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NORTHVILLE RECORD

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Battle of the Books

The Northville District Library officially kicks off its 12th annual middle school Battle of the Books, a fun reading competition for middle school students who live or go to school in Northville. Books and team registration sheets are available at the library or in school media centers now. Teams must be registered by Jan. 31.

Battle of the Books is a fun reading competition designed to encourage middle school students to read a variety of genres and then participate in the competition as a team to answer questions about the books.

Students compete on teams of two to six members, who read seven books among them to prepare for the competition. Battle of the Books competition is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at Northville High School.

For more information, go to northvillibrary.org/Teen/Battle of the Books or call 248-349-3020.

Garden Club of Northville

The Country Garden Club of Northville will hold its next meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Road. The speaker will be Juliana Cerra. Guests are welcome. Call Teri Plaunt at 734-751-8619 for more information.

CONTACT US

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Jessica Lentz tells her story of addiction and her journey in recovery. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

THE LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY

Milford mom recounts her struggles with opioid addiction

Sharon Dargay

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Jessica Lentz walked into a courtroom in March 2013 expecting to walk out in handcuffs.

The Milford mom had just spent two weeks living alone in her car, using whatever drugs she could find while cruising Detroit's west side. She had relapsed twice after attending

INSIDE

Addicts kick drug habit with faith, life skills, A7

court-appointed drug rehabilitation programs and, while on probation for felony retail fraud, had been evicted from a sober living home for not paying her rent.

She dreaded her upcoming appearance in Oakland County

Circuit Court, knowing it likely would be her last day of freedom.

"I just wanted to die," Lentz said. "I didn't think I was going to make it to the court date because of the amount of drugs I was using. I had all this guilt and shame."

The judge gave Lentz one last chance to kick her drug habit and avoid prison. It would entail spending a year at Grace Cen-

ters of Hope, a faith-based residential program in Pontiac.

Four years later, Lentz, 31, is alive and sober.

She, her husband Jack, 46, and their four children will welcome the new year together in a Grace Centers of Hope "after care" rental house in Pontiac. She began the program, which includes group sessions, regular

See RECOVERY, Page A7

Fitness passion drives 83-year-old's work ethic

Northville man holds black belt in challenging tae kwon do

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Eighty-three-year-old Mike Wiest and nine of his closest martial arts friends met for an informal workout earlier this month at Kil's Tae Kwon Do in Farmington.

Jack Kittinger, a fifth-degree black belt who runs the prestigious award-winning Do-Jang (tae kwon do center), organized the activity.

Grand Master Sang Sop Kil, a 10th-degree black belt from South Lyon, led calisthenics and conducted an impromptu self-defense question-and-answer session. Fifth-degree black belt Paul George and second-degree

black belt Rohini Sonawane also attended the hour-long gathering.

Wiest — a black belt like the majority of his friends — is by far the group's senior member. The next closest is Kittinger, 10 years younger.

Despite the age disparity, Wiest is a respected workout participant.

"Mike is a wonderful guy and is revered by everyone here," said Kittinger, a Farmington Hills resident. "He likes the camaraderie of the group. We do a lot of trash talking, too, and it's all in fun."

"His cardiovascular system is awesome. He is very, very

See FITNESS, Page A2



Northville resident and ex-Marine Mike Wiest (right) spars with Master Paul George during a session Tuesday afternoon in Farmington Hills. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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FITNESS

Continued from Page A1

strong and he can keep up with the best of us," he added. "He's in super shape and he's a wonderful example to all."

Sonawane, 44, a native of India, earned her black belt in 2011, just four years after she took up the Olympic sport that emphasizes head-high, jumping and spinning kicks. The Farmington Hills resident is absolutely inspired by Wiest.

"Mike is one of my idols. When I look at him and see him going on with his daily life, it is so motivating," Sonawane said. "I want to be like him when and if I'm lucky enough to reach his age. He is a good friend and he's very humorous.

"We will spar, we kick each other and he likes the competition," she added. "He still keeps up his energy levels and his health. He is a regular (student) here, he does not give up for any reason and I'm so honored to have him as my friend."

Drive overrides age

Wiest, a.k.a. "The Beast," does not let age affect his drive.

The former U.S. Marine lieutenant is an energetic octogenarian who simply wants to remain active and healthy.

A Northville resident married to his wife Isabel for 60 years, Wiest seriously got involved in tae kwon do after retiring from his job as an insurance executive in 1999. He successfully ascended the 11 required degrees to become a

black belt, averaging a level per year as he attained the coveted belt in 2010.

It was a personal challenge in which he takes great pride.

"I got two of my grandsons involved in it years ago and I figured, as long as I was taking them, I might as well get involved with it, too," Weist said. "I never played any contact sports when I was younger and I thought (tae kwon do) would be good for me. It's turned out to be the best thing I ever did.

"I've been here with Jack for 15 years and I did a little before that, so I would say I've been involved with the sport for about 20 years. I'm motivated to do it. You develop a lot of confidence when you do this — and I like the camaraderie.

"You become real friends, even though you're in competition with them," he added. "You're out there kicking and punching each other, but you don't take it personally. I wish I started it when I was 15 years old, but the past is the past."

Staying in shape

Wiest's ultimate passion is to stay in shape.

He works out twice a week for 60 minutes at Kil's Tae Kwon Do, which was elevated to Family of the Year status in 2011 by USA Taekwondo for its service in advancing the sport. In addition, he lifts light weights three times a week at his house.

The native Pennsylvanian, who grew up in New Jersey, is also a big proponent of meditation to help reduce stress. He said working in life insurance taught him how to deal with life experiences.

"I was a life insurance underwriter for my whole career and I would look at people's medical



Jack Kittinger presents Mike Wiest with a shirt commemorating his years in the sport. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Mike Wiest (left) and Grand Master Sang Sop Kil bow with respect. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

history, their mental history and I would see what really hurts people," Wiest said. "Three of the big factors are stress, lack of exercise and loss of motivation. If you sit around and watch TV too much and start to eat junk food, you're going to get fat and clog your arteries up.

"I like that (the sport) forces you to stay in shape. If you put on too much weight or you slow down or don't have the

motivation, you're going to miss this opportunity. It's a motivator for me to stay in shape and watch what I eat. I like to read, but reading is not physical enough.

"I get a kick out of this, because it's competitive. It's friendly competition," he added. "Nobody's trying to hurt you, but you don't want to look like a shmuck out there. I don't want to look like an old man who can't compete. I love this and I

have some great friends here."

Kittinger is so enamored with the inspiration Wiest provides that he made a specially-designed shirt which he unveiled Tuesday. It reads: "Mr. Wiest (a.k.a. 'The Beast') may be 83, but he can still kick my a--."

Now, that's respect.

mbudner@hometownlife.com

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AWCI MEMBER

Northville Educational Foundation awards nearly \$30,000 in grants

The Northville Educational Foundation awarded earlier this month 43 teachers and 22 projects across the Northville Public Schools district with innovative grants totaling \$29,571.

Almost 30 applications were received, requesting more than \$40,000 in funding. The applications were reviewed by a committee composed of NEF board members, as well as retired Northville teachers. The projects were scored based on their innovation, how they address curriculum standards, their ability to be replicated, the num-

ber of students impacted and the goals for the outcome of the project. The top scores that fit within the \$30,000 budget allocated were selected.

Some of the projects include laser engravers, digital force sensors and hand-held ultrasound units; Keva planks to help with spatial relations and geometry; and an outdoor storybook walk at Ridgewood that will benefit the community as well as the school. To see the full list of winners, go to <http://www.supportnef.org/Innovative-Grants.html>. Overall, the commit-

tee was impressed with teachers who are willing to go above and beyond to bring extra programming into their classrooms and with projects that showed such creativity and invention.

"These teachers are going above and beyond by applying for these grants. There is paperwork to fill out, deadlines to be met and final reports and interviews to be completed," said Christa Howley, NEF director. "They are doing all this extra work to apply for grant money that isn't even for them. It is so they can purchase

materials to do these amazing projects with their students, projects that the kids will remember and talk about around the dinner table."

The more than 20 projects will be implemented in the classrooms beginning the second semester of this school year and will impact more than 2,000 students this year alone at all of Northville's 10 schools. Many of them will be able to be replicated year after year.

"Award day is one of NEF's favorite days of the year," Howley said. "The teachers don't know

that they have been awarded the grants, so when we walk into their classroom, it is almost like they won the lottery. They are so appreciative when really it is NEF that appreciates everything these teachers do for our students."

This is NEF's ninth year of providing innovative grants to teachers across the district. A total of \$165,000 has been granted since the program began.

Special thanks to those who served on the innovative grants committee, including Dwight Siegreen, Marisa Cul-

lens, Arlene Frayne, Gary Gandolfi, Donna Hicks, Jeff Jaghab, Suzanne Lynn, Martha Michalak, Sharon Pernia and Don Price.

The Northville Educational Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to attract, manage and distribute charitable gifts to provide educational opportunities that enhance Northville Public Schools' commitment to educational excellence. Go to www.SupportNEF.org for more information.

NORTHVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

The library will be closed Sunday, Dec. 31, and Monday, Jan. 1, for the holiday.

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.

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.

Storytimes

When: Varied, see website

Details: Go to northvillelibrary.org for details about Winter Storytimes or call 248-349-3020. Registration begins in January.

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.

