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Colbeck to host office hour Nov. 28

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, and District Manager Penny Crider will conduct a monthly office hour 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady Street.

Colbeck will be on hand to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of his district may have. All are welcome and no appointment is necessary.

Colbeck represents the 7th Senate District, which encompasses the cities of Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Wayne, as well as the townships of Canton, Northville and Plymouth. For more information or to contact Sen. Colbeck, go to www.SenatorPatrickColbeck.com or call 517-373-5713.

Art House exhibition

The Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street, will host a juried all-media exhibition titled Small Works. A First Friday reception is scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1. The exhibit continues through Dec. 16 during gallery hours of noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday (the gallery is closed Thanksgiving weekend). Admission is free.

For more information, call 248-344-0497 or go to www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org.

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INDEX

Classified..... B8-11
Obituaries B6

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Should it stay or should it go?

Decision delayed on razing historic house

Matt Jachman

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A decision on the fate of an 1800s house in Northville's historic district will have to wait another few weeks.

The historic district commission, which is being asked to grant the owners permission to demolish the house at 341 E. Main, decided Nov. 15 that a September public hearing on the plan had been premature and that a second hearing is required. That will take place Wednesday, Dec. 20, during the commission's next meeting.

The move delays for another month plans by Eric Guidobono,

a home builder, and his wife Renee to tear down the two-story house, which they purchased last December for \$460,000, and replace it with a three-story, 12,000-square-foot office and condominium building.

The Guidobonos say they bought the house intending to rehabilitate it for use as a company office, but that once work began it was found to be so bad-

ly deteriorated, with warped floors, a sagging roof, an insufficient stone foundation and other problems, that preserving it would be cost-prohibitive. A structural engineer, Scott Lidgard of Maverick Consulting Engineers, Inc., wrote in a report that restoration would amount to a total rebuild and recommended the house be

See HOUSE, Page A2



Lisa Jackson shows Skinny Pete's Gourmet Catnip to a potential customer at the Rochester Farmers Market.

Owners want to give cats a buzz

Local man touting Skinny Pete's Gourmet Catnip

Sharon Dargay

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It all started with some out-of-control catnip plants.

Rich Jackson planned to pull them out of his organic garden, but he had a change of heart one day in late 2014 while sketching a cartoon cat.

"I was listening to NPR and they were talking about how there is a trend of people buying for pets for the holidays. I be-

lieve they said it would be about a \$3 billion business that year," said Jackson, an animation artist and videographer from Rochester Hills. "I'm right there with a drawing of a cat and there was catnip growing all over our garden.

"All the stars aligned."

Three years later, plan and sketch have evolved into product and brand. Skinny Pete's Gourmet Catnip, sold in tins sporting Jackson's art work, is finding its way into cat lovers'

homes through craft shows, pet supply stores and Internet sales. Jackson and his wife Lisa are in talks with a major retailer and have drawn interest from As Seen On TV.

"You see so much in the dog market when you go to a pet store. But there are millions of cats, yet I think that market is overlooked," said Lisa, a former longtime Beverly Hills resident whose cat inspired the Skinny Pete's brand. "It's really a gift for the cat lover or a gift for their own cat. People love the

"You see so much in the dog market when you go to a pet store. But there are millions of cats, yet I think that market is overlooked. It's really a gift for the cat lover or a gift for their own cat. People love the packaging and the idea of it."

See CATS, Page A4

LISA JACKSON

New city council takes shape after election

Matt Jachman

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A new Northville City Council took shape Nov. 13 as three just-elected officials were sworn in, council members were assigned or reassigned to city boards and commissions and a mayor pro tem was selected.

Judge James Plakas of 35th District Court administered separate oaths of office to Mayor Ken Roth and Councilmen Sam Ekong and Patrick Giesa at city hall. All three won their races in the Nov. 7 city election; there was no one else on the ballot for any of the positions.

See COUNCIL, Page A2



Northville Councilman Sam Ekong (right) takes the oath of office for his second term, administered by Judge James Plakas, Nov. 13 at city hall. Looking on is Councilwoman Marilyn Price. MATT JACHMAN

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HOUSE

Continued from Page A1

razed.

"We just want to find a home there," Renee Guidobono told commissioners Nov. 15. "We want to put our money into something that's going to last long."

Commissioners had just received a report from a second structural engineer, chosen by the city, on the building's condition; they had postponed a decision at their October meeting to await that report.

In it, Cheryl Early of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., also described structural problems with the house, particularly in the foundation, which, she wrote, "is recommended to be



The owners of this building on East Main Street in Northville's historic district say its extremely deteriorated condition means restoring it would be cost-prohibitive. They want to tear it down and replace it with a three-story office-condominium building. FILE PHOTO

addressed in the near term" to prevent more deterioration of the wooden structure above.

But Early also wrote that "demolition of the structure is not recommended on a structural basis alone."

Ed Funke, who represents the Guidobonos, has estimated that restoration would cost as much as \$750,000.

"Our intent is to tear the building down. That's what we're here for," Funke said Nov. 15. Their grounds for wanting to raze the building, Funke noted, are that it poses a safety hazard and that saving it would not be in the best interest of a majority of the community. An applicant for a demolition permit in the historic district must base the request on at least one of four possible reasons and Funke had cited two.

The commission scheduled the second

public hearing after consultant Sally Elmiger, of the planning firm Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc., said commission rules require that a demolition application be formally accepted as complete prior to a hearing. The commission did not accept the application as complete until Nov. 15, when it did so with a 6-1 vote.

Elmiger said she researched the issue when a citizen brought it to her attention.

"We all missed that and I apologize for that," chairman James Allen told Funke and Renee Guidobono.

Commissioner David Field cast the lone no vote. He argued that the commission's guidelines for considering a demolition application require the owners to show that

alternatives have been considered, including showing evidence that the property has been offered for sale, before the application is complete. "It's just a tough way to go," he said.

Elmiger said she also looked at that provision in the rules, but had come to a different conclusion. "I don't think it means they have to prove they put the building up for sale," she said. Funke has emphatically said the building is not for sale.

The building, which Lidgard's report dates to 1865, has been vacant for a while; Maguire's Fine Art Gallery was its last business occupant.

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COUNCIL

Continued from Page A1

Roth, a former Northville Public Schools Board of Education member, won a second two-year term as mayor and Ekong won a second four-year council term.

Giesa, a newcomer, won a four-year council term.

The council then picked Councilwoman Nancy Darga, who is serving her fourth term, to be the mayor pro term for the next two years. The mayor pro tem assumes mayoral duties, such as chairing council meetings, in the absence of the mayor. James Allen, who did not seek re-election to council this year, had been the mayor pro tem.

The council also said goodbye — sort of — to



Roth

Freshman Northville Councilman Patrick Giesa takes the oath of office, administered by Judge James Plakas, at city hall Nov. 13. Looking on is City Manager Patrick Sullivan. MATT JACHMAN



Freshman Northville Councilman Patrick Giesa takes the oath of office, administered by Judge James Plakas, at city hall Nov. 13. Looking on is City Manager Patrick Sullivan. MATT JACHMAN

Allen, who had served on the council for three terms, but who will remain active as chairman of the historic district commission.

Roth noted the number of city meetings Allen had attended as a councilman — as many as 900. "That's a lot of meetings, a lot of time. Maybe you've earned that \$500," he said with a laugh. (Council members, by city charter, are paid \$500 a year, while the mayor is paid \$100 more.)

Chris Johnson, who served 13 terms as mayor between 1987 and 2013, said he appreciated Allen's leadership and his grasp of city government. Allen, Johnson said, was someone he could count on to be up to date on the details of what was going on in different parts of the organization.

"I know the kind of time and effort that you spent. I know the kind of leadership that you brought," Johnson said. "That's really special."

The council typically meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Mondays of each month — except holidays, when meetings are moved to Tuesday — and has special meetings as needed throughout the year. Each council member also serves on several city boards and commissions.

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NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP POLICE BRIEFS

Man arrested for DUI after crash on Eight Mile

A 25-year-old Novi man was arrested on a charge of driving under the influence after a Nov. 7 crash on eastbound Eight Mile, just west of Haggerty.

The man was driving a Chevrolet Equinox that rear-ended a Ford Mustang driven by a 47-year-old Fenton woman at about 6:45 p.m., a Northville Township Police Department report said. The suspect told police he had looked down at

the radio for a moment while driving and, when he looked up, the Mustang was stopped ahead of him.

Police estimated the Mustang was pushed forward about 100 feet by the impact. Both drivers complained of injuries and the woman's face was bleeding, but both refused to be transported to a hospital, police said.

The man initially told police he hadn't been drinking, but then said he had been and that he'd had beer an hour or two before, police said. At the police station, two tests

registered blood-alcohol contents of 0.07 and 0.08 percent, the report said.

The suspect was released early the next morning on a \$300 bond and with a Wednesday, Nov. 29, date in 35th District Court. The Fenton woman was picked up by relatives.

No license

A 29-year-old Detroit man was faces multiple charges after a fender-bender earlier this month outside a Northville Township senior citizens community.

The car he was driv-

ing, a Chevrolet Cruze, collided with a Ford Fusion driven by a 60-year-old Commerce Township woman shortly before 3 p.m. Nov. 3, a police report said. There were no reported injuries. The accident occurred in the parking lot at Cedarbrook of Northville, on Haggerty north of Five Mile.

Police found the man's license had been suspended twice, the license plate on the Cruze was expired and he had no proof of insurance.

He was issued a ticket for all three violations

and has a Tuesday, Nov. 28, court date. He was later released on a \$300 bond.

Keeping drugs safe

Police in Northville Township report having collected 165 pounds of unused, unwanted and expired prescription drugs since April.

The department has a drug collection box in the lobby of the police station where people can safely dispose of non-liquid prescriptions and it also participated in the Oct. 28 National Prescription Drug Take

Back Day, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration-sponsored event.

The drug collections are designed to prevent accidental overdoses and drug abuse and keep dangerous prescriptions away from children and potential abusers. The collections also keep drugs out of the waste stream and the water supply.

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is held twice yearly, once in the spring and again in the fall.

— By Matt Jachman

NORTHVILLE LIBRARY LINES

One-on-one help with our tech expert

When: 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. each Tuesday; 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. each Thursday

Details: Free one-hour session with our Digital Services librarian to help you navigate our downloading services, help with email, Facebook, DropBox and more. Not for computer repair or configuration questions. Register online or in person or call 248-349-3020.

Fall TOT Storytime

When: Varied, see website

Details: Develop your toddler's early literacy skills and preschool readiness in this fun, interactive, small group experience. Please bring only children who are registered for this storytime; babies, siblings may not attend.

Fall Storytime

When: Varied, see website

Details: Stories, music and creative activities. Children must attend independent of a caregiver and have basic cutting

skills with craft scissors. Only registered children may attend.

ESL Conversation Group

When: 10:30-11:30 a.m. each Tuesday

Details: Join us for informal conversation to help improve your English. Just drop in!

Foreign Film @ the Library

When: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27

Details: Join us for the well-reviewed film "Land of Mine." In post-WWII Denmark, a group of young German POWs are forced to clear a beach of land mines under the watch of a Danish sergeant. Oscar nominee. German film with English subtitles. 101 minutes.

LEGO Day

When: 4:30-5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29

Details: Kids in grades 1-5 make a fun hand-sized snowman or igloo themed LEGO creation to be displayed in the youth area of the library. Limit 30. Register.

Northville students help with Thanksgiving meals

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Students and families at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Northville are helping bring Thanksgiving to dozens of area families.

The school annually teams up with Northville Civic Concern, which operates an emergency food bank, to provide Thanksgiving turkeys — and the fixings for side dishes like mashed potatoes, vegetables, rolls and desserts — to families that might otherwise go without.

First, a students vs. teachers basketball game, organized by the school's student council, raised money to buy Thanksgiving turkeys.



Our Lady of Victory students (from left) Katie Howard, John Greene, Marisa Martin and Laura Mallie are ready to load up food items to be delivered to Northville Civic Concern, an emergency food bank. The food is to be used in Thanksgiving dinners by clients of Northville Civic Concern. The school has a long relationship with NCC, often helping to replenish its shelves.

This year's game was Oct. 12 (the students won, 12-10) and resulted in a check for nearly \$4,000 to Civic Concern.

Later, students are assigned by grade level to bring in specific ingredients for the meal trimmings: roll and cake

mixes, potatoes, juices, breads, canned vegetables. They even donate gravy and foil roasting pans for the turkeys.

Our Lady of Victory, which has an enrollment of more than 400, has had a long relationship with Civic Concern.

When the pantry's supplies are dwindling, said Mary Lopus, a school secretary, the folks at Civic Concern know who to call.

"They're so generous here," said Lopus, the mother of three children who graduated from Our Lady of Victory. "They bring in loads of packages from Costco and we'll call Concern and they pick it up and their shelves are replenished."

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CATS

Continued from Page A1

packaging and the idea of it.”

Cats react differently to nepetalactone, the essential oil in catnip, an herb in the mint family. According to the Humane Society of the United States, they demonstrate their interest by “rolling, flipping, rubbing and eventually zoning out.” Sensitivity to catnip is inherited and an estimated 50 percent have no reaction to the herb. Some cats ingest the herb and some merely smell it.

A nod to pot

Three distinct styles of catnip are packaged in separate tins and sold together as a gift set. The product is organic and grown on a farm in Wisconsin. The brand gives a nod to medical marijuana, with playful names and cartoon images of cats feeling the buzz.

“I didn’t want to go too druggy, but I also wanted to give a wink,” Jackson said.

He dyes Skinny Pete’s

Blue Meowy Yeowy teal and gives Peruvian Pink a rosy tint. Both are a coarse-textured mix of flower, leaf and stem. The Furmaceutical Grade catnip is finely ground and perfect for sprinkling on toys or food. The set includes a small muslin bag that can be filled with catnip and used as a toy.

Although Jackson and his wife regularly work together on media projects, Skinny Pete’s Gourmet Catnip is their first pet product venture.

He directs, edits, shoots video and works with CGI, motion graphics and animation at his home-based company, Animation Works. She retired after 30 years as president of Specs Howard School of Media Arts, in Southfield and Farmington Hills, and now runs her own company, Digital Media Works, out of their home, focusing on marketing and business management. Their documentary on human trafficking, which they created last year for the Wayne County Medical Society Foundation, is earning recognition and awards at independent



Rich Jackson discovers what cats want while interviewing Skinny Pete.

film festivals.

“Now we’re combining those skill sets with a product,” Lisa said. “We’re passionate about animals, passionate about art and passionate about doing something entrepreneurial. It all came together in a perfect storm.”

