vehicle that had been stolen.

The victim said he was unsure if he locked the car the day before,

but said he left the ignition fob in the center console, closed the door and went inside. He came out the next morning to find the vehicle missing. He said he was up to date on the payments and did not know who would have stolen it. There were no signs of forced entry.

— By David Veselenak

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**ABSTRACT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2017-31 November 21, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. at the Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Bicycle Club; APPROVED: agenda; minutes of Regular City Council meeting of Nov. 7; Main Street to declare Nov. 25 Small Business Saturday; Wayne Historical Society event Dec. 2.; approve site plan #2017-05 for Taco Bell; ordinance #2017-05; #2017-06; approve amendment & increase of Rental Cert. Fees; approve budget amend #2018-02; buyback of graves; approve license agreement for development of Derby's Alley; consent calendar. Received and filed Communications and Reports. Adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Matthew K. Miller  
City Clerk

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## Retail fraud suspect takes police on two chases

**David Veselenak**  
 hometownlife.com  
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High School.



Brown

Perhaps the third time's the charm for Livonia police when it comes to catching this particular shoplifting suspect.

That's because it took three tries and two police chases to nab Caterlean Brown, 46, of Detroit, who is accused of stealing hundreds of dollars of merchandise from several Livonia stores.

It began Nov. 14, when police were called to Walmart, 29574 Seven Mile, on a report of her leaving the store with items she had not paid for. Police arrived and saw the vehicle she was in and began chasing it. That chase traveled west to Farmington and then went south toward Six Mile. Police terminated the chase near Stevenson

Two days later, police were called to Target, 29451 Plymouth, on a report of a similar suspect committing retail fraud. Once again, police located the vehicle and began a chase in the area, eventually terminating for safety reasons for the neighborhood near Haller and Orangelawn.

Later that day, police got a call from nearby Walmart, 29555 Plymouth, on the report of a retail fraud in progress. Store employees saw Brown with a cart full of items, as well as several inside bins, a tactic many shoplifting suspects do to conceal items. Police entered the store and recognized Brown. She was arrested in the store. Police also went out-

side and spoke to a man who had been in the car with her. The vehicle was listed as stolen out of Detroit and the man, a 47-year-old Warren resident, was arrested.

Brown was charged with unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle, receiving/concealing stolen property: motor vehicle, fourth-degree fleeing and eluding and organized retail crime. If convicted, she faces up to five years in prison.

She was given a \$100,000 cash or surety bond. As of Nov. 15, she remained locked up in the Wayne County Jail.

A probable cause conference in her case will take place Nov. 30 and a preliminary examination will take place Dec. 7. Both will be held in Livonia's 16th District Court.

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## Nominations open for SJ5K charity run

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 USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Organizers of the student-run Super Jess 5K Run, the annual event to benefit families in the Plymouth-Canton community who are going through a sudden medical crisis, are now accepting nominations for families to be beneficiaries of this year's event.

Nominations for beneficiaries of the run will be taken through Dec. 10. The event takes place May 6, beginning at the varsity football field at Canton High School.

Nominations can be made at the group's website at [www.sj5k.org](http://www.sj5k.org). Organizers said the 2017 event was a big success, with a record seven families receiving some level of help.

Dubbed the SJ5K for short, the event includes a five-kilometer (3.2 miles) and a one-mile course. Since 2011, the SJ5K has raised more than \$230,000 and has provided support and financial help to 21 different families.

The SJ5K is organized and run by P-CEP National Honor Society students. It is named for Jesse Lindlbauer, who

was a P-CEP student when he suffered a traumatic brain injury due to illness; the Lindlbauer family benefited from the first SJ5K in 2011.

To sign up for the 2016 SJ5K or form a team, donate, volunteer at the event or become a sponsor, go to [www.sj5k.org](http://www.sj5k.org). The site includes a history of the event, photographs from last year's race and stories about the people and families the fundraiser has helped.

For more information, email [sj5klegacy@gmail.com](mailto:sj5klegacy@gmail.com).

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# Walker-Winter students design, plan Twentyville

Second-grade students at Walker-Winter Elementary School have designed and created their own community. Twentyville is the result of a six-week class project that incorporated social studies, science, math and writing skills. Students researched and planned for the different components of building a community.

"We created lists for places that meet the needs of food, clothing and shelter," teacher Chris Kozaczynski said. "Students also identified important community

resources such as a library, school and police and fire stations."

They started with a farm that grew into a town and culminated in a community with mountains, water, a forest, urban and suburban areas. Students got to build their own homes and worked together to create a city hall, hospital, stores, parks, streets, and restaurants.

The residents are deciding on laws that will determine which animals are allowed in Twentyville. Currently, they have an elephant and

three alligators. There is much debate about the safety of having large animals in Twentyville.

"We were able to integrate learning from across the curriculum for this project. For science, the students began with the creation of land and water features to set the layout for our community, Twentyville. They created hills and valleys, mountains, lakes and rivers to start," Kozaczynski said. "Math skills were needed as they carefully measured to make sure all these features would fit.

"As the community developed, we studied urban, suburban and rural features to plan our community," he added. "The students researched and carefully decided what types of homes, buildings and businesses were needed

for Twentyville to be successful. Each time a student built something new for the community, they would write about it on our classroom blog. Students were able to describe the building itself and how they made it, as well as become

creative with the story that surrounded their creation. It was great to see the connections they made as they wrote realistic fiction to tell the evolution of our little community."



Second-graders at Walker-Winter Elementary School who built Twentyville.

The farm in Twentyville.



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# PLAY

Continued from Page A1

married, something that happened before the Internet became what it is today — but said he's thought about what it would take to be in his character's shoes if that were him.

"I think it would be awfully scary to jump into that," the Flat Rock resident said. "You want to portray yourself in good light, but you don't want to exaggerate or lie, because that usually comes back to bite you."

Tickets for the show are \$12 for Trinity House Theatre subscribers and \$15 for the general public. Tickets can be purchased online through

the theater company's website.

The performance will feature all actors portraying more equals in the show. So many times, 80-year-old actor Phillip Berns said, older people are seen in society as always being weak and not being able to fend for themselves. But, he said, there's so much more to them, something the play explores.

"I think it's about time a play like this got written," the Lathrup Village resident said. "Like Laura says in the play, people don't think about seniors except with wheelchairs and bedpans."

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Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



Rosalind Hamner-Dixon, as Kate, and Dorianne Jentzen, as Kathy, rehearsing "How Old is that Photo?" BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



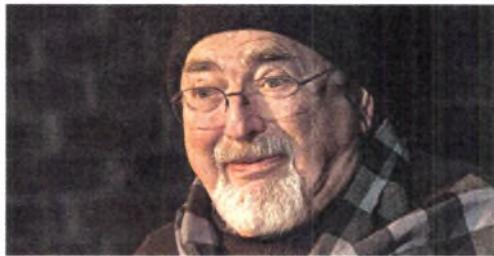
Dave Durham rehearsing. He's a Garden City resident. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



J. Michael Morgan is from Flat Rock. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Karen Curtsinger is from Canton. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Phil Berns is from Lathrup Village. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Laura Gumina, director and playwright of "How Old is that Photo?", watches rehearsal. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

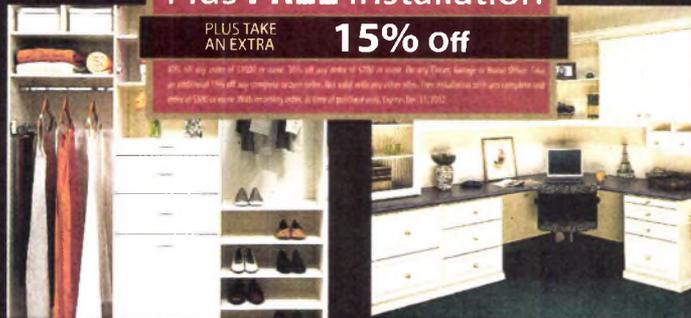
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# Three festive events to check out this weekend

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

It's (almost) December and 2017 is almost over. Where has the time gone?

But even as activities will soon wrap up for the year, there's still plenty to check out this weekend in the Hometown Life area, especially if you're getting into the holiday spirit.

Here are three events happening in our towns this weekend.

## New holiday parade in Livonia

Returning after more than a decade is a holiday parade in Livonia, which takes place at 4 p.m. Sunday in the center of the city.

The new Merry and Bright: Livonia's Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting will begin at Frost Middle School, 14041 Stark, and head north on Stark before turning east onto Lyndon. It will then travel to Farmington Road, head north to Civic Center Drive and end at Livonia City Hall. City officials are expecting a big turnout: about 60 groups and 1,600 people are expected to participate in the parade.

The event will combine the new parade with the city's tree lighting, which will take place after the parade on the steps of city hall. After the city tree is lit by Mayor Dennis Wright and the winners of the "December is Special to Me..." photo contest, Santa Claus and Mrs.