Coloring for Grownups

When: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3

Details: Just drop in for a relaxing afternoon of coloring. We supply pages designed for adults, plus markers, colored pencils and crayons. Register online or call 248-349-3020.

Adult Book Discussion

When: 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8

Details: Join us for a lively discussion of Gretchen Rubin's "The Happiness Project." Just drop in.

Intro to Bullet Journaling

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9

Details: Get organized with a bullet jour-

nal - a calendar/planner/journal/record keeper all in one. Track meetings, habits, financial planning, etc. Bring a notebook of your choice - blank pages or lined, but lighter color is best. Register.

Dinosaur Day with PaleoJoe

When: 4:15-5:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11

Details: Exciting presentation that takes kids way, way, way back to the time of dinosaurs. PaleoJoe's fantastic "Dinosaur Detective Club!" chapter books will be for sale after the program. All ages welcome. 100 free tickets available five minutes prior to the event. Sorry, we cannot accommodate special groups.

Build Mini Racers with Ming Louie

When: 4:15-5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16

Details: For Tweens ages 9-12. Build a moveable car made of foam rubber, then race them to see which car is the fastest. Sorry, no special groups. Limit 30. Registration begins Jan. 2.

Kidz Time

When: 4:30-5:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18

Details: Fun program for students in grades 1-3 with stories, games and crafts. Everyone has a birthday! Play a birthday guessing game and decorate a small birthday box to keep. Limit 20. Register beginning Jan. 2.

What's New With iOS 11

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18

Details: Bring your device and learn about the newest updates to iOS 11. Device must be updated with the latest operating system iOS 11. Know your email password and Apple ID. Register at northvillelibrary.org or call 248-349-3020.

Battle of the Books Registration

When: Through Jan. 31

Details: Register your team for this fun reading competition for middle school students who live or go to school in Northville. Books available now at the library and school media centers. Team registrations due Jan. 31.

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District core: Everyone gets a quality education

The Novi Community School District is proud of what it is and what it has become. Within the homes of the students in our school district, more than 60 different languages are spoken. We have students who represent the world within the walls of our school buildings.

But at the core of our district is the promise that everyone who enters our buildings and our classrooms will receive a high-quality education that will prepare them for the future. Our languages, our background, our experiences may be different, but our goal is the same.

We want everyone to



Steve Matthews
SUPER TALK

learn, to grow, to develop the tools they need to be successful in communities around the globe.

Because of our diversity, during this holiday season we are aware that within our community we celebrate many different holidays. No matter the holiday, they are important. Holidays typically represent an important religious or cultural day. The holiday helps us remember and reflect on the message of that day or season. The

messages and lessons connected to the holidays help make us who we are and identify those important lessons that we need to remember.

Holidays are also important because they typically bring together communities. Friends and families rally around the common theme and develop strong bonds. The holidays help us extend our lives to those who live around us.

Our community is tremendously diverse. This diversity is one of our strengths. It provides our students and our community with opportunities to experience the world and prepare for the world that our stu-

dents will live in.

For students in our schools, the world is getting smaller. Transportation and communication make connecting with people around the world much easier than it has been at anytime in our history. Within Novi, we have begun to experience that. The holidays reinforce our interconnectedness and the ways in which, even though we are different, we can work together. The holidays help us as we learn from and about the important times and places in each of our lives.

Our community experience is one of history and change. Within Novi, there exists a core of

long-time residents. They have witnessed many changes. Yet Novi is still home. These long-time residents embrace how Novi has grown and changed. They help steady Novi and help us all look to the future.

Novi has also seen tremendous change. Many residents moved here because they wanted to be part of a community that valued the things that they valued. Great schools. Great neighborhoods. Great parks and community activities. A great library.

As this holiday season arrives, I am more than ever acutely aware of the rich complexity of our

diverse community. Yet even within this diversity, the holidays are still about families and friends celebrating special times, centered around common purposes.

My wish is that your holiday season was filled with friends and family and special memories. Thank you for making Novi a great place to learn and live.

Steve M. Matthews, Ed.D., is superintendent of the Novi Community School District. He can be reached at steven.matthews@novik12.org.

Meadowbrook Country Club hires new executive chef

Meadowbrook Country Club, 40941 W. Eight Mile Road, in Northville Township has hired Mark Dixon, CEC, as its new executive chef.



Dixon

Dixon brings a superb culinary background to the club,

which will further enhance Meadowbrook's reputation for fine dining, quality and exceptional service.

Dixon, who has more than 30 years of country club experience, had previously served for 10 years as executive chef at the Orchard Lake Country Club. Prior to his tenure at Orchard Lake, he spent 17 years as Dearborn Country Club's executive chef. Dixon's resume also features hotel and restaurant

experience, which includes the opening of the Jacques Demers restaurant (named for the former Detroit Red Wings head coach) in the Embassy Suites Hotel in Southfield.

In 2011, Dixon received the prestigious Chef of the Year Award from the Michigan Chefs de Cuisine, and, in 2010, he earned an American Culinary Federation national Achievement of Excellence Award. Since 1991, Dixon has been an adjunct faculty member in the Culinary Arts Department at Oakland Community College.

For more information about Meadowbrook Country Club, go to www.meadowbrookcountryclub.com or call 248-349-3600.

Smoke detector use urged after fatal fire

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

In the aftermath of a fire that claimed the lives of a married couple in their 60s, the Novi Fire Department is urging residents to make sure they have working smoke detectors in their homes.

Kenneth Garner, 63, and Barbara Garner, 60, died of smoke inhalation and burn injuries in the Dec. 15 fire at their house on East Lake Drive. The cause of the fire remains under investigation, Jeffery Johnson, the city's director of emergency medical services and fire operations, said Dec. 21.

The house did not have smoke detectors, Johnson noted.

Smoke detectors are important warning devices, he said, and the fire department will provide

and install smoke detectors in Novi residents' homes free of charge.

"This was a tragic loss for our community and, obviously, we don't want this to ever happen again," Johnson said. "We don't ever want to see that happen in our community, so we want to do everything we possibly can."

Johnson said residents who don't have working smoke detectors can obtain them from the fire department and have them installed at no cost.

The program is available to all residents, regardless of income, he said. It was begun in the early 2000s with the help of grant funding and the fire department has continued it since then, he said.

"The emphasis is to try to help our residents," Johnson said.

Johnson said home smoke detectors should be placed and installed accord-

ing to the manufacturer's specific recommendations, but that generally there should be a detector on every level of a home and in every sleeping area.

In addition, the department recommends testing smoke detectors monthly, changing the batteries every spring and fall when clocks are changed and having escape routes and an outdoor rendezvous point planned in case of a fire.

Smoke detectors have a lifespan of eight to 10 years, Johnson said, and should be replaced according to the manufacturer's recommendation. Even hard-wired smoke detectors need to be replaced, he said.

Some detectors have 10-year lithium-ion batteries that will last as long as the detector itself, he said.

Homes with natural gas-fueled appliances should have carbon monoxide detectors — generally one on each level — as well,

Johnson said.

The fire department also offers, free of charge, home safety inspections that typically take 20-30 minutes. Inspectors look for fire hazards, such as improper storage of flammable liquids and the use of extension cords as permanent wiring and other hazards in the home.

"We're not there to close their home down or anything, we're just there to try to help them," Johnson said.

Novi residents interested in the smoke detector program or the inspection program can call the fire department's shift supervisor at 248-349-2162. More information is available at www.cityofnovi.org/Government/City-Services/Public-Safety/Fire/Community-Programs/Home-Inspections.aspx

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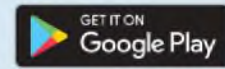
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Commission: Try selling house before demo bid

Matt Jachman

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

A builder's bid for permission to tear down an 1800s house in Northville's historic district was slowed again Dec. 20, when the Historic District Commission did an about-face on the process it will use for making the call.

The HDC, citing an opinion from Robert Marzano, the city attorney, said home builder Eric Guidobono must put the house at 341 E. Main Street up for sale before commissioners can consider his application for demolition complete. That reversed last month's 6-1 HDC decision in favor of calling the application complete; before Marzano issued his opinion, a second public hearing on the demolition application was to have been held at the Dec. 20 meeting.

Ed Funke, who represented 341 E. Main owners Eric and Renee Guidobono on Dec. 20, was clearly frustrated with the move. It was the fifth monthly HDC meeting in a row that Funke had attended seeking a demolition permit.

The Guidobonos, who bought the two-story, 2,000-square-foot house last December for \$460,000, say they had intended to restore it for use as an office for their company. But once work began, they said, it was found to be so badly deteriorated, with warped floors, a sagging roof, an insufficient stone foundation and other problems, that preserving it would be cost-prohibitive.

Now, they want to raze



The 1800s house at 341 E. Main Street in Northville, which the owners want to tear down and replace with a three-story office and condominium building.

MATT JACHMAN

the house and replace it with a three-story office and condominium building.

Funke, who has estimated restoration costs as high as \$750,000, said tearing down the structure and duplicating it would be more cost-effective than restoring it.

"We can't even do that," he told the commission Dec. 20. "We have to put it up for sale."

"I sympathize with you, I really do," said Jim Allen, the HDC chairman. "But that's his (Marzano's) opinion and this is where we are."

"We would be lucky to

get what we paid for it in the shape that it's in," Funke said later.

The city's guidelines for an application to demolish a building in Northville's historic district call for "evidence" that alternatives, including rehabilitation, sale and "adaptive reuse" "have been evaluated."