Selling locally

They debuted Skinny Pete’s Gourmet Catnip at

a garage sale last summer. They discovered that shoppers were willing to pay full price for the gift set, which sells for \$17.99 online. The experience convinced them to take their product on the road to craft shows and a farmers market, where they could fine-tune their research and meet customers.

They were at the Novi Pet Expo at the Suburban

Collection Showplace last weekend. They’ll also be among vendors Dec. 2-3 at Shipshewana on the Road at the Summit Sports and Ice Complex in Lansing.

Lisa said that while they haven’t made “a ton of money” and are still recouping startup costs, they also haven’t lost money on the venture. They’re gearing up for holiday sales and will

package 10,000 tins this month at home.

“It’s like an assembly line, making sure there’s enough catnip in the tin, no air bubbles in the label, that they’re in the right order in the box and the UPC code is on,” Lisa said. “We’re trying to stock up. If this major retailer takes us on, we’ll really have to stock up.”

sdargay@hometownlife.com

Interlochen Center for the Arts announces 2018 audition tour

Interlochen Center for the Arts has announced its 2018 audition tour schedule, when officials from Interlochen Center for the Arts will be traveling the country offering potential students the chance to audition for both its summer arts camp and its high school arts academy. Talented children in grades 3-12 eager to attend either the camp or academy will have an opportunity to show off their skills in select cities coast to coast.

Each year, Interlochen attracts students from all 50 states and more than 40 nations. Applying for some of the major arts areas requires an accompanying audition or portfolio. And while digital and video submissions are accepted, through the audition tour, those students who wish to audition in person have the opportunity to do so without having to make the trip to northern Michigan to meet with administrators.

“We attract students

from around the world and across the country,” said Kirsten Gamb, interim director of admission and financial aid. “And traveling so far can be a consideration for many families. This is a great way for students from all over the country to audition, meet with our faculty and learn more about our programs and it also allows us to see the amazing level of talent that young, school-age students possess. It’s always enlightening and inspiring.”

There are two chances to audition in Michigan: 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at The Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, in Detroit and 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, 4000 M-137, near Traverse City.

Participants are encouraged to begin their application prior to the audition. Application forms can be found at www.interlochen.org. Individual requirements

for high school, intermediate and junior divisions, as well as intensive institutes, and all audition requirements can be found at <http://academy.interlochen.org/audition-tour>.

The nonprofit Interlochen Center for the Arts is a recipient of the National Medal of Arts and the only organization in the world that brings together a 2,500-student summer camp program, a 500-student fine arts boarding high school, opportunities for hun-

dreds of adults to engage in fulfilling artistic and creative programs, two 24-hour listener-supported public radio services (classical music and news), more than 600 arts presentations annually by students, faculty and world-renowned guest artists, a global alumni base spanning eight decades, including leaders in the arts and all other endeavors. For information, go to www.interlochen.org.



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Cancer patient, 16, enjoys candlelight dinner in hospital

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

After four rounds of chemo, two trips to the pediatric intensive care unit and one candlelight dinner with his girlfriend held inside his hospital room, 16-year-old Maximus Finnen is feeling fine.

“I’m doing great,” he said Nov. 15 in a phone interview between classes at Stevenson High School in Sterling Heights. “I’m pretty much back to my normal self ... just have to wait for my energy to come back. But it’s great being back. It was tough not being around everybody.”

It started with a cold last April. Everyone in the family seemed to have it, but Max couldn’t shake it.

Then it turned into pneumonia. Then he had some blood work done. Then he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

“We got the results on Mother’s Day weekend,” Tammy Demeere-Finnen said of her son’s cancer diagnosis. “That Monday, he was admitted to Royal Oak Beaumont so they could start chemo right away. He was in there 32 days for that first round.”

Four walls, beeping monitors, no privacy and daily doses of chemotherapy. Max was supposed to be playing baseball, but instead found himself confined to a hospital bed. He pitches and plays shortstop for his high school team and he’s hoping to land a baseball scholarship to get into college.

“It was rough,” his mom said. “He had a really good year as a freshman – he was playing all the time. He was looking forward to his sophomore season ... they had already played a couple of games and he was pushing his body as hard as he could and we didn’t know he had leukemia. I could tell that he couldn’t get to the same speed he had last year.”

Dinner with Max

Each treatment averaged 28 days in the hospital. Max would go through a chemo round, come home for a couple of weeks, then go back in again. It’s how he spent his entire summer and the beginning of the new school year.

On one hand, there was a sense of optimism: the cancer went into remission after the first round. But it’s cancer and he’s a teenager and all mom and dad could do was hug their kid and promise him it would be OK.

“It’s so tough on kids in their teenage years,” Tammy said. “Kids are going to football games and dances and they’re hanging out ... and your kid is fighting to survive in the hospital. They want to be around their friends and parents can’t do that. We’re not teenagers, we’re not your friends.”

Not to mention homecoming.

“We were coming up on the fourth round of chemotherapy and the idea came up about having a homecoming dance for him and Nadia at the hospital,” Tammy said. “She played such an important part in keeping his spirits up.”

Max and Nadia are a pair of high school sweethearts coming up on their two-year anniversary. Tammy will always be grateful for how Nadia visited Max at the hospital nearly every day to support him and said the young couple reminds



“It was amazing,” Max Finnen, 16, said of the candlelight dinner set up through Wish Upon a Teen and other local groups. WISH UPON A TEEN



Maximus Finnen, 16, and his girlfriend Nadia enjoy a candlelight dinner at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital. WISH UPON A TEEN

her of “two peas in a pod.”

Max wasn’t really in the mood for a dance, but he was game for a candlelight dinner. That’s where Wish Upon a Teen and a lot of other groups stepped up to help.

The Birmingham-based organization designs hospital rooms, holds spa days and passes out tickets for sporting events so that teens with life-threatening medical conditions can have a little fun with their families – along with some much-needed distraction.

Nancy Sovran, executive director of Wish Upon a Teen, coordinated the event. Working with Foundation for Strength, Motor City Movement and Strength Depot, she managed to collect a treasure chest of donations to make the night a memorable one.

“It’s wonderful when you can just make a phone call and amazing people come together to help a teen who is going through a difficult time,” Sovran said. “These folks really have a special place in my heart.”

Fleming’s Steakhouse provided a steak and lobster dinner with all the fixings. Astrein Jewelers donated a gorgeous bracelet for Nadia, while the Flower Bar provided a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Tisp Bakery made the cake.

Glam4Good provided a dress for the occasion and Men’s Warehouse fitted Max with a tuxedo. Tammy said it was the first time her son wore a tuxedo.

The entire Michigan State University baseball team even autographed a bat and sent a video from the coach, rooting for

Max to recover quickly.

The dinner was held Oct. 11. Violin teacher Bradley Foster with Cameron’s Music played for the couple throughout the dinner. Dad even found a handy app to turn the TV into a roaring fireplace for the night.

“It was pretty amazing,” Max said. “It was hard being away from home so long, but eventually, I realized being sad wasn’t going to change anything and I tried to toughen up and get through it as best as I could. That night really helped.”

Max left the hospital six days later, Oct. 17. He’ll go to a clinic every month for a clean bill of health. Otherwise, he’s back in school and looking forward to spring practice.

For mom and dad, they can finally take a moment to pause and relax.

“You never think your kid is going to get cancer, so when it happens, you’re living in a weird nightmare,” Tammy said.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF OAKLAND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

File No. 2017-379,631-DE
Estate of HENRY P. GRABIEC, JR.,
DECEASED - Decedent, Date of
birth: SEPTEMBER 7, 1960.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

Notice To Creditors: The
decendent, HENRY P. GRABIEC,
JR., DECEASED, died 07/31/2017.
Creditors of the decedent are
notified that all claims against the
estate will be forever barred unless
presented to Karen A. Grabiec,
named personal representative or
to both the probate court at 1200
N. Telegraph Road, Department
457, Pontiac, Michigan 48341 and
the named personal representative
within 4 months after the date of the
publication of this notice.

Date: 11/15/2017

Attorney Name Bar No.
Foster Swift Collins & Smith, P.C. P42924
Douglas A. Mielock
313 S. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 371-8203

Personal Representative Name
Karen A. Grabiec
2817 Barkman Drive
Waterford, Michigan 48329
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Publish: 11/23/2017 LO-0000334298 1x4

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Published: November 23, 2017 LO-0000334203 1x3.5

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Fleming’s Steakhouse provided dinner and violinist Bradley Foster provided the music. WISH UPON A TEEN

“But as unlucky as it was to get cancer, everything else ended up being very lucky. We feel so much gratitude ... we’re here, he’s alive and doing well. There’s every indication he can go back to baseball and do the things he loves – because it doesn’t always go that way for every kid. We’re aware

of that and we’re very thankful.”

And for Max? Hopefully, it’s just one bad inning in a long and winding road.

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Cranbrook to open exploreLAB Thanksgiving weekend

This Thanksgiving weekend Cranbrook Institute of Science reveals the renovation to its former Bat Zone with the opening of exploreLAB, its new hands-on exploration and active learning installment, which will feature rotating exhibits. exploreLAB's premiere exhibit, Dinosaurs and Fossils, is Michigan's only museum-based, fossil prep lab for young learners. Visitors will be immersed in the prehistoric world, discovering dinosaurs and fossils like a paleontologist, and learning what it takes to unearth and preserve these treasures.

"Nothing excites our visitors more than dinosaurs," said Michael D. Stafford, Ph.D., director of Cranbrook Institute of Science. "When designing exploreLAB, we sought to provide a unique experience for children and adults of all ages to get their hands dirty learning about these impressive crea-

tures, using tools like real paleontologists and even taking home fossils of their own. If you've always dreamt of digging for dinosaur bones, exploreLAB is your opportunity."

exploreLAB will be open weekends throughout the year, with daily hours during the summer. Tickets to exploreLAB will be offered at 11 a.m. noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. each Saturday and at 1 p.m. 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. each Sunday. Tickets are \$5 for all non-members over age 2, \$4 for standard members and \$1 for all children under age 2. Tickets for exploreLAB are available for purchase at the front desk at the main entrance. Enhanced members enjoy free admission.

For more information on exploreLAB, go to <https://science.cranbrook.edu/explore/exploreLAB>.



exploreLAB is located in the former Bat Zone building behind the main Cranbrook Institute of Science building.

Farmington Hills Youth Theatre offers young playwrights program

For 15 years, the Farmington Hills Youth Theatre, a program of the Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division, has been providing high quality youth theater experiences for young actors in the city and surrounding communities. The division is launching a new program called Young Playwrights for students in grades 7-12 with an interest in writing and a desire to



Jones

work with peers to create a unique, full-length script. The completed script will be turned into a full stage production by the Farmington Hills Youth Theatre later in 2018. Participants in the program will work under the guidance of Farmington Hills resident Ste-

phen Mack Jones, award-winning playwright and recipient of the prestigious Kresge Arts in Detroit Literary Fellowship, 2017 Farmington Area Artist in Residence and author of the recently published and well-received book "August Snow."

Limited spots are available for the Young Playwrights program, so students are encouraged to submit a brief applica-

tion at <http://tinyurl.com/FHYT2018> Playwrights. The application deadline is Jan. 12, 2018. Acceptance notifications will be made by Jan. 19 and the program will meet each Tuesday and Thursday evening from Feb. 6 through May 10. If accepted into the program, participants will need to pay a registration fee of \$160 for non-residents and \$150 for residents.

"This is an exciting opportunity for students to explore and express their creativity across the spectrum of theater production," said Rachel Timlin, cultural arts supervisor. "We want to encourage critical thinking in a fun, inclusive environment." The program is open to individuals with various levels of writing and theater experience.

The Farmington Hills

Youth Theatre works to develop life-long skills that build self-esteem, confidence and the ability to work with others. The Farmington Hills Youth Theatre is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. For more information, call 248-473-1856.



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Most area malls now closed for Thanksgiving

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

There are fewer options for shoppers to hit the mall and burn off some of that turkey and stuffing Thanksgiving night this year.

Several area malls will be closed for Thanksgiving this year, leaving just one, Twelve Oaks, 27500 Novi Road, in Novi, as the lone mall in the western suburbs of Detroit remaining open. The mall will be open for six hours Thursday night.

“For us, it’s based on demand,” said Emily Taucher, marketing and sponsorship director for Twelve Oaks. “We will be open at 6 p.m. and we will be open through midnight.”

Twelve Oaks will then reopen at 7 a.m. Friday and close at 9 p.m. Several department stores will be open varying hours at the mall, including:

» JCPenney will open at 2 p.m. Thursday and remain open throughout the night until close Friday night.

» Lord & Taylor will be open from 5 p.m. Thursday to 2 a.m. Friday and again from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday

» Macy’s will open at 5 p.m. Thursday and close at midnight

» Nordstrom’s will be closed for Thursday and will reopen at 9 a.m. Friday.

» Sears will open at 6 p.m. Thursday and close at midnight. It will then reopen at 7 a.m. Friday and be open until 9 p.m.

Malls staying closed

Three of the area’s malls will close for Turkey Day, including Westland Shopping Center, which was open last Thanksgiving. A listing on the mall’s website indicates it will be closed this year.

Messages were left with the mall seeking comment on the closure, but were not returned by press time.

Westland Shopping Center will reopen at 6 a.m. Friday and remain



Many area shopping malls are electing to stay closed this year for Thanksgiving Day. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

open until 10 p.m.

Going into its second year of being closed Thanksgiving is Laurel Park Place, 37700 Six Mile, in Livonia. Its parent company, CBL Properties, decided last year to shut down its malls for Thanksgiving.

That decision was so well-received, said Rockford, Ill.-based spokeswoman Melissa Cavanagh, that they decided to do it again this year and save the shopping mania for Black Friday instead.

“It was an overwhelming positive response from our shoppers and our retailers,” she said. “Overall, it’s given the holiday back to everyone. We are focused on creating an amazing shopping experience for Black Friday.”

Laurel Park Place will open at 6 a.m. Friday morning and remain open until 10 p.m.

While the entire mall will be closed, at least one

store will be open: Carson’s will open at 11 a.m. Thursday and remain open throughout the night until 11 p.m. Friday. Von Maur will be closed Thanksgiving and will be open its regular hours Friday.

Several department stores at the Westland Shopping Center will also have varying hours. Kohl’s will be open starting at 5 p.m. Thursday and remain open throughout the night until 11 p.m. Friday. Sears will open at 6 p.m. Thursday and close at 1 a.m. Friday, then reopen at 6 a.m. Friday and stay open until 11 p.m.

The area’s other nearby mall, Somerset Collection, 2800 Big Beaver, in Troy, will also be closed Thanksgiving and open at 8 a.m. Black Friday. It will remain open until 9 p.m.

