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Detroit Christmas tree has local roots

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Decorated with a backstory that has all the ingredients of a Hallmark Christmas movie, a towering Plymouth Township pine tree moved from Detroit's suburbs to the heart of the city last week.

Destined for a date with a chainsaw anyway, due to its dangerously-too-

close proximity to the Duffina family's Deer Creek subdivision home, a 60-foot-plus Norwegian spruce earned the one-in-a-million distinction of being selected as the first local tree to serve as the official downtown Detroit Christmas tree.

The special tree has historically been shipped in to the longtime Campus Martius Park site from a neighboring state — usually New York — by a compa-

ny that finds downtown Christmas trees for Boston, New York City and Detroit.

Last year, a Cadillac-area Norwegian spruce was chosen as the first in-state hono(t)ree.

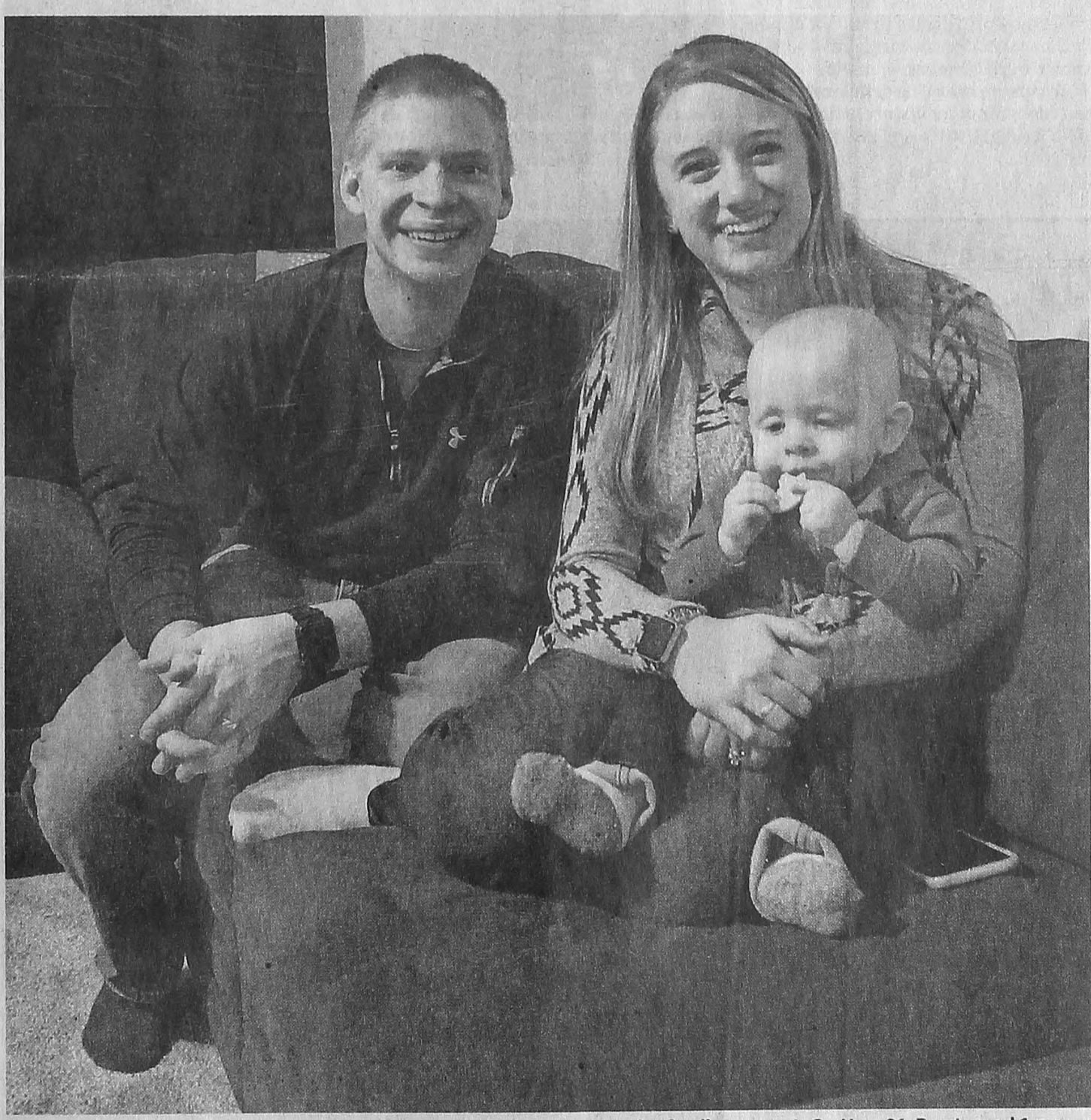
This year, the decision-makers at Downtown Detroit Partnership — the organization that orchestrates logistics for the annual holiday program — chose a tree with local roots, which was just fine with its former owners, Tonya and

Curtis Duffina.

"Over the past five years or so, experts advised us to get the tree cut down because it was leaning into our house and the branches were scraping the windows," said Tonya, who along with husband Curtis owns the property the tree formerly graced. "They told us trimming it wouldn't work because it would

See TREE, Page 3A

BABY MAKES THREE



Greg, Megan and Benjamin Neuner of Washington Township enjoy a quiet family moment. On Nov. 21, Ben turned 1. TIM SMITH | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Young couple touts bliss of domestic adoption

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

One Canton woman, named Heather, didn't think she could provide the kind of home her soon-to-be-born son needed. Her previous pregnancy ended in adoption, and her personal life was far from stable enough to welcome a new child.

Some 60 miles away, in Washington Township, newlyweds Megan and Greg Neuner wondered and waited, hoping for a miraculous match that would fulfill their need to have a child of their own.

Megan Neuner couldn't have a baby herself, due to a rare syndrome (MRKH) that attacked her reproductive organs at a young age and rendered that option

See ADOPTION, Page 8A

"We were sitting on a couch watching a movie after 10 months of being married and we said, 'It's kind of quiet in here with just two dogs.'"

Greg Neuner
adoptive father

Hidden cemeteries hold history

Pamela A. Zinkosky
Special to hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Before there were large plots of land dedicated to burials, people sometimes buried their dead on their own land. Other times, community settlers or churches donated land for burials. In some cases, graves or gravestones were moved to accommodate changes in land ownership.

In others, burial grounds were left untended as owners died or moved. Here's a look at five local historic cemeteries you may not know about.

Chubb Cemetery

Located at 38450 Warren Road, Westland: As early as 1825, Glode Chubb, a participant in the Underground Railroad, used to spirit slaves to freedom, purchased the plot of land now known as the Chubb Cemetery. It once housed a church and was used as a burial ground as early as 1849, based on a grave marker for Hannah Chubb, Glode's 4-year-old daughter.

Deeded to the city of Westland in 1968, the burial ground had not been well-maintained, but a pair of Boy Scouts, Sam Berhardt and Jacob McNally, cleaned up the area and built wooden grave markers as part of their Eagle Scout project in 2015. Now the cemetery looks orderly, if not a bit out of place between two private residences, and includes a center walkway and flagpole.

The cemetery houses 30-some marked graves, including those of Glode and Pamela Chubb, original landowners, and their son Lucius, who died during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. The latest marked grave is that of one Herman Adler, who is said to have died in 1913 at the nearby Eloise Hospital.

Shearer Cemetery

Located at 45452 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth: The oldest cemetery in Plymouth, donated by early settler John Tibbits in 1826, is not easily seen from the road and, in fact, was abandoned and overgrown until Salem High School teacher Darrin Silvester endeavored to clear the land and uncover grave sites in 2005. Now the cemetery, located atop a hill and accessible by a mulch path, is a tree-cov-

See CEMETERIES, Page 2A

Cemeteries

Continued from Page 1A

ered oasis sandwiched between apartments and houses.

Tibbits wrote in an 1889 Plymouth Mail article that Chase was the man first buried there in 1826, but the earliest marked grave there is that of Hiram Jerome Tibbits, son of the land owner, who died at age 9 in 1832. Chase's grave, like others, may have been moved to Plymouth's Riverside Cemetery at some point or the marker may have been moved or destroyed. John Tibbits is also buried there with his wife Pheobe Rhode. The latest known burial occurred in 1915, for Joseph Shearer.

Union Cemetery

Located on Six Mile Road, east of Haggerty, Livonia: Also known as Briggs Cemetery, this burial ground now



Knapp Cemetery is on Nine Mile Road, east of Novi Road, in Novi. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sits adjacent to the Trinity Theater and is maintained by the city of Livonia. The land was donated as a non-denominational church and burial ground by farmers Pardon Briggs and J. Stanton, who each gave up a piece of their land for it. The cemetery contains about 170 graves, with Emery Sands the oldest in 1832 and the latest in 1975.

Knapp Cemetery

Located at 43005 Nine Mile Road, Novi: The Knapp Cemetery also came about from a farmer, Benajah Aldrich, who designated a half-acre of his land for burials. The first person buried here was Henry Knapp, Aldrich's brother-in-law, in 1836. More than 100 other burials, including that of Benajah himself, occurred here. The city of Novi maintains the cemetery now. The latest burial was in 1948.

Downer Cemetery

Located at Haggerty and Old Michigan Avenue, Canton: This cemetery was donated by Lucretia Downer, one of the first women to own land in what would become Canton Township, in the early 1830s. Some 140 graves are here, many of them toppled over or damaged, including one for Downer herself, who died in 1854. The first marked grave has a date of 1832, for Janet Dawson, age 57, followed by Louesa Darling, a 1-year-old who died in 1836. Situated in front of a trailer park on a dead end road, it's open to the public for viewing, but the last known burial there was in 1918.

To comment on this article or to suggest ideas for other history articles, contact Pamela A. Zinkosky at pazink@yahoo.com.



Previous unmarked and overgrown graves in the Chubb Cemetery in Westland now include wooden markers created by Eagle Scouts.



Union Cemetery, also known as Briggs Cemetery, is located on the grounds of Trinity House Theater. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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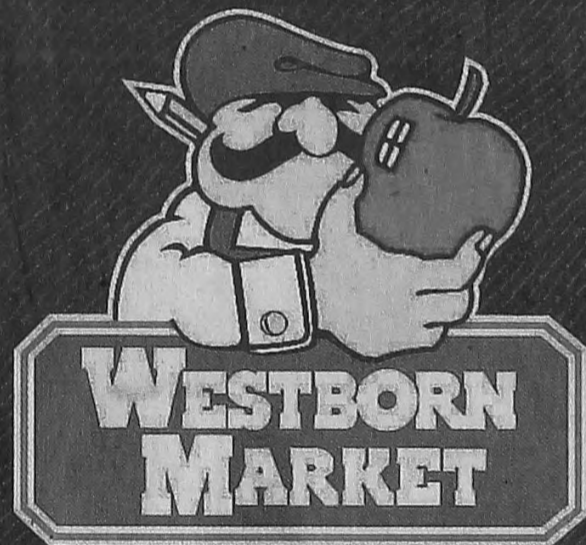
The Westland Goodfellows are holding a toy and food drive. Donations of toys, hats & gloves, and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of the following locations. All donated items will be distributed to Westland families this Christmas. Donation boxes available November 1 to December 1, 2018.

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Details: Students who need a brain break after school can learn something new, meet a friend, relieve stress and have fun in our Teen Space with passive or planned activities.

Computer Skills Help for Beginners

When: 9-11 a.m. each Saturday
Details: Experts are on hand to answer questions or connect you to additional resources.

Board Gaming League of Canton

When: Noon first Saturday of each month
Details: Drop by to play some of the hottest games, sharpen your mental skills and meet new folks.

ELL Conversation Groups

When: 9:30-11 a.m. each Thursday and Friday
Details: Practice speaking English in an informal setting with Community Literacy Council volunteers.

Digital Download Drop-In Help

When: 10-11 a.m. each Friday
Details: Get one-on-one help from our information desk. Bring your device and, if you are a Kindle user, your Amazon log-in information.

ELL Reading Group

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Friday

Details: Beginning or Intermediate English Language Learners are invited to read together and discuss short articles, etc., in English with a tutor.

Preschool Storytime

When: 10-10:30 a.m. each Monday and 1-1:30 p.m. each Friday
Details: Preschool storytimes feature longer books, flannel board and rhymes designed for children ages 3½-5. Children must be able to sit independently and be attentive for 30 minutes. Parents may attend to help transition their child to this program. All parents must remain in the children's department. Registration required.

Baby Storytime

When: 10-10:30 a.m. each Tuesday
Details: Designed for babies ages 18 months and younger with an adult, Baby Storytime features simple stories,

songs and rhymes. Registration required.

ABC Activity Time

When: After every baby, preschool and family storytime, lasts 30 minutes
Details: Experience a variety of hands-on and imaginative play opportunities while building social and cooperative skills with other young children and caregivers.

Early Literacy Workshops

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month
Details: Starfish Family Services provides free, high-quality, early literacy training to day care providers, caregivers and parents. They teach topics developed by the independent nonprofit HighScope Educational Research Foundation.

Tree

Continued from Page 1A

look too awkward.
 "We always thought the tree would make a perfect Christmas tree somewhere, so back in February, I Googled 'Campus Martius Christmas Tree' and called the number listed for the Downtown Detroit Partnership."

By chance, Duffina's call was answered by Heather Badrak, who was in charge of the 2018 Christmas tree's selection process.

Before Duffina knew it, a crew of DDP-hired tree experts was in her front yard inspecting the gigantic piece of greenery.

"From what I was told, a lot goes into the selection of the tree," Duffina said. "It has to be a minimum of 60 feet tall, it has to be a Norway spruce and it has to have the right shape."

Check, check and check.
 "They came back multiple times to check on the tree and then, in August,

we got the word that they had chosen our tree," Duffina said.

Over a two-day stretch last week, the tree was carefully bundled, cut down and loaded onto a flatbed truck.

"The other day, when we went downtown to see the tree standing in Campus Martius, people were coming up to us, thanking us for donating the tree," Duffina said. "We told them, 'No, thank you!' The entire experience has been such a blessing for us."

In a heart-warming subplot to the story, the man who built the Duffinas' home and planted the tree close to 30 years ago, contacted the family and told them he was considering attending the tree-lighting ceremony.

The ceremony will mark the 15th consecutive year the DDP has organized the event, which is expected to draw close to 40,000 people — including the Duffina family.

"We wouldn't miss it," Tonya said. "They even gave us VIP passes for the tree-lighting ceremony."

Contact Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.



To provide a unique perspective of the tree's height, Deer Creek subdivision children lined up next to the tree prior to its delivery to downtown Detroit.

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Folsom latest to be honored as top veteran

Donald Folsom, a World War II veteran from Livonia who served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1942-46, was honored as the November 2018 Veteran of the Month by the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 32, of the Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

Folsom was born in March 1923 in Bad Axe. His family moved to California during the depression and, in 1935, they moved to East Detroit and then Rosedale Gardens in Livonia. It was Sunday afternoon, Dec. 7, 1941, that news came across the radio that Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor.

"I was eager to get into the fight," Folsom said. "I tried to enlist on Monday, but my parents, wisely, insisted that I finish my last six months of high school."

In 1942, Folsom graduated from Plymouth High School and, in November 1942, went to the recruitment center in Detroit and joined the marines. He was sent by train to Chicago then to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego for boot camp and combat training.