"This evidence shall show that the property was offered for sale, the price asked, the period of time during which the property was offered for sale and how the property was advertised for sale," the guidelines read.

Planning consultant

Sally Elmiger, however, told commissioners at the Nov. 15 meeting that in her opinion that guideline didn't apply in the Guidobonos' case and Funke had said there were no plans to sell the property.

The commission's Nov. 15 6-1 vote accepting the application as complete followed Elmiger's opinion, but Allen also asked that Marzano weigh in.

Commissioner David Field cast the only no vote Nov. 15, contending that the Guidobonos were required to offer the building for sale. On Dec. 20, Field said the rules should be clarified.

"That ordinance is pretty tough," Field said. "I think it needs to be rewritten."

Opponents of razing the house say it would mean the loss of a historic building and open the doors to the future demolition of older buildings in the vicinity.

A structural engineer hired by the Guidobonos dates the building to 1865. It has been vacant for some time and was last used as the home of Maguire's Fine Art Gallery.

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NORTHVILLE MILL RACE MATTERS

Mill Race Historical Village is located at 215 Griswold, north of Main Street, near Ford Field. Grounds open daily dawn until dusk. Buildings will re-open each Sunday starting in June 2018. Mill Race relies on rentals and memberships to maintain the village. Consider becoming a member or making a donation today; go to www.millracenorthville.org for details.

Upcoming events

Grounds closed for wedding: 10:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Dec. 31.

The office and the archives will be closed for the holidays through Jan. 8.

Lecture Series: What You Leave Behind-Cyber Legacy: 7 p.m. Jan. 24. New School Church at Mill Race Village. No fee. Donations accepted.

Lecture Series: When Amelia Came to Michigan:

7 p.m. Jan. 25. New School Church at Mill Race Village. No fee. Donations accepted.

Winter Tea: 1-3:30 p.m. Feb. 18. Tickets available in the office.

Lecture Series: Thomas Nast, the Cartoons that Changed America: 7 p.m. Feb. 28. New School Church at Mill Race Village. No fee. Donations accepted.

General info

Website: www.millracenorthville.org

Volunteers: The Northville Historical Society at Mill Race Village accepts volunteers in many different areas. We are in special need of Sunday store clerks and help with our fundraising teas. Students, we're happy to verify your volunteer hours with school or scouts. Please

contact the office for more information.

Rentals: Call or email the office to rent the Cady Inn or church for a wedding or party. Many dates are available. More information on our website.

Donations: Archives donations accepted from 9 a.m. to noon each Tuesday.

Archives: The archives are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

Office: The office is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. All other times by appointment only. In inclement weather, we follow Northville Public Schools. If it is closed due to snow/ice, the NHS is also closed. Call 248-348-1845 or email office@millracenorthville.org.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – PUBLIC HEARING January 17, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI. The ZBA will consider a variance requests to Chapter 170, Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- Kings Mill Co-op Complex (ID#77-037-99-0003-001), Article 21, Lighting Standards (Exterior Lighting);
- 9240 Napier (ID#77-023-99-0008-000) & 9250 Napier (ID#77-023-99-0006-000), Article 28, Private Road (Gated Entrance) and Article 31, Fences (Front/Side Yard).
- 18695 Fox Hollow Court (ID#77-034-04-0023-000), Article 3, General Use Provisions (Accessory Structure).
- 46125 Norton Court (ID#77-016-01-0015-006), Article 18, Schedule of Regulations (Lot Coverage).

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

Addicts kick drug habit with faith, life skills

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac offers a free, year-long residential program for substance abusers.

But it's often the last place an addict wants to be.

"Grace Centers of Hope is usually the last stop for people. Most of our residents have been to numerous rehabs and there are numerous reasons for that," said Melissa Aupperle, director of donor relations. "People want a quick fix. If you've been an alcoholic all your life, a three-day program is not going to cut it.

"A lot of people want to do a short-term program and they think one year is too long. We've found it important for people to dedicate a year of their life."

Aupperle admits the program isn't for everyone. Men who are employed often are reluctant to give up a job in exchange for working on their sobriety. Some prefer a secular environment.

"We're a faith-based program and we don't apologize for that," she said. "We believe it's the hurts of the heart that



The women's residential program at Grace Centers of Hope offers a variety of classes, including parenting and spiritual studies. GRACE CENTERS OF HOPE

cause someone to use drugs. We try to heal the hurts of the heart and we believe in taking a Christian approach.

"We're building a community. It's not just a facility."

The organization runs separate year-long residential rehabilitation programs for both men and women. The women and children's center has 106 beds and the men's has 60 beds, along with a few private rooms.

There's also an emergency shelter for individuals and families. Hands of Hope Childcare Center offers day care for newborns through age 2, preschool for 3- and 4-year-old children and

educational and recreational programs for children of parents involved in the organization's programs. Little Grace Village consists of several single- and multi-family homes on a near-by street. Graduates of the residential rehab programs can rent the houses while involved in "after care" programs.

"One thing we're passionate about here is reuniting families," Aupperle said. "Lives rescued, families restored, hope renewed is the tagline we've used."

Life skills

In addition to Bible studies, twice-weekly church services and

Christian-based counseling, the organization offers a "comprehensive life skills program" to rehab participants.

"We focus on the whole person, not just the addiction. We want them to adopt healthy habits," Aupperle said. Nutrition information, exercise, parenting in sobriety and job-hunting skills help program graduates become "healthy, productive citizens."

"People are busy here," she said. "They're also volunteering in a variety of ways. We have four thrift stores where they volunteer and gain retail experience."

With no medical professionals on staff, the



Grace Centers of Hope houses a women's residential program in this building. GRACE CENTERS OF HOPE

organization refers participants to other agencies for medical needs and psychological assessments.

Grace Centers of Hope draws men and women from throughout Michigan for its year-long program. The average age of participants was mid-40s for many years, but now the program sees more 18- to 30-year-olds.

Graduates who relapse after leaving the program are encouraged to return for another 30 or 60 days in residential rehabilitation.

"We don't have bars on the doors and they are free to go if they feel the program isn't right for them," she said. "When people come here, there are no surprises. They know what our parameters are. They know we're faith-based. They

know the ground rules up front."

Grace Centers of Hope offers its residential drug rehabilitation program free to participants. The organization is funded by grants, private donations and fundraising events. Major events include the Women Helping Women luncheon and fashion show in April, the David Mardigian Hope in One Memorial Golf Classic in June and the Night of Hope gala in November.

Early tickets are available through Jan. 31 for the fashion show, luncheon and silent auction, scheduled for April 21 at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester. Cost for individual admission is \$90. For more information, go to gracecentersofhope.org.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

RECOVERY

Continued from Page A1

church attendance and continuing contact with a counselor, after graduating from her court-appointed one-year residency program.

Before entering the residency program, she had used both opioids and heroin, two of the drugs responsible for the greatest number of drug-related deaths from 2000-16, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

In Michigan, drug overdose deaths increased each year from 2013-15. Of 1,981 overdose deaths in 2015, 884 were from opioids, according to Attorney General Bill Schuette. In September, Schuette joined a coalition of 40 attorneys general that is investigating opioid pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors. In October, he and other attorneys general asked Congress to make treatment for opioid addiction more affordable and accessible.

That same month, Wayne and Oakland counties sued several drug manufacturers and distributors. According to the lawsuit, which was filed in U.S. District Court, "Michigan health care providers wrote 11 million prescriptions for opioid drugs in 2015 and another 11 million in 2016 — more annual opioid prescriptions than Michigan has people."

Lentz is well-aware of opioid statistics. She lived them while growing up.

Addictive family

The Florida native recalls that her mother took opioids for a back injury and multiple surgeries.

"It wasn't like she became an addict by choice at first," Lentz said. "She was on every drug — morphine, Dilaudid, you name it. It seemed that my mother was having a surgery every couple of years my whole life. She'd be in bed a lot. I was cooking whole meals when I was 8, 9 years old. This is just how it was."

As a teenager, she mirrored her mother's coping skills, using alcohol at first and then ex-



Jack Lentz and daughter Piper, 3, playing. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

perimenting with Vicodin.

She met her future husband Jack in 2005, while working as a waitress at a seafood restaurant he managed in Orlando, Fla. They had their first daughter, Rylie, a year later. When the restaurant was sold, Jack went to truck driving school and got a job in Michigan. In 2010, they moved to Milford, where Jack had grown up and where family members lived.

Lentz worked as a waitress in Howell briefly and then became a stay-at-home mom for their son, Silas, now 6. She also made friends with other moms and dads who were "heavy partiers, drinkers and people who took pills," just like her family and friends did in Florida. She paid friends \$20 a pill and sometimes sought medication on her own from urgent care centers for non-existent

medical problems.

"It gave me energy and there was no hangover," she said. "I'd be up for days just going and cleaning. I felt like super mom. You walked into my house and it was immaculate. You walked into my lifestyle and it seemed I had everything together, but I didn't. Everything I did, I did high."

Trying heroin

She initially took a pill once or twice a day, but began searching for a stronger high as her tolerance for the drugs grew. Vicodin gave way to Dilaudid and OxyContin. One day in 2011, when she couldn't find any pills for sale, she reluctantly took a friend's advice to try heroin. She snorted the drug at first, but it wasn't long before she began injecting it.

When the family began receiving shut-off notices for unpaid utility bills in 2012, Jack con-

fronted her.