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Five charities competing for \$10,000 award

In celebration of 10 years as a community-focused bank, Level One Bank has launched the 10K Project.

The bank will award \$10,000 to a local non-profit determined by popular vote to utilize the dollars most impactfully toward its mission. Level One Bank is urging voters to make their charitable choices known – online and in branches – from five finalists spread over four Michigan counties. Listed in alphabetical order they are:

- » Children With Hair Loss (Wayne County)
- » Detroit Dog Rescue (Macomb County)
- » Habitat for Humanity (Oakland County)
- » HAVEN (Oakland County)
- » Kid’s Food Basket (Kent County)

The five finalists were chosen by Level One Bank employees from a list of nearly 80 charities the bank has supported over the past 10 years.

“All of these nonprofit organizations consistently and effectively display an extraordinary commitment and dedication to those they serve,” said Patrick J. Fehring, president and CEO, Level One Bank. “We are asking community members to vote for the charity they feel is most deserving. With these exceptional organizations, voters face a difficult decision.”

Interested voters can view finalist videos and profiles, which communicate mission, good works and how the \$10,000 would be used at <https://www.levelonebank.com/10kproject> and then register their choice online or at any of Level One Bank’s 12 branches statewide. Voting concludes Nov. 24, with a winner to be announced on “Giving Tuesday” Nov.

28. “Level One Bank has worked with numerous local charities over the past decade whose efforts are more than worthy of these dollars. Our collaborations have been and will continue to be incredibly rewarding,” Fehring said. “Unfortunately, there can be only one recipient of this particular award. We wish them all only the best.”

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Three Christmas events to get you into the spirit

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Many people will have a long holiday weekend after indulging in the season's fare of turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes.

And if you're looking to get and about this weekend, besides doing some shopping, there's plenty to do around town. Take a look at these three events happening in the Hometown Life area this Thanksgiving weekend:

Santaland parade in Garden City

It's been a tradition for more than a half-century and it'll continue again Saturday in downtown Garden City.

The 57th annual Garden City Downtown Development Authority Santaland Parade kicks off at 10 a.m. from Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt, and travels south to downtown Garden City at Ford and Middlebelt. This year's parade will feature several groups, including the newly-crowned Miss Michigan USA Elizabeth Johnson, the Garden City High School Cougars marching band and the Livonia Franklin Patriots marching band.

Also included are representatives from the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Lions, as well as several other service groups from around the community. The Man in the Red Suit will (of course!) make an appearance, as well.

After the parade, the Garden City DDA will hold its post-parade event, complete with hot



Representatives of Wiggles & Giggles Preschool and Childcare show their holiday spirit at the Milford Christmas Parade in 2016. TOM BEAUDOIN



Gary Fox from the American Legion Post 396 in Garden City rides his beautifully decorated Honda at the 55th annual Santaland Parade in 2015. TOM BEAUDOIN

local groups, including local dance studios and high school marching bands. Santa Claus will also make an appearance.

And if you're looking to stay around town for more Christmas cheer, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 will host a holiday bazaar at the American Legion Hall, 510 W. Commerce. This event will feature crafters, vendors and raffles and will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. An early-bird raffle is set for 11 a.m.

Any questions regarding the bazaar can be sent to ala216milford@gmail.com.

Santa Claus arrives in Plymouth

Kellogg Park will be the place to be at 6 p.m. Friday.

That's when Santa Claus makes his arrival to the city of Plymouth. The Jolly Elf from the North Pole will make his presence known in the city for the next month, kicking off festivities in the city. The trees will be lit and a celebration on stage will take place, complete with a magician.

Once the celebration ends, Santa Claus will later hold court in his house at Kellogg Park, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail. He'll be available to hear from youngsters that night as well as 1-4 p.m. Saturday. In addition, he'll be available from noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 2, 9 and 16-17, 6-8 p.m. Dec. 22 and from noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 23.

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chocolate, cookies and giveaways.

If you're not able to make it to the parade, it will be broadcasted on GCTV, which is Channel 12 on Comcast, Channel 18 on WOW and Channel 99 on AT&T UVerse. It will also be streamed on Facebook on the page "City of Garden City, Michigan." For more information, go to santalandparade.com.

Christmas activities in Milford

If you're not in the Garden City area for a parade, why not instead head to Milford for one?

The annual Christmas Parade will take place at 10 a.m. in downtown Milford. Sponsored by the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce, this parade features tons of



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World-famous architect killed in car crash

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

His work would be classified as modern, but the homes and buildings that Irving Tobocman designed over the years are considered by many to be timeless masterpieces.

The renowned Birmingham architect, recognized around the world for his sleek, contemporary designs, was killed Nov. 10 in a car crash. He leaves behind a rich body of work that will surely stand the test of time.

“I would call him a modern master,” fellow architect Victor Saroki said Monday. “He grew up in that era of architecture and was quite prominent in the Birmingham/Bloomfield area for a lot of the modern homes he did.”

The Nov. 10 crash occurred at the intersection of Telegraph and Lone Pine roads in Bloomfield Township. Initial reports indicate a 2016 Jeep Wrangler, traveling northbound on Telegraph, ran the red light and collided with Tobocman’s 2004 Ford Thunderbird that was traveling westbound on Lone Pine on a green light.

Police say the driver of the Jeep, a 16-year-old Bloomfield Hills resident, was taken to a local hospital and listed in stable condition. A female passenger in her vehicle was also taken to the hospital and listed in stable condition.

Both girls attend Bloomfield Hills High School. While the crash remains under investigation, police do not believe alcohol played a role in the accident.

Tobocman, 84, was pronounced dead at a local hospital. His two children, David and Susan Tobocman, are accomplished musicians raising their own families in Los Angeles and New York, respectively. On Monday, they sat together at their father’s home in Birmingham and talked about his life.

“He worked until the day he died,” Susan Tobocman said. “He designed over 400 buildings



Irving Tobocman, pictured here as a young man with his two children, Susan and David.
TOBOCMAN FAMILY PHOTO

in California, New York, Texas, Florida, Canada, India and other places. He was truly a giant in his field.”

He did everything by hand, with pencil and paper instead of computer. He approached each project like Frank Lloyd Wright, taking artistic control of every detail from the landscaping to the cabinetry. At the same time, he was a disciple of the Bauhaus Movement that flourished in the early 20th century and produced contemporary icons such as Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Louis Kahn.

“He always said a key understanding of proportion and materials was the essence of his designs,” David Tobocman said. “Homes were his specialty, but he also designed stores and restaurants and commercial buildings, synagogues and large apartment complexes.”

His parents immigrated to the U.S. from Poland in the 1920s. Growing up in Detroit, Tobocman developed an artistic flair at a young age, along with a love of music and literature. He graduated with a bachelor of architecture de-

gree from the University of Michigan in 1956. His first project was a set of apartments near Six Mile and Greenfield roads in northwest Detroit.

“We actually lived there for several years,” Susan Tobocman said. “There were two apartment buildings and my grandmother owned one of them.”

Closer to home, he designed the Max Fisher Federation Building on Telegraph Road and the headquarters for the Sandy Corp. on Big Beaver in Troy.

The family then moved to Franklin Village in 1967, where Tobocman built a house on a two-acre wooded parcel. It was one of the first contemporary homes in the area and the two children have memories of passers-by pulling over in their cars to take photos of the uniquely-designed structure.

After his children grew up and moved away, Tobocman moved into a house he designed in downtown Birmingham.

Piece of a puzzle

“He never liked those towering ceilings or open floor plans,” David said.

“He didn’t like to exceed more than 12 feet with his ceilings ... but the hallway going into the room always had a lower ceiling to give you a sense that you were moving into something larger. It was a matter of scale of proportion.”

He liked to fill his homes with candlelight and fireplaces, crystal goblets and sterling silver. Susan said his vision was a juxtaposition of modern sensibility, peppered with a mix of antiques, contemporary furnishings and the comforts of home.

“It was much more eclectic than one might expect from the outside of his homes,” she said.

A Tobocman-designed home came with certain signature markings – the flat roofs and white painted brick, oak trim, floor-to-ceiling windows and lots of skylights. Tobocman loved the integration of nature with his work and always tried to create a seamless transition from the outdoors to the indoors.

To Tobocman, designing a home was like putting together a puzzle. He started with the land, always allowing the topography and particular



Tobocman

flora to suggest the shape and materials of the house. Whether it was a small home or a large one, he always tried to create a sense of continuity in which one room flowed into the other.

“Even with those gargantuan 18,000-square-foot homes, he would insist on creating these small intimate spaces,” David said. “He never wanted to make you feel like a mouse inside this gigantic room.”

Tobocman’s younger brother Alfred was the building contractor on many of his projects.

“They were incredibly close,” David said of his father and uncle. “They were best friends throughout their lives. Al helped my father marshal his vision and bring it into the world.”

Family man

Rabbi Boruch Cohen, executive director of the Birmingham Jewish Connection, always felt at home with Tobocman.

“We shared, I think, a sensibility — not about modern homes, but about life,” Cohen said. “That if it’s going to be done, it should be done well. That the feel of a place matters, that details matter, that people matter. That if one cannot laugh, especially at one’s self, it’s a wonder how that person can get from one end of the day to the other. His Jewishness was not formal in a religious sense, but his pride in being Jewish and identification with the Jewish people seemed, at least to me, rock solid and obvious.”

Susan said her dad had a razor-sharp mind, always hungry for knowledge and new experiences. He never rested on his laurels and never planned to stop working.

He was also a staunch supporter of the community, holding fundraisers at his home in Birmingham to help inner-city theater groups, Democratic politicians, local and national and other causes.

“He loved to be around people and he loved jazz – that’s what got him out of the house,” she said. “He was a pillar of the Detroit jazz scene – all the jazz musicians knew him.”

“Both David and I are career musicians,” she added. “He always encouraged us to follow our passion instead of following a career just to make money, a strategy that actually worked for both us. He was also a great musician who could play almost anything by ear.”

While the two children celebrate the man, they bear the pain of losing their dad — and a close friend.

“He came to New York just a few weeks ago,” Susan said. “He and my son were so close ... he loved to visit his grandchildren on both coasts. He loved his family so much.”

The two ultimately hope to craft a book that will showcase their dad’s legacy. As for the loss to the greater community, Saroki said all one needs to do is look around.

“It’s a loss to see Irving gone,” he said. “But these buildings, these homes, will be around for a long, long time.”

Tobocman is survived by children Susan Tobocman and David (K.C. Mancebo) Tobocman; grandchildren Caleb, Zoe and Margo Tobocman; and brother Alfred (partner Marsha Weiss) Tobocman. He was preceded in death by his first wife and mother of his children, Lois Maxine Tobocman, and his longtime partner Barbara Joyce Mazer; also survived by his second wife, Laura Tobocman.

Funeral services for Tobocman were Nov. 15, at the Ira Kaufman Chapel in Southfield.

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Police recover stolen cars, guns, credit cards

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Canton police recovered stolen guns, vehicles and credit cards and seized counterfeit money and a printing press during an investigation that led to criminal charges against four defendants, with a fifth still at large as of Nov. 9.

Detective Lt. Mike Steckel said the crime spree spanned two weeks in October and prompted an investigation that led to search warrants being executed in Detroit and Ypsilanti.

One defendant, 19-year-old Saviontray Antonio Scott of Ypsilanti, already is facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court after he waived his preliminary exam Nov. 3 in 35th District Court in Plymouth, court records show. Scott is charged with possession of counterfeit money, larceny of firearms, receiving and concealing firearms and felony firearms.

Not guilty pleas have been entered for Scott and the following defendants who are awaiting their district court exams:

- » Kobie Tyree Richardson, 19, of Ypsilanti is facing multiple charges, including receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle, motor vehicle theft,


credit card theft, identity theft, receiving and concealing \$1,000 to \$20,000, breaking and entering a vehicle causing damage and larceny from a vehicle.

- » Carolyn Danielle Hoskins, 19, of Ypsilanti is facing the same charges as Richardson.
- » Elliot Deshawn Montgomery, 17, of Ypsilanti also is facing the

same charges as Richardson.

- » Destiny Capri Moore, 19, of Wayne was at large Nov. 9 and was wanted on similar charges. However, she already has been charged with a misdemeanor charge of larceny from an auto, Steckel said.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING
December 13, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI. The ZBA will consider a variance request to Chapter 170, Zoning Ordinance, Article 31, Fences (Height & Location) for a residence at 16759 Highland Lane (Parcel ID#77-057-02-0051-000).

Written comments regarding these requests will be received by the ZBA at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. The meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M.

Paul Slatin, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals

Published: November 23, 2017

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Student march aims to ‘spread kindness like jelly’

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Twelve-year-old Eli Solomon said the world needs a “kindness meter” to monitor how people are treating each other. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the kindness goal, Eli said the world is stuck on 4 or 5. “I think it’s really low,” he said. “We have a plethora of people. We all need to be kind to each other.”

Eli was among about 75 students at New Morning School in Plymouth who took to the street Nov. 13 on World Kindness Day to promote civility, respect and kindness in a world that often seems to lack it.

Accompanied by teachers and parents, the students donned their coats, hats and gloves and marched about a half-mile along Haggerty Road to Five Mile, then back. They chanted, “Be Kind. Be Nice.”

Fourth-grader Carly Thomas, 9, made it seem simple that people should stop bickering and get



Children, teachers and parents march along Haggerty Road to Five Mile on World Kindness Day. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

along. “People have different personalities, but we need to show kindness around the world and try to spread it around,” she said.

Her sister Evy, 5, was in a school group that made a sign for the Kindness March.

“It says, ‘spread kindness like jelly,’” Evy said. She carried it in the

march with Sofia Ghanbari.

Eli, director of the school’s New Morning Express newspaper, said being kind is just as easy as being disagreeable.

“Open a door for someone,” he said. “Smile and say ‘hi’ to someone.”

New Morning teacher Tina Huff organized the Kindness March to instill

kind behavior among students who come from communities such as Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Northville, Farmington, Westland and Novi. “It allows the students to feel like they have a voice and they can share it with the world,” Huff said.

Students made signs and drew images on paper plates to promote a diverse and kind world. The school has made kindness a theme this school year. Among the other activities:

» Huff and her students read the book “Wonder” by R.J. Palacio. It’s about a 10-year-old boy with a facial deformity and what he faces when he goes from being home-schooled to enrolling in a neighborhood



Sofia Ghanbari and Evy Thomas spread their message of kindness. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

school. Huff said an upcoming field trip is planned so students can see the film “Wonder” and discuss how it compares to the book.

» The school had a popcorn drive and raised \$581 for Hurricane Harvey victims in Texas. They donated the money through UNICEF.

» The school has begun a coat drive to help students at another school in Belleville. Gently used coats may be dropped off 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each weekday. The school’s address is 14501 N. Haggerty.