"Boot camp was a challenge at first," Folsom said. "But I loved every minute of becoming a Marine. I was a pretty good shot on the rifle range, a skill that would help me stay alive during four battles."

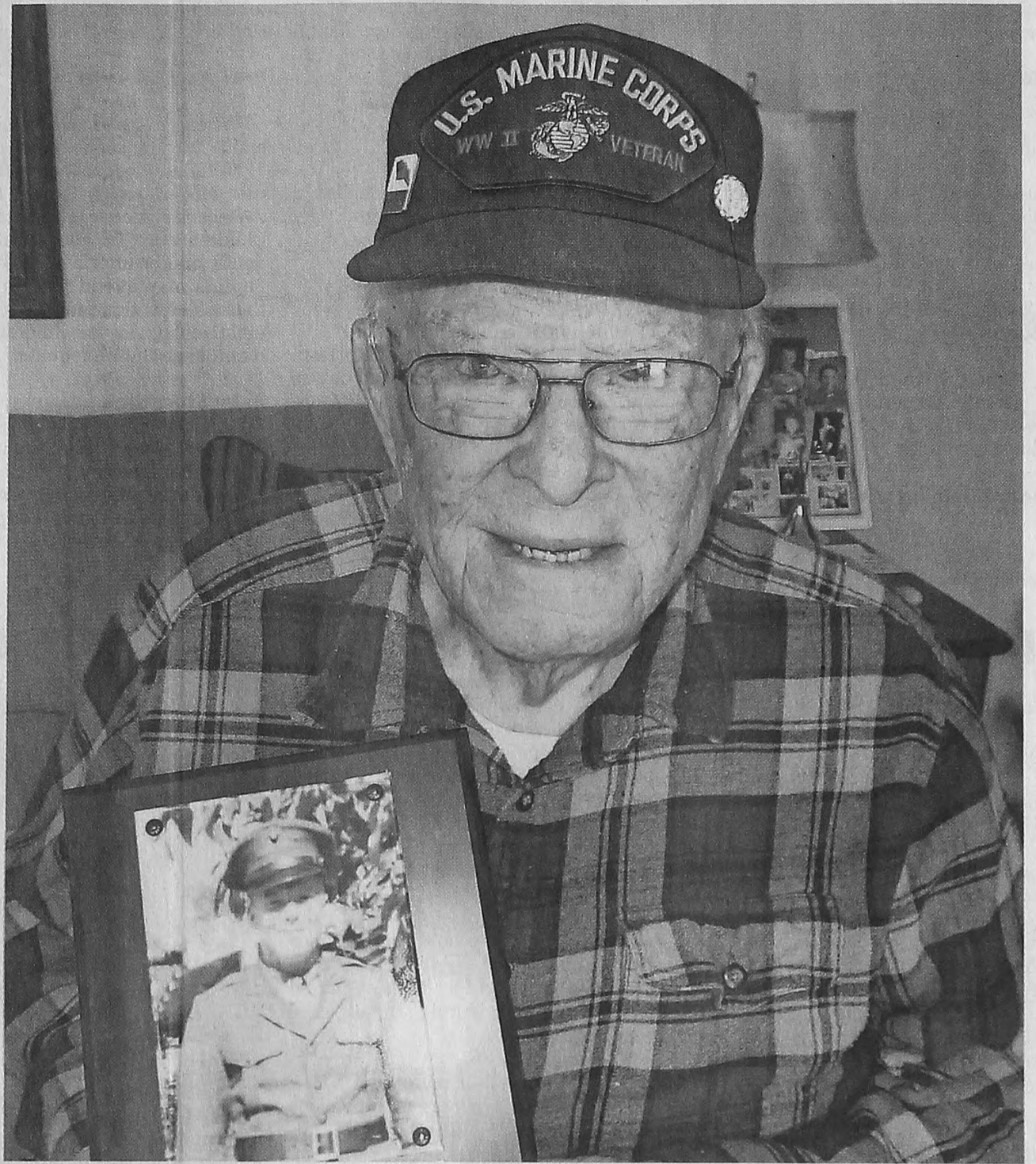
Folsom was deployed July 1, 1943, with the 2nd Marine Division to Hawaii, then New Zealand, for amphibious combat operations in the Pacific. His training included all aspects of light and heavy artillery and high-explosive demolition.

In November 1943, Folsom participated in action against the Japanese at Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands. "Tarawa was hell on earth," he said. "There's no way for me to describe it. It all begins with a dangerous climb down a net hanging off the side of the transport ship into an LCPV landing craft. As we approached the island, the sound of the shells screaming overhead from the battleships, heavy and light cruisers and destroyers was deafening. The sight of dead marines floating in the water gave me an idea of what was to come. I was scared, the sounds of bullets hitting around us and mortar shells exploding added to the fear we were all experiencing. I lost two buddies from Plymouth High School on that island."

During the battle, Folsom served on a 105mm Howitzer crew. Rear Adm. Meichi Shibasaki of the Japanese fleet said it would take the Americans 1,000,000 men and 100 years to take the island. It took the Marines 76 hours with 1,100 American casualties and 4,500 Japanese lives. "After the battle, we searched the dead bodies of our fellow marines for dog tags, pictures and wallets so they could be identified and then we buried them. It was a tough job," he said.

Folsom's fighting days did not end there. Beginning in mid-June 1944, Folsom (now a corporal) participated in battles on Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas Islands. The landing at Saipan met with heavy resistance from the Japanese.

"We were on the beach and under mortar attack when the guy next to me said we should run and take cover under a downed tree. He no more than got the words out of his mouth when a mortar exploded next to him, killing him," Folsom said. "We would drive them back during the day, only to have them come back at night. One morning, I woke up in my foxhole and found my buddy, who was on guard, sleeping. I looked out and saw a Japanese soldier coming directly at us with a grenade in his hand. I grabbed my M-1 and emptied the clip in him and then I gave my buddy hell. Another time, we thought things were under control when all hell broke out. The Japanese had broken through our lines and were coming in droves. They were using everything they had as a weapon, even bayonets lashed to bamboo poles. We started shooting buckshot out of our 105 and then were told to back off



Donald Folsom, a World War II veteran from Livonia, was honored as the November 2018 Veteran of the Month.

as the army infantry moved in. We could see the Japanese falling in droves as the army fought back."

Three weeks into fighting on Saipan, Folsom and the 2nd Marines, along with the 4th Marines, were ordered to take Tinian. The island had been under heavy bombardment for seven weeks prior and resistance was weak. The island and its 8,000 Japanese were easily defeated within two weeks. "By the end of July, we were in really bad shape. Between the heat, exhaustion and dengue fever, I think we could have been beaten by a Boy Scout troop," Folsom said.

In April 1945, Folsom again saw action in the invasion of Okinawa, the last major battle of World War II and one of the bloodiest, with 100,000 Japanese and 50,000 allied casualties. After Okinawa, Folsom and his fellow marines trained hard for a planned invasion of Japan, scheduled for Nov. 1, 1945.

Folsom was in Pearl Harbor when the war ended in September. He was discharged in January 1946 and went back to Livonia. He joined the Livonia Fire De-

partment as a volunteer in 1949 and was the second fireman to be hired by Livonia in 1951. He served his community honorably for 28 years until his retirement in 1979 as battalion chief. Folsom and his wife Lois, who died in 2014 after 61 years of marriage, have two sons, one daughter and two grandchildren.

Folsom was interviewed by members of S.A.L. and a DVD was made of the interview and shown at the S.A.L. November membership meeting with Folsom, his son Richard, daughter Diane, granddaughter Rebecca, sister-in-law Jean and Richard's father-in-law Tom Debolski, a member of Post 32, in attendance. A plaque was presented to him from Livonia Trophy with his picture and service information. The S.A.L. invites local residents to attend their monthly meetings to listen to the Veteran of the Month. The public is also encouraged to nominate veterans to be honored at its meetings. Nomination forms can be picked up at the American Legion Hall, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

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Milford student's musical ascension opens eyes, ears

Ed Wright

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She writes her own songs based on real-life experiences, has wowed crowds and professional talent judges with her soulful voice and has learned to play multiple instruments in a relatively short time.

Sound like anyone you've streamed on your iPhone recently?

OK, Aspen Jacobsen hasn't quite reached the level of her favorite singer, Taylor Swift, quite yet, but give her time — she just turned 14.

A freshman at White Lake's International Academy and a regular performer at downtown Milford's Michigan Rock School, Aspen has displayed a beyond-her-years knack for creating beautiful music.

With recently released CD "Aspen" already in the books, the future is brighter than a Colorado sunrise for the musician, whose best work is yet to come, according to those with an ear for success.

"Where do I start?" Michigan Rock School owner John Kozicki said, when asked to describe Aspen's robust skills set. "I first met Aspen four years ago at a songwriting workshop I hosted. At first, the lyrical content of her songs was what you'd expect from a 10-year-old, but the way she put her songs together was beyond her years.

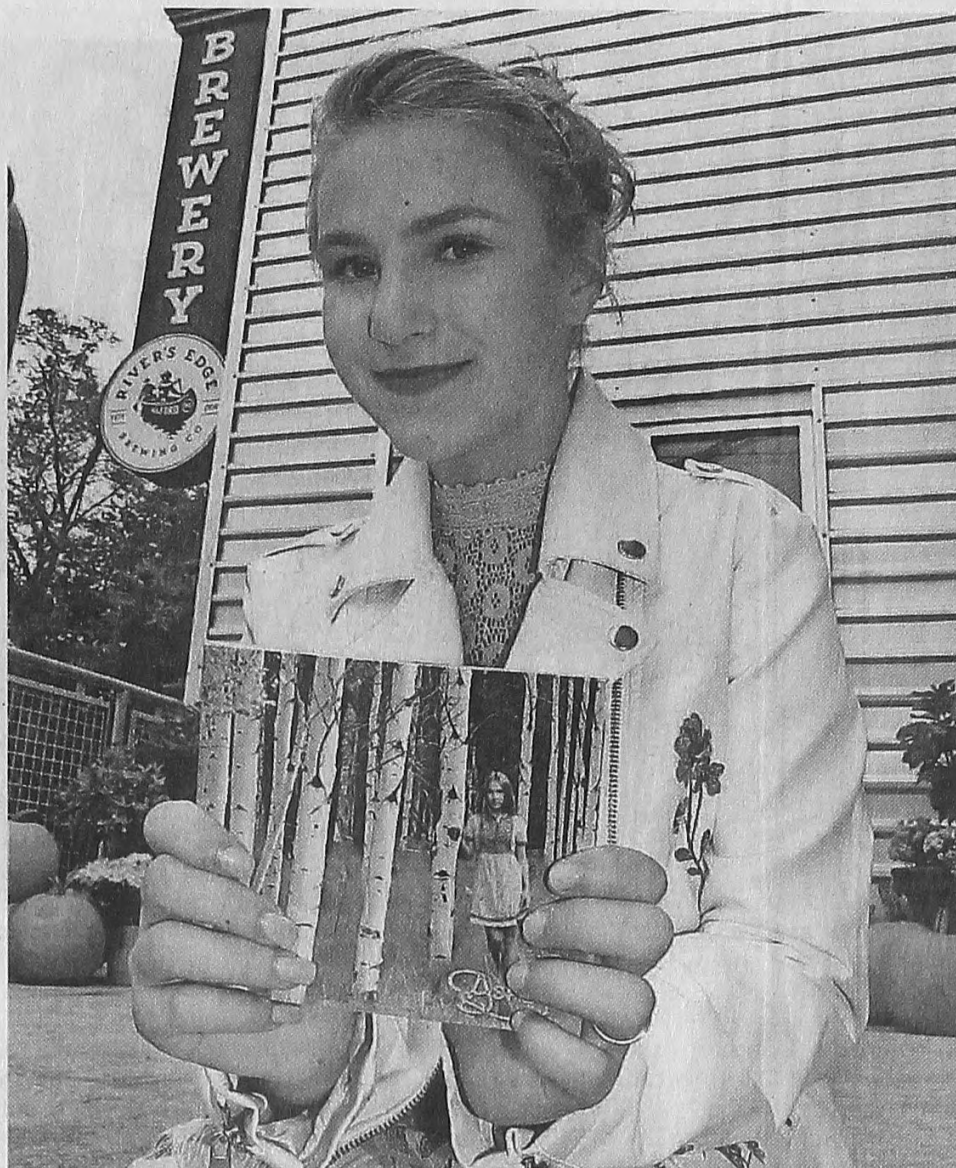
"Aspen is not intimidated by anything, which is one reason she has progressed so far. When I encouraged her to try the bass, she didn't hesitate — even though her main instrument is guitar — and she picked it up right away."

Kozicki emphasized that even the most-talented musicians can fail if they're not well-rounded — a requirement that he says Aspen has embraced.

"It's not just about creating music... you have to hustle, too, and find ways to market yourself," he said. "From what I've seen, Aspen understands this and will do whatever it takes if she decides to make music a career."

Aspen has already compiled a resume longer than a sheet of music.

Performing original music and covers, Aspen was a semifinalist at the 2018 Michigan State Fair's superstar competition held at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. She has also earned several music-related scholar-



Aspen Jacobsen proudly displays her music CD during a release event at River's Edge Brewery in Milford.

ships, including ones from the Great Lakes Music Camp and Folk Alliance Region Midwest.

Aspen sings and plays bass and guitar for Milford-based band Red Couch.

The well-spoken ninth-grader developed a comfort level performing in front of crowds by starting in the theater.

"When I was young, I enjoyed acting, so I was

able to overcome any stage fright I may have had by pretending I was the character I was playing," she said. "So when I started singing and performing my music in front of crowds, I wasn't as vulnerable.

"The only CDs I'd listen to when I was in elementary school were Taylor Swift's. I loved the way she sang about her life experiences."

Jill Jack, winner of 44 Detroit Music Awards since 1997 and the owner of Dream Big Inc., a company that consults up-and-coming musicians, has worked with Aspen for the past year.

To say Jack is impressed with the young artist is an understatement.

Talent abounds

"The thing that surprised me the most about Aspen is that, for as young as she is, she has a very old soul," said Jack, who has opened for a star-studded list of performers including Bob Seger, John Waite and Emmylou Harris. "Aspen is extremely focused for a teenager. She knows what she wants and is determined to get it — in an assertive way, though, not an aggressive way.

"Everyone has drive at the beginning. The key is sustaining that drive and I sincerely feel that Aspen has what it takes. I can visualize where she'll be in 20 years and it's a good place."

Jack said Aspen's greatest intangible may be her humility.

"She doesn't know how good she is yet," Jack said. "Being humble helps a young musician, because you're going to keep striving to get better. If you already think you've made it, you don't work as hard."

In the beginning

Aspen's mom Stephanie readily admits that neither she nor her husband Ken have a strand of musical DNA in their makeup. However, it was a piano that was handed down to Aspen's mom that kick-started her musical journey.

"When Aspen was young, she was drawn to the piano," Stephanie said. "We signed her up for lessons and she was doing really well. Since then, she's taken on the mandolin, ukulele and fiddle and, three years ago, she started playing

guitar." Aspen's mom remembers one particular moment when she realized her daughter may be instilled with some musical magic.

"Three or four years ago, we took her down to the Ann Arbor Art Fair and she played the ukulele on one of the corners for tips," Stephanie said. "I don't remember exactly how much money she made, but she got enough to buy her first guitar.