"I was mad," he said. "But we had kids together and I loved her. I knew if we could get past this and see our way through this, things could be different. I stuck it out. It was tough, a lot of tough times."

He cut off her access to a checking account and credit cards. He paid her bond the first and second times she was arrested for felony retail fraud, but let her sit in jail for months after another arrest. A court-ordered 90-day treatment plan followed. Ninety days turned into 120 days and she eventually moved into sobriety housing in Pontiac, but was evicted for not paying rent.

"My first experience in a treatment center helped me a lot at that time, but I started using within a week of leaving," she said. "Ninety days is not enough for anybody."



Jessica Lentz credits Grace Centers of Hope and her faith for her turnaround. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"I was mad. But we had kids together and I loved her. I knew if we could get past this and see our way through this, things could be different. ... It was tough, a lot of tough times."

JACK LENTZ

Although she was reluctant to spend a year at Grace Centers of Hope, she found camaraderie and a sense of community. She was allowed to bring her children to the center's day care and learned to parent while sober. The couple met with a marriage counselor and Lentz took classes in relapse prevention, addiction cycle, spiritual studies and job skills.

"You dig deep into your heart and experiences in your life to try and figure out why on Earth you stuck needles in your arm," she said. "I was a survivor of verbal, mental and sexual abuse. These things had happened and I didn't acknowledge them. I just medicated them."

The couple married and Lentz was hired as a receptionist at Grace Centers. After Lentz graduated from the residential program, the family planned to move into a nearby house owned by Grace Centers to complete their two-year after care experi-

ence. While the house was being renovated, Lentz commuted each day from Milford. She gave birth to her third child, Piper, now 3, but soon found the pressures of work and motherhood overwhelming.

She relapsed and returned to the residential program three times in 2015 before the family moved into their new house in Pontiac.

Lentz, who gave birth to their second son, Cohen, nine weeks ago, is nearly finished with the after care program. She has plans to become a certified personal trainer and also hopes to minister to the homeless or victims of human trafficking. She's teaching her children about empathy toward the homeless and drug-addicted.

"I'm not on probation," she said. "I'm sober because I want to be. My family is strong. My faith is strong and I'm excited to see what God has next in my life."

sdargay@hometownlife.com

I am an American We are One Nation

HELPING SHAPE YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES

Mahal Burr gives students tools to work for social change

DAVID WATERS

MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Each week, this series has introduced 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.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Mahal Burr had trouble distinguishing right from left. Her mother put mismatched socks on her to help her learn.

Several years later, Burr, whose mother is white and father Filipino, started wearing different colored socks again for another reason.

"I didn't want to be known as the white girl or the Chinese girl or the Filipina girl," Burr said. "I wanted to choose my identity. So I became known as the mismatched socks girl."

Today, Burr helps seemingly mismatched young people in Memphis choose their own identities and understand and value those of others.

Burr, 27, is community action coordinator for BRIDGES, a nonprofit youth leadership program that helps students build relationships and work for social change across racial, ethnic and income divides.

Burr was building bridges long before she began working for an organization named for them in a Mississippi River city defined by them.

Her given name is a sort of bridge. Mahal means "love" in Tagalog, a language spoken by her Filipino father. It's also short for Mahalia, as in Mahalia Jackson, her Mississippi-born mother's favorite gospel singer.

Burr's families span two continents and multiple faiths, including Muslim, Jewish, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic and Quaker, as well as atheist and agnostic.

"I often see myself as a bridge," Burr said. "I believe there is God, good and love in everyone."

Everyone includes juveniles who are in jail awaiting trial on charges such as possession of drugs or firearms, assault, rape or murder.

At BRIDGES, Burr and her colleague, Evan Morrison, organized a new and un-



Mahal Burr, 27, works for a Memphis, Tenn., nonprofit that helps students build relationships and work for social change. JIM WEBER/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MAHAL BURR

Location: Memphis, Tenn.

Age: 27

Profession: Community organizer

Mission: To involve youth in solving systemic problems that affect their lives and futures

conventional leadership program called Incarcerated Youth Speaking Out for Change.

The program puts youth detainees in front of police officers, political leaders, church groups, students and others to help them understand the root and systemic causes of youth violence.

"We have to listen to the people who are experiencing those problems firsthand, and involve them in repairing the systems that failed them," Burr said.

It's a lesson she learned as a college intern working with struggling single mothers in Chicago, and as a college graduate working with abused teen mothers in Memphis.

"The solutions isn't what we bring," she said. "It's what we find."

ONE NATION Nominate an American

Who are your American heroes? Share stories and nominees at onenation.usatoday.com or post a video submission to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram (no longer than 2 minutes, please) with the hashtags #IAmAnAmerican #WeAreOneNation.

Q&A WITH MAHAL BURR

What does it mean to you to be an American?

When I think of being American, I think of shame, struggle and conflict within our country. I think of our country, our government, our identity that claims "American" to mean only the United States and our celebrated patriotic history of white supremacy, genocide and enslavement. And I think of the many people I know, admire and link arms with in fighting systemic racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, anti-Semitism, ableism as well as other forms of oppression. I think America is still struggling to accept all that it is, and I wonder what American would mean if we embraced Fannie Lou Hamer's quote, "Nobody's free until everybody's free."

What moment touched and motivated you to launch this effort?

I know the precise moment. For an hour, the chief jailer had been listening to 18 incarcerated youth share their insights regarding the causes of youth violence and then brainstorm their own solutions. Then the chief jailer spoke. He said to the group, "I have just learned things from you all that I never would have even thought about otherwise." It was in this moment that everyone in the room realized that not only do these young men have insightful knowledge, but also that their knowledge and insights are necessary to strengthen the systems that failed them.

What gives you hope or what concerns you?

The more I know, the more concerns I have and the more I realize how much needs to be done, if we hope to dismantle systemic oppression that causes so much brokenness in our country: youth being kicked out of schools into prisons; racial hatred and violence; sexual objectification, abuse and discrimination. All of these and more are supported by systems in our society, and we have the responsibility to dismantle them to build something better. What gives me hope is when people come together across experiences, age, socioeconomic class, race and even jails bars and begin listening, valuing and acting on their combined knowledge for a collective good.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

My hope is to create a mechanism by which we get the insight of firsthand experience at the table to crafting solutions to systems that are oppressing marginalized people in our society. Right now, those in charge of our government, jails, law enforcement and schools are like doctors who do not listen to the voices of their patients. In the words of one of the incarcerated young men as he spoke to the youth of our city, "We need solutions that include the insights and knowledge of people who have experienced the problem firsthand." In my dream world, we would expand the idea of Incarcerated Youth Speaking Out for Change across the country and begin a wave of stronger, more informed and more just government, jails, law enforcement and school systems.

High school students teach diversity lesson

Brad Kadrich

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Detroit Country Day School officials felt like the holidays were a perfect time to teach younger students about the broad diversity of cultures that will be celebrating this time of year.

That's why DCDS high school students spent time last week with second-graders, helping them understand messages of diversity and hope during the holiday season.

Upper School students shared information about the history and significance of each holiday to younger students, accompanied by a colorful decorative display. This year's display included the Chinese New Year, Christmas, Diwali, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Ramadan.

While the exhibits are beautiful and festive, they also teach an important global awareness and appreciation to the students and school community.

Junior Bella Baldwin said she felt it was "important to participate" in



Krithin Marpur learns about the origins on the celebration of Christmas. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Second-grade students hold a vessel used during the month of Ramadan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the cultural program.

"It really shows the big picture of our diverse world and the importance of respecting and

understanding other religions and traditions around the holidays," Baldwin said. "It's amazing to see the second-



High school students at Detroit Country Day explain holiday celebrations from different cultures to second-graders. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

graders so engaged in learning about other traditions that we all share and it paves the path for a peaceful future."

Baldwin said she thought the second-graders "learned a lot" about how diverse even just their group was.

"They saw that many people in their class and grade were from a different religion as them, but recognized that and were eager to learn more,

from them and us," Baldwin said.

School officials said the program was designed to help younger students learn about traditions that may be different than their own become more thoughtful, compassionate and open-minded.

That's why freshman Nathan Schechter wanted to get involved. He said the learning goes both ways.

"I think it is important bkadrich@hometownlife.com



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Flashlight event lifts spirits in pediatric unit

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A new holiday tradition is taking shape every night this month at Beaumont Hospital's Royal Oak campus.

Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams is a little like a seasonal light show, but with a higher purpose — showing pediatric patients they're not alone.

"This time of year, everyone is busy with their families, doing all kinds of festive things to prepare to celebrate Christmas. These children are in the hospital, so we're here to show our support to them and their families," said the Rev. Jim Smalarz, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in Beverly Hills. "It's a great community event and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church and School is happy to be a part of it."

Smalarz was one of approximately 150-200 well-wishers who braved harsh winter weather this week to attend one of the nightly Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams gatherings.

Well-wishers began arriving shortly after 7:30 p.m. at an outdoor plaza that's visible from the hospital's pediatric department. Some dressed in Santa hats or wore strings of colored lights over their scarves and parkas. Some mingled and chatted, while others huddled together for protection against the frigid wind. They counted down to an 8 p.m. signal, when pediatric patients waved lights from their hospital rooms. Members of the crowd, some shouting "Merry Christmas," waved back with their own flashlights and glow sticks.

The entire exchange of lights lasted about five minutes.