Grandparents Duane and Sandy Laidlaw of Northville came to the school Monday to show support for Eleanor, their preschool granddaughter, during the Kindness March. They agreed that many adults could learn a lesson in kindness from New Morning School students.

As for the march, Sandy Laidlaw said, “I think it’s a beautiful idea.”

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



It’s a long walk to Five Mile Road and back to school. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

City of Novi
Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the **Zoning Board of Appeals** for the **City of Novi** will hold a public hearing on **December 12, 2017 at 7:00PM** in the **Council Chambers** of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

PZ17-0055 (Adrienne Lenda) 1209 East Lake Drive, West of Novi Road and South of Fourteen Mile, Parcel #50-22-02-127-019. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Sections 3.32-10.ii. a, for the building of a proposed 400 square foot shed on the waterfront, 100 square feet allowed by code, and 3.32-10.ii.b to allow a 10.5 foot height, 8 foot allowed by code. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ17-0057 (Image360) 39711 Grand River Avenue, West of Haggerty Road and South of Grand River Avenue, Parcel #50-22-24-476-025. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Code of Ordinances Section 28-5.g.1, for the proposed modification of an existing ground sign with the installation of a new changeable copy sign. Base will remain for reuse. This property is zoned General Business (B-3).

Published: November 23, 2017

LC-0000334231 3x2.5

City of Novi
Notice of Public Hearing
Community Development Block Grant Funds

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi will hold a Public Hearing on the use of Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Hearing will be held Monday, December 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., EST, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, for the purpose of hearing public comments on the Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2018 application in the approximate amount of \$100,626 to fund eligible projects.

All interested citizens are requested to attend this Hearing. Comments will also be received in writing or in person at the City Clerk's Office, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375, until 5:00 p.m., December 4, 2017. Arrangements to reasonably accommodate special needs, including handicap accessibility or interpreter will be made upon receiving 72-hour advance notice. Contact City Clerk, Cortney Hanson at 248-347-0456 for special services.

CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK

Published: November 23, 2017

LC-0000334284 3x3

Plymouth Box Bar’s new vision? Italian eatery, microbrewery

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Box Bar’s new owners have confirmed they plan to convert the downtown Plymouth bar into an Italian restaurant and, possibly, a microbrewery after closing in January for a sweeping makeover.

After a 75-year run, the Box Bar’s closing has been pushed back until after the Plymouth Ice Festival in January. Owners then plan to remodel in hopes of reopening in spring as Bigalora Wood-Fired Cucina and an Arbor Brewing Co. microbrewery.

“We’re proud of the Box Bar and we want to make it the best place in town that we can possibly make it,” part owner Ron Cook said.

Owners face one potential hurdle, though. Although the Box Bar’s liquor license is being

transferred for Bigalora, owners need a separate license for the microbrewery — and the city of Plymouth has reached its self-imposed limit of 25 liquor licenses for places that sell alcohol by the glass.

Michael Collins, one of the owners involved in the Bigalora-Arbor Brewing Co. plans, said an exemption is being sought from the city to accommodate the microbrewery.

The issue looms large as the Plymouth Liquor License Review Committee has begun new talks that, in part, are expected to focus on whether liquor license rules should be amended, possibly by lifting the cap on 25 liquor licenses.

Paul Salloum, part owner of the Box Bar building, said earlier this month during an LLRC meeting that the microbrewery is an integral part of the plans. He said change is needed to keep

local residents spending money locally.

“I need to keep the people here in the city of Plymouth,” he said. “We have to change with the times.”

Collins said Bigalora and Arbor Brewing Co. would share the 10,000 square feet of space that is now the Box Bar. They would not increase the overall seating capacity and would have separate entrances.

Collins said Bigalora already has six locations in southeast Michigan. Arbor Brewing has a microbrewery in Ypsilanti and a brewpub in Ann Arbor.

Meanwhile, public discussion is expected to continue in coming weeks, even months, as the LLRC grapples with what changes it should possibly make to liquor license rules.

dclem@hometownlife.com
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HE BRINGS MERCY IN BOAT AFTER STORM

Don Manley ferries residents to fetch their possessions after Irma

THADDEUS MAST

NAPLES DAILY NEWS

USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about the American profiled here and more average Americans doing exceptional things, visit [one-nation.usatoday.com](#).

Don't call Don Manley a hero. He hates the word, saying it is reserved for others facing greater challenges.

But for the people living in a flooded Southwest Florida community, the term seems appropriate.

The Imperial River spilled its banks into a Bonita Springs neighborhood after Hurricane Irma's downpour, forcing feet of water into kitchens and living rooms. Many homes were still damp from huge rainstorms just a few weeks prior.

Locals escaped to shelters or sturdier homes as the hurricane passed, returning to rivers instead of streets. People wanted to get what little was left of their belongings, wading through dangerous waters with boxes of family photos and important documents.

The low-income area houses many Hispanic families, and immigration papers are vital to FEMA aid requests.

Don Manley drove by the flooded area a day after Irma hit and saw a boy floating down his street.

"I drove home, got my boat and went in the water," he said.

Manley spent days in the fishing boat, going up and down the swamped streets. Locals stood patiently near his boat trailer backed into Saunders Avenue, waiting for Manley to take them home.

His boat returned loaded with boxes, totes and garbage bags filled with people's remaining treasures.

"If we're 8 years old playing in dirty water in a boat, our moms would give us hell," he said. "And now, we're called heroes. Are you kidding me?"

It took more than a week of slowly receding flood waters to make the boat unnecessary. However, Manley went back



After Hurricane Irma flooded a Florida neighborhood, Don Manley got in his boat and helped residents retrieve things. NICOLE RAUCHEISEN/USA TODAY NETWORK

to the neighborhood every day, trading out his boat trailer for a crowbar. Scores of volunteers like Manley now help residents gut their homes, tossing furniture and drywall in 6-foot-tall debris piles on the curb.

The gutting process will be long, Manley said. He's personally worked through about 15 houses in about a week. More than 200 homes fill the flooded neighborhood.

But Manley's personal love and investment in the area will keep him working through the end.

"People say, 'Oh you're wonderful,'" Manley said. "I say, 'No, I'm not. I do this because I'm selfish.' This is what I'm supposed to do."

Q&A WITH DON MANLEY

What does it mean to you to be an American?

It means having the greatest freedom and opportunity in the world, but it also comes with the requirements that we help those less fortunate.

What moment touched and motivated you to launch this effort?

There are two moments. The first one is always help those in need. But the moment that solidified it for me was seeing a young man in an inner tube floating down his road trying to get to his house to save what meager possessions he had. That just resonates in my mind, and I'll never forget it.

What gives you hope or what concerns you?

What gives me hope is the people we're helping. Really, it's more than hope. What gives me peace of mind is knowing that this is going to be OK is Miesel, who tells me, 'I am saved. I am alive. God bless, I am an American,' and he's had his house destroyed. And he's thankful. It doesn't give me hope, it gives me absolute knowledge that this is going to be OK.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

I just want to give this small community the opportunity to return to normalcy. That's the only thing I hope to accomplish, to get them back to a normal life.

DON MANLEY

Location: Estero, Florida

Age: 63

Profession: Retired, former owner of care centers

Mission: "If I can make this place a little better, I've done my job. Wherever I happen to be."

ONE NATION

Nominate an American

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USA HOCKEY

Team USA grabs the gold at U-17 World Challenge

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Seeing Canada Red and a chance for gold in one fell swoop, U.S. goaltender Cameron Rowe braced for a one-timer from between the circles.

Rowe flashed a leg and kicked the puck aside. The United States maintained a two-goal edge Nov. 11 in the gold medal game of the 2017 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

A half-period or so later, the U.S. completed its 6-4 victory over Canada Red and cele-

brated its first championship since January 2014.

“I think about midway through the third period, I made a save. A guy in the slot took a one-timer and I made a toe save,” said Rowe, a member of USA Hockey’s National Team Development Program U-17 team. “And I got the rebound right after that. That was really the moment I think the team knew we were going to shut this thing down and keep the lead.”

Rowe and his teammates soon would gather around the coveted tournament trophy on the ice at Encara Events Centre in Dawson Creek, British

Columbia, with gold medals dangling on the front of their uniforms.

“The building was buzzing; it was really loud,” Rowe said. “It was a little hard at first, especially when Canada started to come back a little bit. Everyone was rooting against us. But it was just a surreal experience.”

White-knuckle ride

The U.S. stormed out to a 4-0 lead after one period and made it 5-0 early in the second. But the game evolved into a nail-biter by the time the final



U.S. players celebrate after winning gold Nov. 11 in the 2017 Under-17 World Hockey Challenge. The team won all six games during the week-long tourney, held in British Columbia. MATTHEW MURNAGHAN | HOCKEY CANADA

See HOCKEY, Page B4

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Novi senior O’Leary brings home Miss Volleyball award

Michigan-bound setter takes state’s top individual honor

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Novi’s Erin O’Leary unexpectedly got sent down to the principal’s office Nov. 13.

“I really didn’t know what was going on,” said the all-state senior setter for the two-time defending Class A champion volleyball team. “I figured I wasn’t in trouble. I’m not really a troublemaker, but I did feel a little anxious about something going wrong. I don’t know ... maybe a test or something. I wasn’t sure. Since I’ve been a good student and I enjoyed high school (Principal Nicole Carter) wanted to hear how it’s been going, what’s been done to make it good.”

It turned out to be a well-kept secret from the 4.2 GPA student headed to the University of Michigan who, after her senior exit interview, was ushered down the hallway and into the performance gymnasium by Carter.

And before a throng of her fellow seniors who were perched in the bleachers, O’Leary was announced as the 2017 Michigan Miss Volleyball award winner.

Needless to say, O’Leary was shocked by what happened.

“Then I walked in here and saw all these people ... they told everyone it was going to be our class picture,” O’Leary said, “so we were all matching and everybody was wearing black shirts, but now, I guess, it was because of me. I had absolutely no idea.”

One of 10 nominees for the award, O’Leary won by a comfortable margin, garnering 212 points in the voting by members of the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association.

New Baltimore Anchor Bay’s Maria Mallon, headed to the University of Cincinnati, was runner-up with 109.

Rounding out the top five were Clarkston and future U-M teammate Abbey Mal-



Novi senior setter Erin O’Leary was voted the 2017 Michigan Miss Volleyball. BRAD EMONS

See O’LEARY, Page B2

GIRLS BASKETBALL

New Farmington coach plans an up-tempo style of play

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Laura Guzman is the perfect example of how athletics, and coaches, can shape a person’s life.

Guzman was always around the gym or on the softball fields as a youngster growing up in Royal Oak.

She was talented enough to play varsity basketball and softball, initially at old Dondero High School and then at Madison Heights Bishop Foley. She played travel softball and AAU basketball for the Motor City Blazers.

At Wayne State University, where she played softball, Guzman was the ultimate utility talent — playing six different positions during her four-year career.

Those life experiences and the coaches who taught them influenced her to such a degree that she simply wanted “to give back.” That’s why she turned to coaching.

“All the amazing people I’ve had in my life who helped shape me, not only as an athlete, but also a person, I’ve always wanted to give back,”

See GUZMAN, Page B3



Senior Micayla Martin is a four-year veteran who will play a “crucial role” for Farmington this season, according to head coach Laura Guzman. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Get More Sports

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK
hometownlife.com

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Plymouth Christian returns to Class D final

Setter Pray, Kellogg sisters lead Eagles into second straight championship final

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Abigail Pray has plenty of options as the setter of the Plymouth Christian Academy volleyball team.

The 5-foot-4 senior can tap right away into the Kellogg sisters, senior Grace and sophomore Gabriella, just about anytime she wants.

And that was no more evident than Nov. 16 during the Class D semifinal at — of all places — Battle Creek’s Kellogg Arena as she racked up 44 assist-to-kills to lift the defending MHSAA state champions to their second straight final with a 26-24, 25-15, 22-25, 25-21 victory over Rogers City.

The 5-9 Grace Kellogg finished with 17 kills, while the 5-9 Gabriella added 16 as the Eagles improved to 44-8-3. They were scheduled Saturday to face Fowler (38-11-5) in the final (go to hometownlife.com for complete coverage).

“Like, school play to, like, club play, it’s totally different,” said Pray, who was a part-time setter on last year’s team. “I’ve played with Grace since we were in fifth grade, so, like, having that connection and then coming into high school really helped us, I think. And with her little sister ... I just love setting them. It’s so much fun.”

PCA rallied from a



Plymouth Christian celebrates late during the fourth set. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Plymouth Christian’s Kyrsten Altman (left) and Sarah Brege go up for a block. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

deficits of 15-10 and 20-16 to beat Rogers City (38-8-3) in the opening set, 26-24, capped by Robin Albert’s kill.

In the second set, PCA took control, building leads of 11-6 and 20-12 to win going away, 25-15.

But the Hurons (38-9-3) rebounded to take set three, 25-22.

“We kind of got out of

our system, kind of got a little comfortable after making a good comeback and a good win the second game running the plays,” PCA coach D.J. Kellogg said. “We kind of got a little comfortable, I think, and they played well. They’re a great defensive team, smart team, well-coached.”

The Eagles opened the

fourth set taking leads of 6-1 and 13-7, but the Hurons wouldn’t go away, pulling to within 23-21 before PCA closed it out by getting a key kill from Gabriella Kellogg to set up match point.

“For us, it was just get back to what we know to do,” D.J. Kellogg said. “Take care of free balls, not just give them easy plays. Taylor (Fleming) is a great hitter. (Kayla Rabeau), she would do the same thing ... smart hitter. We knew if we were going to give them easy balls, then we’re going to have to play defense. For us, it’s just trying to be easy on ourselves.”

Here are some other takeaways:

UNSTOPPABLE HEROES

Defensively, Gabriella Kellogg had a team-best 20 digs, followed by

Grace Kellogg (14), Madison Raymond (13) and Pray (10).

The Eagles hit for a .275 percentage, with Elise Miera adding nine kills.

“Moriah Willis stepped in and passed great for us today,” D.J. Kellogg said. “That was a big help, for sure. Elise (Miera), our middle, had a big match, too. They all stepped up. The energy from the bench ... that’s always an ‘X’ factor, too.”

NEW JOURNEY

Plymouth Christian was making its third straight semifinal appearance under D.J. Kellogg, who improved his career record to 115-24-7.

“After losing eight seniors last year and getting a whole new crew,” he said, “it’s like a whole new puzzle to

solve and try and figure out how things work together, use the talents we’ve got and make the most out of it. It’s been different. Every year is a different season and it’s been fun in that regard.”

Five of PCA’s players appeared in last year’s final match.