"It just kind of took off from there. She started writing songs and she loves all kinds of music, which is unusual for someone her age."

While music is a huge part of her life, it is not all-consuming, Aspen said.

"I sit down and do hard-core practicing probably two or three days a week," she said. "I'm doing something musically every day, because I love it so much, but not for hours and hours."

Is 'The Voice' in her future?

The Jacobsens sent a video of their daughter performing to the producers of NBC's "The Voice" in hopes of Aspen getting selected to audition for a spot on the show during an upcoming event in Detroit.

"I would love to get a job in the music industry some day," she said. "If performing doesn't work out, I'd at least like to teach music."

Contact Ed Wright at eawright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

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Tattoos and fine art: Livonia studio has it all

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Karlos Kowaleski wonders aloud if a phantom pushed him from a 16-foot ladder that gave way while he was painting the ceiling of his new tattoo and fine art studio in Livonia.

He did, after all, name his studio Box5 Tattoo and Fine Art, a reference to the Box 5 seating where the masked, disfigured phantom sat in "Phantom of the Opera."

A fan of all things macabre, Kowaleski has a dark side with his interest in nihilism, futility and life as ticking toward the ultimate end, death.

"Knowledge of my own mortality really gives me a kick in the butt to get to work," he said.

His tumble from the ladder was a reminder that forced him to postpone his Sept. 1 opening of Box5. He spent a month in the hospital after his mishap fractured all five lumbar vertebrae and his ninth rib on the left side, also causing a laceration to his head.

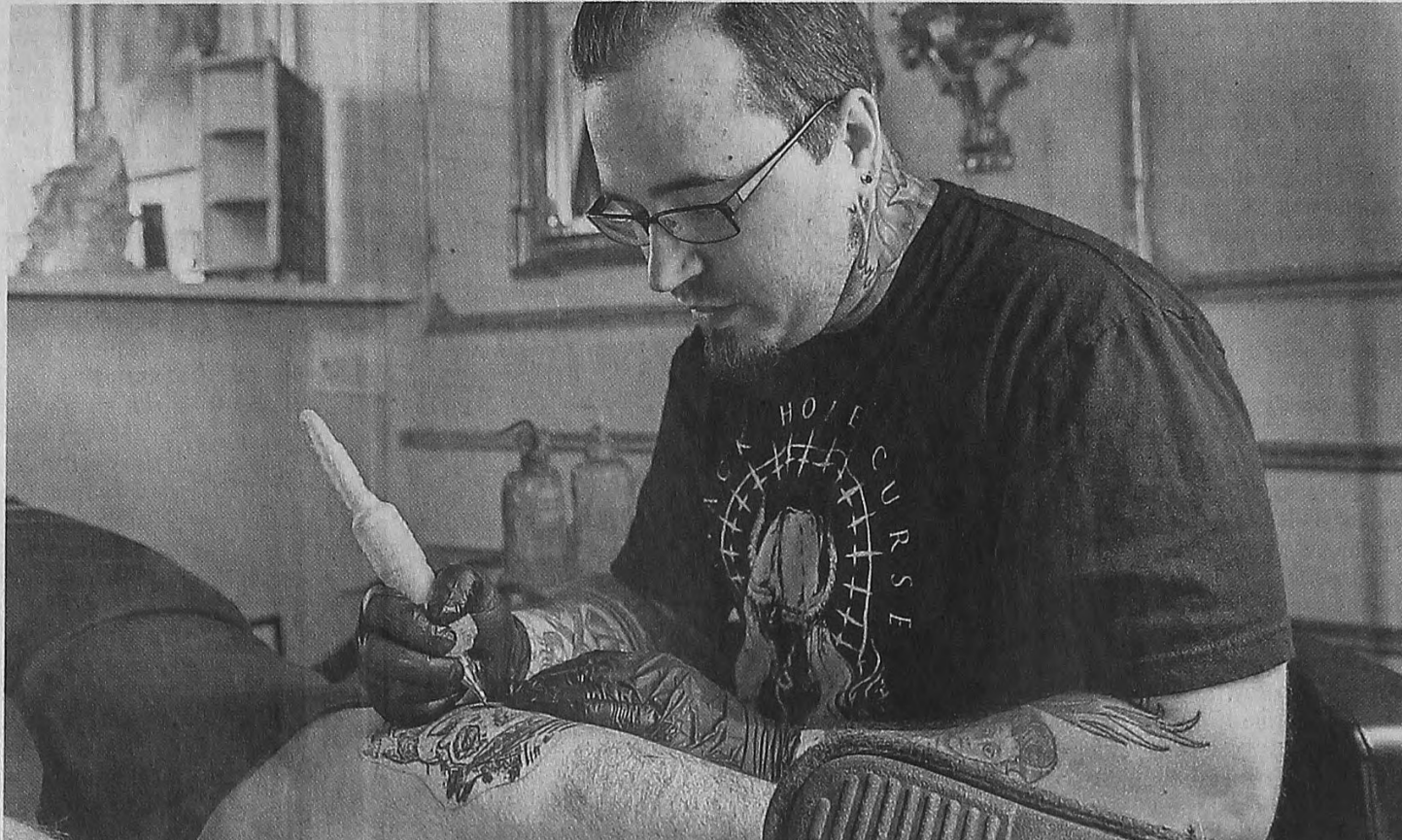
What a difference two months make. Kowaleski, 33, opened his studio on Nov. 5 at 29524 W. Seven Mile, in the Livonia Marketplace, where his tattoo artistry and oil paintings are on display amidst a late 1800s provincial decor, including paintings of skulls with candles and self portraits, inspired by "Phantom of the Opera."

Before opening his own shop, Kowaleski was an apprentice at Suicide Kings Tattoo & Piercing in Canton, where he was brought in after impressing the owners with his oil paintings. He then worked at Chroma Tattoo in West Bloomfield, where he had a consultation with Josh Clark of Wixom, who was shopping for his first tattoo.

Clark was so impressed by Kowaleski's work that he followed him to Livonia and waited for his hospital recovery. On a November afternoon, Clark lay face down as Kowaleski, with a buzzing cartridge-based tattoo machine in hand, created body art of a strawberry pastry dessert on the back of Clark's right calf.

"I had been looking for years for someone who had his style professionally," Clark said. "I had seen his work at Chroma. I wasn't going to anyone else."

Kowaleski chose to open Box5 in his



Karlos Kowaleski started out as a musician and fine artist. Now he uses those skills in his new business, Box5 Tattoo and Fine Art. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

hometown Livonia, where he graduated from Franklin High School in 2002. He said his embrace of the macabre was influenced by growing up in a home where there was a love of the horror genre of movies and culture. His parents even had a skull on display.

"I loved it," he said, adding that he often "rooted for the villain" in films.

He performed in a hip-hop band, Dramadeus, in his teens and early 20s and opened at festival gigs for the likes of Ice Cube, Ice-T and Outlawz, founded by the late Tupac Shakur. Partly at the same time and until age 28, he was in Bat on Fire, a pop/prog-metal group that cut three full-length albums and an extended-play record.

All the while, he honed his largely self-taught skills at oil painting by visiting museums, studying art history and taking college courses before dropping out. His art — self-portraits, his mother's hands, an empty Coca-Cola bottle and, of course, his darker works, such as

skulls — are for sale at Box5, typically ranging from \$250 to \$4,000.

"I do a self-portrait every birthday," Kowaleski said, and he has adopted the moniker Saint Karlos, patron saint of oil painting, for himself.

His wall art also includes a mixed-media collage of newspaper articles about President John F. Kennedy's assassination, from the day after he was killed until the one-year anniversary.

On the tattoo side of his business, he said he strives to bring "high-brow" body art to his studio. He has about 60 tattoos of his own, though they're hard to count because some blend together. He said the old days of dingy tattoo parlors have long ago given way to "the next generation of fine artists" with a higher skill level.

When he worked for other tattoo studios, Kowaleski often was booked up for appointments two to three months in advance. The wait at his new business is about two weeks, he said, "but that won't last long."

He has hired another tattoo artist, Alex Hunter, and he expects to bring in another two artists as demand grows. And it will grow, he said.

Attending an Explorer Tattoo Conference in Los Angeles helped educate Kowaleski about his chosen trade, with \$1.2 billion a year in revenues in the United States alone.

Box5's rates are \$150 an hour or \$900 for an all-day, or eight-hour, session.

Kowaleski attributes the sustained popularity of tattoo studios to businesses like his that are combining fine art and tattooing by artists who are better-trained and using better tattoo machines.

Kowaleski, who has a wife, Kelley, and 15-month-old daughter, Kennedy, has a five-year lease for his business. After that, he could continue as is or restructure to become an owner overseeing other artists. Long term, he also has a desire to spend time on land his family owns in the Arizona desert, possibly taking a turn at "living off the earth."

For more on Box5, go to www.box5tattoo.com/. For more on Kowaleski's art, go to www.saintkarlos.com.

Contact Darrell Clem at dclem@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @CantonObserver.

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Phone 734-453-1234 x 232

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

Z18-18 1201 Carol
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Lot Coverage
Non-Use Variance
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential District
Applicant: Sam Sackllah

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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Six facts about Black Friday shopping day

Pamela A. Zinkosky
Special to hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Are you planning on shopping Black Friday sales? Getting some Cyber Monday deals? It may surprise you to know that the original Black Friday had little to do with bargains. Here are six facts about the origins of the retail holiday we know today.

First time

The first Black Friday was Sept. 24, 1869, and it had nothing to do with holiday shopping. It referred to the U.S. gold market crash that bankrupted so many. A scheme by Jay Gould and Jim Fisk to drive up the price of gold eventually fell flat, sending the market into a tailspin. The economic downturn affected everyone from Wall Street traders to farmers.

Influx of people

A second Black Friday emerged in the 1950s in Philadelphia. The police force called the day after Thanksgiving Black Friday because it meant an influx of people to the city, not only for shopping and tourism, but for attendance at the Army-Navy football game that took place that Saturday annually.

Philadelphia police officers had to work longer shifts and deal with extra chaos in the city, which gave the day a bleak outlook for them. The name stuck in that part of the country, with retailers jumping on the bandwagon and making it into a shopping event.

Thanksgiving move

It might have been the last Friday of November, or the first of December, if not for the Great Depression and Franklin D. Roosevelt, who in 1939 endeavored to move Thanksgiving up a week. President Abraham Lincoln originally designated the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving.

In 1939, President Roosevelt, in an effort to give struggling retailers an extra week of holiday sales, moved Thanksgiving one week up, to the fourth Thursday of November. Roosevelt endured much criticism for moving the holiday



Jill and Linda Willis of Garden City did some Black Friday shopping last year at Westland Shopping Center. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

with little notice, with many calling the fourth Thursday "Franksgiving" and much confusion occurring in the following years.

However, in 1941, President Roosevelt designated the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving and Black Friday followed several decades later.

In the red

Retailers are not "in the red" until Black Friday. A story emerged over the years that Black Friday referred to re-

tailers finally being "in the black," or on the profit side, after Black Friday sales, but there's no evidence to support this story. After all, if most businesses made no profit until the 11th month of the year, there wouldn't be many businesses left to shop.

Myth busted

It's not a reference to slavery. Another myth emerged in the last five years or so that Black Friday referred to the price of slaves being lower the day after

Thanksgiving. There's no evidence to support this idea at all.

Going national

The 1980s saw the spread of Black Friday nationwide, as retailers reinvented the day as a retail holiday, with in-store early bird sales and, now, Cyber Monday for online deals.

To comment on this article or to suggest ideas for other history articles, contact Pamela A. Zinkosky at pazink@yahoo.com.

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Adoption

Continued from Page 1A

moot. They wanted nothing to do with finding a surrogate mother, either.

Through Adoption Associates, Inc., of Farmington Hills, the 20-something couple connected with then 34-year-old Heather — and baby Benjamin became the God-sent answer to a prayer for two different families.

"Since I knew that I couldn't have kids, I kind of felt that it wasn't meant to be for me," said Megan Neuner, 28. "So I always just expected that I never would have kids and that it would just be my husband and I and we would have dogs and travel and everything.

"One day, I was shopping for a baby gift for one of my colleagues and I walked into Babies 'R' Us and it hit me. 'I'm never going to be able to do this, this is never going to be my life.' Ever since that day, we were, like, 'OK, let's figure this out. I want that, I want to be able to enjoy life with kids.'"

Greg Neuner chimed in that "we were sitting on a couch watching a movie after 10 months of being married and we said, 'It's kind of quiet in here with just two dogs.'"

Best of both worlds

Ben's birth mom also couldn't have asked for a better outcome for the baby she carried and gave birth to Nov. 21, 2017. Heather asked to not have her last name revealed.

"She's like the sister, like a long-lost sister," Heather said about her instant and immediate rapport with Megan. "It's so cute that Ben actually looks like he was born to them (the Neuners). It's cool. I hope that one day, with the help of Ben and me and Megan and Greg, we can help curb the stigma of adoption, because it's a wonderful thing."

Heather is still part of Ben's life, regularly chatting with Megan and joining the Neuners for special occasions such as a first birthday dinner Thanksgiving eve.

"Adoption isn't just some big, scary wolf that you shouldn't touch," Megan Neuner said. "It's something that's beautiful and wonderful and brings families together — and helps both sides.

"We always talk with Heather. She always says she's so blessed and grateful that Ben has us. And we're always, like, 'We're the blessed and grateful ones, because without you, we wouldn't have a child.'"

Never too early

Not every trip down the adoption road is as smooth as what the Neuners have experienced. There remains a lot of heartache, hidden worries and the bubbling up of insensitivity from unenlightened people who generally mean no harm.

"I never would want him to feel like there's anything wrong or he's less because he was adopted," Megan said. "So I think that's why it's really important now, for us to teach him how to answer those questions and give him those tools now on how to respond to people that might say something hurtful — or help him teach others."

Adoption isn't cheap. The Neuners spent something like \$20,000, along with countless hours researching the Internet looking for answers to their ultimate question — would they be able to start a family, other than family pooches Lola and Lucy, of course.

"You do put money into an account (with Adoption Associates) to have available for any birth family needs, which we thought was wonderful," Megan said. "Because if there's anything we could help with for a birth family to make this process easier ... we were extremely on board with that."



Ben Neuner is a typically playful baby boy. He was adopted through Farmington Hills-based Adoption Associates by Megan and Greg Neuner. TIM SMITH | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

If ever there was a perfect poster child for adoption, it is the happy-go-lucky Ben. He is healthy and full of boundless energy, grabbing at pieces of paper that are just out of reach, pushing a toy train, flashing a toothless grin.

"He's doing really good," Megan said. "He's starting to walk, he's passed all his milestones. It's really funny to see how they grow their little personalities."

Message from God

Yet the Neuners might not have been so fortunate if not for some soul-searching and selflessness from Heather, who quickly came to grips with her uncertain reality.

Heather could not provide the stability a newborn needed, already having had to have a baby girl adopted by family members because of struggles "with drugs and everything. ... Because of all that happening, I knew that I probably wouldn't be able to keep Ben."

She entered a methadone clinic, but then "ended up having him a little bit early" and attempted to begin an adoption plan through Children's Protective Services.

"Then about a week and a half later, my mom was, like, 'No, we're just going to go ahead and kind of go behind CPS's back.' And she called an agency and they didn't get back to her fast enough so she called my Aunt Laura," Heather said, talking via cellphone during a morning commute to her job. "(Laura) got her daughter from Adoption Associates and she got their number."