Big crowd

"We have close to 200 people every night. It's just beautiful," said Nancy Sovran, a member of the Pediatric Family Advisory Council which, along with the Child Life Services staff, created the nightly event.

The council consists of parents of children who have received services at Beaumont Children's Hospital. They offer suggestions and advice about programs and practices to enhance the pediatric patients' stay in the hospital.

"We take on different initiatives and come together with staff to make things better in the pediatric center," said Sovran, whose daughter Hope was a longtime patient at Beaumont. "One of our members saw that they did this in Boston. She brought the idea to council."

Sovran, director of the nonprofit organization Wish Upon a Teen in Birmingham, invited 15 community members to the event Dec. 11. She registered Our Lady Queen of Martyrs and two Groves High School clubs to participate the following day and she'll return at least one or two times before the program ends Dec. 31.

Beaumont's online registration site filled up fast. According to the hospital's website, there's no need to sign up and anyone may attend any of the Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams events this month.

Birmingham schools

Jennifer Kondak, community service organizer for the Birmingham Public Schools district, attended the event with students from the Groves High School In-



Royal Oak police brought a squad car with its flashing lights along with crowds waving flashlights to the patients on the pediatric floor of Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Patients and family on the pediatric floor of Beaumont Hospital use flashlights to wave to the crowd outside. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Crowds wave flashlights to the patients on the pediatric floor of Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

teract Club. Norman Hurns Sr., also from Groves, participated with students from African Americans Changing Tomorrow.

"We encouraged our kids to come out tonight and picked a special night to be here. We thought it was really important," Kondak said. "We've been plugging it

for about a month. We couldn't be more pleased to be here. I'm wearing my Groves green. Hopefully, they'll find me. I see kids keep drifting in, so I'm excited and encouraged."

Barbara Crowley, a parent, encouraged parents, students and teachers from Covington School in Birmingham to

participate in the event. "Empathy is our character education theme this year," Crowley said. "So we really wanted to connect with how these kids are feeling."

Teacher Rick Joseph said he and Warner, who teach fifth and sixth grades at the magnet school, heard about the program from Crowley. "We jumped all over it

and said we'd love to come," Joseph said.

To participate in Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams, arrive by 7:40 p.m. and park in the surface lot just east of the medical building at the campus, located on 13 Mile, just west of Woodward Avenue. Bring a flashlight or glow stick. Dress in warm clothing

and feel free to add battery-operated lights, a glow necklace, Santa hat or other holiday attire.

"This is a great way for kids to know they are not forgotten," Smalarz said. "It's a great witness to let the kids know we're thinking of them and praying for them."

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BOYS BASKETBALL

Plymouth's strong balance stymies John Glenn, 64-57

'Cats lead wire-to-wire, sparked by five players scoring in double digits

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With Joe Moon IV in the backcourt, Westland John Glenn's boys basketball team never is out of a game.

But the Rockets never were able to overcome a sluggish start Dec. 21 at Plymouth, falling behind 8-0 and never enjoying the lead — ultimately falling 64-57 in a KLAAs Black Division match-up.

Plymouth (3-2 overall, 1-1 in the division) managed to hang tight despite a 26-point effort from Moon, a junior point guard who is equally danger-

ous shooting from outside or taking the ball to the rim. The Wildcats benefited from having five players score 10 or more points.

"We did a nice job on the glass," Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said. "It was definitely a focus coming in. I thought we played really well as a unit."

Moon also played tight defense against Plymouth senior guard Anthony Crump, allowing the Division I recruit to score just 11 points.

"They, obviously, were trying to take Anthony away," Soukup said. "Joe Moon was face to face with him the whole

game, which was an intelligent thing on their part to do. But other guys were cognizant of that and stepped up and really made some plays tonight."

John Glenn head coach Rod Watts, whose team dropped to 1-2, said his squad kept battling in an attempt to make up for the early deficit.

An inability to get on a good offensive run — acerbated by struggles rebounding and keeping Plymouth players from getting into the paint — wound up costing the Rockets.

"That's where I was getting on my guys about boxing out,"

See PLYMOUTH, Page B3



Battling around the basket are Plymouth's Troy Aikins (center) and Westland John Glenn's Frankie Braxton (left) and Asonta Hargrove. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

WOMEN'S SOCCER

THE NEXT STEP



Grand Valley State's Gabriella Mencotti (right) is looking for a chance to play in the National Women's Soccer League. EMILY FRYE | THE LANTHORN

Division II Player of the Year Mencotti eyes pro tryout

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Gabriella Mencotti's list of achievements for the Grand Valley State University women's soccer program the past four years has been staggering, to say the least.

The 5-foot-11 forward from

Northville High School played in and started more matches than any Lakers player in history, finishing her highly decorated career second all time in goals (85) and total points (203). The Novi resident also ranked third all time in game-winning goals (22) and assists (43).

And despite being the cen-

ter of attention by opposing teams, Mencotti led the nation in goals (30) and points (70) while dealing 10 assists en route to being named the Division II Conference Commissioners Association National Player of the Year for the second straight season.

During her career, Mencotti played on two NCAA Division



Mencotti

II championship teams (2014-15) and one national runner-up squad (2016).

This season, the Lakers finished 20-4, reaching the elite eight before losing 3-1 to No. 1-ranked and eventual national champion Central Missouri, which fin-

See MENCOTTI, Page B2

BOYS BASKETBALL

Catholic Central grounds Falcons for 5-0 start

Lukomski's 19 points leads balanced Shamrocks attack in 74-63 win

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Novi Detroit Catholic Central has proven to be a high-scoring team en route to a 5-0 boys basketball season start.

The Shamrocks came in averaging 80 points per game, but the defense wasn't quite where it could have been following a 92-84 win six days earlier (Dec. 15) over Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day.

"When we went to practice, we really tuned up on defense. That's what we really focused on," CC senior guard A.J. Abdelnour said. "Limiting teams, I think our goal is 54 a game. We don't want to give up anymore than that and we'll win, because we can score way more than that."

CC tightened things up on defensive end Dec. 21 for three quarters and it resulted in 74-63 triumph at home over Dearborn Divine Child.

"We gave up 84 last time, not as many this time," CC coach Bill Dyer said. "We're still young and we still have things to learn, I think. Of course, we could have made more free throws late to help us out, but it was a solid effort and they're good, too. They're well-coached. They kept us off-balance for a little bit."

The Shamrocks led 32-25 at halftime, after leading by

See SHAMROCKS, Page B3



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USA HOCKEY

Trading places: U.S. NTDP's DeRidder, MSU's Miller

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

If Drew DeRidder and Tommy Miller passed each other inside USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, nobody would have blamed them for going toward the wrong locker room.

The Dec. 16 hockey game between DeRidder's U.S. National Team Development Program U-18 team and Miller's Michigan State University squad proved to be an interesting tale of trading places.



DeRidder



Miller

DeRidder, a 5-10 goalie and Fenton resident, will be a future Spartans goaltender. Meanwhile, MSU freshman defenseman Miller, from West Bloomfield, skated last season for the U.S. U-18 team.

Although both enjoyed the chance to square off against (take your pick) their future or past team, they said they approached the 60 minutes of action like any other game on the schedule.

"It's great to play all the college teams I'm going to face next year," said DeRidder, who played a strong game in a 3-0 defeat (allowing just two goals; the third MSU goal was an empty-netter). "And it's great to play the future team and play against all the kids I'm going to play with in the next couple years."

"I try to just treat it like another game and not get excited, but it's hard not to get hyper about it. I felt I kept it under control."

Miller, who honed his playing skills as a youngster in the Little Caesars, Honeybaked and Compuware programs before playing 2015-17 with the NTDP, said it was nice to play in his former team at the Beck Road arena. But "you go at it the same way as any other game."

That doesn't mean Miller didn't have a little extra jump in his skates when he took the ice to go against the U.S. Last season, he was part of the



On Dec. 16, NTDP U-18 goalie Drew DeRidder faced his future team — Michigan State University. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY



Michigan State goalie Ed Minney and defenseman Tommy Miller face their former team Dec. 16. At right for the NTDP U-18 squad is defenseman Adam Samuelsson. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

team that won a gold medal at the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation U-18 World Championship in Slovakia.

He worked tirelessly to make the opening day roster in 2016-17, after playing sparingly for the NTDP U-17 team in 2015-

16. "Made the (U-18) team (last year) and took advantage of all the facilities and coaching," Miller said. "It worked out well."

Another plus for Miller is the fact MSU's new coaching staff (head coach Danton Cole, asso-

ciate coach Chris Luongo of Novi and goalie coach Joe Exter) came over from the NTDP at the same time.

"On the same page with a lot of things (with Cole)," Miller said. "I know his mottos and how he stands on things and how he wants things to be

done.

"We kind of have a similar background on that and determination ... just the right attitude. It comes from here (USA Hockey) and translates over to Michigan State."

Miller then smiled about facing the guy who will be a MSU goalie in

2018-19.

"It's pretty cool for (DeRidder)," Miller said. "I was in the same shoes as him, playing my future school. It's weird, but it's very cool."

At the other end of the rink from DeRidder was Michigan State senior goalie Ed Minney, who stands 6-4 and plays a different style between the pipes. Minney also is an NTDP graduate, although he played when the program was based in Ann Arbor.

"I don't know (Minney) very well," DeRidder said. "It's cool to be going in the same places."

Looking to future

On Dec. 16, DeRidder was focused on helping his current team. But once the hard-fought contest was over, he couldn't help but think about what the future holds for him. If all goes well, he'll be a Spartan in 2018-19.