“This year, I think, completely as a team, we’re a lot closer,” Pray said. “And mentally, to get into it, it’s a lot easier for us. And once we’re on a roll, we just keep going.”

SECOND STINT

After losing in four sets last year against state runner-up Auburn Hills Oakland Christian, Rogers City put up a battle against the Eagles as junior Taylor Fleming led the hitting attack with 17 kills, while senior Kayla Rabeau added 13.

“It’s just nice to be down here with all this excitement and it’s just electric for volleyball,” Rogers City coach Samantha Armhein said. “We were nowhere near nervous as we were last year. We had no idea what to expect and this year, I think, we were a little more relaxed. We kept the games a lot tighter this year. Last year, we lost one game 4-25.”

But the Hurons hit only .111 as a team.

“I just think they hit around us and, by the time we kind of figured out where they’re hitting, they were going hard lines,” Armhein said. “And how to adjust to that, that’s what volleyball is. You have to adjust, but I’m very happy with how we played. We just didn’t lay down and die. I thought we had some good runs on them.”

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O’LEARY

Continued from Page B1

inowski (100), current Novi teammate and Northwestern-bound Abryanna Cannon (100), and Zeeland East and Miami (Ohio) University signee Sophie Riemersma (74).

“This not something that I would have anticipated,” said Colleen O’Leary, Erin’s mother. “She’s not the kid that this is what she’s worked for, either. I think her biggest focus is still making it to (the finals). So this will be a moment that is a wonderful honor, but Saturday is probably hoping to be a big focus for her if we can get there.”

“This is the week we’ve all been waiting for, I think,” O’Leary said. “You stay focused on the moment and whatever game is next, but it’s hard not think about those last few games. This had been super-cool, but it’s game day, so ...”

A four-year varsity performer, O’Leary is the state’s all-time leader with 5,678 assists, becoming just the third player in state history to record 5,000 assists in her career.

This season, the 5-foot-10 senior is averaging 12.6 assists, 2.4 digs and 2.3 kills to go with an impressive .556 hitting percentage.

O’Leary was named the 2016 Gatorade Player of the Year in Michigan and recently was named Under Armour first team All-America. She is a two-time MaxPreps first team All-American and was a member of the USA Volleyball Girls Youth National Team, which placed runner-up



Erin O’Leary holds the Miss Volleyball trophy, surrounded by her Novi teammates. BILL ROOSE | NCSD

at the 2016 North, Central American and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation Girls U18 Continental Championship.

She became the fourth Novi senior recognized as the state’s top player in his or her sport, joining Mr. Tennis Tim Wang (2014) and Miss Soccer winners Emily Esbrook (2006) and Kristi Timar (2005).

“I don’t know if there’s a more deserving player in the state than her and what she’s accomplished in her four years at Novi,” Novi coach Jen Cottrill said. “It’s her intangibles and her leadership, citizenship, her grades, her discipline ... not that there aren’t other deserving candidates on the list, but her resume is very impressive.”

The 6-foot-1 Cannon, meanwhile, took fourth in the voting.

“I think those two kind of go together,” Cottrill said of O’Leary and Cannon. “They help each other out. Abryanna is a great passer, who allows Erin to deliver great sets. And, obviously, Abryan-

na terminates. I feel kind of like they’re a team within a team between the two of them. And she’s also a tremendous player. Obviously, not being at Novi her entire career probably hurt her a little bit. Erin’s reputation and her success from her freshman to senior year has spoken for itself.”

O’Leary, who played club volleyball for Legacy, verbally committed to the Wolverines during the summer following her freshman season.

Michigan head coach Mark Rosen and his wife Leisa, a U-M assistant coach, were also on hand for the surprise ceremony.

“We’ve known Erin forever. She was a ball shagger in our gym when she was really young and she played in our club,” Mark Rosen said. “She’s just such a good all-around volleyball player, such a good decision-maker. Her athletic ability is a huge factor, but she’s just such a great volleyball mind. So we’re excited about her coming to our program and

bringing that high volleyball I.Q. And she’s just a character kid who has all those intangibles you look for in a student-athlete, so we’re excited about her being in the maize and blue.”

O’Leary is scheduled to graduate a semester early and enroll at U-M in January.

“We’re still working through admissions,” Rosen said. “It’s a process, we were involved in, but not something we have control over. That’s the plan, so we’ll see how it all comes together.”

The U-M squad will also be going on a trip to play in Europe in 2018.

“With her freshman class, they’ll all be on the trip,” Rosen said. “She’s the first person actually to come in early. And it’s not something we’re promoting or looking for. She came to us with the idea that, academically, she really wanted to get started. She’s a great student and I think it was a priority for her to kind of get her college classes going. We’re excited about it, but it’s not something we pushed for that



Erin O’Leary, Novi’s senior setter, is surrounded by her teammates after winning Miss Volleyball. BILL ROOSE | NCSD

or something for that in the future.”

At an early age, O’Leary gravitated toward volleyball even though her father Brian, a math teacher at Novi, was a soccer coach who guided the Wildcats to five MHSAA girls state championships and one boys title in his 20 seasons.

“We were coaching her sister (Abby) in fourth grade and she would go to practices and be part of all the time,” Colleen O’Leary said. “Most first-graders haven’t touched a volleyball.”

O’Leary has never had her father for a class, but her older brother Connor once did. And like her mother, dad is a big supporter.

“I love seeing him around school,” Erin said. “I know he’s a good teacher and kids like him. It’s fun to be his daughter at the school. I owe my parents so much. They do so much for me that I can’t even begin to explain.”

Once the trophy was presented by Novi athlete

director Brian Gordon, O’Leary was hugged by her teammates, classmates and school personnel.

“Novi schools have been the perfect place for me to grow up,” O’Leary said. “And for sure, I’m going to miss my friends and my teachers and this whole thing. It’s bittersweet, for sure.”

O’Leary still couldn’t get over the unexpected visit with Carter.

“What I created today was a senior exit interview because, as you know, she’s starting at the University of Michigan in January, so I took her through a series of questions,” Carter said. “We had an awesome conversation and then I got the thumbs-up from my secretary, so I knew that was the symbol to bring her down and she was in complete shock, which was awesome. Well-deserved honor for a great, great young lady.”

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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Marian reaches first state final since 2010

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USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The third time proved to be a charm – and then some – for Birmingham Marian during the Class A volleyball semifinal Nov. 16.

The Mustangs avenged both of their losses during the regular season to Catholic League Central A-B Division champion Farmington Hills Mercy with a 13-25, 25-20, 25-20, 25-21 triumph at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena. The Mustangs were scheduled Saturday to face two-time defending Class A state champion Novi for the title (go to hometownlife.com for complete coverage).

Marian (45-12-1), under first-year coach Lauren Duquette, used a balanced hitting attack led by Christine Audette and Maggie DePorre with 15 kills apiece, followed by Lauren Wenzel, who finished with 13.

The trio helped offset a stellar performance from Mercy's 6-foot-1 sophomore Jess Mruzik, who finished with a match-best 26 kills.

Mercy (50-8-1) had beaten Marian in a four-setter and a five-setter,

but the rematch was a different story.

“Having lost to them two times previously, it's always on the back of your head, especially on such a big stage and platform,” said Wenzel, a 6-2 senior middle blocker. “It's such a big game you're always thinking about that, but I think it wasn't something, like, that was generated by nerves, it, like, motivated us. We were, like, ‘We're not losing to them, especially in front of all these people.’”

After Mercy breezed through the opening set, the Mustangs began to take control.

“We started serving a lot more aggressive, executing our zones the way we wanted to,” Duquette said. “Our middles started moving and made better setting traces. We started playing off-blocker defense around the third set, which helped ... as basic as it sounds, it just came down to basics.”

Marian setter Maddie Dowd had 52 assist-to-kills, while Mallory Lynch led the way defensively with 19 digs, followed by Claire Winter (16), Dowd (10) and Audette (10).

Mercy setter Julia Bishop had 46 assists,

while Mruzik had 13 digs. Lauren Hunter, one of only two Mercy seniors, added 10 digs, along with Grace Kane.

“I thought we played the best we could,” Mercy coach Loretta Vogel said. “There wasn't mental errors, physical errors. I thought sometimes the ball on blocks just went the wrong touch for us. During the game, we're constantly trying to make changes. I thought in the first game, we had a lot of things going. But momentum can change quickly. And I think the girls will agree in the following games, we just couldn't the right touches on the ball. That's part of the game.”

Here are four other takeaways:

ROOKIE COACH

Duquette, who spent the past six years as Rochester's head coach, was on the cusp of her first state championship in her inaugural season at Marian.

The former Oakland University player and Chippewa Valley High grad played club volleyball at age 9 under Vogel.

“And as much as I try and portray my toughness, I'm a very emotional person,” Duquette



Marian's Lauren Wenzel (left) and Christine Audette and Mercy's Julia Bishop all go for the ball during the semifinal match at Kellogg Arena. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

said. “I don't know if it's sunk in yet, but I just felt really comfortable. And I've never done any of this ... won a district title even before. So feeling comfortable wasn't what I was expecting, but I've been just rolling with it at this point. This team reminded me of why I do this.”

HISTORY LESSON

Marian captured back-to-back state titles under Irick Gardner in 2009-10. The Mustangs also have three Class A runner-up finishes to their credit.

“After that first month, when they decid-

ed to buy in, it made me realize I'm doing a job I love and I belong here and I think I needed that,” Duquette said. “And this one sort of reminds me this is icing on cake at this point. It's not what I expected, but from the beginning of the year, when we had our first meeting, I said, ‘I don't care what anybody thinks is possible, I'm here to win a state title.’ And that's our goal this year, whether it's doable or not. That's the goal.”

MRUZIK SHINES

The sophomore outside hitter hit at a .306

percentage, but the Marlins couldn't generate enough offense after winning the first set.

“Just a great kid, great young lady and, athletically, Jess is very athletic,” Vogel said. “I like to talk to them about just a wonderful young lady. It doesn't get any better than what I have right here and, actually, our entire team. Seriously, it just doesn't get any better.”

BIDDING ADIEU

Setter Libby Midonski and Hunter are the only two seniors who will graduate for the Marlins, while the rest of the lineup returns intact for next season.

“It's, honestly, been a blessing,” Hunter said. “And this is the farthest we've ever gotten in my four years here. As a freshman, we had the same opportunity, but couldn't get it done in the quarterfinals. It's really nice knowing I've played with all these different girls and gotten to know them so well. I've made so many new friends and I'll keep them for the rest of my life. Mercy is just a great program that keeps the family together.”

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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Novi crushes DeWitt in three sets to reach Class A final

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USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Talk about a payback.

Two-time defending Class A volleyball state champion Novi went into the Nov. 16 Class A semifinal facing DeWitt, one of only three teams to defeat the Wildcats this season.

But the rematch proved to be no match, as the Wildcats took just an hour to return the favor with a convincing 25-13, 25-11, 25-17 victory at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena to improve to 56-3.

Novi, making its fourth straight Class A championship appearance under coach Jen Cottrill, was scheduled Saturday to face Birmingham Marian for the title (go to hometownlife.com for complete coverage).

The Panthers (43-5), in their first Class A semifinal, had beaten host Novi during its own invitational back in September. But the second encounter proved to be much different.

“I think that we kind knew what we needed to



Novi's Kathryn Ellison watches her shot hug the line for a point as DeWitt's Allison Haller attempts the block. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

do in order to be successful this time,” said Novi senior setter and recently named Miss Volleyball Erin O'Leary, who finished with 36 assist-to-kills, seven kills and nine digs. “We were just really strong in our serve and pass. We were very clean. We were serving very well and they were

out of system. And we were passing very well and in system.”

Novi dominated the match with a total of 48 kills (.359 hitting percentage) compared with DeWitt's 22 kills (.071 percentage).

Northwestern University-bound Abryanna Cannon once again led

Novi's hitting attack with a match-best 23 kills, while Kent State-bound Kathryn Ellison added 12.

“We played them at kind of a unique point of our season,” Cottrill said of DeWitt. “We had similar players on the court. We had Kathryn and Abryanna back from their injuries, but they had just gotten back. And we coached (Desiree Becker) in club and so we were very familiar with her. We knew they had a smaller setter. I think it was to our advantage because they beat us, which we talked about before. We don't get to play that redemption and revenge role very often, so I think that was to our advantage that they did beat us earlier in the season.”

O'Leary, who jump-starts the offense from her setting position, got everybody involved.

“Offensive options are really open for us,” Cannon said. “We have a very even offense. When we have that pass and it's there, Erin can do anything with it.”

Novi is never flashy, but executed the fundamentals flawlessly once

again, for the most part.

“We had a little bit of information coming in on DeWitt,” the 6-foot-1 Cannon said. “But again, our agenda every single time out and our first priority is serve and pass. That's what runs our offense. We have a lot of offensive options, but we can't do anything with it if there's not passing. So I'm really proud of my team being able to stick through that and pass very well. And we served pretty well, too.”

For O'Leary, who is headed to Michigan in January, it was her fourth straight trip to the finals at Kellogg.

“I think if there was anything tonight, I was able to kind of sit back a little bit and enjoy the moment,” she said. “Looking back on previous years, the games are kind of like a blur. So this year, I really wanted to focus on connecting with my teammates and making sure that I'd remember this for a long time.”

Becker, a junior middle hitter, led DeWitt with 11 kills, but nobody else in the Panthers' lineup had more than four. Setter Brooke Bin-

kley finished with 18 assists and 10 digs. Stephanie Starr had a team-best 11 digs.

“We didn't bring our ‘A’ game,” DeWitt coach Christy Thelen said. “I'm not quite sure what game we brought today. You've got to hand it to Novi, they are a great team. It's just not my team that showed up tonight.”

Kellogg Arena has become the friendly confines for the Wildcats, who haven't lost there since the 2014 Class A finals against Romeo. They were 6-1 in the past four years in Battle Creek prior to the final.

“I think it's something that weighs on them, but the comfort of playing in this arena, obviously, helps us with our confidence and being able to settle into our system,” Cottrill said. “So I think it's a give and take, the pressure of winning another one. We know what it's like, we know what it feels like and we want it. But you have to stay focused on the process and what we need to do to win.”

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GUZMAN

Continued from Page B1

said Guzman, who graduated from Bishop Foley in 2004. “I've just had some really awesome coaches who have impacted my life, so I thought I would try coaching after college.

“I just kind of worked my way through and ever since I graduated from Wayne State in '08-'09, I've been coaching high school sports. My college experience was very great playing under (head coach) Gary (Bryce) and (assistant) Pat (Kent) and what they instilled in us as athletes made me want to coach.