Before long, a case worker for Adoption Associates — which director Paula Springer said has handled 40-60 domestic adoptions annually over the past decade — was meeting with Heather and other family members. They reviewed profiles (complete with video) that families looking to adopt had supplied.

"My daughter Mary looked at Megan and Greg's profile first, then the (birth) father did, then my mother and I did," Heather said. "After I got done reading it, we all looked at each other and said, 'That's the family we want.' Megan and Greg were notified that we picked them and, the following Monday, we did a meet and greet and signed the (adoption) paperwork. I really think it was God telling us, just how fast it all happened."

Do the research

At the other end of the connection, the Neuners also needed some divine intervention — or, at the very least, solid word of mouth — for their dream to come true.

"A lot of families try to conceive, find out they can't,

try different options that are out there," said Greg, 27, a Fraser High School alum who owns an automotive recycling facility. "And in that time, years can pass. Where we knew right off the get-go that this (adoption) was going to be the main option for us. We jumped right into it."

Megan (who graduated from Utica Eisenhower High School) explained that a "friend of a friend" had a successful encounter with Adoption Associates and provided the contact info that would change the young couple's life.

"She had amazing things to say and they had a great experience, so we said, 'Let's do this,' Megan said. "We set up an initial meeting, we met with (Springer), she was very up front about the woes of it, the positive sides of it, everything. We just knew it was the right way for us to go."

Having initially been told to expect a wait of two years before finding a match, there were still moments of unease.

"They were giving us tips like, 'Don't set up a nursery yet on day one of the process,'" Greg said. "Because you're going to walk past that room and you're going to get discouraged."

Such a gift

Less than three months later, they were bringing Ben home. For that gift, they thank Heather.

"(Heather) is much stronger than I could ever be," Megan said. "Because I would never be able to take a step back and look at my life and say, 'I know I can't take care of this child so I want more for him.' I really think that side of it is really important to the negative stigma around birth families."

The Neuners intend on being open and communicative with Ben to help him understand his story enough to respond to insensitive remarks, which undoubtedly will occur.

"I never would want him to feel like there's anything wrong or he's less because he was adopted," said Megan, a former preschool teacher who now teaches online English classes from the comforts of home. "So I think that's why it's really important now, for us to teach him how to answer those questions and give him those tools now."

Looking for families

According to Springer, adoption remains a subject that "people don't really know a lot about. We just want to make sure people know and understand that domestic adoption is something that is still happening.

"Ours is not foster care or relative adoption. It's not international adoption. This is domestic adoption with healthy infants, where birth mothers find themselves pregnant at a time they can't care for this baby ... and they voluntarily choose to release their parental rights. Then they get a chance to pick a family, choose to meet with that family.

"Right now, I think one of the best messages you can get out there is that we need domestic adoptive families," she added. "We don't have enough families in our pool right now. We need more families waiting to adopt babies."

And if adoption costs (which can reach more than \$25,000) scare off some, there is a way for financial relief — the Federal Adoption Tax Credit. Go to the Adoption Associates website for a link.

Of course, all the programs, statistics and brochures won't be enough to sell everybody about wanting to adopt a baby.

But taking a look at always-smiling Benjamin Neuner or listening to his over-the-moon parents might be enough to do the trick.

If you have a compelling story to tell, contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

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Money Matters

Rick Bloom
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICH.

Every year or so, I write a column about unclaimed property and I thought it would be a good idea to do one of those columns now. There are literally tens of billions of dollars that owners have forgotten about turned over to the government. These include things such as bank accounts, payroll checks, IRS refund checks, dividends and contents from safe deposit boxes.

For example, when a bank account has no activity for a year or more, banks are required to turn that money over to the state. Another example is where a company sends a dividend check to a shareholder and the check is never cashed. These assets are turned over to the state until they are claimed by the rightful owner. In many situations, the money is never claimed. You may ask why someone wouldn't reclaim their assets; the simple answer is, they either forgot they owned that account or the

individual died and the family either forgot or did not know about the assets.

Every state has an unclaimed property division that allows people to reclaim those assets. Every year or so, it makes sense for everyone to check to see if there are any forgotten assets that the state has taken control over.

It would be nice if there was one place you could look to see if there are any assets from anywhere in the country that you have lost. Unfortunately, there is no national registry. Some states have joined with other states to combine their registries; Michigan is not one of them. If you have always lived in Michigan, then the only place you probably need to look is the state of Michigan's registry. If you have lived in other states, you must review those registries individually as well. You can check the Michigan registry online by going to <https://unclaimedproperty.michigan.gov/>. Another good site to check is www.missingmoney.com. If you find you or a loved one may have an unclaimed pension, you can also check the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.'s website at <https://www.pbgc.gov/search/>

unclaimed-pensions. When doing a search, don't forget to check under your maiden name if you are married.

If you find there are assets you are entitled to, there is generally no statute of limitation and the procedure to reclaim your assets is not complicated. Typically, all you need to do is complete a form and submit it to the state. However, if the unclaimed property is for a loved one who has died, it then becomes a little more complicated. You have to show that you are the appropriate beneficiary. In some situations, you may have to open a probate to reclaim those assets.

There are many companies that offer services that will search and help you reclaim your assets. These companies are not inexpensive in the fact that they charge a substantial percentage of the assets they reclaim. For the majority of people, particularly those who have lived in only one state, you can do the search yourself and save money in fees.

Unfortunately, not all unclaimed assets will be turned over to the state. For example, there are billions of dollars in life insurance policies that have never

been claimed and the proceeds from those policies have not been turned over to the state. Therefore, searching for lost life insurance policies is a little more difficult. In those cases, there is not a national registry, so you must contact every company individually. There is, however, a service that you can use. MIB Inc. (www.mib.com) offers a service for \$75. It will search life insurance applications for you from 420 life insurance companies from January 1996 to the present.

If you haven't checked the Michigan database, you should. In addition, you should also check the database for any state where you have previously lived. It only takes a couple of minutes and you may be surprised to see your name. After all, it's your money and it looks better in your pocket than it does the state's.

Good luck!

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

Sometimes getting what you don't deserve is a good thing



Cultural Relevancy

Dean Johnson
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICH.

When I was a kid, I went to summer camp on a scholarship because we were poor. At the camp was a place called the Canteen, the camp store where you could buy candy, pop, T-shirts, ice-cream, etc. You didn't use cash. You put your money in an account and drew on it for the two weeks you were there. But my account was empty, because I didn't have any money. Then one day, they told me that someone had put money into my account. (And it was some huge amount at the time, like \$50.) I knew it wasn't anything I had earned. Someone had just credited money into my ac-

count that I hadn't earned.

In the apostle Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 4, he makes the claim that a person can be righteous before God not by doing good deeds, but by simply having faith. As Exhibit 1A, he offers Abraham, founder of the Jewish religion: "Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness." He goes on to say that it wasn't just available to Abraham, but to all of us.

As an example of when Abraham showed great faith in God, Paul tells the story of when God told Abraham he would be the "father of many nations" and Abraham believed God, even though both Abraham and his wife were very old and way past child-bearing age. It got me to wondering, if someone wanted to give an example of how I have faith, what could they point to in my

life? What would people point to in your life?

It's also a bit humorous when Paul says that Abraham "never wavered" in his faith. If you actually read the story of Abraham in Genesis 12-25, you'll see that he did doubt, question, stumble, act impulsively and make lots of mistakes. But at the end of the day, he always came back to trusting God. That's what the Bible calls faith in God: Not perfection, but at the end of the day you confess your shortcomings and you say, "God I still believe."

It reminds me of "The Lord of the Rings," where Frodo is hailed as the hero for courageously destroying the ring of power in the fire of Mt. Doom. Remember how he struggled? But in the end, it went in and that's all anyone remembers.

My sister-in-law Eileen was a much loved and highly respected woman in Alaska — both in the native community as well as the mainline culture — right up until she died two months ago. My oldest daughter is currently in Alaska finalizing Eileen's affairs. My daughter tells me that when she goes places, she keeps receiving honor and respect from people, not because of anything she has done, but because she is Eileen's niece. "I don't deserve it, Dad," she told me. The respect that Eileen earned is being credited to my daughter. She keeps getting credit for something someone else did. That's pretty much the Gospel.

The Rev. Dean Johnson is senior pastor at Lake Pointe Bible Church in Plymouth. Email him at DeanLPBC@sbglobal.net.

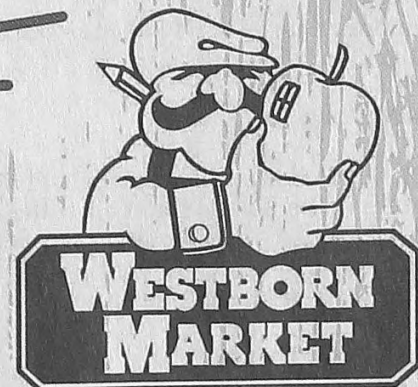
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Planned Parenthood: Livonia clinic to open soon

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

There's been plenty of talk surrounding the recently purchased building on Farmington Road, north of Five Mile, by Planned Parenthood of Michigan. But the reproductive health organization says despite all that, it's looking forward to opening and servicing the thousands of clients that have gone elsewhere the past few months.

Ruth Lednicer, director of communications for Planned Parenthood of Michigan, confirmed the organization purchased the building at 15707 Farmington Road in Livonia and plans on opening a health center on the property before the end of the year.

"Our lease was up and we thought it made sense to buy a building," she said. "It will have exactly the same services."

Lednicer said services offered at the clinic will include exams and pap tests, birth control, emergency contraception, STI testing and treatment, rapid HIV testing and education and pregnancy testing and options information. Lednicer said while some of its clinics across Michigan offer abortions, the Livonia clinic will not. The organization's offering of abortion services is the reason anti-abortion protesters were at the site earlier this month and at the Nov. 7 city council meeting.



The building purchased by Planned Parenthood, along Farmington Road, in Livonia. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The center won't be the first Planned Parenthood facility to operate in Livonia. The organization operated a clinic along Ann Arbor Road, west of Newburgh, for more than 17 years before it closed earlier this spring. It offered the same services planned for the new building. The Ann Arbor Road clinic also did not provide abortions to its clients.

Staying in Livonia, Lednicer said, was important, since the group has so many clients in the region. She

said more than 4,000 clients were served last year in Livonia, with 14 percent of them being men. With the clinic closed since the spring, those who typically went to Livonia were instead rerouted to other clinics in Ann Arbor, Detroit and Ferndale.

"We knew there was a demand in Livonia. We've been there for 17 years," she said. "We try to put ourselves to where people can access us more easily."

The building bought by Planned Parenthood will not need to go through any rezoning hearings or require any permissions from any city board. The building is currently zoned OS-Office Services, which a health clinic is an allowed use under that zoning. All the other required permits are up to date on the building, something protesters asked the city to investigate as a way to keep the clinic from opening.

"At this point, we are moving along well. Our permits have all been above board," Lednicer said. "We're following the law and looking forward to welcoming our patients."

The Livonia clinic will be the lone Planned Parenthood clinic in western Wayne County.

Livonia city officials said at the Nov. 7 council meeting that so long as the proper permits are valid, there's nothing the city can do to halt its opening, though several city council members made it clear they were displeased with the clinic opening back up in the city.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.

AREA EVENTS

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

Music at the Elks

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

The Ron Kischuk Quartet will perform Tuesday, Nov. 27. Kischuk will be playing trombone and singing, with Jeff Halsey on bass, Gary Schunk on keyboards and Dave Taylor on drums.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plyaa325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com.

'Food for the Soul' exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton will host the exhibit "Food for the Soul," a combination of multi-media works based on photographs of Detroit-area musician, through Nov. 27. This exhibition will also feature solo works and sculptures relating to music and how the power of music feeds the soul.

The exhibit is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, one hour prior to and during public performances at the theater, as well as by appointment. For more information, call 734-394-5300 or go to www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

Interfaith Series continues

An educational program about mystic traditions in Sikhism, the fourth event in the Detroit Interfaith Leadership Council's Exploring Our Religious Landscapes series, will be held 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, at the Mata Tripta Ji Gurdwara Sahib, 40600 Schoolcraft Road, in Plymouth. Dr. Arvind-Pal Mandair, associate professor of Sikh Studies at the University of Michigan, will be the presenter.

Pre-registration via email is encouraged at ting.detroitinterfaithcouncil.com. Walk-in guests are welcome. Refreshments follow each program and a \$20 donation is suggested.

'In A Winter Garden'

The Michigan Philharmonic will team with Madonna University Chorale, Counsellors Chorale and Main Street Opera Theatre Chorus to perform Libby Larsen's "In a Winter Garden" at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N. Territorial Road, in Plymouth. A pre-concert talk is scheduled for 7:15 p.m.

Tickets are available online at <http://www.michiganphil.org> or by calling 734-451-2112.

Letters to Santa

Canton Leisure Services has made special arrangements with our friends at the North Pole and the U.S. Post Office to deliver your wish lists to Santa. Through Nov. 30, Canton residents can mail a letter to Santa by dropping it off in the North Pole Express Mailbox in the Summit on the Park lobby, 46000 Summit Parkway.

Participants need to print their names and addresses clearly so Santa is able to personally reply to all your letters. Each household will receive a return letter and Santa will take care of the postage. Canton residents only.

For more information, go to www.cantonfun.org or call 734-394-5460.

Canton Goodfellows 5K

The Canton Goodfellows will host a benefit 5K run and walk Saturday, Dec. 1, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. For more information (start time, registration, cost, etc.), go to <http://www.ezrunevents.com/xmas-5k-run-walk>.

Christmas carol fundraiser

Pearls of Great Price Coalition will sponsor a free family Christmas concert 4-5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 N.

Territorial Road. All funds raised will benefit Sanctum House, a newly opened safe house for human trafficking survivors.

Punch and Christmas cookies will be provided at the event for all. Additionally, monetary and paper product donations will be accepted for Sanctum House and are greatly appreciated. Register at pearlschristmas.eventbrite.com.

Preschool open house

The Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex and the Plymouth Family YMCA have announced their collaboration on new enrichment program for preschool age children, Plymouth PEP (Preschool Enrichment Program) beginning January 2019. To kick off the program and introduce it to the community, an open house will be held at PARC, 650 Church Street, from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Dec. 4. Parents are encouraged to bring their children and experience everything the program has to offer.

Plymouth PEP will offer a comprehensive schedule of classes for preschool children ages 3-5. Classes include art, dance, swimming, sports, music, theater and more. All classes will be offered at PARC. Classes will be taught by instructors from the YMCA and other participating PARC organizations. Classes will be offered Monday through Friday during the morning hours.

A complete schedule of classes including days, times, and registration information, will be available at www.ymcadetroit/plymouth, beginning the first week of November.

Tree lighting celebration

Kick off the holiday season with Canton's annual tree lighting celebration 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. Join in the free festivities as Santa and his reindeer make a special stop. Starting outside, enjoy holiday carols, watch Santa's arrival and count down to the official lighting of the tree, which will be held outside the Summit's Banquet Center Entrance.

Indoor activities for children include free henna, seasonal crafts areas and pictures with Santa. Light refreshments will be provided by Busch's Fresh Food Market. Additional indoor activities include Holidays Around the World, and live entertainment. Alexis Lubacki, Miss Michigan Teen USA 2019 and Canton resident, will make a special appearance.