"The next few years will be really nice," DeRidder said. "(MSU's) game is completely different than ours. They focus on more of a defensive style and we're all fast-paced offense."

"It's going to be an adjustment, but as a goalie, it's good to have a team wanting to play defense in front of you."

That he isn't going to suddenly add four or five inches to his frame over the next year doesn't bother him too much, either.

"I'm not too big, so it's not good to (for him) to have a 'butterfly, block and get in the way' style," he said. "You got to be more aware, know where everyone is and then be ready to react to everything."

Now that DeRidder has an up-close-and-personal taste of what it will be like to play college hockey, he can't wait to reach Munn Ice Arena — after helping the U.S. capture some more international tournament hardware, of course.

"I skate with a lot of high-level NHL players and college players during the summer," he said. "That should be a good thing for me to do. And, obviously, off-ice is a really big deal."

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MENCOTTI

Continued from Page B1

ished 26-0.

In her final game, it was only fitting that Mencotti scored her team's lone goal.

"It was a great four years. I enjoyed every season," Mencotti said. "Coming in with a national championship and leaving with such an amazing class ... it's such a great team to finish off, I think. It was a very successful four years and something that I'll always remember. The best choice I ever made was going to that university. Nothing but happy with the decision I made. I'm glad to be done and some new players can come in that I can watch, so I'm excited for the future."

The consensus first team All-America choice also earned the Academic All-American of the Year award from College Sports Information Directors of America and United Soccer Coaches named her a first team Scholar All-America. HERO Sports named her the Division II women's soccer HERO of the Year.

"I think last year, after

losing such a great class and gaining 14 new players, I think we did a good job adjusting to the dynamic of the team and what new people we had coming in," Mencotti said. "Obviously, we didn't get as far as we wanted, but I think we still had an exceptional season. All our new players stepped up, our returning players stepped up and I think we really had a bunch of players come into their own and become great players this year. Even though we didn't get as far as we had hoped, I think still we had a great season and players developed into better players than they were before."

Mencotti, a double major in finance and marketing, will graduate from GVSU in April.

But she has some unfinished business left in her soccer career. She hopes somebody in the National Women's Soccer League will show interest.

"I'm looking for my options professionally, either in the U.S. or out of the country," Mencotti said. "The next couple of months, hopefully, I'll be figuring that out. I've put in information for the NWSL draft. I'll be send-

ing out film and video overseas, depending what my options are."

Grand Valley head coach Jeff Hosler has been working behind the scenes to help make it happen.

"Having gone through this process with a couple players, it's one that you really can't predict," he said. "Gabby is very determined to play professionally, which helps her cause and gives her a lot of different options, whether that is NWSL or abroad. The next few weeks is when we start to hear from clubs a little more seriously about players they're interested, getting to know them before the draft here in January."

Hosler believes Mencotti has all the tools to play at the next level.

"I think her skill set, her size and her athleticism are all things that are going to be very attractive to be a good professional," he said. "Because of her mobility, her fitness and athleticism and tactical ability ... all those things go hand-in-hand playing closer to goal. And with that trend in professional soccer right now, those all really bode well for her in remaining in that

type of position with that type of player. But she's also such a coachable kid. She can really play anywhere on the field and make that adjustment and buy into it. It wouldn't surprise me (if) she goes undrafted, but has some opportunities for individual workouts immediately following the draft with a number of clubs."

Mencotti's role expanded this season as she earned Offensive Player of the Year honors in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The first team all-conference pick had five goals and three assists in the GLIAC tournament, earning tournament MVP honors while helping GVSU capture its 11th consecutive tournament title and 13th straight regular season championship.

She also racked up four hat tricks on the 2017 season, including a stretch of three straight matches (Oct. 6-11). Mencotti scored at least one goal in all six postseason matches for the Lakers, scoring nine goals across the final six games of her college career.

"I think she took an even bigger role as a leader in her final year,"

Hosler said. "This was a very young team that we had this fall. We had 14 new players in our program, which is a little more than half, so her and her senior class did a fantastic job of bringing them in, getting them along, helping them to understand expectations and how to achieve them, while managing very good team chemistry."

During her junior year, Mencotti was flanked by two very talented seniors on the wing along with Marti Corby, a two-time Division II National Player of the Year midfielder. Having to deal with that type of attention and putting up the numbers made her senior season even more impressive individually.

"She had to deal with double-teams and triple-teams and be the focal point of every opponents' defensive tactics throughout the year," Hosler said.

In his 12 years as a college coach, Hosler said Mencotti ranks right at the top, not only as a special player, but also as a special person.

"You're talking about somebody who has almost every accolade under the sun in her four years here, yet she al-

ways remains very humble," he said. "You give her news of an award and she has a big smile on her face and there's almost a little bit of shock. You wouldn't expect someone who has had that success to react that way, but she's a very genuine person and humility shines through. Coaches will always tell you how great their kids are, but she's somebody I constantly rave about and will for a long, long time."

Mencotti said Hosler has fostered a trust that goes beyond the game of soccer.

"Whatever a player needs, he's willing to help with," Mencotti said. "Love him as a coach, great at communicating and helping everyone out. So it's good."

And while Mencotti isn't quite ready to get soccer out of her system, she's prepared either way.

"If this doesn't work out, at least I want to try," Mencotti said. "If it doesn't work out, I'll go out into the real world and try that one out."

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AREA EVENTS

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

'Sleeping Beauty' at Marquis Theatre

The Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main St., in Northville, will stage a production of "Sleeping Beauty" during the months of December and January. Performances are scheduled for 2:30 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday, through Jan. 28 (except Dec. 30-31), as well as Friday, Dec. 29.

Tickets for all performances are \$9. No children under age 3. Group rates and reserved seating for groups of 20 or more are available, as well as birthday parties and Scout days.

For more information, call the Marquis Theatre at 248-349-8110, email marquistheatre@sbcglobal.net, go to www.northvillemarquistheatre.com or view on Facebook at facebook.com/MarquisTheatreNorthvilleMi.

Garden Club of Northville

The Country Garden Club of Northville will hold its next meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Road. The speaker will be Juliana Cerra. Her topic is *carpe diem* and how this concept can be applied to gardens in ways that increase enjoyment and reduce labor.

Guests are welcome. Call Teri Plaunt at 734-751-8619 for more information.

New exhibit at Art House

The Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street, presents the exhibition *Contagious Curiosity: Todd Burroughs with Students and Instructors from the Atelier*, featuring paintings, drawings and photographs by Todd Burroughs with students and instructors from metro Detroit.

Burroughs has been practicing and teaching classical techniques for

over 14 years. He currently teaches painting and drawing at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center and the College for Creative Studies.

The exhibition opens with a reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, with a gallery talk at 7 p.m. The exhibition runs through Saturday, Jan. 27, during Art House hours: noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Marquis Theatre auditions

Northville's Marquis Theatre will be holding auditions for its next show, "Velveteen Rabbit," at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., for children ages 8-16.

Those auditioning will be asked to sing "Do-Re-Mi" from the "Sound of Music" (accompanist will be provided) and read a poem or a monologue, no longer than 90 seconds (does not have to be memorized).

For more information, call the Marquis Theatre at 248-349-8110, email marquistheatre@sbcglobal.net, go to www.northvillemarquistheatre.com or view on Facebook at facebook.com/MarquisTheatreNorthvilleMi.

Salem Historical Society potluck

The Salem Area Historical Society will host a potluck dinner and business meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the Salem Township Hall, 9600 Six Mile Road. Bring a dish to share with others, along with your plate, silverware and something to drink.

After the mss Meeting, SAHS will show the 10 episodes of the PBS documentary "An Uncommon Education - Celebrating 200 Years of the University of Michigan." Each episode will track the evolution of how the institution ignited the sparks necessary for world-changing minds, attitudes and accomplishments from the 19th century through the new millennium.



"Bells" by Todd Burroughs is part of an exhibition at the Northville Art House that runs through Jan. 27.

Tollgate Farm gardening classes

Beginners and master gardeners are invited to classes scheduled for

2018 at MSU Tollgate Farm Conference Center in Novi. Evenings in the Garden is offering four new classes for anyone interested in learning more about gardening:

- » Jan. 25: Jan Bills — Landscape Design for Sustainability
- » Feb. 8: Janet Macunovich — Prune Trees and Shrubs Like a Pro
- » Feb. 22: Rebecca Finneran — Greening the Garden ... a Smart Gardener's Journey
- » March 8: Steven Nikkila — Secret to Beautiful Gardens: Not the Green Thumb but the Right Tools

The cost is \$20 for each class, scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Advance registration is required. For more information and to register, go to <https://events.anr.msu.edu/evenings18winter/>

MSU Extension Tollgate Farm & Education Center is at 28115 Meadowbrook Road in Novi. For more information, go to <http://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/>.

Human Trafficking 101

A new South Lyon group calling itself Sparrow Freedom Project will host a class concerning human trafficking 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, at First United Methodist Church, 640 S. Lafayette, in South Lyon. Guest speaker will be professor David L. Manville of Eastern Michigan University, an expert on human trafficking.

This free community awareness event is open to the public. Monetary and toiletry donations will be collected to assist survivors affected by human trafficking.

Register by Jan. 21 at www.sparrowfreedomproject.org. For more information, email anita@sparrowfreedomproject.org.

project.org.