Girl Scout Troop 75240 members march as snow women in the Cool Yule parade through South Lyon in 2015. FILE PHOTO



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus after the Livonia tree lighting in 2015. This year, Santa will have a full-fledged parade in Livonia to take part in. FILE PHOTO

Claus, who will still arrive on a Livonia fire engine, will be available to hear from children in the Robert and Janet Bennett Library. Cookies and other refreshments will also be served in the library.

## Holly Days in downtown Farmington

If you're looking for an old-timey feel to a holiday celebration, look no further than Saturday afternoon in downtown Farmington.

The annual Holly Days celebration, put on by the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, will return from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the city's downtown district at Grand River and Farmington roads.

Several local businesses will host Christmas-themed events, including cookie decorating at Fresh Thyme Farmers Market, visits with Santa Claus at Great Lakes Ace Hardware and

free Christmas movies (with the donation of a non-perishable food item) at the Farmington Civic Theatre.

The annual illuminated parade will begin at 6 p.m. and run from School Street to the Warner Mansion. After that, the annual tree lighting will take place in front of the Warner Mansion.

## Cool Yule in South Lyon

If you're further west Saturday, South Lyon will hold its annual Cool Yule event in the city all day.

Plenty of activities will take place across town beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, including a craft show at South Lyon High School, the return of the Festival of Trees at the Play Ground and an open house at the South Lyon Historical Society.

The Cool Yule Fun Run will kick off the annual parade along Pontiac Trail, with runners adorned in lights and festive outfits. The parade ends with "The

Big Guy" lighting the Christmas tree at the Witches Hat Depot school house.

A list of activities and

more information can be found by visiting the event's Facebook page, facebook.com/coolyule.

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# Obituaries

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**Wallace "Wally" Kajkowski**

**LIVONIA** - Age 81 passed away 11/23/2017. He is preceded in death by his sister Sylvia and brother-in-law Kenneth Seaman. Loving brother of Diane Hardy. Dearest cousin of Christopher Szefi (Elizabeth), and Eleanor Guttenberger (John), and numerous other cousins who will miss Wally deeply. A memorial Mass will be held 9:30 AM Tuesday December 5 at St. Aidan Catholic Church, Livonia. Family will welcome friends at 9 AM. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Catholic Relief Services. To sign the online guestbook please go to [www.turowskifuneralhomes.com](http://www.turowskifuneralhomes.com).



**Juanita Florence Sissom**

**GARDEN CITY** - age 83, November 24, 2017. Loving wife of Earl. Dear mother of Keith (Pat) Sissom and Sharon Sanders. Cherished grandmother of Cassie. Sister of Jack Musser and the late Eileen Fivecoat. Services were held at John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home. Memorials suggested to the Michigan Humane Society. [www.santeiufuneralhome.com](http://www.santeiufuneralhome.com)



**Barbara A. Tangora**

**FARMINGTON** - Age 87, retired Farmington Public School Teacher, died Thursday, November 23, 2017. Beloved mother of Michael, Anne (Richard) Scott, Paul, Peter, Mary and Susan (Vern) Stephens; loving grandmother of Jessica, Melissa, Daniel, Nicholas, Olivia, Gabriella and Zachary; fond sister-in-law of Terry Tangora and Mary Ann Dinan. Sadly, Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Charles (d. 2003) and brothers, John and Timothy Dinan. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, November 27th at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorial tributes suggested to the Alzheimer's Association. Arrangements entrusted to Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. [heeney-sundquist.com](http://heeney-sundquist.com)



## Annual candlelight vigil honors memories of loved ones lost

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

The 21st annual Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting, which unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandchildren who left too soon, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park.

As candles are lit at 7 p.m., hundreds of thousands of people commemorate and honor all children gone too soon.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle-lighting on the globe, the annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual

24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone.

Started in the United States in 1997 as a small Internet observance, the event has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance.

Hundreds of formal candle-lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle-lightings are conducted in homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

Starting in New Zealand, candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are started in another, creating a virtual 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world.

The local chapter of

The Compassionate Friends sponsors the Kellogg Park ceremony. The event will include a candlelight vigil, reading of the children's names, a PowerPoint presentation of the children's names, poetry and songs.

Families will gather near memory trees specially decorated with the names of the children who have died too soon.

Friends and families are invited to the remembrance. For more information or to register a child's name to be included, call 734-778-0800 or email [tfcandlelight@yahoo.com](mailto:tfcandlelight@yahoo.com).

Candles will be provided and an ornament will be placed on the memory trees in the park when you register a child's name. You do not have to attend to register a child.

[bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com)  
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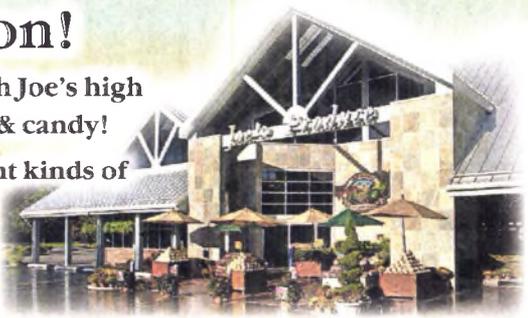
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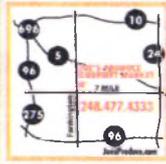
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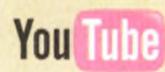
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PREP FOOTBALL

## Muskegon QB too much for Harrison in title game

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

Farmington Harrison entered Saturday's state championship game with a record 13 titles.

It's going to stay that way. Top-ranked Muskegon, led by its elusive Division-1 bound quarterback La'Darius Jefferson, who scored four touchdowns, powered past Harrison, 28-10, to claim the Division 3 state championship at Ford Field. It was the first meeting between the perennial state powers.

The victory lifted Muskegon, the state's winningest high school football program, to its sixth state championship. The

Hawks will remain the Michigan High School Athletic Association's state record holder with 13 under the state's winningest head coach in John Herrington.

"Overall, I was pretty happy with the way we played," said Herrington, whose team finished with a 10-4 record.

"There was nothing to be disappointed about. We had a good year and all that stuff — all the things coaches say when they lose. Really, it was a good year.

"It was one of our best, considering we didn't think we would make the playoffs at one time," he added. "To get here was great. To make it this far was fantastic. I don't think (the players) should feel bad about this at all."

Harrison held high-scoring Muskegon to its lowest offensive output of the playoffs with just four touchdowns. Muskegon head coach Shane Fairfield didn't expect anything less from a Herrington-coached team.

"They play championship football, they were 10-3 and they play in a good conference," said Fairfield, whose highly-regarded squad completed an undefeated season at 14-0. "We knew they were going to have some spunk. We knew they were going to fight."

Following are five takeaways:



Muskegon QB La'Darius Jefferson scores a TD during the second quarter of the Division 3 state championship game. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See HARRISON, Page B3

PREP VOLLEYBALL

## Triple crown: Novi sweeps past Marian for Class A title



Novi senior Abryanna Cannon (back) powers one of her 18 kill shots off the fingertips of Marian's Caitlin Marsh. TOM LANG

### Miss Volleyball O'Leary earns third crown for Wildcats

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

Nothing came easy for defending Class A volleyball champion Novi in the opening set Nov. 18 of the championship match against Bloomfield Hills Marian at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

The pressure mounted with every early Marian point. But there was no way the championship-proven Wildcats were going to let some early turbulence stop them from claiming their third consecutive title.

Novi eked out a 25-23 win in

the opener and went on to post 25-9 and 25-23 victories in the subsequent sets, triumphantly closing out the dominant era of Miss Volleyball setter Erin O'Leary and eight other seniors with a 56-3 record.

"(Marian) was a team playing with no pressure, you know, nothing to lose and let's just see what we got," Novi head coach Jennifer Cottrill said. "For the first time in our post-season, that was us out there with pressure, playing with pressure and playing tight, playing tense."

"Getting out of that and winning, I think you could see

us relax in the second set and start to get into our rhythm. Honestly, I think that was probably the match almost right there, winning that first set and being able to settle in in the second."

#### Emptying the tank

The Mustangs put up a valiant effort, exemplified by 5-foot-11 Maggie DePorre's handful of blocks against Novi's lethal front line — including 6-1 senior Abryanna Cannon and 6-1 senior Kathryn Ellison, who had 18 and 12 kills, respectively.

"Those girls are going to

play D-I; it kind of motivates me a lot," said DePorre, joined at the post-game podium by senior teammates Lauren Wenzel and Maddie Kizy. "I like the challenge and I've been working so hard. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter if the other girl is 6-3, I'm not going to let that stop me. I just want to show everyone what I can do."

Had the first set gone to Marian, the rest of the match could have been very interesting. But Marian (45-12-1), guided by first-year head coach Lauren Duquette, didn't have O'Leary in their lineup.