For more information, go to www.cantonfun.org or call 734-394-5460.

Arbor Hospice grief workshop

Arbor Hospice will host a free Hope for the Holidays workshop that will give helpful tips for coping with the upcoming holidays 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street.

Hope for the Holidays is facilitated by Arbor Hospice's grief support services department to help comfort families who have lost loved ones. The workshop is open to anyone, regardless of whether their loved one received services from Arbor Hospice.

Those interested in attending are asked to call at least one week prior to the event to register. Contact Cindy Palmer at 734-794-5177 or cpalmer@arborhospice.org. For a complete list of grief support groups, go to www.arborhospice.org.

'Jingle Jury' at Village Theater

Spotlight On Youth will present, "Jingle Jury," a holiday musical comedy for the whole family, Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 6-9, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Sunday and 2 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the box office or online at <https://sa1.seatadvisor.com/sabo/servlets/EventSearch?presenter=VTCH&event=Jury&tck=true>. For more information, call 734-394-5300 or go to <https://www.cantonvillagetheater.org/290/Village-Theater>.

'Making Spirits Bright' at Village Theater

The Canton Concert Band will present "Making

Spirits Bright," a holiday concert for the entire family, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road. The concert will feature Christmas music by the concert band and singing by the Fireside Singers. A special "Santa's Salute" will be a part of the show to honor those who have served and those who currently serve in the nation's military.

Also, Santa will be in the lobby at 6 p.m. until show time, at intermission and after the performance. He will be available for photos and to hear Christmas wishes from children.

Tickets can be purchased and printed at home or held in will call anytime at www.cantonvillagetheater.org at no extra charge. Tickets can also be ordered over the phone at 734-394-5300, ext. 3. If tickets are available, they can also be purchased one hour prior to program time.

Wreaths Across America

Riverside Cemetery, 660 Plymouth Road, in Plymouth will join Wreaths Across America in the effort to honor veterans laid to rest there at noon Saturday, Dec. 15. This is the second year that Riverside Cemetery will participate in this national event.

The goal is to raise enough funds to place remembrance wreaths on the headstones of all local heroes. To date, enough funds have been raised to lay 200 wreaths in Riverside Cemetery. To help in the purchase of wreaths, donate by sending a check made out to Wreaths Across America to Department of Municipal Services, 1231 Goldsmith, Plymouth, MI 48170. You may also donate at the WAA website: www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org.

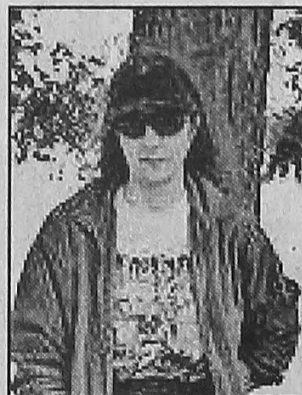
Diabetes support group

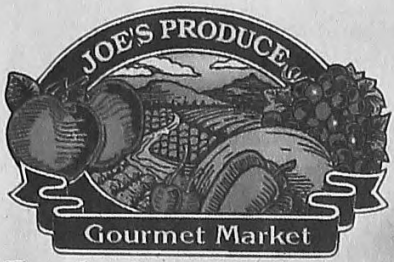
A diabetes support group meets 2-3:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street. Facilitator is Fern Vining, R.N., a diabetes educator. The group is sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club.

Obituaries

Ann J. Grenier

OHIO - FORMALLY OF LIVONIA - Loving daughter of the late Noble and Delores. Dear sister of Marvin (Irene), Jack (Ron) (Noble Jr), Sr. Cheryl Ann, Louis (Rose), Charles (Jennifer), Robert (Cindy) and the late Carol Ann and Mary. Beloved aunt of many nieces and nephews. Also survived by her almost like sister and brother Kim (Dave) Prickett Albers. She will be missed by many. Ann was heavily in TICA, and cat rescues. She won many prestigious awards in the cat society. She was a very good soul who loved her animals and would do anything for them. She did rescue and showed in Tica. Ann placed many kitties and very much enjoyed showing them. Through the years she helped raise money for many homeless cats. A memorial service will be held next May at Oak Grove Cemetery in Manchester, MI. A celebration of life will be held after at the home of Charles and Jennifer where Ann enjoyed calling out her Bingo game for the kids of all ages! RIP Ann we loved you. In lieu of flowers feel free to donate to your favorite kitty rescue. www.santeiufuneralhome.com.





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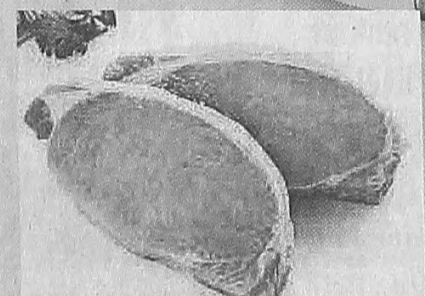
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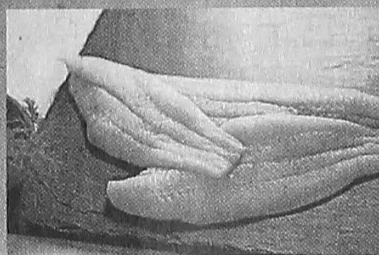


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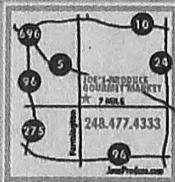
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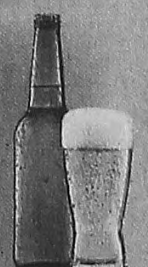
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Sports

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COLLEGE SIGNING

Alsobrooks heading to CMU

Churchill's all-time passing leader picks baseball

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Drew Alsobrooks leaves Livonia Churchill as one of the school's most prolific passers, but another sport is in the future for the senior quarterback.

The hard-throwing left-hander will cast his lot with the Central Michigan University baseball program after signing an NCAA Division I letter of intent Nov. 14. Last season, CMU finished 29-30-1 overall and 16-11 Mid-American Conference under coach Jordan Bischel.

"I really love football, I've played it since I was in the fourth grade, but in the end my biggest opportunities were kind of in baseball, being a left-handed pitcher that throws really hard, that's kind of what Division I coaches really like to see," Alsobrooks said. "That's

what kind of took me that route. I saw that I had to take my talents to the next level and see what I can do there."

Other baseball offers for Alsobrooks came from Bowling Green, Eastern Michigan, Oakland and Wayne State.

"I had some (football) coaches call here and there. I committed pretty early, so nobody really offered me," Alsobrooks said. "I had some contact with coaches, but they kind of just stopped after I committed."

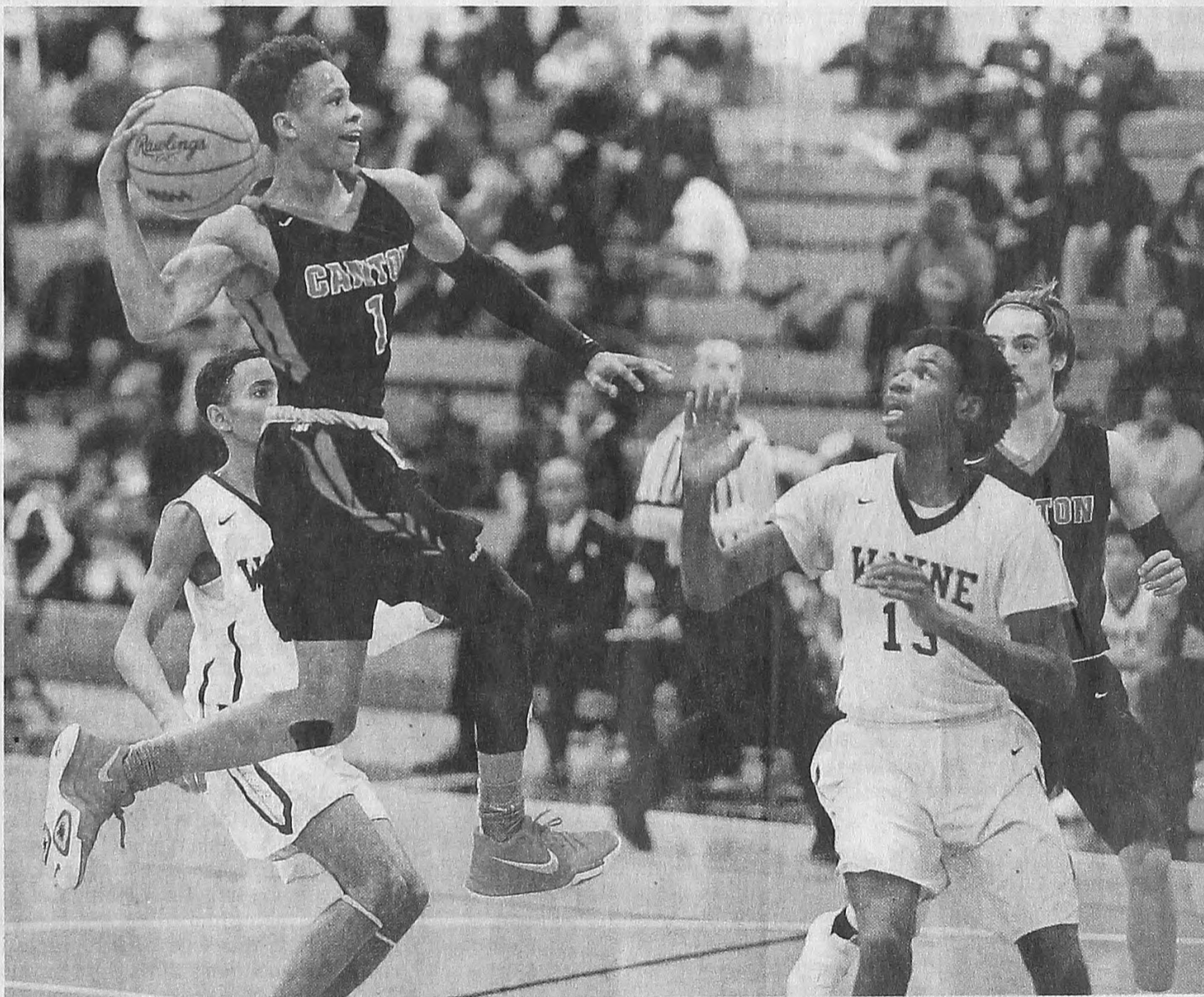
As a junior, Alsobrooks was a member of Churchill's Division 1 district championship baseball team and, during the summer, he played for the Michigan Bulls, where he won his second national championship in a row at the American Amateur Baseball Congress World Series in Waterbury, Conn. The

See **ALSOBROOKS**, Page 3B



On hand for Drew Alsobrooks' letter of intent signing were Churchill coaches (top row, from left) Bill DeFillippo, Ron Targosz, Jari Brown, Mike Brooks and Andy Wahl.

COLLEGE SIGNING



Canton point guard B. Artis White takes the ball to the basket during a game last year against Wayne Memorial. THOMAS BEAUDOIN

FATHER KNOWS BEST

Canton's White signs with Western Michigan

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With his father Benny White being a former Michigan State player and a longtime college and high school basketball coach, it only seemed natural that his son B. Artis would follow a similar path.

But the speedy Canton senior point guard, who signed an NCAA Division I letter of intent Nov. 14 with Western Michigan University, had another passion as a youth growing up.

His favorite game was "Call of Duty." Basketball was just an afterthought.

"He's been coaching me in basketball ever since sixth grade," B. Artis said of his father, who recently took the Birmingham Groves High varsity job. "Didn't even really want to play basketball. I love video games, but he kept



Canton senior guard B. Artis White (right), with his father Benny, recently signed a basketball letter of intent with Western Michigan.

See **WHITE**, Page 2B

CHARITY BASKETBALL GAME

Harlem Wizards to play Northville faculty Nov. 27

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Tricks hoops and alley-oops will be coming Tuesday, Nov. 27, to Northville High School as the high-flying Harlem Wizards will provide an evening of basketball entertainment.

The Wizards will take on Northville administrators, faculty and coaches in a fundraising event to benefit the Northville Mustangs Boosters Club.

Game time is 7 p.m. at Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile Road. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Among those scheduled to play include Northville Principal Tony Koski, who will team up with varsity coaches Matt Ladach (football), John Kostrzewa (baseball), Tim Dalton (cross country/track) and Nancy Smith (cross country).

Founded in 1962 by New York sports promoter Howie Davis and now celebrating their 56th season, the Wizards will put on an interactive show featuring a dazzling show of hoops artistry, including the "Wiz Kids" pregame warm-up, contests, comedy, slam dunks, audience participation, dance extravaganza and merchandise giveaways.

The Wizards feature four different units that travel around the country under the names Broadway, Showtime, Swoop and Rocket. They raised more than \$2 million last season playing in more than 400 U.S. communities.

Among Harlem's most prominent alumni is Basketball Hall of Fame player Connie Hawkins, who spent two

See **WIZARDS**, Page 2B



The Harlem Wizards will put on a family friendly show Nov. 27 at Northville High School.

HARLEMWIZARDS.COM

PREP VOLLEYBALL

KLAA all-conference team unveiled

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Led by overall champion and Division 1 semifinalist Northville, the Kensington Lakes Activities Association recently announced its all-conference team along with its honorable mention squad.

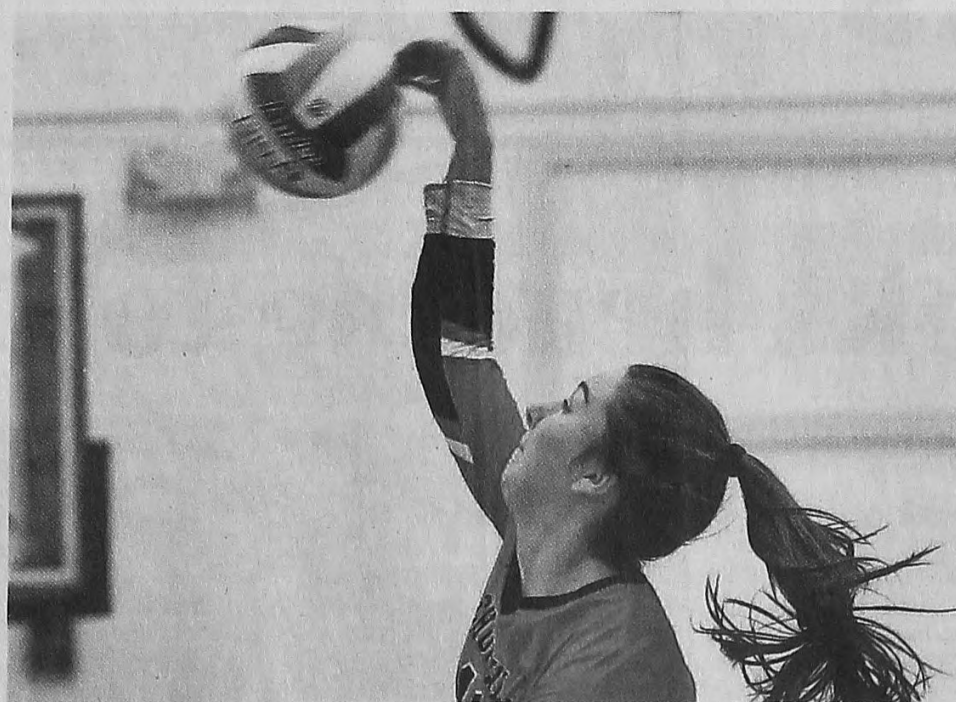
Here are the results.