Salem Historical Society meeting

The Salem Area Historical Society will be holding its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the Salem Township Hall, 9600 Six Mile Road. After the business portion, there will be a presentation by Doug Koop on The Legacy Land Conservancy's Creekshead Preserve.

The Creekshead Preserve is a 27-acre preserve bordering Curtis Road in Salem that Michael H. and Meroe Allen Kaericher donated to the Legacy in 1995. It holds a mature beech-maple-basswood forest and is invasive-free.

Suggested donation is \$2 for non-SAHS members.

Salem Historical Society dinner

The Salem Area Historical Society will host its annual dinner and auction at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the Fox Hills Golf Course clubhouse, 8768 N. Territorial Road. Tickets are \$40 or \$35 for SASH members if purchased prior to March 1 or \$42 and \$37 after.

Auction items will include tickets to area attractions, sports memorabilia, historical items and restaurant gift certificates. Contact Terry at 248-486-0669 to donate items for auction. All proceeds go to support SAHS.

Reservations can be made at www.sahshistory.org, via PayPal at www.sahshistory.org or by email at Area_HS@yahoo.com.

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.

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 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.

Obituaries

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

Wanda M. Hubbell

HARBOR SPRINGS - formerly of Milford, MI, 88, died December 19, 2017 in Harbor Springs. Wanda was born on August 12, 1929 in Milford, MI, the daughter of Samuel and Clara (Jacob) Elliott and graduated from Milford High School.

On March 28, 1952, Wanda married Clarence "Bill" Hubbell in Milford, where the two made their home. In 1993, they moved to Harbor Springs and Bill preceded her in death on June 28, 2010. She was a member of the Harbor Springs United Methodist Church and the American Diabetes Association with whom she took part in a local support group. Wanda enjoyed knitting, reading, and entertaining. She was always a very thoughtful and generous woman who loved the color pink and playing cards, especially euchre, but her greatest joy in life was her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, with whom she treasured her time with.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, George "Jed" and Sally Hubbell of Milford, MI; daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and David Foote of Rockford, MI; 4 granddaughters, Erica Hubbell, Lauren (Josh) Winer, Katie (Steve) Bialkowski, and Emily (Brad) Bell; and by 8 great grandchildren. Wanda was preceded by her parents; husband, Clarence "Bill" Hubbell; and by a sister, Nina Inkley.

A Memorial Service celebrating Wanda's life will be held at a later date and will be announced. Those wishing to honor Wanda's memory are asked to make a donation to the American Diabetes Association: P.O. Box 15829, Arlington, VA 22215 Arrangements are in the care of the Schiller Funeral Home of Harbor Springs.



Nancy C. Judge

SOUTH LYON - Nancy C. Judge, age 78, passed away December 20, 2017. She was born December 13, 1939 in Detroit, daughter of the late Anthony and Mary Labon. Nancy was an avid reader, enjoyed watching television and loved spending time with her daughter and granddaughter. She is survived by her daughter, Kristina; four grandchildren; her brother; and her daughter-in-law. Nancy was preceded in death by her husband, James Michael Judge; and her son, James Judge Jr. www.phillipsfuneral.com.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wallace spurs Milford win over Lakeland

Mavericks even Lakes Valley Conference record with 50-25 triumph

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Milford's Megan Wallace seems to thrive when playing against arch-rival White Lake Lakeland.

And that was the case once again Friday as the senior forward scored 11 of her game-high 15 points in the second half as the Mavericks rolled to a convincing 50-25 Lakes Valley Conference win over the host Eagles.

Getting to the basket was the game plan for Wallace, who will attend Michigan State next year on a rowing scholarship.

"Honestly, on dribble drive, we were really aggressive," Wallace said. "I think that really worked well for us in the long run. We just have fun together and it was just a great game for us. Getting to the hoop is something really important that we want to work on tonight. And we executed it very well."

The Mavericks (3-3, 1-1) used a three-quarter court press to pin down Lakeland (0-6, 0-2).

"I thought our girls worked really hard on the press," Milford coach David Browne said. "We forced something like 27 turnovers and that was the difference. It got us extra shots and we were able to push it on the fast break and made some good choices, where earlier in the year we weren't spreading the



Milford's Megan Wallace scored a game-high 15 points during a 50-25 win over Lakeland. JERRY REA

floor as well."

Allison Smith, a junior forward, chipped in 11 points as Milford shot 17-of-60 from the floor (28.3 percent) and 14-of-24 from the foul line (58.3 percent).

"I thought we made

some good steps tonight," Browne said. "Our shooting percentage was a lot better. We've had some losses where we didn't shoot well and did everything else right. Our shots fell a little bit better tonight and we hope it

carries on, too."

Wallace had eight first-quarter points as Milford jumped out to a 16-6 advantage.

"She was great," Browne said. "She loves this Milford-Lakeland game. I think every time

we've played them, she's played her best. She's a great senior, a great leader."

Lakeland trailed 22-12 at halftime and 30-16 after three quarters before Milford blew things open with a 20-9 fourth-

quarter run.

"We're still struggling with our pressure," Lakeland coach Mike Head said. "We've got to learn. We have flashes every now and then, but it's been our weakness and we, as a group, we've got to keep working at it and kind of learn from it as we keep going through the season."

During the middle two quarters, Lakeland got off only seven shots from the floor and committed 18 turnovers.

"They just hold to their (press) rules pretty well and we just got to take care of the ball better and work together collectively," Head said. "Every now and then we do it well, but those are too far and few in between."

Lakeland, only 8-of-29 from the floor (27.9 percent), had only one player score in double figures as senior center Skylar Baer had 10.

"We didn't do a great job on the boards, that's for sure," Head said. "Milford, I'm sure, really had a serious lead on the offensive glass, for sure. We knew they were going to play tough. They're a tough team and are always going to be playing us tough. We just got to arise to the occasion the next game."

The two teams meet again Friday, Feb. 9, in the rematch, this time at Lakeland.

"I just want to have as much fun as possible," Wallace said. "I've had a great four years here and I want to go out with a bang."

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Parish Office: 248-349-9847. www.holyfamilynovi.org

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LO-0000316579

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60820 Majorie Ann St, South Lyon 48178
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Assoc. Pastor: Randy Weeks
Website: www.fbcsothlyon.com
• Email: fbcsothlyon@sbglobal.net
LO-0000316481

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Website: milfordbaptist.org

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www.milfordumc.net

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www.fumcnorthville.org

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54899 8 Mile Rd. at Currie Rd. Northville, MI 48167
248-374-2268
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11:00 am Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study at 7 pm
Pastor Andy Whittan
oursaviouralca.com

South Lyon

first united methodist church south lyon, mi
640 S. Lafayette (248) 437-0760
Worship: 8:15am, 10:45am, & 11:00am
Sunday School: 9:30am
Rev. Mary McInnes, Lead Pastor
Rev. Kenny Walkup, Assoc. Pastor
southlyonfirstumc.org

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Griswold Rd. at 10 Mile
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Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m

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Russ Bone, Preaching Minister
Randy Schilling, Family Life Minister
LO-000032990

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Rev. Thomas Scherger
248-573-7320
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Phone: 248-446-8700
Web Address: www.saintjosephssouthlyon.org
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LO-0000316754

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5 signs you're stuck in the rat race

BY ERIC TITNER
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

We've all heard the phrase rat race before — it refers to a seemingly never-ending, pointless, and even self-defeating pursuit, and it's often used when referring to one's job or career. Individuals who are stuck in the rat race are unhappily going through the motions in life, trudging through the daily grind of their workday feeling unfulfilled, unchallenged and uninspired until they go home at the end of the day — only to repeat the whole process again.

Those who are stuck in the rat race are more than just unhappy — they're actually negatively affecting their health and well-being. According to a recent *Forbes* article, people who hate their jobs face some serious consequences, including increased risks for stress, sleeplessness, illness and mental health issues. An article by *The Atlantic* even goes on to suggest that workplace unhappiness can shorten your lifespan.

Obviously, individuals who are stuck in this unfortunate situation have every good reason to try and get out of it. Are you one of them? The truth is, sometimes people get so busy and wrapped up in their daily responsibilities and activities



GETTY IMAGES

that they fail to take stock of their current situations. You may very well be stuck in the rat race and not even know it.

Use these signs to determine if you need to make changes to your daily life:

1. Your energy and enthusiasm levels are low.

Are you like the energizer bunny when you get up in the morning? Do you go through an average workday full of "get up and go" enthusiasm for what lies ahead? Or maybe you're more like a wilted flower or droopy basset hound

who practically needs to be dragged through the day, and can't wait to get back home so you can ... lie around and do absolutely nothing. We all have good days and bad, but if more often than not you're facing each day with a real lack of energy and enthusiasm, that's a good sign you're stuck in a rat race and may need a change.

2. You're stuck in the past.

Do you spend more time thinking about "past glories" than future opportunities? Do

you gladly reminisce about days gone by and what you have done at the expense of what lies ahead and what you will accomplish?

People who are stuck in the rat race avoid thinking about the present and the future as a protective mechanism — keeping them from having to confront an unhappy reality or an uncertain tomorrow. If this sounds like you, you might just be stuck in a rut.

3. You lack purpose.

Folks who are in happy places in their lives are fueled by a sense of purpose and gamely tackle each day, along with the challenges and goals they've set for themselves. Those stuck in less fulfilling situations? Not so much. And it's not hard to imagine the vicious spiral this creates, leading you to accomplish less and less as the days drag on. Don't get stuck in a rat race spiral.