“With sports being such a big part of my life, it's just a niche that I have. I just feel like it's my life calling,” she added. “I love to do it and I'm very passionate about it. I'm happy that I can do it.”

Following her coaching desire

After college, Guzman immediately chased her coaching desire.

Rochester High School administrators were impressed enough to hire her as the school's softball coach. She will be entering her ninth season with the Falcons in spring 2018.

Guzman later landed a coaching job in her other sport of expertise, basketball, at Riverview Gabriel Richard High School. She spent four years at the Catholic League school before leaving last year after taking the Pioneers to the district championship game.

Guzman recently heard that Farmington High School was looking for a girls basketball head coach. She was hired three weeks ago and couldn't be more excited.

“I was kind of going to

take some time off, but I thought if I could apply for it and get it, it would be something I would consider,” Guzman said. “I got an interview, heard back in two weeks and I accepted right away.

“I'm honestly very excited and the kids are really excited about it,” she added. “We're just trying to change the culture and bring excitement back into the program. The kids seem all on board from varsity to freshmen and so far it's been a very good experience.”

Up-tempo offensive style

Guzman plans to bring an up-tempo style of offense to Farmington, which plays in the OAA Blue Division. She believes the Falcons, with the experience they have and the addition of a couple of players from Harrison's dissolved program, will be able to compete for the division



New head coach Laura Guzman hopes to get Farmington's girls basketball program pointed in the right direction. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

title this season.

Farmington's returning seniors are Abbey Smentowski, a field hockey player who is very quick and athletic, and four-year varsity veteran Micayla Martin. Juniors Iasia Rimson, a point

guard, and all-around workhorse Cecelia Norris are two other key players from last year's squad.

And with the addition of seniors Olivia Perkins, a 5-foot-8 power forward with a strong basketball IQ, and Nevada Hargress from Harrison, Guzman likes her blend of players.

“This is like the first time I've coached where the majority of players are upperclassmen,” Guzman said. “So there are a lot of juniors and seniors. There is only one sophomore on the team, so we have a lot of experience in the program and there is a lot of talent there.

“We need to get the kids in shape and get their mindset to let's run and create and get out on the open floor. I think that's where we will be most successful and that's getting to the basket. I think we have a lot of kids who can do that.

“I would say one of our goals is to win the league and I think it's very doable if they just understand it's a new program and a new philosophy,” she added. “And they're buying into it. My expectations are extremely high for them this season.”

Guzman said the team has bonded very well with the newcomers from Harrison.

“It's been a blessing to have the kids from Harrison come over and they're helping to push the Farmington kids,” Guzman said. “It's been a whole brand new competitive spirit. We lucked out getting them.

“I thought it would be hard, but honestly this is a group of kids who all get along,” she added. “It's like they go to Farmington. It hasn't been a rough transition at all.”

Guzman is looking forward to her comfortable transition at Farmington as well.

BOYS HOCKEY



Plymouth to blend skill, will in bid for success

Wildcats boast strong lineup and work ethic as team looks to have another big year

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Plymouth wears black and silver hockey uniforms, but it would be an appropriate fashion touch to add blue collars.

The Wildcats, under the watch of seventh-year head coach Gerry Vento, just roll up their collective sleeves every season and go to work on the Arctic Edge Arena ice.


Vento

Chumley
“We try to keep it the same and consistent, so guys that are coming up (from Plymouth Prep junior varsity team) know what to expect and guys that are returning know what the program is,” Vento said. “You know, it’s just hard work, keep your nose clean on and off the ice. Do the right thing day after day and be ready to work.” It helps that Plymouth



Standing his ground during a 2016-17 game is Plymouth goalie Brendan Olepa. MICHAEL VASILNEK

lot of confidence. He’s a tremendous skater,” Vento said. “No doubt, skating is his asset. He thinks the game really well. And he’s just one of those guys, whoever he’s playing with, just makes them better as a (defense) partner.” Taking care of goaltending duties will be senior Brendan Olepa — who had a breakout season in 2016-17 — and promising junior Josh Montroy.

“He’s progressed year after year,” Vento said about Olepa. “He’s come in with the mindset that he wants to lead this team as long as he can this season. His work on the ice has shown that.”

Meanwhile, Chumley also is pumped up for the season to begin.

“We got a lot of good players on the team and a lot of opportunity to do something this year,” Chumley said. “Everybody’s feeling pretty good individually and we got a lot of potential. I’m looking forward to getting our games started and seeing what we can do as a team.”

Rounding out the roster are defensemen Joey Closser and Shane Aigner and forwards Gianni Pinto, Jack Blake, Tommy Cassari, Jeff Koviak, Jacob Back, Gavin Roach and Andrew Gallaher.

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BOYS HOCKEY

Patriots are young team, but coach remains optimistic

Tim Smith
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USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When Dan Phelps took over at the helm of Livonia Franklin’s varsity boys hockey team in 2016, he knew lifting the Patriots to prominence would take some time.

Entering his second season as Franklin head coach, Phelps isn’t changing his tune — but he is starting to like the melody.

“I think we’re going to bring a better brand of hockey, a much-more structured and disciplined brand of hockey that people will like to see,” Phelps said during a break in practice earlier this week. “As we keep going long term with Franklin, we’re looking to really build.”

Phelps the hockey coach also is looking at the team’s situation as Phelps the mathematician might.

“We don’t measure our (success) with wins and losses,” Phelps said. “If we look at the season as a math problem, we don’t really want to worry about what’s on the right-hand side of the equal sign.”

“We want to worry



Forward Brandon Webb is one of six seniors on Livonia Franklin’s varsity boys hockey team. FILE PHOTO

about the equation on the left. If we can get that equation right, we’re going to be in good shape with our answers.”

Franklin, 9-15-1 last season, will launch the 2017-18 campaign with a pair of games this weekend at the Hockey Has Heart Baseline Battle. The Patriots and Livonia Churchill were both scheduled to play games against the Farmington district’s Falcons and Flyers.

“We have a lot of returnees, but we feel we’re deeper than we were last year from improvement, but also from some of our newer players that we picked up. We’re still in a building

stage, our expectations are a little higher,” Phelps said. “We’re hoping to turn some heads this year and compete a little bit more with some of the teams we maybe didn’t do so well with last year.”

Phelps will have a handle on whether the Patriots indeed are trending in the right direction just by looking at the shots on goal totals. Last winter, then-sophomore goalie Will Augustine often faced more than 50 shots per night.

Although Augustine is “a high-level goaltender at the high school age,” Phelps would like to see that shot total reduced

significantly. “We know for sure he’s going to be a leader for us,” Phelps said. “He comes to play every day. He is one of those players if something’s going wrong, the last thing he does is look to the left or the right. He looks in the mirror and says, ‘What can I do to help this thing?’”

Move the puck

Franklin’s defensive lineup will look to launch outlet passes and take pressure of the junior Augustine and senior goalie Jacob Bailey. One of the key blue liners will be newcomer Ryan Kerr, a sophomore who comes in from a Livonia bantam travel team.

“Very good skilled player, very passionate and committed to his craft,” Phelps said. “He just absolutely loves the game. He brings a little bit more to the table than most kids at his age, but he still has some inexperience.”

“He’s going to be playing against kids that are bigger, stronger, older. And I’m sure that’s going to come out in the wash a little bit, but he’s the kind of player that will adapt to it.”

Others on defense

include senior Brandon Webb, juniors Steve Morris and Nick Zatyko and sophomores Colin Judge and Luc Ores.

Franklin figures to put a few more pucks behind opposing KLAA goaltenders, if the team is following along with Phelps’s math equation.

A big spark could come from two promising newcomers, freshman forwards Casey Farren and 6-5 Kyle Fugedi.

“Casey Farren is a playmaker and a tough kid,” Phelps said. “He’s kind of a semi-power winger with some savvy and some french silk every once in a while.”

Power game

Fugedi brings physicality to the lineup, but is still young and will need to adjust to varsity hockey.

“Again, a 6-foot-5, 14- or 15-year-old kid, you can imagine what the body and the mind are doing. So we’re working with him a lot to get him situated to playing at a higher level,” Phelps said.

Several other forwards with more experience will be counted on to, hopefully, catapult the Patriots to a .500 or bet-

ter record. Those include seniors Jonah Pollack (currently injured), Hunter Musser, Nic Anderson and Trevor Van Vliet, juniors Dakota Keaton, Sebastian Stukel and Justin Pedersen and sophomores Camden Smythe, Trey Ziebol, Nolan Niva (currently injured) and Jacob Cox. “Trey Ziebol, returning sophomore, probably is our most skilled player,” Phelps said. “Very extremely smart player to mix with it. Two seniors, Nic Anderson and Trevor Van Vliet, are two very good players that bring a lot to the table. They’ll be counted on offensively.”

Phelps also said the team will benefit from Keaton’s “NHL-style shot” and the leadership on and off the ice from Cox.

“It took an entire season just to get my arms around what we wanted to do and the direction we wanted to go,” Phelps said. “Guys got to trust each other and that’s one thing we’re settling in with real well. We have a really good group that wants to work together.”

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HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

period rolled around (5-3 at that point).

“It was dicey, I’ll tell you that,” U.S. head coach John Wroblewski said during a Nov. 16 telephone interview. “You started to wonder if the tide didn’t turn a little bit.

“But it showed what the guys had in the tank, though, what we have in that room. They prevailed and played a great game.”

Coming up big at the other end of the rink were forwards Cole Caulfield (three goals) and Jack Hughes (goal, three assists), both named to

the all-tournament team as the U.S. closed out a 6-0-0 run.

“I think everybody’s just working hard, we’re playing together as a team,” Caulfield said. “Everybody’s going, it’s not just a couple players, we got the whole team all in. And we’re keeping it positive. There’s a lot to be happy about.”

Raising the banner

Rowe, Caulfield and their teammates also were happy to share the triumph with the home fans Friday at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

A pregame ceremony, featuring a banner raising, promised to keep tournament memories “golden” for a while to

come.

“I think it’s awesome,” Rowe said. “Winning the gold medal was a dream come true and we realized how much hard work everyone’s had to put in to get us to that spot.

“And I think it’s cool we’re getting honored for it, getting recognized for our accomplishment.”

Wroblewski praised that “a lot of guys chipped in at different spots in the tournament,” citing clutch goals by Judd Caulfield and Owen Lindmark.

Also key to the victory were important stops when they were needed most by goalies Rowe and Spencer Knight. Not to be glossed over was the way Cole Caulfield

and Hughes played as part of a line beginning midway through the tournament.

“It is quite the combination,” Wroblewski said. “Cole’s sure hands complement Jack’s vision and ability to open the ice up so well. I think it’s a deadly combo and one we’ll continue to try to work with, at the same time not taking away from other players’ development.

“We’re dead-set on making sure (Caulfield and Hughes) are able to play with different players, not just leave them alone for two years.”

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U.S. goalie Cameron Rowe covers up the puck during 2017 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge quarterfinal Nov. 9 against Sweden. MATTHEW MURNAGHAN | HOCKEY CANADA

WOMEN'S GOLF

Johnson set to tee off on GVSU career

Plymouth-to-Grand Valley pipeline paying off yet again

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When Plymouth senior Erin Johnson swings her driver, the golf ball usually goes something in the vicinity of 250 yards — flying in the direction of the green.

And having that kind of length off the tee will serve the 17-year-old Johnson well in the next phase of her golf career — at Grand Valley State University.

On Nov. 15, Johnson signed with the Division II university. She again will be teammates with Katie Chipman, another Plymouth standout who currently is a sophomore at Grand Valley, located in Allendale.

“I always loved the campus at Grand Valley, I love the coach and the group of girls there,” Johnson said. “The whole environment is just great, so I was pretty excited when I verbally committed this past July.

“I’m excited to be on the team with Katie, since I always looked up to her. Glad to be teammates again with her, that will be fun.”

A lot of folks around Plymouth High School look up to Johnson, too, with Wildcats head coach Dan Young at the top of the list.

“She’s had an incred-



Watching the ball fly after another perfectly executed golf swing is Plymouth senior Erin Johnson. She signed Nov. 15 to play women’s golf at Grand Valley State University. PLYMOUTH GOLF

ible career and will be an outstanding college player,” Young said.

Johnson is trending in that direction. In her senior season, the Canton resident averaged 78 strokes per 18 holes and 38 strokes per nine holes, earning match medalist four times along the way. In 18-hole tournament play, she finished in the top 10 six times.

At the recent Division I state finals at The Meadows on the GVSU campus, she placed 11th with a scoreline of 81-76—157 (just one shot out of the top 10). KLAA Central Division champion Plymouth came in fifth in the team standings.

“I thought that I was

pretty consistent throughout the entire season. I played pretty well under pressure,” Johnson said. “That helped a lot, especially for my team. Because when we needed to get things done at regionals, we needed to make it to states, we all pulled through together and made it happen.”

Taking a deep breath

About barely missing the top 10, Johnson admitted some disappointment.

“I was pretty upset about it,” she said. “But I think there was a tie for ninth place, that’s why I didn’t get it. My first day was pretty rough. My

driver wasn’t really working. I was in the heather a lot, off the tee, so that put me in some trouble.

“But the second day, my whole family was there to support me and I felt really relaxed. Since it was my last high school tournament, I just wanted to enjoy it.”

The following day, Johnson (and junior teammate Shae Zydeck) were named to the Division I all-state first team.

Relaxing on the golf course is pretty much what got her hooked on the sport in the first place.

“I’ve been golfing since I was 8 years old,” said Johnson, whose parents are Neal and

Michelle Johnson. “My dad used to take me to (Fellows Creek in Canton) and I would always like to ride in the cart and sometimes drive the cart.

“One day, he got me my first set of clubs and I just started playing with him.”

A few years later, Johnson’s interest in golf took a serious turn. She began taking lessons at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth. The facility’s PGA teaching pros, Brian Cairns and Jordan Young, quickly saw raw talent and a willingness to roll up her sleeves.

“(Young) talked to me and said I had potential and, if I really worked

hard for it, that I could achieve a lot,” Johnson said. “I started practicing every day. I wouldn’t miss a day of practice, actually.

“And I did a lot of summer tournaments. I think I had a tournament twice a week during the summer. That really helped me.”

Better and better

Her dedication intensified just by being friends and teammates with Chipman, who averaged 74.1 strokes per 18 in her final Plymouth season, when she was named to the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association Super Team.

“We played a lot during the summer and we practiced a lot during the season together,” Johnson said. “I really look up to Katie.”

And the hard work knocked strokes off her scorecard.

In ninth grade, Johnson averaged 92 for 18 and 45 for nine. Three short years later, those numbers were down significantly (78, 38).

Johnson also credited regular participation at summer tournaments for getting her game ready for college. She listed the Calloway Junior Tour and GAM Women’s Amateur among those.