O'Leary did it all, with 33

See NOVI, Page B2

PREP FOOTBALL

## Pilots buzz by Franklin to capture D-2 crown

De La Salle dominates first half en route to 41-6 win over Patriots

**Brad Emons**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia Franklin's first trip to the state football finals in 42 years didn't turn out quite as well as the previous one.

The 2017 Patriots were unable to duplicate the feat of their 1975 Class A championship team as Warren De La Salle pounced on a series of Franklin first-half mistakes to secure its second state title in school history with a convincing 41-6 win in the MHSAA Division 2 final Friday at Detroit's Ford Field.

Nothing went according to plan for the Patriots (11-3), who got off on the wrong foot on the game's first play from scrimmage, when a high snap from center sailed over the head of sophomore quarterback Jacob Kelbert.

De La Salle's Brendan Madigan gobbled up the loose ball at the 13 and ran it into the end zone for a touchdown just 16 seconds in to give the Pilots a 7-0 lead.

"It was high, went over his head," Franklin coach Chris

See FRANKLIN, Page B2



Livonia Franklin's Issac Moore (right) drags De La Salle's Tanner Myers during a first-half run at Ford Field. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## D-2 FOOTBALL FINALS

## Franklin fans pack Ford Field, but championship party fizzles

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK  
— MICHIGAN

The buzz and buildup for Livonia Franklin's first state championship game in 42 years was electric Friday at Ford Field in Detroit.

It only took 16 seconds to pull the plug, as a series of early misplays led to an insurmountable 38-0 halftime deficit.

Warren De La Salle went on to grab the Division 2 football championship, 41-6.

Before the opening kickoff, however, Patriots Nation was standing proud and loud.

"It's super-cool," said Shelby Mitchell, a 2012 Franklin grad. "I feel like it's an awesome opportunity for the football players to get to perform on the Lions field. I'm excited to be here with my dad and my sister."

Frank Laiacono, who graduated from Franklin in 1992, and recent grad Mia Laiacono both wore a big smile as opening kickoff drew closer and closer.

Current student Kyle Liberati was with them: "I think it's sweet."

Also pumped up for the game to begin were Anne Dempsey of Westland and family members.

On hand with her were 1994 Franklin grad Jessica Strasser and 2003 Franklin grad Katie Diegel (there with 6-year-old daughter Grace).

They not only were at Ford Field to cheer on the Patriots, they were there to honor the memory of Dempsey's son Andrew.

"This is a real emotional thing for me because of my son," Dempsey said. "He's passed since he was involved with the school."

"This is a big, emotional event for me, as it is for his sister and his cousins."

## Just like 1975?

Standing in the concourse were Donna and Craig Nehasil and her



Eagerly anticipating the opening kickoff Friday at Ford Field are (from left) Donna Nehasil, Craig Nehasil and Elsie Lee, Donna's mom. Lee, celebrating her 91st birthday, was at the 1975 championship game. TIM SMITH

mom, Elsie Lee — celebrating her 91st birthday Friday and clutching a Franklin varsity jacket from 1975, the last time the Patriots were in the state finals.

By the way, she was in attendance 42 years ago to watch Franklin win it all.

"Oh it's so cool ... I'm so happy," Lee said.

She thrust a fist into the air as she compared what it was like to be at the 1975 and 2017 championship games.

"It's still the same, Franklin has always been ... 'Go!' I wish them all the luck in the world," she said.

Craig Nehasil chimed in that the Patriots were "coming together as a team and they've played well."

And then came the actual game.

A high snap over quarterback Jacob Kelbert's head was recovered by Warren De La Salle's Brandan Madigan, who then raced and tumbled into the end zone.

Another pass was picked off to set up a Pilots TD.

Even when the Franklin defense made a good play (breaking up a third-down pass), the ball was caught by a Pilot who happened to be in the right place at the right time.



Brothers Patrick and Michael McDonald played football at Livonia Franklin during the 1970s. They thought the Patriots suffered from the jitters against Warren De La Salle. TIM SMITH

"It's just not their day," Dan West, of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said during the opening 24 minutes.

## In a nutshell

By halftime, the Pilots enjoyed a 38-point lead and the outcome was inevitable as spectators stretched their legs.

Among those disappointed fans were Patrick and Michael McDonald, brothers who graduated from Franklin in 1978 and 1979, respectively.

Both also played football; Patrick was a call-up away from being part of the 1975 champs. He was on that year's junior varsity.

"They've got a really good team, but unfortunately, they're not executing like they need to," Patrick McDonald said. "It looked like when they came out originally they were really nervous. And it's just unfortunate."

"I was really hopeful that they would come and have a really good showing."

Michael McDonald emphasized that the blow-out loss would not be the 2017 team's legacy.

"They're going to be remembered for being here (D-2 finals)," he said. "They got here. How many teams didn't make it?"

tsmith@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

## NOVI

Continued from Page B1

assists, 11 kills and nine digs. Time and again, O'Leary would look one way and tap the ball in a different direction to throw off the Mustangs.

"You really can't ask for a better setter. I never in my life have played with someone that can move the ball around like Erin." Cannon said. "Playing with her, it's so much easier to get these kills, because she can do anything with the ball."

"Everything I've accomplished is basically kind of trickling down from what Erin can do on the court."

Although Novi cruised to win the second set, the Mustangs regrouped enough to make a serious bid at extending the match to a fourth.

## Unforgettable

Separation between the teams during the clinching set rarely was more than a point, with players from both teams diving and sliding and extending rallies — to the delight of the enthusiastic crowd at Kellogg Arena.

Duquette talked at length about how the team bought in to her program during the season, about a "transformation" of sorts.

"The amount of change they have had to make in three months is incredible," Duquette said. "I understand we weren't able to win this game. But this team deserves a documentary written about them."

Meanwhile, the other team in the Class A final just completed an unforgettable four-year highlight reel (Novi lost in the finals in 2014), with O'Leary in the starring role.

"I honestly don't know if myself or our team really understands the gravity of what they have just accomplished," Cottrill



Marian's Lauren Wenzel (left) gets a shot past the outstretched arms of Novi's Savannah Frick during the Class A state final. TOM LANG

said. "It's mind-blowing and amazing and I think it's rewarding, because they are really good student-athletes and young women and they work hard and they deserve it."

"As a coach, your good kids don't always get what they deserve."

Here several other takeaways:

## WHAT PRESSURE?

Although the Mustangs gave Novi all it could handle, Wildcats players such as Ellison relished the challenge.

"In our gym, we always say pressure is a privilege," Ellison said. "And I really think throughout the postseason, especially, we've really taken into that role."

"We know we have a huge target on our back. Everyone's looking to take down the back-to-back state champions. But we've been focusing on what we've been doing all year long."

## TEAM UNITY

Novi and Marian players talked about the long tourney push being fueled by strong team chemistry.

"We're such a close unit," O'Leary said. "It takes the pressure off when you know everyone's supporting you."

Marian's Wenzel said she is "close with all my teammates. I love them like sisters. I know that sounds so cliché, but it's true."

"Our chemistry ... I thought last season's chemistry was amazing, we lost in the quarterfi-

nals. And we were so upset. But it does not compare to this year. Our chemistry is unmatched."

## CLOSURE

Cottrill said this year's championship is much more emotional than those won in 2015 and 2016, simply because so many players are graduating.

"This is different, just because when we won in 2015, we were really young," Cottrill said. "We knew we had more and were looking forward to more."

"This senior class started in 2014 and they're ending now. I feel like it's kind of the end of an era a little bit, with nine seniors graduating and handing over the reins to a younger group."

Leaving the Novi program are O'Leary, Ellison, Cannon, libero Claire Pinkerton (16 digs against Marian), middle blocker Savannah Frick, defensive specialists Julia Lalain and Mackenzie Kwasniewicz, outside hitter Madison Scott and middle blocker Lauren Murphy.

## THEY'LL BE BACK

Among those looking to keep the championship roll going in 2018 will be juniors Jaeda Porter, Megan Harding, Alivia Hart and Kaylee Peterson; sophomore Shannon Jennings; and freshmen Rachel Jennings and Gaby Cummings.

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## FRANKLIN

Continued from Page B1

Kelbert said. "It was probably jitters, the center (Jack Yardley) all jacked up and ready to go."

For Madigan, it was his third TD for the year and it was the first defensive score for the Pilots during their 5-0 postseason run.

"It felt great to get that," the 6-foot-1, 190-pound senior linebacker said. "When I saw the ball come out, I was a little surprised, but you've got to take advantage of those situations quick. I ran, scooped the ball up and got into the end zone. It was great to start the game out with points."

It was Murphy's Law the remainder of the first half for the Patriots, who were unable to punch in a score on their next possession after a 19-play, 74-yard drive stalled at the De La Salle 7, when Matt Elrod wasn't able to hang onto Kelbert's pass just over the goal line.