All-Conference (West)

Northville: Hannah Grant, Sr. libero; Clare McNamara, Jr. middle hitter; Jenna Boksha, Soph. outside hitter; Gabi Fissette, Sr. setter; **Novi:** Jaeda Porter, Sr. OH; Shannon Jennings, Jr. setter; Rachel Jennings, Soph. libero; **Brighton:** Celia Cullen, Sr. setter; Analise Berry, Sr. libero; Madison Opre, Sr. OH; **Hartland:** Megan Acs, Sr. OH; Gabi Skinner, Sr. MH; **Salem:** Rory McMaster, Sr. setter; Makai Quan, Soph. OH; **Howell:** Sydney Romanaitis, Sr. libero; Amy Henderson, Sr. OH; **Canton:** Holly Stefanek, Sr. OH; **Plymouth:** Kayla Courtney, Sr. MH.

All-Conference (East)

Livonia Churchill: Sarah Dunn, Jr. OH; Grace Vaeth, Sr. setter; Jessica Maladecki, Jr. libero; Summer Clark, Sr. MB; **Livonia Stevenson:** Abby Cleveland, Jr. setter; Libby Cleveland, Jr. MH; Sedona Coon, Jr. MH; **Livonia Franklin:** Joanie Evans, Sr. libero; Ja-



Churchill junior outside hitter Sarah Dunn was among four Chargers to earn all-KLAA honors. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

mia Murray, Soph. OH; Kaitlyn Merrill, Jr. OH; **Belleville:** A'nya Griffin, Sr. libero; Maddison Bennett, Sr. setter; **Dearborn:** Lillian Grantham, Jr. setter; T'yanna Rutherford, Sr. OH; **Westland John Glenn:** Jessica Florn, Soph. OH; Mya Tarrance, Soph. OH; **Dearborn Fordson:** Ayah Zaban, Sr. setter; **Wayne Memorial:** Megan Blair, Sr. libero.

Honorable mention (West)

Northville: Nyia Setla, Jr. DS; **Novi:** Gaby Cummings, Soph. OH; **Brighton:** Elaine Halonen, Jr. OH; **Hartland:** Vera Storm, Jr. libero; **Salem:** Nakia Quan, Sr. OH; **Howell:** Marisa Poma, Sr. setter; **Canton:** Amanda Wilyard, Sr. setter; **Plymouth:** Hannah Ramer, Sr. OH.

Honorable mention (East)

Churchill: Molly Chantres, Sr. OH; **Stevenson:** Erin Pietruszka, Jr. libero; **Franklin:** Abi Atteveld, Sr. MH; **Belleville:** Jasmine Jones, Jr. MB; **Dearborn:** Hayley Lindow, Soph. MH; **John Glenn:** Briean Bagwell, Sr. libero; **Fordson:** Jana Chahine, Sr. libero; **Wayne:** Jade Elder, Sr. MH.

Final standings

West Division: 1. Northville, 11-0 (overall), 7-0 (division); 2. Novi, 9-2, 7-0; 3. Brighton, 9-2, 5-3; 4. Hartland, 7-5, 4-3; 5. Salem, 6-5, 3-4; 6. Howell, 5-6, 2-5; 7. Canton, 4-7, 1-6; 8. Plymouth, 3-8, 0-7.

East Division: 1. Churchill, 11-0 (overall), 7-0 (division); 2. Stevenson, 8-3, 6-1; 3. Franklin, 5-6, 5-2; 4. Belleville, 4-7, 4-3; 5. Dearborn, 3-8, 3-4; 6. John Glenn, 2-9, 2-5; 7. Fordson, 1-10, 1-6; 8. Wayne, 0-11, 0-7.

Association champion

Northville.

MHSAA tourney champs

Division 1 regional 5: Northville; **Division 1 district:** Churchill.

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons.

Wizards

Continued from Page 1B

years touring with the Wizards during the prime of his career. More than 25 ex-NBA players have worn the Wizards jersey including Nate "Tiny" Archibald, Ray Felix, Mario Ellie and Hawthorne Wingo.

The Wizards have also toured many foreign countries, with 10 tours of China since 2000. Other tours included a USO tour of the Far East, as well as trips to Italy, Belgium, Taiwan, Israel, Malaysia, Brazil, Argentina, Poland and Venezuela.

Crowds as large as 10,000-plus have watched the Wizards in soccer stadiums, bull rings and basketball arenas. The Wizards have done numerous char-

itable events at New York City's famed Madison Square Garden.

"We are delighted to host the Wizards," Northville Mustangs Booster Club president Martha Michalak said. "They are superb showmen who deliver fantastic all-ages entertainment."

General admission seats are \$10. Reserved seats, in the front row of the bleachers, are \$20. Courtside seats are \$30, which include a meet-and-greet

with the Wizards prior to the game and discounted souvenirs.

Tickets can be purchased in advance online (prior to 11:59 p.m. Monday, Nov. 26) at <https://www.harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets/>. Tickets at the door are \$12 per person.

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons.

White

Continued from Page 1B

pushing me. I was crying at the house, but he pushed me and basketball is now the game I love. I can't get away from it, can't stop playing it."

B. Artis, however, hasn't completely given up his No. 1 hobby.

"I for sure still play video games, I play them all," B. Artis said. "I used to skateboard, too. It helped me with my balance, all of that. My dad didn't like it, so... I didn't like it either. But it is what it is."

Basketball gene

Sometimes dad knows best and who can argue with Benny, a former all-city and all-state guard from Detroit Northern who went on to earn four letters at Michigan State, where he was the team's Most Improved Player (1972-73), a co-captain and assist leader (1975-76).

After graduating from MSU, Benny went into the collegiate coaching ranks, where he made stops at Wayne State, Albion, University of Detroit Mercy (twice), San Jose State and Eastern Michigan (six seasons). He was also the varsity coach at Detroit King for 15 years, carving out a 201-89 record, and also served as an executive assistant to Detroit Mayor Dave Bing.

So is it son like father on the basketball court?

"I think the only thing I see similar would be that he does have the desire to win, he takes pride in taking care of the basketball," Benny said. "But game-wise, he's way more athletic than I was, just because of quickness, speed and jumping ability."

Making strides

Last season, White averaged 16 points, four assists, four rebounds and two steals per game as the Chiefs finished 19-2 and captured the Kensington Lakes Activities Association Black Division title.

But his evolution as a lead guard began as a spindly freshman on the varsity for coach Jim Reddy.

"I think he does a lot of different things," Reddy said. "First, he handles the ball so well, which makes it tough for any team to press us because he can literally break the press himself with his ball-handling ability. His I.Q. is high. He's always been able to shoot it. As a



On hand for Canton guard B. Artis White's national letter of intent signing day was his mother Staci. BRAD EMONS | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

freshman, he started for us on a team that went 20-0. He averaged 7½ points a game ... he got open threes and he knocked them down. And then he's finally gotten a lot better at finishing at the rim and that comes with maturity, like we talked about. He's taller and he's stronger now. He's a tough cover for anybody and he's still getting better defensively. He was a good defender last year. I see him being a great defender for us this year."

White also had Division I offers from Oakland, Toledo, U-D and Northern Kentucky, but felt most comfortable with WMU head coach Steve Hawkins, now in his 16th season, and his staff of assistants.

The right fit

"The new assistant coach there, (Thomas Kelly), I had a good relationship with him, my dad had a good relationship with him," White said. "They needed a point guard, so I thought I could be the one that could help them be their point guard."

White said he gained five pounds and grew two inches over the summer. He's put on 25 pounds since his freshman year.

"My official height is 5-foot-11, but you can list me at 6-foot," White said with a smile.

Reddy said White has not only matured physically, but is also stronger mentally.

"He's going to have an excellent year," Reddy said. "I don't think there's any way he doesn't. He's been special for us for three years. He's going to be a four-year starter here and he's going to score

over 1,000 points ... hopefully, he'll finish with an outstanding year and I don't see why that wouldn't happen."

White has tried to expand his repertoire as a point guard going into his senior season.

"Going to the hole, finishing with contact, been struggling with that for many years," White said. "I was real good at it in eighth grade, but now that I'm in high school, there's better competition, but I've been working on that a lot and getting stronger."

Top backcourt

Canton's starting backcourt is in good hands with the return of an equally jet-quick guard in Vinson Sigmon, also a college prospect. The two speedy seniors will be a nightmare for opposing teams to defend this season.

"I would say the most underrated guard in Michigan, no doubt," White said of his running mate. "College coaches have been sleeping on him. I don't know what's taking them so long, but they have to keep an eye on him, for real. He pushes me all the time. Defensively, he really gets on me, pushes me hard, makes me better every day."

Even though he was a coach, Benny White tried not to be an overbearing parent when his son preferred video games and even skateboarding over basketball.

"I was disappointed, in a sense, just because I could see he had some ability, but he acted like he didn't want to play," Benny said. "He went out for football, did that for about a week, didn't want to do that. So it was a challenge and I was staying away from him. My wife (Staci)

kind of took him more to AAU practices and made him go more than I did. At the time, I was coaching college ball, so she was the one when he didn't want to go, she was still making him go."

Family ties

Benny and Staci White also have a 5-year-old son Beniah, and a daughter Demi, who is a senior nursing major and member of the Michigan State dance team.

During B. Artis's junior season, Benny took a year off from coaching, so the two were able to bond together a little bit more.

"I was fortunate enough last year to not have a job and so I was able to spend time with my family, him probably more than the rest of them or my wife," Benny said. "But I was able to spend time with him daily, take him to school, picking him up, going to get something to eat, work out, taking him swimming ... so we spent a lot of time together last year to a point where I don't think I got on his nerves, but it was, like, I was his best friend in a sense. I remember the third day I was picking him up from school and he said, 'Dad, are you going to pick me up every day?' I said, 'Yeah, I'll be here every day.'"

Because of scheduling conflicts with his new job at Groves, Benny will only be able to see a handful of his son's games this season in person. Benny was unable to attend B. Artis's signing ceremony because he had a scrimmage scheduled that day.

"I feel comfortable where we're at," Benny said. "I think he's good, too, and I don't have to be there every day. I found out we do have some Thursday games, so according to the schedule, that's going to allow me to see eight or nine of his games."

And when he's able to attend as a parent and fan, Benny will sit back and enjoy watching a player with elite speed with the basketball.

"This is my 10th year as coach and he's the quickest and fastest with the ball that we've had," Reddy said.

And when he's off the basketball court, nobody has a quicker trigger.

"During his freshman year, we said, 'You can't do it. You can play on the weekends' and it's kind of the same pattern now," Benny said of the video habit. "But he still goes at it though."

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons.

PREP FOOTBALL

OAA announces all-stars after big year

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It was a good year for Oakland Activities Association football.

Thirteen of the association's 23 programs finished with a winning record and 12 of them qualified for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's state playoffs. Five of them — Clarkston and West Bloomfield from the OAA Red, Groves and Harrison from the OAA White and Farmington from the OAA Blue — were still alive as the playoffs steamed to the regionals.

The regular-season league champions were Clarkston (Red), Oak Park (White) and Birmingham Seaholm (Blue).

Following is the OAA's 2018 all-OAA report listed by division:

OAA Red Division

FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Clarkston 5-1 (7-2 overall); 2. West Bloomfield 4-2 (7-2); 3. Oxford 4-2 (7-2); 4. Rochester Adams 3-3 (6-3); 5. Lake Orion 3-3 (5-4); 6. Southfield A&T 2-4 (3-6); 7. Bloomfield Hills 0-6 (2-7)

ALL-OAA REPORT

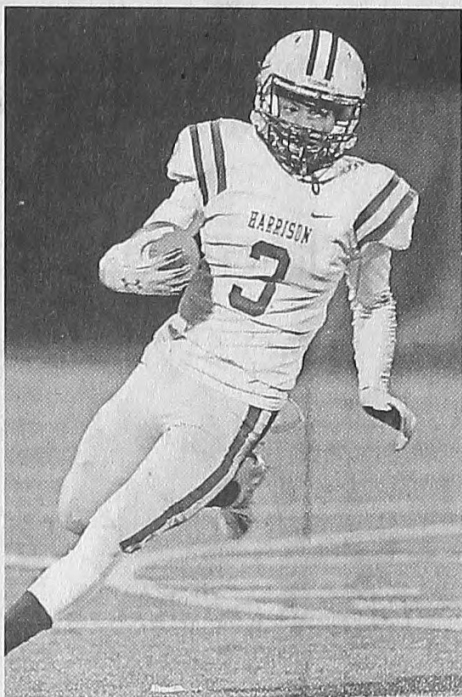
CLARKSTON: Jake Billette (senior, running back); Rocco Spindler (sophomore, offensive line); Garrett Dellinger (sophomore, offensive line); Josh Luther (senior, defensive back); Brendan Barker (senior, linebacker); Jake Hoastetter (senior, running back); Keagan King (senior, defensive back); Javier Suggs (senior, defensive line); Jake Jensen (senior, quarterback)

WEST BLOOMFIELD: Lance Dixon (senior, linebacker/wide receiver); Tre Mosley (senior, wide receiver/free safety); Donovan Edwards (sophomore, running back); Makari Paige (junior, free safety); Cornell Wheeler (junior, middle linebacker); CJ Harris (junior, quarterback); Tyrone Broden (senior, wide receiver); Sterling Miles (junior, defensive end)

OXFORD: Drew Carpenter (junior, quarterback); Thomas Wandrie (senior, linebacker); Austin Schlicht (senior, linebacker); Marcus Hufnagel (senior, linebacker); Trent Myre (senior, running back); Jerome Roberson (senior, defensive line); Evan Brunning (senior, defensive line); Sam Barrott (senior, linebacker)

LAKE ORION: Hunter Chambers (senior, offensive line); Chris Vernon (senior, offensive line); Kobe Manzo (senior, offensive line); Josh Wuensch (senior, linebacker); Chris Brown (senior, defensive back); Isaac Kinnie (junior, linebacker)

ROCHESTER ADAMS: Cole Mitchell (senior, defensive tackle); Reed Vogt



Farmington Harrison's Roderick Heard earned all-OAA honors. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

(senior, defensive end); Reece Collins (senior, defensive back); Nick Kania (senior, defensive back); Carter Farris (junior, quarterback); Anthony Patritto (junior, running back)

SOUTHFIELD A&T: Christian Broaden (senior, slot); Devin Baldwin (senior, defensive end); Bryce Austin (junior, defensive tackle); Anthony Romphf (junior, quarterback)

BLOOMFIELD HILLS: Alec Ward (junior, wide receiver/defensive back); Jacob Gasso (senior, running back); Ethan Polselli (senior, offensive line)

SPECIAL TEAMS: BenPatten (Rochester Adams, kicker); Tristan Mattson (Clarkston, punter)

COACH OF THE YEAR: Bud Rowley (Oxford)

OAA White Division

FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Oak Park 6-0 (8-1 overall); 2. Birmingham Groves 5-1 (7-2); 3. Farmington Harrison 4-2 (6-32); 4. Rochester Hills Stoney Creek 2-4 (3-6); 5. Rochester 2-4 (2-7); 6. Troy Athens 1-5 (1-8); 7. Troy 1-5 (2-7)