“I prepared a lot throughout my summer tournaments,” Johnson said. “I think I’m really prepared for the (college) yardages because I’m pretty long off the tee, so I think I’ll do good things.”

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New parents have plenty on their financial to-do list

The other day, I met a young couple who just had their first child. The couple had been married for about four years and had never done anything from a financial planning standpoint and realized with the birth of their child it was time to get serious. They asked me what, as new parents, they should be doing from a financial standpoint. I thought I would share with you some of my thoughts.

The first thing I told them was they need a will. The most important thing is not who gets their money, but who's going to raise their child if something happens to



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

them. As a parent, you have a responsibility to your child even when you are no longer here. It is important that parents name who they want as guardians for their children so that, in the unlikely event something happens, there are no disputes and fights. In their situation, I would recommend the Michigan Statutory Will, which is a free fill-in-the-blank will. The will is very easy to complete and, most

importantly, it allows you to name a guardian for your children. The Michigan Statutory Will is available in many places, including my website.

Next, I told the young couple that, when you have a newborn, from day one you should start thinking about saving for their college education. We all know how expensive college is and the sooner young parents start saving, the easier things will be. In addition, I mentioned what a blessing it would be if when their child graduated from college he was not burdened with excessive debt. I recommended to them that they con-

sider opening accounts with the Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP; www.misaves.com). The MESP is a great way to save for college; there are very low minimums to start the plan and the plan is very flexible in the fact that you can basically use it for any public or private institution in the country. I also told them that, as opposed to grandparents and relatives buying toys and clothes for the child, a contribution to their MESP account may be more appropriate. After all, the child will be bored with the toys in about 10 minutes, while their education will last

them their entire lives.

I asked the young couple if something happened to either one of them, would the other one have the financial resources to maintain the family? Their answer was no, so I recommended life insurance. I told them they should consider term insurance. It's the most affordable type of insurance and the type of insurance I generally recommend, particularly to young couples. I told them it pays to shop around, the market is very competitive.

I don't have to tell parents how much responsibility there is when you bring a new-

born into this world. It's not unusual for parents to delay some of the financial and legal issues surrounding their child, but these items are important and they can make a substantial difference in your child's quality of life. After all, isn't that what it's about? If you have a newborn, it is important that you don't delay and find the time to deal with some of these legal and financial issues.

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.

AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com.

Toys for Tots campaign

The Tanglewood Homeowners Association will again be collecting toys for the Marines Toys For Tots campaign. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the Tanglewood Golf Course pro shop, 22805 Country Club Dr., South Lyon, until Dec. 12. Please, no stuffed animals. For more information, call Gwen Dobson at 248-437-4649.

Pigs 4 Wigs program

Employees of the Milford Police Department will grow beards throughout the month of November for the Pigs 4 Wigs program. They are accepting any donations from the community at its headquarters, 1100 Atlantic St. Over the last four years, members raised nearly \$27,000 for Wigs 4 Kids, a nonprofit organization that helps children suffering from ailments that affects their appearance, especially their hair, by providing custom fitted wigs.

For more information on Wigs 4 Kids, go to www.wigs4kids.org. To donate, go to www.milfordpolice.com and follow the Facebook link.

Lyon Township Community Chest

For 65 years, the Lyon Township Community Chest Christmas program has been helping families. The group will again be helping needy families in the South Lyon Community Schools district. If you would like to adopt a family to help, pack toys or deliver baskets, your help would be appreciated. The group is also accepting families that need assistance.

Toy packing will be at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at the Lyon Township Fire Hall on Grand River in New Hudson. Deliveries will start at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, from the same location. Call Brenda at 248-437-6739 for more information.

Art House exhibition

The Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street, will host a juried all-media exhibition titled Small Works. A First Friday reception is scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1. The exhibit continues through Dec. 16 during gallery hours of noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday (the gallery is closed Thanksgiving weekend). Admission is free.

For more information,

call 248-344-0497 or go to www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org.

Back pain presentation

Providence Park Hospital in Novi will host a presentation relating to back pain 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, at the hospital's Conference Room A in the Outpatient Center. The presenter is Dr. Michael Slesinki, a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician. For more information or to register, call 888-751-5465.

Huron Valley Community Chorus

The Huron Valley Community Chorus will perform its 40th annual Christmas concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at Mill Creek Church, 1270 W. Commerce, Milford. The suggested donation is \$5 at the door. Children 12 and under free.

The chorus is under the direction of Jacqueline Rhodes and Debra Culver will be the accompanist. For more information, go to www.hvcommchorus.com.

AARP TaxAide looking for volunteers

Every year, AARP provides free income tax preparation services for

seniors and other moderate income families from February through April. AARP is looking for new volunteers to become tax counselors. You should know how to use a computer and the internet, and be experienced with income tax preparation.

Training will be provided to learn the tax software and tax law, to prepare you for certification. Training classes in early December and in mid-January are being scheduled now. Volunteers are expected to be active about one day per week during the tax season.

You can apply by completing an application online at aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 888-227-7669.

Homeless vets clothing drive

St. George's Episcopal Church, 801 E. Commerce Street, Milford, is having a clothing drive of new/gently used items for both men and women. It also accepts shoes, boots, outdoor wear and small sized toiletries. Clothing must be clean and in good condition. Items collected will go to homeless veterans.

The drive runs through Dec. 1. Donations may be dropped off from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and each Sunday morning. For more information, call 248-684-0495.

HVCA exhibit features 'Money'

"Show Me the Money," a collaborative art show of Huron Valley Council for the Arts and the Huron Valley Numismatic Society, runs through Nov. 25. It will feature the work of about 25 artists using clay, jewelry, fiber, wood turning, photography, mixed media, sculpture, fused glass and collage.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, go to huronvalleyarts.org.

Gifts of Art show

The Village Fine Arts Association invites the public to an artists' reception for the Gifts of Art show and sale 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Suzanne Haskew Art Center, 125 S. Main St., Suite 700, Milford. Finger food and refreshments are provided. Bring your friends and family to meet the artists and do some holiday shopping! The admission is free, but donations are welcomed.

You can also visit Gifts of Art through Dec. 26. The VFAA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that relies on the support of the community. Proceeds from the Gifts of Art show support not only the artists involved, but also the efforts of the VFAA to continue arts-focused activities in the Huron Valley area.

Friday and Saturday Night Hangouts

The Living and Learning Center in downtown Northville is a center that specializes in helping teens and adults that are on the autism spectrum learn job and social skills. This center provides a program 6-9 p.m. each Friday and Saturday night that allows their clients to partake in games, art, and creating friendships with their fellow peers and mentors.

Each week, teens and adults learn essential social skills (introducing themselves, carrying a conversation, etc.) while also having a fun night out of the house.

To learn more about this program or to reserve your spot in the program, call 248-308-3592 or go to www.livingandlearningllc@gmail.com.

Adopt-A-Reader

Adopt-A-Reader links volunteers like you with

children in kindergarten through second grade in the South Lyon Community Schools district who need extra support with reading and/or writing. This is an opportunity to create a learning bond by working individually with two children. You could make a real difference in their lives. All it takes is a commitment of about an hour a week.

You decide the school you would like to volunteer at, the day and time slot during school hours that's convenient for your schedule; we provide the training and materials. Contact Lindsey Jackson at 248-941-1701 or jacksonl@slcs.us for more information.

Indivisible Huron Valley

Indivisible Huron Valley is a local non-partisan group committed to social and economic justice and the protection of our environment. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at 125 S. Main in downtown Milford. Public welcome.

Youth Alpha film series

All teens are invited to the Youth Alpha film series at the Java House Cafe, 25840 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon. A free Java House drink and snack will be provided. Come at 6 p.m. each Thursday. Email any questions to YouthAlpha789@gmail.com or register at wp.holyspiritrcs.org/alpha/.

SL Rec Authority

South Lyon Area Recreation Authority board meetings are held at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month. Call the South Lyon Area Recreation office at 248-437-8105 for directions and confirmation of meeting location. To register for upcoming classes, call or go to www.slrec.net.

Obituaries

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

Michael J. Martus

SOUTH LYON - Age 67, passed away November 13, 2017. He was born in Detroit on January 8, 1950 to John and Frances. Michael is survived by his wife Teri of 40 years, son Jarred (Candra), grandchildren Keaton and Aaron. He is also survived by his sisters Mary Anne (Mary Kay), Fran and brother David (Alice) and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Johnny and sister Rosie. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to: St Jude's Children's Hospital. www.phillips-funeral.com



May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



Betty Mae Rhodes

HIGHLAND TWP. - Betty Mae Rhodes, a devoted member of Cedar Crest Lutheran Church in White Lake; longtime resident of Highland Township; and receptionist with her husband's Rhodaside Veterinary Hospital, died on November 15, 2017 at the age of 92.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dean A. "Doc" Rhodes, D.V.M. in 2005 and is survived by her sons, Rev. Daniel Scott Rhodes and Dean C. (Jacqueline) Rhodes; her daughter, Sine (William) Chittenden; grandchildren: Nisse (William) Mead, Vincent (Jessica) Rhodes, Deana Rhodes and Jason Rhodes; great grandchildren: Thea and Thora Rhodes, Kaia and Hadley Mead; her Morton family in Minnesota; many other extended family members; dear friends; and her beloved cats; Gala, Juno, Barney Button and Lucky 7.

Funeral Service were held at Cedar Crest Lutheran Church, 485 Farnsworth St., White Lake, on Monday, November 20th. Burial West Highland Cemetery. Memorials may be made in her name to Cedar Crest Lutheran Church, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, or Kindred Hospice.

For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchandSonsMilford.com

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BOYS HOCKEY

Sizing up Lakes Valley Conference squads

South Lyon, Lakeland, Milford jump into new seven-team conference

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A change of scenery may be just what the doctor ordered for three area boys hockey teams as they embark on their inaugural season in the Lakes Valley Conference.

South Lyon Unified (10-12-1) moves out of the tough Central Division of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, which featured state powers Brighton (Division 1 champ), Northville (Division 1 semifinalist), Livonia Stevenson and Novi.

SLU lost 14 seniors to graduation, including all-KLAA choice Matthew England, but returns four key players, including senior forwards Jake Heffernan and Ashton Jones, junior forward Aaron Caicco and senior defenseman Brendan Stanfield.

“We’re certainly excited with the first year of the new league,” ninth-year South Lyon coach Bill McCreary said. “We have some good youth and a nice mix of leadership with our upperclassmen. And our freshmen and sophomores are very skilled and hard-working kids. They’ll adjust pretty quickly to varsity hockey, so we’re real excited about the team and the outlook for the year.”

Lakeland rebuilds

White Lake Lakeland (14-13) captured the three-team KLAA North Division last season, but graduated 10 seniors, including all-KLAA selections Austin Gogola, Dakota Racine and Brendan Ramboer.

The team’s top returning scorer is junior forward Tyler Martin, who had nine goals and 13 assists last season.

The Eagles’ captains will be defenseman Hayden Baker and Jacob Brown and forward Justin Smith. They happen to be the team’s only three seniors.

Meanwhile, junior Bryce Samoylov takes over in goal for the graduated Austin Gogola.

Despite the inexperience, ninth-year Lakeland coach Tim Ronayne is confident his team can compete in the new LVC.

“I don’t have any concerns, because I know that we’ll improve,” he said. “I have some sophomores who made the team and it’s a big step for them, but they needed a big step even to make it. Obviously, they’ll improve as they go along.”

Milford reloads

The Mavericks (12-14) move out of the KLAA West and into the new LVC minus their two top scorers in honorable mention all-staters Michael Osinski and Josh Bauer, who combined for 91 points.

The team’s third leading scorer, Brent Anderson, a junior forward, returns after scoring 15 goals with 14 assists. Other key returnees up front include senior Tyler Conklin and Jacob



Junior Aaron Caicco returns for South Lyon Unified. ROB MCKINDLES PHOTOGRAPHY



Senior Jacob Briggs returns up front for Milford after scoring eight goals and adding nine assists last season. FILE PHOTO

Briggs and junior Sam Hewitt. Seniors Jacob Quinn and Jack Chaldecott will anchor the blue line for senior goalies Hunter

Bartholomew and Chase Tabor. “I expect our team to be physical, determined and gritty, but most of all, composed and dis-

TEAM CAPSULES

SOUTH LYON UNIFIED
Head coach: Bill McCreary, ninth season.
League: Lakes Valley Conference.
Last year’s record: 10-13-1.
Notable losses to graduation: Matt England, Jared Paugh, Garrett Weyh, Sean Millene, Anthony Bagnasco, Nick Allerton, Grant Gardiner.
Leading returnees: Nolan Smith, Jr. G; Aaron Caicco, Jr. F; Jake Heffernan, Sr. F; Ashton Jones, Sr. F; Brandon Stanfield, Sr. Def.
Promising newcomers: Luke Turowski, Jr. F; Ryan Bigler, Sr. F; Jace Gerlach, Jr. Def.; Gavin Ross, Sr. F; Andrew Lowen, Soph. G; Gavin McPherson, Sr. G.
McCreary’s outlook: “We’re carrying 23 kids this year. We really have some really nice additions of some high-end kids up front, on the blue line and in net. We think the balance should be very good for us. Obviously, always (defensive) coverage is critical, but we’re really excited about the group of kids we have here.”

WHITE LAKE LAKELAND
Head coach: Tim Ronayne, ninth season.
League: Lakes Valley Conference.
Last year’s record: 14-13.
Titles won last year: KLAA North Division.
Notable losses to graduation: Dakota Racine, Austin Gogola, Brendan Ramboer, Mack Hastings, Ricky Rayner, Nelson Turnage, Matt Enoch, Hunter Overall, Spencer Sienkiewicz.
Leading returnees: Justin Smith, Sr. F (captain); Hayden Baker, Sr. Def. (captain); Jacob Brown, Sr. Def. (captain); Ben Getzen, Soph. F; Blake Jackson, Jr. F; Tyler Martin, Jr. F; Jason Loo, Jr. G.
Promising newcomers: Max Cohen, Soph. F; Jacob Lesnau, Jr. F; Steve Sierota, Jr. F; Bryce Samoylov, Jr. G.
Ronayne’s outlook: “Despite having only three seniors, we feel pretty good about our chances to compete. It’s a good group of kids. They have talent. They never quit. Just about every time I coached them in summer and saw them in fall, they never quit. You could see it in their attitudes that they don’t quit. We’re in a new league and we want to win our league. We won our division (KLAA North) last year and we want to win it again.”