Instead of trying a field goal to cut the deficit to 7-3, the Patriots decided to go for broke after converting a pair of fourth-down plays during the drive.

"Field goals weren't going to beat that team," Chris Kelbert said. "We knew that going in. We had an opportunity to score a touchdown and that's been our best play all year."

And from that point on it was all Pilots, who dominated the remainder of the first half.

The Pilots were not only opportunistic, taking advantage of three



Livonia Franklin players run onto field before the start of the Division 2 state championship game at Ford Field. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Franklin turnovers resulting in TDs, but they were precision-like in the passing game, with quarterback Luke Pfromm making play after play.

The 6-foot-6, 225-pound senior basketball player, who hadn't played football since his freshman year, connected with Jacob Badalamenti on a 60-yard TD pass. He ran in for 2 yards for another score after a Josh DeBerry interception and then hit Sergio Gasperoni on a 5-yard TD loss out of the backfield following another Franklin fumble.

That made it 28-0, but the Pilots weren't done, getting a 2-yard TD run by Cordell Tannyhill III and a 19-yard field goal from Riley Garrison as time expired to put them comfortably ahead at the half, 38-0.

In the first half alone, Pfromm was 7-of-9 passing for 182 yards, while Badalamenti had three catches for 140 yards.

"(Pfromm) wasn't more of an out-of-pocket quarterback compared to the other ones from Flushing and Churchill," said Franklin senior line-

backer Marcus Martin, who finished with a team-best seven tackles. "We weren't really worried about him and, when we weren't worried about him, that's when he showed up."

De La Salle riddled Franklin's defense, coming off a 20-0 state semifinal shutout of Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, for 223 yards first-half yards.

Meanwhile, the Patriots managed just 71 yards total offense, with 62 coming from senior running back Isaac Moore on 15 carries.

"We knew coming in that we couldn't give them extra opportunities and that's kind of what we did there in that first half," Chris Kelbert said. "Just momentum never got on our side and that's one of the things we had to do to win and beat a team that good ... it didn't work out for us."

Because of a 35-plus point halftime differential, it was running clock to start the second half and the only thing yet to be decided was the final score.



Livonia Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert receives a sideline warning after he argues a non-call during the first half of the Division 2 state championship game against Warren De La Salle. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"We just executed, we got some guys that can make plays," said De La Salle coach Mike Giannone, who won back-to-back Division 1 titles with Macomb Dakota in 2005-06. "We got guys who believe in what we're doing. And they can execute. Players make plays, coaches call plays, but they don't always work. But they find a way to make us look good."

Here are five other takeaways:

## SECOND HALF

Riley Garrison converted his second field goal, a 30-yarder 58 seconds into the final quarter, to put the Pilots up 41-0.

Franklin finally got on the board on Moore's 5-yard TD run with 9:25 remaining after the 6-foot, 210-pound senior broke loose for a 72-yard gain.

"Our offense never gives up; we just keep going," said Moore, who finished with a game-best 160 yards on 23 carries.

## NEARLY PERFECT

Pfromm, who starred in De La Salle's 35-14 win over Detroit Catholic

Central in the A-B Division championship six weeks earlier when he threw for 241 yards, had another strong game at Ford Field.

The Pilots' signal caller was 10-of-12 passing for 207 yards.

"He converted when they had to convert," Chris Kelbert said.

"Their run game is so powerful that you have to do something to try slow down their run game. And what you give up and what you gain in stopping the run, you give up in the pass. And they were able to execute. He was almost close to perfect in getting those passing and converting on those. Kudos to him."

## KEY NUMBERS

De La Salle had 313 yards total offense while limiting the Patriots to 196.

"The game plan was to nullify their outside run with (Julius Simmons); he runs the jet sweep," Giannone said. "(Moore) is a powerful runner. Our defensive coaches did an outstanding job breaking down film. First and foremost, we had to tackle. We ask our linebackers to do a lot. They did a nice job. And our defensive line, they put pressure on them."

The Pilots also won the turnover battle, 3-0.

"Their strength is what we were most worried about, their physical strength up front," Chris Kelbert said of the Pilots. "I thought we did a good job of moving the football when we weren't committing turnovers, for the most part."

## CROWD SUPPORT

The Patriots brought a huge contingent of fans, both students and alums,

to Ford Field.

"This is definitely a learning experience, for one," Jacob Kelbert said. "Being this young and having the whole school behind you ... I played freshman football last year and we got lucky to have more than 100 kids at a game. And just to have a whole school behind you, the whole entire fan base, your whole entire city ... I had kids from other school districts called me to support me. And to have that many fans and to play in front of that many people was unbelievable."

## QUITE A RIDE

Franklin had its nine-game winning streak snapped by the Pilots, who won their second state championship in school history.

De La Salle's other state title came under Paul Verska in 2014, when the Pilots routed Muskegon Mona Shores, 44-8.

Meanwhile, Franklin will have to wait another year in its quest for a second state football title.

"To be able to experience with these guys was a treat," Chris Kelbert said. "The outcome wasn't what we were hoping, but they can't take away what we accomplished and what these kids accomplished this year. It's tough. It's going to be their last memory that they think of, but they've got to think of all the great ones before it. We just didn't execute the way we needed to execute. Our kids ... they battled all year long, super-proud of them."

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FIGURE SKATING

# Olympic year has Chock and Bates peaking at right time

Silver medal showings at Grand Prix are encouraging sign for local duo heading into Grand Prix Final, U.S. Championships

**Brad Emmons**  
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USA TODAY NETWORK —  
MICHIGAN

The goal is not to peak too early, but in an all important Olympic year, ice dancers Madison Chock and Evan Bates appear headed in the right trajectory.

Chock and Bates, fresh from their silver medal performance Nov. 18 at the Internationaux de France Grand Prix event, displayed both confidence and maturity during a round of media interviews and photo opportunities.

And by virtue of their runner-up finish in Grenoble after a silver medal showing at the Cup of China Grand Prix earlier in the month in Beijing, they will compete next in the International Skating Union's Grand Prix Final — one of only six teams to qualify — Dec. 7-10 in Nagoya, Japan.

But the two biggest events are for the eighth-place 2014 Sochi Olympians are yet to come.

It starts Jan. 4-7 at the Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships at the SAP Center in San Jose, Calif., where they must finish in the top three to qualify for the 2018 Olympic Games, Feb. 9-23, in Pyeong-Chang, South Korea.

"I think we're really in a good place for this time of the year and this time of the season," said the 25-year-old Chock, a 2010 Novi High grad who was born in California. "We've competed twice so far and both events we've debuted our programs pretty strong, in my opinion. We definitely still have a lot of room to grow in both programs and we have the time to do that. We still have the Grand Prix final, the national championships and then, if all goes well February, the Olympic Games. So I think we're on a really good track right now."

The other four teams introduced to the media



It's an Olympic year for Novi's Madison Chock and Northville's Evan Bates. BRAD EMONS



Five dance and pairs skating teams with Winter Olympic hopes train at the Novi Ice Arena. BRAD EMONS

Nov. 22 that train out of Novi include Yura Min and Alexander Gamelin, South Korea; Penny Coomes and Nicholas Buckland, England; Courtney Mansour and Michal Ceska, Czech Republic; and Oleksandra Nazarova and Maxim Nikitin, Ukraine.

"I would say it's just a different year in general, because it's an Olympic year," Chock said. "So everyone is a little more excited, a little bit more on edge. And there's just a lot more skating talk in the air, which is really exciting for us and all our training mates, so I

would say everyone is excited for the Games."

For the 28-year-old Bates, an Ann Arbor native who graduated from the University of Michigan, training intensified over the summer, but in reality his sport is year-round.

"Even in non-Olympic years, it's always the most intense," Bates said. "This is our job. I mean, we're professional athletes and we're always kind of trying to find the right recipe to become the best we can be. In the Olympic year, like Maddie mentioned, there's kind of more buzz

and more of a spotlight on us. And we certainly don't have media days like this in non-Olympic years. But I think it just kind of adds to the excitement and, when we're on the ice, it kind of excites us to have more attention."

Bates, who resides in Northville, and Chock get to train practically in their own living room.

"We've got a great training environment and training facility here at Novi," Bates said. "It's a group effort and a year-round effort. I think you can see by the number of teams who we have qual-

ify for the Olympic Games that we've got a really elite program running here in Michigan and we're really proud to be a part of it."

Chock and Bates have added new theme music to their skating routines. John Lennon's "Imagine" is featured for the free dance program.

"It's actually a re-Imagine version of that, because we worked with a music specialist," Chock said. "Her name is Sonia Lee and she's very talented and her and her team of musicians have created this wonderful piece for us. It's just so meaningful, given the times and the current state of the world right now. We just wanted to use the Olympics as a platform to say something and to have a more meaningful message with our free program, so I think we've really done that by picking 'Imagine' by John Lennon, because it's a very hopeful song. It's about peace and love."