ALL-OAA REPORT

OAK PARK: D'Wan Mathis (senior, quarterback); Enzo Jennings (junior, defensive back); Justin Rogers (junior, offensive line/defensive line); Dondi Price (junior, offensive line); Marcus Ayers (senior, linebacker); Phil Steward (senior, running back); Torriano Richardson (senior, running back); Shelby Givins (senior, offensive line); Maliq Carr (junior, defensive back)

BIRMINGHAM GROVES: Joel Mitchell (senior, linebacker); Khalil Dawsey

(senior, wide receiver/defensive back); Damonte McCurdy (senior, running back/defensive back); Henry Van Faus-sien (senior, linebacker); Josh Salter (senior, running back/defensive back); Charlie Riddle (senior, defensive line); Tyriq Heard (senior, defensive line); Jacob Edelman (senior, defensive line)

FARMINGTON HARRISON: Rod Heard (senior, running back/defensive back); Maverick Hanson (senior, offensive line); Vincent Rawls (senior, running back/linebacker); Xavier Goldsmith (senior, defensive back); Caleb Williams (senior, offensive line/defensive line); Ben Williams (senior, wide receiver/defensive back); Andrew Brown (senior, offensive line/defensive line)

ROCHESTER HILLS STONEY CREEK: Frank Potenza III (senior, quarterback); Danny Nixon (senior, offensive line); Adam Quni (senior, defensive back); Andre Demetral (senior, wide receiver); Zach Denä (junior, defensive back); Cam Burford (sophomore, running back)

ROCHESTER: Drake Reid (senior, wide receiver); Nick Grabke (senior, running back); Gabe Szafran (senior, ath); Dean Raciti (senior, offensive line); David Robinson (senior, offensive line); Ryan Noble (senior, defensive line)

TROY ATHENS: Austin Kenan (senior, running back); David Demon (senior, offensive line); AJ Rasa (junior, linebacker); Waides Ashmon (sophomore, linebacker)

TROY: Jake Volek (senior, center/linebacker); Matt Johansson (senior, wide receiver/defensive back); Quest Bigelow (senior, wide receiver/defensive back); Cole Hayden (senior, offensive line/defensive line)

SPECIAL TEAMS: Davis Digiovanni (Troy Athens, kicker); Christian Thomas (Groves, punter)

COACH OF THE YEAR: Greg Carter (Oak Park)

OAA Blue Division

FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Birmingham Seaholm 6-0 (7-2 overall); 2. Farmington 5-1 (6-3); 3. Auburn Hills Avondale 4-2 (7-2); 4. Ferndale 4-2 (7-2); 5. Royal Oak 3-3 (5-4); 6. North Farmington 3-3 (3-6); 7. Hazel Park 2-4 (4-5); 8. Berkley 1-5 (2-7); 9. Pontiac 0-6 (1-8)

ALL-OAA REPORT

BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM: Chase Mentag (senior, running back); Gray Kinnie (senior, quarterback); Max Schumaker (senior running back/defensive back); James DeWald (junior, linebacker); Will McBride (senior, linebacker); Caden DeWald (sophomore, offensive line); Paul Jokisch (senior, defensive line); Sathya Siddapureddy (junior, offensive line/defensive line); Alex Oancea (senior, offensive line)

FARMINGTON: Kendall Williams (senior, running back/defensive back); Jordan Turner (junior, tight end/linebacker); Donovan King (senior, offensive line/defensive line); Delmon Sewell (senior, running back/defensive line); Anthony Reaves (senior, quarterback); Engelbera Vela (senior, offensive line/linebacker); Aaron Watson (junior, defensive back); Daivid Palvshaj (junior, offensive line/defensive line)

AUBURN HILLS AVONDALE: Derrick Hinton (senior, running back/defensive back); Kobe Anthony (senior, running back/defensive back); Gatlin Coleman (senior, offensive line/defensive line); Baba Conata (senior, tight end/linebacker); Torey Coleman (junior, running back/linebacker); Chris Sawyers (senior, offensive line/linebacker); AriDotan (senior, quarterback/linebacker)

FERNDALE: Torian Belton (senior, offensive line/defensive line); Tre'jon Pickett (junior, running back); Donovan Pitts (senior, running back/linebacker); Angel Deray (junior, offensive line/defensive line); Antoine Brown (sophomore, defensive back); Dylan Martin (junior, linebacker); DeJuan Parkman (senior, defensive line)

ROYAL OAK: Cody Remick (senior, offensive line/defensive line); James Haser (junior, offensive line/defensive line); Joe Binkowski (senior, wide receiver/strong safety); Earle Weaver (junior, running back/defensive back); Connor Jackson (senior, running back/linebacker)

NORTH FARMINGTON: Jon Brunette (junior, inside linebacker/fullback/quarterback); Matt Corporan Cole (senior, free safety/taillback/return); Zach Wiggle (senior, center/nose tackle); Kevin Prabhakar (junior, inside linebacker); Myles Gresham (junior, defensive back/taillback)

HAZEL PARK: Cam Wyatt (senior, wide receiver/defensive back); Noah Hallek (senior, offensive line/defensive line); RJ Best (senior, defensive line); Romel Smith (senior, defensive line)

BERKLEY: Evan Payne (senior, middle linebacker); Jeremiah Watkins (senior, running back); Justin Anagonye (junior, defensive tackle)

PONTIAC: Rudy Simpson (senior, linebacker/defensive line/running back); Moises DeJesus (senior, corner back/wide receiver); Tarah Hazard (sophomore, defensive line/tight end)

SPECIAL TEAMS: Justin Klotz (Seaholm, kicker); Mark Ardwin (Royal Oak, punter)

COACH OF THE YEAR: Jim DeWald (Birmingham Seaholm)

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @MartyBudner.

Alsobrooks

Continued from Page 1B

year before, the Bulls captured the National Pastime 16-and-under championship in Louisville, Ky.

"We've always had a really, really good team and a lot of talented players," Alsobrooks said.

His fastball topped out at 89 mph last summer and he believes he has a higher ceiling.

"It's getting up there, it's getting there and I hope I can get it up to the 90s (mph) by next spring," said Alsobrooks, who throws four-seam and two-seam fastballs, along with a curveball, slider and a change-up.

Alsobrooks, who carries a 4.0 grade-point average, is leaning toward something in the business world. He plans to study finance or accounting at CMU.

Meanwhile, his older brother Brian is the starting kicker-punter and a backup quarterback at California (Pa.) University, an NCAA Division II school.

Brian, a red-shirt junior transfer from Eastern Michigan, was named Co-Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Special Teams Player of the Week for Oct. 22 following a 23-0 win over Mercyhurst.

For the season, Brian made 9-of-13 field-goal attempts, booted 41-of-45 extra points and scored 68 points for the Vulcans (7-4). Just finishing his sophomore season after transferring from EMU, he has two more years of eligibility. (Drew was a kicker and punter for Churchill as well.)

Although two are separated by 330 miles, they remain in regular contact.

"Me and him are constantly talking, we talk about sports," Drew Alsobrooks said. "We talk about football, we talk about baseball, we talk about that stuff



Churchill's Drew Alsobrooks was a three-year starter at quarterback and set records in football, but he's headed to play baseball at Central Michigan University. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

all the time. We're really close. So we're always trying to make each other better, too."

And much the credit goes to his older brother.

"(Brian) definitely kind of got me to where I am. He was always encouraging me a lot, he was always pushing me and working with me," Drew said. "Even in baseball, he was always being there to play catch, help me hit."

The 6-foot-2, 210-pound Alsobrooks re-wrote some of the Churchill record books as a passer as he helped the Char-

gers to two straight Division 2 playoff berths and 16 wins.

The three-year varsity player threw for 40 career touchdowns and just under 4,000 yards. During his senior year, he passed for 1,846 yards and 20 TDs. He also rushed for more than 1,000 career yards, including 500 this season with six TDs.

Alsobrooks finished his career with 11 career field goals and averaged just shy of 40 yards per punt.

"Drew is one of the best we've had here," Churchill football coach Bill De-

Fillippo said of the two-year starter. "A talented player, tremendous competitor and great leader. Drew is a 4.0 student and has great character. I feel very fortunate to have coached Drew."

And with one more season of baseball, Churchill coach Ron Targosz is looking forward to seeing what Alsobrooks can bring for his senior season following an injury-plagued junior season due to a back issue.

"He tried to fight through it a little bit. (I) actually shut him down," Targosz said. "In our regional game against Grosse Pointe South, he actually played the field, but didn't hit, so he played the outfield for us."

The back issue cropped up again during football season, but Alsobrooks was able to fight through it.

"We're hoping over the winter we can get healthy a little bit," Targosz said. "I'm hoping that he can return to form like we expect him to, because he'll be our No. 1 (pitcher) this year. He throws hard, but the main thing we have to do that we've been working on the past couple of winters is to develop a little bit more of an off-speed pitch, because he's got a pretty good fastball and slider. He throws in the mid-80s to high 80s on a good day ... but if we can get that change-up to 80-81 mph range instead of 84, it will make a big difference in keeping kids off-balance a little bit more."

But according to Targosz, there's no doubt that Alsobrooks has a big-time live arm.

"If we can get his control ... something where he's had five-, six-walk games to no-walk games, he's going to be even much better, obviously," he said.

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmonsL.

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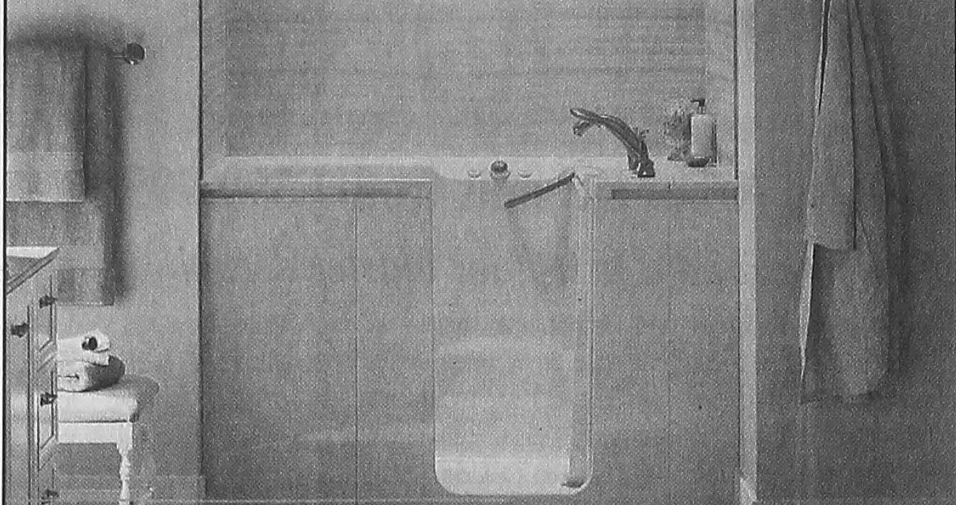


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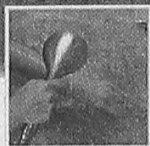


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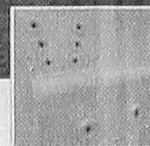
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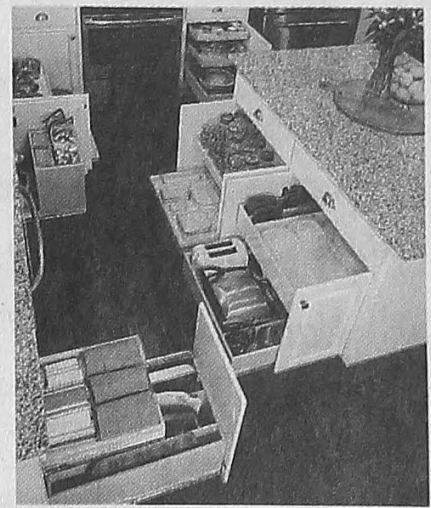
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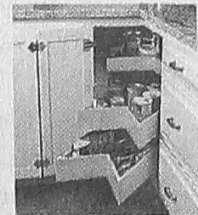
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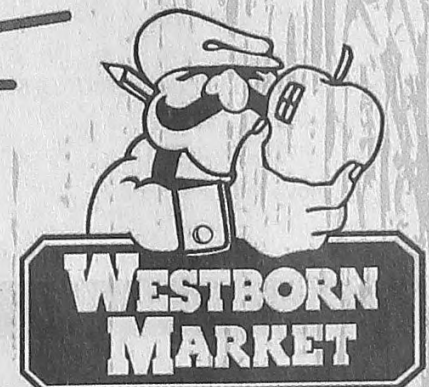
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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

homes

New Single-family Homes in Ann Arbor with Ann Arbor Schools from \$399,995

National builder Toll Brothers rolls out two-story homes and a first-floor master design

National home builder Toll Brothers is proud to announce the addition of three new home designs starting from \$399,995 in the charming community of Trailwoods in Ann Arbor. Two single-family homes and a first-floor master home are now available and feature 2 to 4 bedrooms, open layouts, fabulous master suites, and well-appointed kitchens. "These designs offer open layouts, flexible space to fit your lifestyle, and comfortable living at an exceptional price," says Nadia Mekled, Regional Sales Manager for Toll Brothers.

The first-floor master design, the Westwood, has 2 to 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, first-floor flex space, and a second floor with a spacious loft, bedroom, and full bath perfect for guests, with 1,955 sq. ft. of living space. Pricing starts at \$419,955. "This design is perfect for those searching for single-level living where all your main rooms and master bedroom are on the first floor," says Ms. Mekled.

The two-story homes, the Remington, starting at \$399,995, and the Winona, starting at \$429,995, range

from 2,123 to 2,585 sq. ft., 3 to 4 bedrooms, 2 to 3 1/2 baths, first-floor flex space, second floor laundry room, and an open layout with a spacious kitchen with a large island and spacious pantry that opens to the family room.



All homes at Trailwoods feature 42" upper cabinetry, granite countertops, Whirlpool stainless steel appliances, ceramic tile in master bath, and handsome trim details. In addition, each home offers hundreds of pre-priced options to personalize at the builder's new Design Studio in Plymouth.

The community is tucked into a gorgeous country setting in Ann Arbor with Ann Arbor schools, low Scio Township

taxes, and city water and sewer. Amenities include sidewalks on both sides of the street, a ten-acre wooded nature area, and walking paths throughout.

For those searching for immediate or quick occupancy, Trailwoods has several homes

including floor plans, virtual tours, and directions, visit TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor.com or call (734) 995-5503. Toll Brothers is also building in two other locations in Ann Arbor. **Low-Maintenance Resort Living** North Oaks of Ann Arbor is the region's premier resort-class community situated in a stunning 109-acre setting surrounded by towering trees and open meadows. Two collections of low-maintenance homes are available: Townhomes from the upper \$300,000s and Villas from the low \$500,000s. The Villas range from 2,041 to 2,631+ square feet and offer first- or second-floor master suites, island kitchens, open layouts, loft space, and more. The Townhomes range from 1,861 to 2,400+ sq. ft. and include a 2-car garage and the option to add a rooftop deck.

A stunning new three-story clubhouse features a fitness center, yoga room, billiards, great room with fireplace, verandas overlooking the lap and wading pools, locker rooms and a play park. North Oaks is exceptionally located just minutes from the University of

Michigan's north campus, the VA Hospital, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, and downtown Ann Arbor. Children attend acclaimed Ann Arbor Schools with the elementary and middle schools just 3 minutes away. For details, call 734-224-6686 or visit North-Oaks.com.