HIGHLAND MILFORD
Head coach: Dennis Gagnon, second season.
League: Lakes Valley Conference.
Last year’s record: 12-14.
Notable losses to graduation: Michael Osinski, Josh Bauer, Gabe Bettley, Vinnie Szeriag, Michael Welsh, Nick Diedrich.
Leading returnees: Jacob Briggs, Sr. F; Tyler Conklin, Sr. F; Brent Anderson, Sr. F; Sam Hewitt, Jr. F; Jacob Quinn, Sr. Def.; Jack Chaldecott, Sr. Def.; Joey Puz, Jr. Def.; Kevin Mozel, Jr. F; Connor Meadows Jr. Def; Austin Day, Jr. Def.; Daniel Onofrio, Sr. F; Nate Brennan, Sr. F; Henry Combs, Sr. F; Daine Albrecht, Sr. F; Chase Tabor, Sr. G.
Promising newcomers: Hunter Bartholomew, Sr. G; Mitchell Balaka, Sr. Def.; Andrew Thiele, Sr. Def.; Ben Kozar, Soph. F; Kazuma Bowring, Fr. F; Tyler Tori, Soph. F; Oliver Allen, Soph. F; Keir Gillis, Jr. Def.
Gagnon’s outlook: “We’re very excited to get the regular season rolling after a productive off-season. We have 13 seniors and will be carrying four lines and eight (defensemen). We’re hoping to outwork and wear our opposition down over the course of a game.”



Senior defenseman Hayden Baker (left) returns this season for Lakeland. FILE PHOTO

ciplined,” second-year Milford coach Dennis Gagnon said. “Our goal is to win the inaugural LVC championship, but realize there are some very

good teams we’ll need to beat to reach our goal.”

bemons@hometownlife.com
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Parish Office: 347-7778

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Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Fr. Robert A. LaCroix, Pastor

Fr. James Houbbeck, Associate

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21355 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at 8 ½ Mile

248-348-7757 • www.mhccc.org

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister

LO-0000316579

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Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

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Assoc. Pastor: Randy Weeks

Website: www.fhcsouthlyon.com

Fm email: fhcsouthlyon@sbglobal.net

LO-0000316481

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LO-0000329990

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248-573-7320

www.shepherdswaysouthlyon.org

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Rev. Michael Horlocker, Pastor

www.fpcsouthlyon.org

LO-0000316482

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4 questions to ask at the end of an interview

BY KATE LOPAZE
THEJOBNETWORK

It's game time — the interview is here. You prepped well. You aced the handshake, anticipated the questions they asked and wowed them with your smooth, competent demeanor and relevant work anecdotes.

Or maybe it wasn't your best interview (it happens) and you need a way to salvage the whole thing. Either way, as the interview is wrapping up, it's time to close strong. This is your chance to leave a valuable impression on your way out.

At this point, most interviewers will open the floor to you by asking if you have any other questions. Before you simply shake hands and say "thank you for your time," consider asking these four questions to finish strong:

1. "How would you describe the culture here in the office?"

This question shows that you're already thinking about how you can fit in and add value to this company. It also gives you an unofficial glimpse into what the company is like — information that you can't necessarily get from online research.

The interviewer is unlikely to tell you the "warts and all"



GETTY IMAGES

version, but it's a good way to get an initial feel for whether the job will truly be a good fit for you.

2. "What's been your favorite part about working for this company?"

This engages the interviewer's personal side, letting them give an opinion that isn't necessarily based on the company motto or the job description. The answer can be even more revealing about the day-to-day life at the company than asking, "What's the day-to-day like here?"

For example, at one interview I asked this question

and was pleasantly surprised to find out that once a month the company throws a pizza party for employees and holds regular events like employee bake-offs and craft fairs. That told me that the company valued employee morale, and was a deciding factor when I accepted the job.

If the interviewer seems stumped by this question and has to think a while before answering, that may be a red flag, which is also good information to have.

3. "What experience best prepared you for working here?"

Again, this engages with

the interviewer and gets him or her respond candidly without being too intrusive or personal. It also tells you about the kinds of skills that will serve you best in this role, regardless of what's in the job description.

For example, if the interviewer tells you that working for a chaotic small company prepared her for the "all hands on deck" attitude of this place, it tells you that teamwork is prized here. You can respond by saying something like, "I thrive in that kind of atmosphere too. Working at a small mom-and-pop store taught me how valuable it is for everyone to pitch in to get the job done."

4. "How would you describe the leadership style here?"

Up to this point, it's likely that the interview was focused on the job itself and your qualifications. This question opens it up a bit and tells you more about the expectations of the company for this job — whether it's a hands-on management kind of company (or potentially micromanaging), or a leadership style that relies on employees being more independent.

It also tells the interviewer that you're thinking about creating a productive, in-tune relationship with your potential manager.

As with all interview questions, it's important to read the flow of the interview. If you've covered any of these topics earlier, no need to rehash them at the end — it could look like you weren't paying attention.

But making sure you have a potential list of thoughtful, engaged questions ready to go will help you finish the interview in a polished, professional way.

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

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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**

1 Emanates (from)
6 Get — on (ace)
9 Diner fave
12 False show
15 Girl coming out in society
18 Plain to see
19 Its capital is Minsk
21 Lion-headed monster
23 ANNE
25 Department in eastern France
26 Munic. statute
27 Juan's emphatic assent
28 1,501, to Caesar
29 Grad's "with honor"
30 Begin a PC session
32 DIANA
34 Monastery garments
35 French fauvist Dufy
37 Favorable vote
38 Vegas stake
39 "Ooh" or "tra" follower
40 Actor MacLeod
- 41 — Z (completely)
42 Actress Henner
45 AMY
49 Recycling holder
50 Stimp's cartoon pal
51 Exclude
52 — Aviv
53 Small songbird
54 Cordon — (veal dish)
55 Stuck in
57 Ill-bred fellow
59 "Rambo" site, in brief
61 Tiny biting midge
63 EMMA
67 Sun block?
70 Mel whose "4" was retired
71 Make a face
72 Sternward
76 De-wrinkle
77 Suffix with Motor
79 Huge bird of legend
81 One + two, in German
83 No, in Ayr
84 Amer. soldiers
85 JANE
89 Walk showily
91 Feast on
- 92 It may be stainless
93 Soothe
94 Tiny charged bit
95 Oktoberfest "Oh!"
96 Driver's 180
97 Gillis in an old sitcom
98 KATE
102 Amaze the audience
103 NATO, e.g.
104 Sleep acronym
105 Bric-a- —
107 Ignited, as a match
109 Would have, given the chance
110 GRACE
113 Stable troughs
114 Sidestepped
115 Information tech mag
116 What "+" may mean
117 Grain staple
118 Rainy
119 Mag workers
120 Pee Wee whose "1" was retired
- DOWN**

1 Vocalist Perry
2 Burdened excessively
3 Lea
4 Make a goof
5 Balanced condition
6 Simple skills
7 Old brand of grape soda
8 Stein filler
9 Wedding-related
10 Clearheaded
11 Chinese philosopher Lao- —
12 Charge with an offense
13 Munch (on)
14 Area at the top of a PC window
15 Amount the insured must first pay
16 Abrade
17 Less adorned
20 Military division
22 More spiteful
24 — Tin Tin (TV dog)
29 Shout
31 Queen's onetime rock genre
32 Crime film genre
33 Inauguration Day highlight
34 Actress Bow
- 35 How an extremist acts
36 Online user's self-image
40 Emerald, e.g.
41 Happy as —
42 "So am I!"
43 In — of (rather than)
44 "One" on a U.S. penny
46 Ice cream drinks
47 One with a six-year term
48 Color related to emerald or pistachio
54 Telly network, with "the"
56 Oomph
58 Indigo Girls, e.g.
60 "So tasty!"
62 Sluggish type
64 Actress Deschanel
65 Parade walk
66 Soap opera, informally
67 Boars, e.g.
68 Opera highlight
69 Locale of Mount Erebus
73 Title girl of a Poe poem
74 Exact copies
75 Little laugh
78 Comic actor Don
80 Client
82 Pipe fitter's elbow
85 City in west California
86 Locale of Waikiki
87 Flabbergast
88 "That hurts!"
90 Swindling, slangily
95 For neither profit nor loss
96 System of online newsgroups
97 Stevedore
98 "— mial"
99 Brand of fat substitute
100 Prefix with cellular
101 Was behind the wheel
102 Female WWII server
105 Needed suturing, say
106 Frees oneself (of)
108 Little fella
110 Mandible or maxilla
111 Honored Fr. woman
112 Female with a fleece

	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
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55			56			57		58		59		60		61		62					
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89				90				91				92						93			
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98	99									100						101					
103																102					
109																					
113																					
116																					

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

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

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

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N G E T O G O G C B E K T I E B G I D C
S N G I I K L T A C D I N R S A T D I O
P I L T T S D I A N R C T H O N D Y D N
O R S V A I F R K V A E O I E P H L E G
R O V E T C L H T P R M D D V T P C U R
T T I T I G G I A N E E I I L I U M E
A I R G L T N C B S E S S A T P T K S G
T N E P I K I A B A E C E N S A F C I A
I O T L B T P L T R S H S O C T F A T
O M I B A P E O I L B I H E L C P I D E
N L R T H H E N H C U M D G L I E I O U
U D E S E Y K G W U A D Y E L A G Y A N
R D M L R S E T E S N F A G L M V F S R
O G E E G I S E T S I P A R E H T N W T
O F N V S C U R S C A R E G I V E R O F
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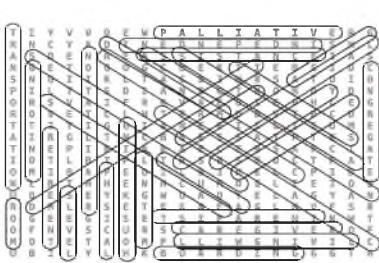
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HEALTHY
HOMES
HOSPICE
HOUSEKEEPING
INCAPACITATED
INDEPENDENT
LEVELS
LIVING WILL
LONG-TERM
MANAGED
MONITORING
PALLIATIVE
PHYSICAL
REHABILITATION
RESIDENTIAL
RETIREMENT
ROOM
SUPPORT
THERAPIST
TRANSPORTATION

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE


COMES	ANABLT	ACT	DEB
OVERT	BELARUS	CHIMERA	
MEARARCH	ERICE	COTEDOR	
ORD	SISI	MMDI	CUMLAUDE
LOGIN	NYADORS	SPENCER	
COWLS	RAOUL	AYE	BET
LALA	GAVIN	ATO	MARILU
ADAMSE	DARIS	SCHUMER	BIN
REN	OMIT	TEL	TIT
ADDED	CAD	NAM	NOSEEU
LAZARUS	AMM	STONE	
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GIS	SEYMOUR	RUSSELL	LYNCH
SASHAY	EAT	STEEL	EASE
ION	ACH	UTURN	DOBIE
MOSS	MITH	UDSON	WOWEM
ALLIANCE	REM	BRAC	LIT
MEANT	TO	JONES	LICKELLY
MANGERS	AVERTED	EWEEK	
AND	OAT	WET	EDS
			REESE

Word Search Answers



Car Report

GENESIS G80 LUXURY SEDAN HITS SWEET SPOT INTENDED BY HYUNDAI WHEN IT LAUNCHED THIS EXCITING NEW BRAND



By Dale Buss

At first, Genesis was a car model, a cool, surprising performance statement by Hyundai that the brand created to dimensionalize a marque previously known almost exclusively for producing reliable, high-quality, reasonably priced sedans. Genesis appeared on action shows such as *Burn Notice* and began acquiring fans in the media and the U.S. market with specs that fit premium European sports sedans as well as as Korean-made upstart. And over the last couple of years, as Hyundai faced challenges in the shrinking U.S. sedan market because of quiet gasoline prices, the brand took some significant measures to address its challenges. For one thing, Hyundai decided to launch a bunch of new vehicles into the biggest weak spot in its mainstream product line: SUVs and crossovers. Maybe just as important for Hyundai over the longer term is that it decided to stop trying to stretch its existing brand in dealer showrooms over vehicles that ranged from its humblest \$15,000 sedans to its pricey new sports car. And Hyundai created a separate brand for Genesis. Genesis G80 is one of the two new models that Hyundai introduced under the new Genesis brand in 2017, a staging that also included creation of a new flagship sedan called G90, which is essentially a rebranding of the Hyundai Equus. The spawning of Genesis included the creation of a logo that many luxury-car buyers mistake initially for a Bentley symbol. While what's under the frontal decoration of a Genesis doesn't match the ultra-luxury level of the British pinnacle brand, Hyundai has done a great job of producing a vehicle worthy of comparison with premium competitors from anywhere on the globe. The Hyundai Genesis was last wholly redesigned for 2015. But for 2017, besides creating a new brand to house and promote its newly renamed car, Hyundai also imbued the new



The interior of the Sport version of G80.

G80 with a number of features from the previous Hyundai Genesis that are now standard. They include a power-adjustable steering wheel, lane-departure warning and blind-spot monitoring. Also, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto were new for the 2017 model, allowing users to control smartphone functions such as navigation and audio playback through the G80 touchscreen. Genesis 2018 G80 is a full-size, rear-wheel drive sedan that's available in a six-cylinder, 3.8-liter power train or 5.0-liter V8 engine, with all-wheel drive available as an option for the 3.8-liter model. Standard features are a rich menu of goodies that any self-respecting purchaser of a 2018 \$56,000 vehicle that I drove would expect, including 18-inch alloy wheels, xenon headlights with automatic high-beam control, LED daytime running lights, a rearview camera, heated mirrors, automatic wipers, adaptive cruise control, dual-zone automatic climate control, keyless ignition and entry, auto-dimming mirrors, blind-spot monitoring with rear cross-traffic alert, and lane-departure warning

and intervention. That rich list also includes heated eight-way power front seats, leather upholstery, a power-adjustable steering wheel and driver-memory settings as well as a top-notch connectivity web and a seven-speaker audio system.

For good measure, all-wheel drive models come with headlight washers, heated rear seats and a heated steering wheel. G80's interior is spacious, and materials are top-notch, supporting its luxury positioning. It's got an outstanding safety rating. Just as important, the ride and feel of the G80 are reminiscent of the parameters that Lexus has made its stock-in-trade. In other words, G80 won't be mistaken for a true sports sedan, and that's how its target buyers want it. Indeed, G80 accelerates as smoothly and briskly as you might expect from such an expensive car, responds quickly and precisely to driving commands, provides a bump-soaking ride that isn't marshmallowy, and provides an extremely quiet cabin that will make a strong impression on passengers and driver alike. All of this really makes an impact on you when you consider price, which is exactly what Hyundai was intending. G80 starts at around \$42,000, below the luxury midsize class average price, according to U.S. News & World Report, while the competing Lexus GS starts at around \$46,000.



The 2018 Genesis G80.



The winged logo that says "Genesis."

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