Added Bates: "It's a lot of the same values and ideals for the Olympics and what the Olympic Games stand for, so to us it made a lot of sense."

Meanwhile, the short dance features a Latin-flavor medley of salsa, rumba and samba performed by well-known song artist Marc Anthony.

"The short dance — they chose a rhythm that we have to adhere and this year it's Latin," Bates said. "So we wanted something that's going to be kind of authentic and fun and Marc Anthony is an amazing singer. He's got a lot of hits, so I think it's fun for the audience to hear something they can get into, clap along to, just smile and enjoy a performance with a lot of energy and a lot of character."

The medley contains "Aguanile" (salsa), "Que Lio" (rumba) and "Vivir Mi Vida" (samba).

"And for us, the pieces that we selected from Marc Anthony had lots of over flavor and feeling," Chock said. "And we wanted to do something that was a bit more authentic as far as the Latin rhythm, so I think we stayed more on the traditional route."

In Grenoble, site of the 1968 Winter Games, Chock and Bates were in

second after the short dance with a score of 73.55. The duo then scored a 108.30 for their free dance for a total of 181.85 to place second.

France's Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron, the 2015 and 2016 World Champions, took the gold while breaking their own world records for free dance (120.58) and total score (201.98). Russia's Alexandra Stepanova and Ivan Bukin took the bronze (177.24).

"It's not necessarily peaking, but it's kind of like a stepping stone on the way to the Olympics," said Igor Shpilband, the world-renowned coach who came to Novi in June 2012 and who guides Chock and Bates. "You need to establish yourself as international judges and competing in the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Final is the best tool to do that. It's also should give them a lot of confidence going into U.S. Nationals."

In their season debut at the Cup of China, Chock and Bates turned in a near flawless performance.

"I think they've really matured throughout the year in the way they're pushing and the way they've been skating," Shpilband said. "I see a lot of progress this year and the programs they have this year are a good vehicle for success in the Olympic season."

Chock and Bates placed seventh at the 2017 World Championships and have taken second at the U.S. Nationals four of the last five years, winning it in 2015. This marks their fourth straight Grand Prix Final appearance after they won a silver medal in 2014 and 2015, while taking sixth last year.

But this season, expectations are high, with the end goal of earning a gold medal in San Jose as they'll try to fend off challenges from the duos of Maia and Alex Shibutani and Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue.

"I think they have a very good chance to, but I think the goal is not just to qualify to the Olympics, but win the U.S. Nationals," Shpilband said of his pair.

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## HARRISON

Continued from Page B1

### GRABBING THE QUICK LEAD

Harrison opened the game in the best possible way, a sensational 91-yard kickoff return by junior Ben Williams. Dave Hiser booted the extra point for a quick 7-0 lead.

The Big Reds came right back down the field and scored, but Harrison responded again with a 26-yard field goal at the end of the first quarter for a 10-7 lead. The Hawks were just the third team all season to have a lead on Muskegon.

"Ben has great speed and when he broke that one, it really was a great start for us," Herrington said. "We just needed to capitalize a little more."

The opening kickoff return for a touchdown by Williams was just the second time that occurred in MHSAA state championship game history.

The only other one was in the 2009 Division 5 state title game between Jackson Lumen Christi and Clare. Lumen Christi's Rafe Bellers returned the opening kick 90 yards to pay dirt,

propelling the Titans to a lopsided 42-7 triumph.

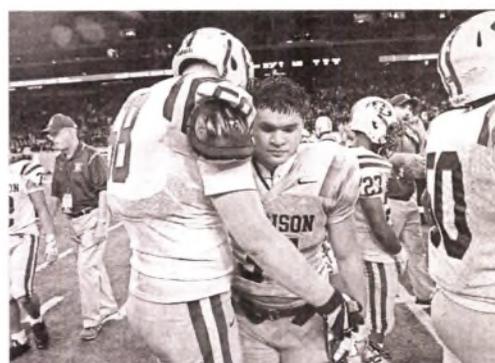
### JEFFERSON THE DIFFERENCE

Jefferson was the player Harrison was most worried about and he proved to be the field marksman that he was all season.

Jefferson came into the game leading the Big Reds in rushing yards (1,678) and touchdowns (25). He added to that total significantly against the Hawks, running behind a line that averages a little over 300 pounds and has at least two D-I players in tackles A.J. Reed (6-6, 315) and Anthony Bradford (6-5, 330).

Jefferson, who has decommitted from Central Florida and is now looking at Michigan State, among other schools, scored on runs of 8, 14, 1 and 3 yards. The 6-foot-2, 215-pound senior finished with a game-high 245 yards rushing.

"Their quarterback is just hard to tackle and they have 350-pound blockers up in front of him and that's hard to stop," Herrington said. "We thought we would stop him a little better than that, but he kept slipping outside and we had trouble tackling him.



Harrison players Chris Rexroth (left) and Rapana Filemu console each other after the Division 3 championship game at Ford Field. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"He's a big kid and he's pretty good. He looked good on film and he looked good here," he added. "Nobody's stopped him all year and I guess we didn't either."

### CONTRASTING OFFENSES

Harrison finished with just 114 yards total offense (61 rushing and 53 passing), easily its worst output of the playoffs.

Junior tailback Roderick Heard, who rushed for more than 100 yards in each of Harrison's first four playoff games, was held to 49 yards on nine carries. Four other players combined for 36 yards.

Senior quarterback Noah Hendricks, who was under tremendous pressure every time he went back to pass, completed 9-of-14 passes for 53 yards. Senior fullback Divine Filemu caught three passes for 23 yards and senior receiver Ovie Oghoufo caught two passes for a team-high 29 yards.

"It was tough for (Heard) tonight. We couldn't get him into the second level," Herrington said. "And they are so fast, if we did, their defensive backs were up there making the tackle. And then we went away from the run. We weren't making the first downs."

By contrast, Muskegon finished with a whopping 363 yards total offense, all on the ground. After Jefferson, Muskegon's next highest rusher was Davion McCall with 53 yards.

Muskegon finished with more first downs (18-8), ran more plays (50-37), enjoyed more possession time (26:45 to 21:09) and posted more third-down conversions (five to three) than Harrison.

"I thought our defense played well overall. We got wore down at the end on offense," Herrington said. "We really needed to move the ball to keep it away from them. But passing is not our thing and they stopped the run pretty well and they got a good pass rush on us. We just couldn't get anything going on offense."

### MONKEY OFF THEIR BACKS

Muskegon had been a state runner-up in four of the past five seasons.

Last year, the Big Reds lost the state championship to Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the game's final moments. They also lost to St. Mary's in the 2014 title game and suffered back-to-back losses to Birmingham Brother Rice in 2013 and 2012.

Muskegon's last state title was in 2008, when it defeated Warren De La Salle.

"This feels great," said Fairfield, in his eighth year as head coach. "I got that off my back and I got the chance to continue to move forward next year. I'm going to enjoy this for two weeks and we'll get back to testing and we'll send our seniors out with a bang and start all over again."

### TACKLING THE BIG REDS

Harrison, whose players mostly went both ways, certainly had its hands full with Muskegon, which fielded two different units and was much more rested as the game wore on.

Defensively, Harrison's top tackler was Filemu with five solos and six assists for 11 total tackles. Senior back Moet Andrews (nine), senior back Joe Stevens (seven) and junior lineman Maverick Hansen (seven) also had strong games.

Senior defensive end Eli Jackson, senior defensive back Willie Shanks and senior linebacker Te'Andre Evans led Muskegon with six tackles each.

## BOYS HOCKEY

# Detroit CC blanks Grosse Pointe South, 8-0

**Brad Emmons**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK —  
MICHIGAN

Mitch Morris's short-handed goal in the opening period Nov. 25 catapulted Novi Detroit Catholic Central to an 8-0 Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League cross-over victory over Grosse Pointe South at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

The Shamrocks, who won their second straight, improved to 2-2 overall and 2-0 in the

MIHL North Division as Brendan Hill had two goals and one assist.

Other multiple point producers for CC were Kyle Gaffney (two goals), Ryan Marra (one goal, two assists) and Brendan West (one goal, one assist).

Jared Lee also scored for the Shamrocks, who led 2-0 after one period and 6-0 after two.

Goalie Zach Allen made nine saves to post CC's first shutout of the year.

Will Strickler made 17 saves for South (0-2, 0-2

MIHL South).

**CULVER (IND.) 4, DETROIT CC 2:** Dylan Pitera and Jackson Pierson both scored a pair of goals as the nation's No. 1-ranked team, Culver Academies Prep (9-0), downed visiting Novi Detroit Catholic Central on Nov. 18 at Henderson Ice Arena.