Last Chance for Villas

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Toll Brothers is an award-winning Fortune 500 Company and was founded in 1967. Toll Brothers is currently building in 20 states nationwide and is a publicly owned company whose stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: TOL). For more information, visit TollBrothers.com/MI. This is not an offering where prohibited by law.

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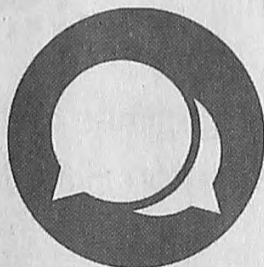
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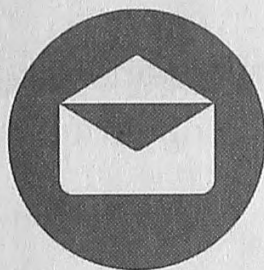
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 "Everwood" actor Wolf
- 6 Pigs' home
- 9 Dutch brew
- 15 — of Mexico
- 19 * Ship's load
- 20 Lead-in to historic
- 21 Durango dish
- 22 Baseball's Hershey's
- 23 * Subject to interpretation
- 25 * Old Greek squares
- 26 "Stretch" car
- 27 Steak, e.g.
- 28 Prefix with lethal
- 29 * Second U.S. first lady
- 31 At a distance
- 33 Tattles
- 34 * Chum
- 38 Give slack to
- 42 Son of Eliel Saanen
- 43 * Dr. Evil's cat in Austin Powers films
- 47 1801-05 veep Burr
- 51 Beatles song on "Let It Be"
- 52 Observe
- 55 Song for one
- 56 Linguist Chomsky
- 57 Political plot
- 61 Knight's glove
- 63 "Serpico" actor M. — Walsh
- 65 * Jumping up and down on a bouncy stick
- 69 Comb buzzer
- 70 Native suffix
- 71 See 8-Down
- 73 * Pairs of consecutive letters
- 75 Spying setup
- 77 Likely (to)
- 80 Meadow
- 82 Birds building homes
- 84 Poster pins
- 88 Buzzing home pest
- 91 Large 1940s computer
- 93 "Huh?"
- 94 Female kin
- 95 Artist's base
- 99 * Suffer a lot
- 101 Dog variety
- 103 * She directed "The Hurt Locker"
- 107 — Sea (salt lake in Asia)
- 110 Coy
- 111 Revisions
- 112 * Too much self-esteem
- 116 Beloved of Tristan
- 119 * Bay off Nigeria and Togo's coast
- 123 — de plume
- 124 Brit's "Bye!"
- 128 Ye — Shoppe
- 129 Rendezvous
- 130 Really succeed (or what literally appears six times in this puzzle)
- 132 Old Greek concert halls
- 133 Shahs, e.g.
- 134 Shoot (for)
- 135 Sermon text
- 136 Philosopher Immanuel
- 137 Grand home
- 138 Hosp. staff
- 139 Sea vessels
- 10 Wise men
- 11 Air pollution
- 12 Reid and Lipinski
- 13 "Seinfeld" gal
- 14 Nielsen of "Mr. Magoo"
- 15 Ghana's former name
- 16 Dickens' — Heep
- 17 "— tell ya!"
- 18 Dental string
- 24 It uses 108 cards
- 29 In — (single-file)
- 30 Gillette razor brand
- 31 Toon bear
- 32 Canon camera
- 34 Compound with nitrogen
- 35 '83 Keaton-Garr film
- 36 Letter-shaped girder
- 37 Easy putts, informally
- 39 Weep loudly in poetry
- 41 Ultimate degree
- 44 Health supplement store, familiarly
- 45 Jump
- 46 Pig
- 48 Part to play
- 49 Bullring cries
- 50 Observe
- 53 R&D center
- 54 Song for two
- 58 Singer Dylan
- 59 Opposed to, in dialect
- 60 Theater box
- 62 Orderly
- 64 Floor piece
- 66 Tax org.
- 67 Election analyst Silver
- 68 FBI guys
- 72 Umps' kin
- 74 — Lanka
- 76 Oklahoma tribe
- 77 "Moby-Dick" captain
- 78 Flow out
- 79 Fix a flat?
- 81 Height: Abbr.
- 83 Former Swedish car
- 85 Toddler, e.g.
- 86 Buzzing musical toy
- 87 Is in a huff
- 89 Source of warmth on some trains and ships
- 90 Belly laugh
- 92 Special FX technology
- 96 Poppa
- 97 Native suffix
- 98 Unit of resistance
- 100 Mean beast
- 102 "Doggone!"
- 104 Totally spoil
- 105 Century divs.
- 106 Dark modern film genre
- 108 Breakdown of social norms
- 109 Long-term inmates
- 112 Download on a Kindle
- 113 Radner of comedy
- 114 Nash of comedy
- 115 "My heart skipped —"
- 117 Weaving frames
- 118 Driver's lic. issuer
- 120 Sicilian volcano
- 121 Night, in Nice
- 122 — dixit (assertion with no proof)
- 124 Song for three
- 125 "Waterloo" quartet
- 126 Lean
- 127 Gets mature
- 130 Rove (about)
- 131 Flow out

DOWN

- 1 Union enemy
- 2 Arrived
- 3 "Eat — eaten" (survival adage)
- 4 9-to-5er's cry of relief
- 5 Dress (up)
- 6 Flatware item
- 7 Move as if on wheels
- 8 With 71-Across, boot camp affirmative
- 9 Run up — (defer payment)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19					20				21					22						
23				24					25					26						
27				28				29						30						
				31				32					33							
34	35	36	37				38		39	40	41		42							
43					44	45						46			47	48	49	50		
51									52				53	54		55				
56					57		58	59	60				61		62					
63					64		65			66	67	68		69			70			
					71		72		73				74		75		76			
77	78	79			80		81		82				83		84		85	86	87	
88					89				90				91		92		93			
94					95			96	97	98				99		100				
101					102				103				104	105	106					
					107		108	109		110							111			
112	113	114						115					116			117	118			
119									120	121	122			123			124	125	126	127
128																				
132																				
136																				

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

SUDOKU

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

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!

ON THE FIELD WORD SEARCH

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

ANSWER KEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139
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WORDS

- ADVANTAGE
- AGGREGATE
- BALL
- BOX
- CLEAR
- CYCLE
- DEAD
- DEFENDER
- FIELD
- GOALKEEPER
- GOALMOUTH
- GUARD
- HEAD
- KICK
- KICKER
- NATIONAL
- OFFENDER
- PENALTY
- PERIOD
- PITCH
- PLAYERS
- PUNT
- REFEREE
- RUNNING
- SCISSOR
- SCORE
- SCORELINES
- SHUTOUT
- SOCCER
- STATISTICS
- TACKLE
- TEND
- THREAT
- TIMEOUT
- TRANSFER
- UNIFORM

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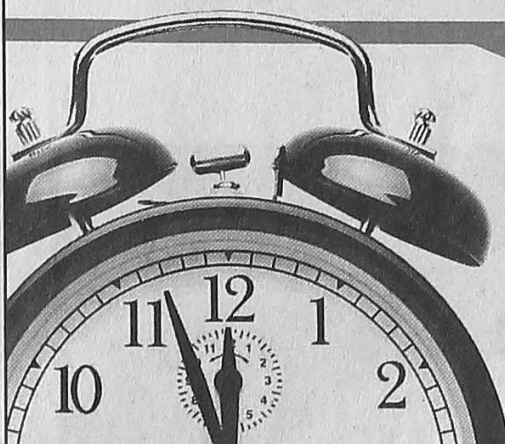
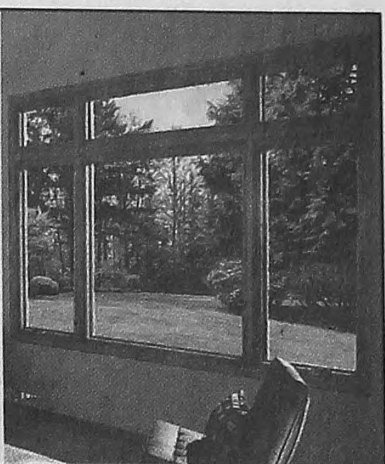
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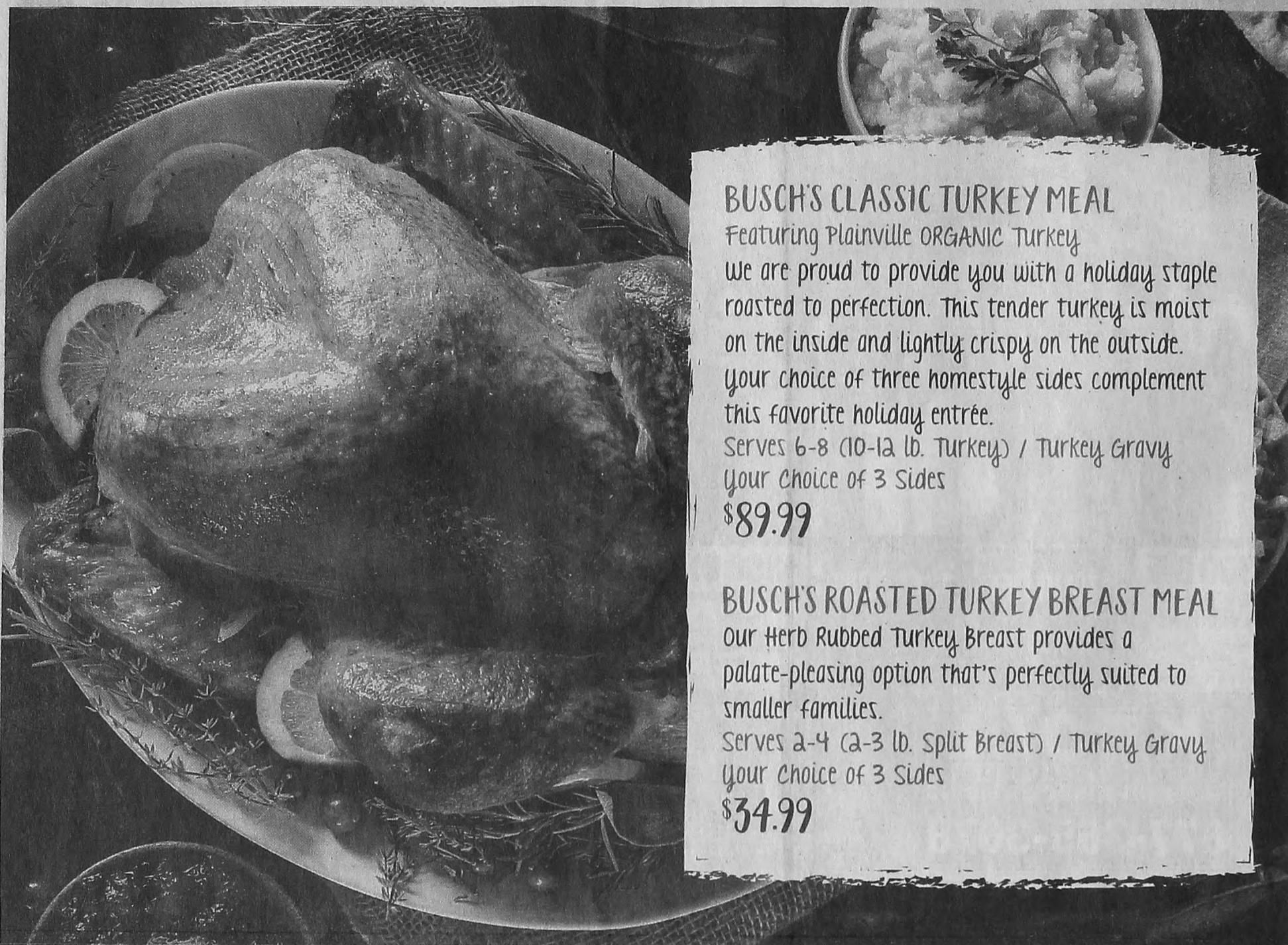
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Featuring Plainville ORGANIC Turkey. We are proud to provide you with a holiday staple roasted to perfection. This tender turkey is moist on the inside and lightly crispy on the outside. Your choice of three homestyle sides complement this favorite holiday entrée.

Serves 6-8 (10-12 lb. Turkey) / Turkey Gravy
Your Choice of 3 Sides

\$89.99

BUSCH'S ROASTED TURKEY BREAST MEAL

Our Herb Rubbed Turkey Breast provides a palate-pleasing option that's perfectly suited to smaller families.

Serves 2-4 (2-3 lb. Split Breast) / Turkey Gravy
Your Choice of 3 Sides

\$34.99

Turkey + Ham meals come cooked and ready to heat, in oven-safe containers, with instructions provided.

HOMESTYLE SIDES:

- › Mashed Potatoes
- › Whipped Sweet Potatoes
- › Cheesy Potatoes
- › Roasted Red Skin Potatoes
- › Roasted Pesto + Kale
- › Red Skin Potatoes
- › Maple Glazed Yams
- › Seasoned Green Beans
- › Green Bean Casserole
- › Sagebrush Stuffing
- › Apple Almond Stuffing
- › Cranberry Orange Relish



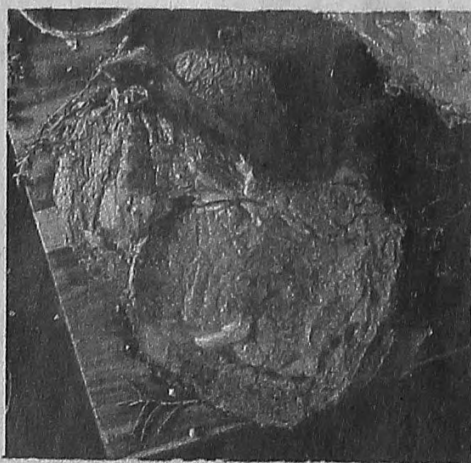
BUSCH'S SPIRAL SLICED HAM MEAL

Sweeten up your holidays with our juicy, bone-in, spiral sliced ham, which has a wonderful combination of sweet, crunchy honey glaze and hickory cured flavor. This exceptional meat is complemented by your choice of three delicious homestyle side dishes.

You can substitute a Dearborn Ham (6.5-8 lbs.) for a \$10 surcharge.

Serves 6-8 (8-9 lb. Ham) / Your Choice of 3 Sides

\$89.99



BUSCH'S GARLIC PEPPER RUBBED RIB ROAST MEAL

Sink your teeth into this USDA Choice Beef Standing Rib Roast and experience its classic tenderness and bone-roasted flavor.

Please note: the Rib Roast will be uncooked at pick-up to avoid potential overcooking during reheating. Detailed cooking instructions are included with your Holiday Meal. The total preparation time will be approximately 2 hours, depending on the degree to which you prefer your meat cooked.

Serves 6-8 (5-6 lb. Roast) / Au Jus

Your Choice of 3 Sides

\$109.99



Order in-store at our deli

or online at BUSCHS.COM

ANN ARBOR-MAIN ST. | ANN ARBOR-PLYMOUTH RD. | BRIGHTON | CANTON | CARLETON | CLINTON
DEXTER | FARMINGTON HILLS | LIVONIA | NOVI | PINCKNEY | PLYMOUTH/NORTHVILLE
ROCHESTER HILLS | SALINE | SOUTH LYON | TECUMSEH | WEST BLOOMFIELD