The Eagles trailed 1-0 after one period as CC's Joe Borthwick tallied a power-play goal from Jared Lee and Carter Korpi just 1:32 in.

Culver took a 2-1 lead, getting second-period goals from Pitera at 4:44 and Pierson at 17:28.

Pierson's power play goal just 28 seconds into the final period made it 3-1, but CC fought back just 1:31 later on Patrick Brandemihl's goal from Greg McQuade.

Pitera's empty netter with 22 seconds left sealed the win for the host Eagles.

Goalie Steven Sleva made 22 saves in the loss as the Shamrocks, ranked No. 1 in Division 1 preseason, fell to 0-2.

**NOVI 6, REETHS-PUFFER 4:** Evan Chippa scored a pair of goals Nov. 18 as the Wildcats (2-1) downed host Muskegon

Reeths-Puffer (0-2) in a sloppy and penalty-filled game at L.C. Walker Arena.

Alex Scarozza added a goal and assist, while Alex Giragoshian, Mike Small and Ryan Pinho also scored for Novi. Chris Martin chipped in two assists and Evan Budd was the winning goalie.

Quinn Fowler had a goal and assist for the Rockets, who also got goals from Nolan Conventini, Alexander Hoffman and Riley Trautner.

**NORTHVILLE 6, MONA SHORES 0:** Jack Sargent had two goals and one assist, while Nick Bogenhagen also scored twice as the Mustangs (2-0) completed their west coast trip Nov. 18 by blanking host Muskegon Mona Shores (1-2) at Lakeshore Arena.

Nick Williams added a goal and assist, while Noah Eckerle also scored for Northville, which led 2-0 after one period and 4-0 after two. Other assists went to Jimmy Dales (two) and Brett Dann.

Goalie Nate Williams made 10 saves to earn the shutout as the Mustangs held a 35-10 shot advantage.

**NOVI 5, MONA SHORES 0:** On Nov. 17, Alex Scarozza had one goal and four assists, while goalie Ethan Huntsinger

recorded the shutout as the Wildcats (1-1) defeated host Muskegon Mona Shores (1-1) at Lakeshore Arena.

Evan Chippa and Maanas Sharma both added a goal and assist, while other Novi goal scorers were Nathan Graff and Logan Londo. Other assists went to Joe Casseton, Mike Beaudoin and Alec Giragoshian.

"It was an overall team win and a total team effort," Novi coach Mark Vellucci said.

**NORTHVILLE 9, REETHS-PUFFER 1:** Jack Sargent and Saruda Gunaratne both scored a pair of goals as the Mustangs (1-0) skated past host Muskegon Reeths-Puffer (0-1) in a non-conference game Nov. 17 at L.C. Walker Arena.

Jimmy Dales, Nick Bogenhagen, Brendan Lovette, Alex Garback and Tyler Balok each added a goal and assist for the Northville, which outshot the Rockets, 43-16. Both Garback and Balok scored their first varsity goals.

Cole Smith also added three assists, while goalie Owen Moruzi made 15 saves.

Matt Herriman scored in the second period for the Reeths-Puffer.

**CULVER 5, DETROIT CC 2:** Culver Academies Prep (8-0) converted five power

play goals en route to a triumph over Novi

Detroit Catholic Central (0-1) Nov. 17 at Henderson Ice Arena.

Dylan Pitera led the host Eagles with a pair of goals, while Connor Caponi and Nick Stapleton each added a goal and assist. James Shea had the other goal for Culver, which broke a 2-2 first period tie with two goals in the second and one more in the third.

After falling behind 2-0, CC's Carter Korpi scored from Greg McQuade and Jared Lee with 5:21 left in the first followed by Dylan Montie's goal from Ryan Clemons and Joe Borthwick with 0:56 remaining in the same period.

CC outshot the Eagles 7-6 in the second period, but fell behind 4-2.

Culver goalie Grant Adams made 18 saves, while CC's Zach Allen had 21 saves.

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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Area teams ready to tip it off for upcoming season

**Tim Smith**

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK —  
MICHIGAN

The football lights are finally turned off for this season, so now attention turns to the basketball courts around Observ-erland.

High school girls basketball teams tip off the 2017-18 season this week and there are plenty of story lines to keep an eye on as the year progresses.

Following is the first part of our girls basketball preview coverage:

### Livonia Stevenson

Second-year head coach Karen Anger is looking for the Spartans to improve upon last year's 10-11 record and climb the KLAA division standings in the process.

Co-captains are seniors Sarah Tanderys and Payton Byron, who are slated for shooting and point guard, respectively.

"Sarah Tanderys will be our go-to shooter, but with Payton Byron this year at point, we have more threats than just Sarah," Anger said.

"Payton is so versatile and loves the contact and drives the lane and can shoot the three. She is going to help free up Sarah. Sarah also knows team will be looking to stop the three ball from her and she has really developed a driving game this off-season."

Other key players will be junior forwards Kimmy Freed and Elisa Lebron and newcomers Meredith Hage (sophomore guard) and Josie Piergentili (sophomore).

"I have only two seniors this year ... so I see a lot of growth and maturity on the court happening throughout," Anger said. "We have a hard league this year with the addition of playing Hartland, Howell and Brighton and



Competing during a 2016-17 game is Plymouth's Elle McCaslin (left). MICHAEL VASILNEK



Shooting guard Sarah Tanderys will look to build off a record-breaking 2016-17 season at Livonia Stevenson. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

those will be big tests for my young squad as they are good, competitive teams, along with the usuals from the KLAA.

"We are also not big in size when it comes to height from what I see on others rosters, but that isn't really an issue to me as we are very fast. We focused a lot on off-season in conditioning and my girls are fast and ready to play whole games."

### Salem

Also entering the second year at the helm of an area program is Salem head coach Dan Young. The Rocks went 5-16 in 2016-17, but gained valuable experience.

This winter, the hope is for things to begin turning around.

"We are starting our second year together," Young said. "This is a great group. Very hard-working, positive toward each other and selfless. We will get better as the season goes on because of their great attitudes everyday. The goal is to be at our best come play-off time."

Like Stevenson, the Rocks only have two seniors on the roster: forwards Madalyn Simko and Maddie Kernahan.

Returning juniors are

center Kyle Jullian, forwards Jenna Sydlowski, Laniah Wilson, Jaclyn Deprez, Grace Gruenberg and Hannah Koester and guard Emma Strieter.

Young cited a trio of newcomers as ready to contribute. Freshmen guards Mattison Joyner and Laila Newton and freshman forward Makayla Harris "will add athleticism, defense and positive attitude."

### Livonia Churchill

Following a 7-14 season, Churchill said so long to excellent seniors Annie Yost, Ronnie Severin and Shae Smith.

But third-year head coach K'len Morris is enthusiastic about what the future might hold in store for his young squad.

"We're young and inexperienced, only returning four players with true varsity experience," Morris said. "I really like the chemistry of this team in terms of how they jell and how coachable they are. Since we are young and inexperienced, we are going to have to pride ourselves in doing the little things like winning the rebounding margins, winning loose balls and playing hard every single play,

no matter what the situation is."

The veterans are senior guard Macey Reese, junior guard Maria Targosz and junior forward Mary-Claire Yost. Sophomore point guard Kayla Osen is essential to the mix and Nasya Thomas is a promising freshman forward.

"Leading the way for us is our lone senior guard, Macey Reese, who I expect to have a good year this year," Morris said. "She is a competitive kid who has done a great job helping mentor some of our new girls this year through her work ethic and by the way she practices every day.

"(Targosz) is poised to have a breakout year. Maria has put a lot of time in the gym this off-season and has really improved her all-around game. She's a good player on the offensive side of the ball, but she also makes a lot of plays for us on the defensive end as well.

"Our anchor in the post will be another three-year varsity player in Mary-Claire Yost. Mary is another player who had a good off-season for us and is really one of our more versatile players. She is a kid that can guard all five spots on the floor.

"Kayla (Osen) is an athletic point guard who does a good job attacking the middle and creating plays for her teammates. We are looking for her to take a big step this year in running our offense and controlling the game."

### Plymouth

Third-year head coach Ryan Ballard brings back seven players from the 2016-17 roster that went 9-12. Team leaders for the Wildcats are senior captains Gabby Chouinard and Chantal LeDoux

(14 points per game), who play forward and point guard, respectively.

"Chantal has taken her game to the next level," Ballard said. "I love how competitive she has been in practice. She refuses to lose in any drill she competes in."

Sophomore guards Sydney McCaig and Elle McCaslin were excellent as freshmen and are ready to take the next step. Both can dish and drive, crashing the glass whenever they can.

Junior forward Becca Przybylo is another player with a nose for the basket.

"Becca is so instinctual and physical," Ballard said. "She just understands how to play the game the right way."

Also back are sophomore guards Angela Schmidt and Audrey Kananen.

Promising newcomers for Plymouth include freshmen guards Ella Riley and Kyra Brandom.

"We are still a very young basketball team, so consistency is going to be the key for our group," Ballard said. "If we consistently work hard in practice and have the right attitude, this team could have a lot of success.

"Well-done is better than well-said, so when the season ends, we will see what kind of work our group has put in on the practice floor, weight room and film sessions."

### Livonia Franklin

Another new name on the girls basketball coaching scene is Livonia Franklin's John Santi, who inherits a team that finished 1-20 last year.

Seniors Sydney Strasser (forward, co-captain), Holli Reynolds (guard, co-captain), juniors Olivia Napier (guard), Adriana Ufferman (guard), Hannah Strasser (forward, co-

captain) and sophomore Aleaha DeFrain (forward) will be called upon to keep the Patriots competitive.

Freshman guard Hunter Conway heads a group of first-year players who are looking for minutes. Also in the mix will be sophomore guards Ashley Deguise, Emily Esker, sophomore forward Kelly Peyton, junior forwards Miranda McIntosh, Morgan Meyers and Alana Robinson.

"We are going to be young - 4 sophomores and 1 freshman should be in the rotation," Santi said. "In order to be successful, we are going to have to take care of the ball, defend our end, and rebound. I like the effort I have seen up to this point, but there is a lot of work to be done."

### Clarenceville

The Trojans welcome Raymon Moore to the varsity head coaching job, but he is no stranger to Clarenceville (having coached the JV boys basketball team last year).

After a tough season (1-18), the Trojans will look to begin making positive steps in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference Red Division.

Moore will lean on top returnees Myla Hoskins (junior point guard) and Alyssa Craigie (senior shooting guard) to keep the Trojans in ballgames.

Freshman forward Alexis Robinson is one of the newcomers who could make an impact.

"This will be a year of rebuilding," Moore said. "We have a young team again who put in work during the off-season and have continued to showcase their strength and determination through the beginning of the season."

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## COLLEGE RECRUITING

## Hard work pays off with D-I chance for Plymouth's Crump

**Tim Smith**

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK —  
MICHIGAN

The dream of playing Division I basketball came with a reality check for Plymouth point guard Anthony Crump.

In order to get a scholarship with a D-I men's program, Crump had to get stronger and quicker.

Enter Jake's House of Iron in Canton, where the 6-7 player put in countless hours hitting the weights and literally jumping through all the hoops to improve his ability to go from Point A to Point B on the basketball court.

All of that effort, along with his off-the-charts basketball ability and IQ, were enough for Crump to earn a scholarship at the University of North Carolina-Asheville. He'll become the first Plymouth alum to play D-I men's basketball.

"I go to a strength and conditioning place, Jake's House of Iron, they helped me out a lot," Crump said. "They helped me get some meat on my bones, so when I go up there, I'm not too little. And put some speed on me, so I can keep up with the pace."

Crump, whose parents are Jessica and Vernon (Canton High School athletic director), took part in an early signing ceremony Nov. 15 along with five other classmates.

"I just feel really

blessed," Crump said. "I know I put a lot of work to get here and all my hard work has paid off. It's a big moment for me and I'm proud to say I'm a Division I player."

Asked to describe his strength as a player, Crump said it's driving and dishing, making things happen for his teammates.

"When I drive, I feel like more people (defenders) get attached to me," Crump said. "And that allows me to dish it out to my teammates and get them some points on the board."

He said there were some other D-I universities taking a look at him, including Wayne State University and the University of Detroit Mercy, but UNC-Asheville proved to

be the right fit for him.

"The academics are great and I feel like I can play with the team," Crump said, adding that he really enjoyed his campus visit in September.

### Double bonus

Plymouth head boys basketball coach Mike Soukup was on hand for the momentous occasion.

"It's great to have a soon-to-be alumni who is going to be a D-I athlete," Soukup said, "someone who, as younger players come into our program, you can point to and say, 'Hey, he learned the lessons, went through the building blocks and the process of our program and was better because of it.'"

"Obviously, he has a lot of God-given talent, but

we were a little piece, hopefully, of molding that and helping him reach his goals. One of his goals was to play Division I basketball. Great feather in the cap for him, but also as an added bonus, it's a good feather in our program's cap as well."

Soukup said Crump has the size and the inner motor to make the transition from high school to big-time college basketball.

"You look at him, his size is D-I size, for a guard, especially," Soukup said. "He's a very long young man, but he's developed physically so much. I'd say the mental piece has been great for him."

"Anthony has come into the gym this year with a fantastic work ethic. He's done a great job of helping

lead our team. UNC-Asheville's getting, not only a really good basketball player, but a wonderful young man."

According to Crump, another key to his development since coming over from Westland John Glenn before his sophomore season was just working, working and working some more on fundamentals.

"The last few years, just working on the smaller stuff, just my ball-handling and my shooting," Crump said. "Getting up a lot of shots every day. I shoot before school, after school, after practice. I get a lot of reps in."

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Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports



Crump

**CITY OF WAYNE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of Wayne, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of Wayne City Hall, 3355 South Wayne Road, to consider two requests:

1. 5175 Gloria, Elva Miller  
Request for a variance. Fences-Section 1279.02 (h) Corner Lots and Corner Clearance of the Planning and Zoning Code requires Afencing may be erected along the side street property line no further toward the front lot line than the rear building line....” and the applicant is requesting to place the fence at the front building line.
2. 35000 Van Born, Services to Enhance Potential  
Request for a variance - as neither Section 1258.02, Permitted Principal Uses, nor 1258.03, Permitted Accessory Uses, of the Planning and Zoning Ordinance, allows trailer storage in this district.

The text and any maps may be examined or written comments may be submitted at the City Clerks Office during business hours (10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Members of the public may appear at the public hearing in person or by counsel. At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the Zoning Board will consider, and may act upon, this matter.

Matthew K. Miller  
City Clerk

Publish: November 30, 2017

LO-000534905 3x3

**City of Livonia – 11/01/2017 1,836th Regular Meeting Synopsis**

**Present:** Meakin, Kritzman, Brosnan, Jolly, White, Bahr, and McIntyre.

**Absent:** None.

**#354-17** Approving minutes of the 1,835th Regular Meeting of the Council – October 16, 2017 President McIntyre announced a Public Hearing will be held November 15, 2017 at Livonia City Hall Auditorium at 7pm on the Establishment of the Assessment Roll for the Proposed Mystic Creek Site Condominiums Street Lighting Project.

**Items were received and filed for the information of the City Council.**

**#355-17** Approving reappointment of Jack Engebretson, to the Livonia Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

**#356-17** Approving reappointment of Lynda Scheel, to the Livonia Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.**#357-17** Authorizing the purchase of two (2) marked vehicles.

**#358-17** Authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Western Wayne County Special Operations Team (WWCSOT).

**#359-17** Approving Petition 2017-08-08 submitted by BJ’s Restaurant, Inc., in connection with a proposal to construct an addition to the previously approved restaurant (BJ’s Restaurant & Brewhouse) located at 19470 Haggerty Road, subject to conditions.

**First Reading** was given to an ordinance amending Section 050, to Title 9, Chapter 32 (Alcoholic Liquor) of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended.

Vice-President Kritzman stepped down at 7:11pm to avoid any conflict of interest on the following item.

**#360-17** Authorizing an expenditure for professional services related to preparation of a City-Wide Comprehensive Master Plan.

Vice-President Kritzman returned to the podium at 7:18 p.m.

**#361-17** Referring City-Wide Comprehensive Master Plan to the Committee of the Whole.

**#362-17** Approving Petition 2017-07-01-04, to rezone 9039 Middlebelt Road from OS (Office Services) to R-1 (One Family Residential – 60’x120’ Lot).

**#363-17** Referring a Brownfield Plan and Reimbursement Agreement for the former Farmer Jack Supermarket property to the Committee of the Whole.

**#364-17** Referring the City’s use of the Brownfield Redevelopment Law to the Committee of the Whole.

**#365-17** Approving request waiving sidewalk requirement at 34014 Orangelawn.

**#366-17** Accepting Grant of Easement for a 20-foot wide public utility easement (Water Main “A”) in connection with water main at Holiday Inn, 17123 Laurel Park Drive North.

**#367-17** Accepting Grant of Easement for a 20-foot wide public utility easement (Water Main “B”) in connection with the water main at Holiday Inn, 17123 Laurel Park Drive North.

**#368-17** Accepting Grant of Easement for a 20-foot wide public utility easement in connection with the storm sewer constructed at Holiday Inn, 17123 Laurel Park Drive North.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:41 p.m.**

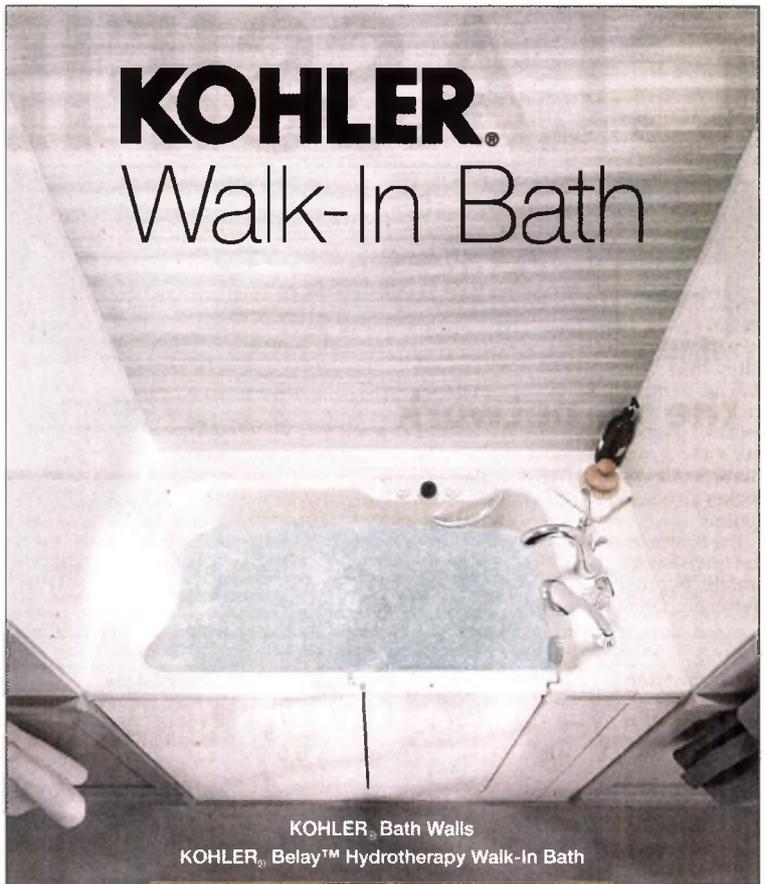
**Full text of the official minutes is available in the Office of the City Clerk.**

Susan M. Nash  
Livonia City Clerk

Publish: November 30, 2017

LO-000534862 3x6

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 divine gift to forgive and forget the  
 wrong that is done to me and you who  
 are in all instances of my life with  
 me, I, in this short dialogue want to  
 thank you for everything and confirm  
 once more that I never want to be  
 separated from you no matter how  
 great the material desires may be. I  
 want to be with you and my loved  
 ones in your perpetual glory. Amen.  
 Thank you for your love towards me  
 and my loved ones. Soy for 3  
 consecutive days without mentioning  
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 answered. Promise to publish this  
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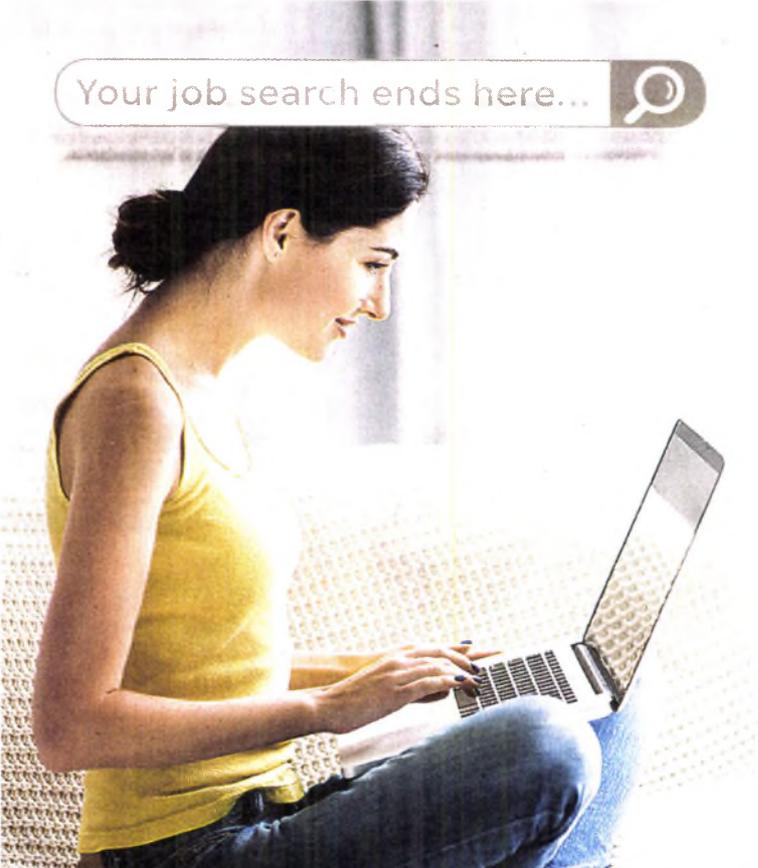
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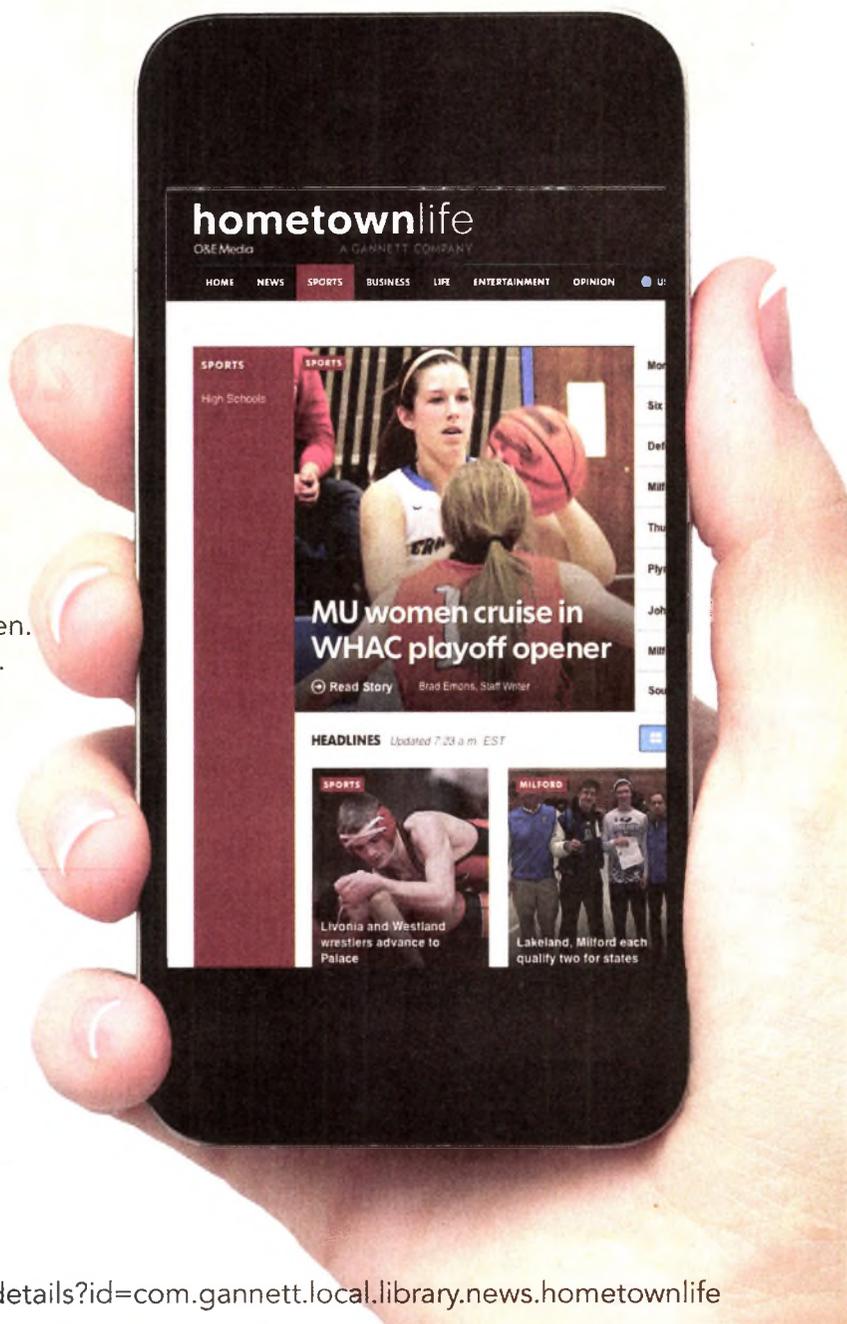
Type **Observer and Eccentric** in the search field. Select the Observer and Eccentric from the list of available selection options.

Click the **INSTALL** button once you are on the O&E page.

The browser will bring you to your **GOOGLE** account page. Sign in to your **GOOGLE** account and follow prompts to complete the download process.

### Andriod Phones/Tablets:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.gannett.local.library.news.hometownlife>



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