4. You're noticing changes in your health and wellness.

When you're stuck in the grinding gears of the rat race you're going to experience a negative effect on your health and well-being.

The ravages of stress, tension, sleeplessness, anxiety and more will begin to gnaw away at you — and you'll notice it.

Tack on to this that people stuck in the rat race often make poor diet and exercise choices, and it's easy to see that this is a road to ruin.

5. You feel powerless to effect change or think there's nothing better out there for you.

One of the real tragedies of being stuck in the rat race — as if we haven't mentioned enough of them already — is that it robs you of the very ability to see a way out of it. It's common for those stuck in a rut to feel that there's simply no way out or have such a negative raincloud following them that they can't even fathom that there's something better out there. It's not a good place to be.

If after reading this you've realized that you're stuck in the rat race and are starting to worry or panic — stop and take a deep breath.

It's always better to know the truth, and it's never too late or a bad time to figure out where you are with your job situation — good or bad — and make a change.

Eric Titner is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com where this article was originally published. He 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 | 51 Skier Tommy | 88 Battle (for) Favorite | 128 Scrabble 1-pointers | 30 Trendy Typical lab rat, e.g. | 74 Handed over |
| 1 Nothin' at all | 52 Ali or Frazier board | 89 Favorite "—haw!" ("Whee!") | DOWN | 39 See 23-Across | 75 In this way, informally |
| 4 Got on | 53 Klutzy type | 90 "Whee!" | 1 Nothin' at all | 41 It has a charge | 76 Withdrawal |
| 12 — Hill (Theodore Roosevelt's home) | 54 Radon, e.g. | 91 Bicolor snacks | 2 Gem State | 43 Pivotal line | 77 "She Loves You" band's nickname |
| 20 Altar | 55 Indian "Mr." | 92 Slender fish and a | 3 * A thousand and a googol, e.g. | 44 Split-off group | 78 * Tangoing truism |
| promise | 56 Dangerous way to skate | 93 Polar laborer | 4 * March Madness quarterfinal teams | 45 Deuce follower | 79 Lofty poetry |
| 21 Quiche — | 58 Haglike | 94 Hit into from behind | 5 Family member | 46 Specifically | 80 Heart |
| 22 Zealous campaigner | 60 Darkened | 96 1988 Olympics city | 6 Slivovitz and kirsch | 47 Neighbor of Quebec | 81 Toast topper |
| 23 With | 62 Uprightness | 97 Is in a hole | 7 Has a debate | 48 Place (down) | 82 * A state of bliss |
| 39-Down, business for attorneys | 63 Like radon | 99 Film scorer | 8 * 1998 Tom Clancy novel | 50 * Request for a hand slap | 84 Window area |
| 24 Dreams up | 64 Actress Courteney West | 101 Sportage or Soul maker | 9 Family members | 57 Engine cover | 85 View |
| 25 Enrobing | 65 Alluring | 102 Clairol shelter products | 10 Adversary | 59 LCD alternative | 87 Rustic denial |
| 26 Thorax | 66 Kanga's son | 104 Gibbon, e.g. | 11 Cease's partner | 60 Ski — | 89 View |
| 28 Cloister resident | 67 Fitted | 106 — relief | 12 Flimflam | 61 Consume | 95 Capital of Latvia |
| 29 Native Americans of Oklahoma | 68 "—knew?!" | 107 White wader | 13 * Part of the Constitution establishing the judiciary | 64 * Group of defendants that included Abbie Hoffman | 98 Helical form |
| 31 See 69-Across | 69 With | 110 Enthusiasm | 14 Very nervous | 68 "Hold on!" | 100 Taoism founder |
| 32 Lena of "The Wiz" | 70 Snooze sile | 113 Soup legume | 15 "... so far — know" | 69 Styling stuff | 101 Omit in speech |
| 33 Gal at a ball | 71 Like sexist jokes and such, for short | 115 Dandy fellow | 16 * Helicopter of the U.S. president | 70 Furry scarf | 102 Snead of golf |
| 34 Big fashion inits. | 75 Mat — | 116 Full of cheek | 17 Major Norse god | 71 Consume | 103 Classic British sports car |
| 35 Blue shade | 76 Ring official | 117 Rift-causing | 18 Sublet, say | 72 Occasion to shout out the ends of the answers to this puzzle's starred clues (from left to right) | 104 Hard drinker |
| 37 Haul to court | 77 "Piggy" | 119 Least near | 19 Therefore | | |
| 38 "Time — the essence!" | 78 River of Grenoble | 122 Sci-fi gift | 27 Ignore rudely | | |
| 40 Wagged part | 79 Like much hemp fashion | 123 Hand-thrown weapons | | | |
| 42 Closest to nil | 83 Actress | 124 Scottish beef animal | | | |
| 46 Verizon competitor | Cuthbert | 125 Scrabble 4-pointer | | | |
| 49 Artificial hair | 85 Was deeply agitated | 126 Right to use another's land | | | |
| | 86 Air impurity | 127 Opera text | | | |

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

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!

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 7 | 2 | | | | | 6 |
| | 9 | | 5 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | 7 | 4 | | | | |
| 1 | 5 | 9 | | | | | | |
| | | 6 | | | 2 | | | |
| | | | | | 1 | 6 | 8 | |
| | | | 8 | 1 | | | 5 | |
| | | | | 9 | | 2 | | |
| 7 | | | | 5 | 4 | | | |

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

DISNEY FILM WORD SEARCH

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

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>WORDS</p> <p>ALADDIN ARISTOCATS BAMBI CINDERELLA DALMATIANS DUMBO FANTASIA FLUBBER HOCUS POCUS HUNCHBACK JOHNNY TREMAIN JUNGLE BOOK LADY AND THE TRAMP LION KING LITTLE MERMAID MARY POPPINS MELODY TIME OLD YELLER PETER PAN PINOCCHIO POCAHONTAS POLLYANNA POPEYE RESCUERS ROCKETEER SHAGGY DOG SLEEPING BEAUTY SNOW WHITE TARZAN TOY STORY TREASURE ISLAND WHITE FANG</p> | <p>DISNEY FILM WORD SEARCH</p> <p>B K D I A M R E M E L T T I L F S G Y A E A D K R O E G N A F E T I H W J Z L F B M N S L T F S L E E P I N G B E A U T Y B M A R Y P O P P I N S I W L D P U W K I I F B R E L L E Y D L O S D P C R O S P I N O C C H I O O L Z A I E G E O L C C L M E L O D Y T I M E N R U B B A Z T D N A L S I E R U S A E R T B E D U O M F P B N S A N N A Y L L O P U L Y G Y S O P T F S N O W W H I T E L G A I S O T G L A I S A T N A F L S F N N Z T B W A S R C I N D E R E L L A U D W O M E E C U O G N I K N O I L C J T C R U K S J C O C C S H A G G Y D O G H U Y D Z A K C T O K E N B O N I A M E R T Y N N H O J S P T E Y A J H D P H T P P E T E R P A N I S E Z Z T P B Z R E S C U E R S A O L R U E P R P O C A H O N T A S P B K S J A C E O A I T M N A K C A B H C N U H U F O R P T Y P D A L M A T I A N S L S G R H</p> |
|--|--|

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Crossword Answers</p> <p>ZIP IDOL LAW CHEST HORNE SUB TMOBILE OAF WITC INERT TENT ECOCH POLLUT OREOS SEQU DYES ELAN DIVIS GREEN EASEM</p> | <p>Word Search Answers</p> <p>ARISTOCATS BAMBI CINDERELLA DALMATIANS DUMBO FANTASIA FLUBBER HOCUS POCUS HUNCHBACK JOHNNY TREMAIN JUNGLE BOOK LADY AND THE TRAMP LION KING LITTLE MERMAID MARY POPPINS MELODY TIME OLD YELLER PETER PAN PINOCCHIO POCAHONTAS POLLYANNA POPEYE RESCUERS ROCKETEER SHAGGY DOG SLEEPING BEAUTY SNOW WHITE TARZAN TOY STORY TREASURE ISLAND WHITE FANG</p> |
|---|--|

Car Report

EASY TO GET USED TO: HYUNDAI'S ALL-NEW IONIQ HYBRID IS WELCOME ENTRY IN GROWING ELECTRIC-VEHICLE DERBY



By Dale Buss

Electric vehicles are becoming mainstream now as manufacturers hope that their proliferating number of partially or fully electric models will get traction – individually and collectively – with an American public that still remains far from enamored with the automotive propulsion mode of the future, particularly at a time of cheap gasoline.

But as EV demand takes shape, count on the all-new Hyundai Ioniq to be in a strong position to make a play for a chunk of the market.

The 2017 Ioniq Hybrid – it's also available in a plug-in version and an all-electric version – covers all the bases that today's sedan buyers find

important when it comes to new cars. That includes peppy performance, a smooth ride, durability, a reasonable price, significant creature comforts, an upscale interior – and, of course, class-leading fuel economy, at least in the hybrid version I drove.

In fact, Ioniq ranks 7 out of the 24 compact cars for 2017 rated by *U.S. News & World Report*, bolstered by all these basic attributes as well as by its comparison with segment leaders. The Ioniq hybrid takes dead aim at the pioneer and by far the leader among hybrids, Toyota Prius, and holds up well in many ways.

Most important might be the base price. Ioniq's begins at around \$22,200 while the pricetag for the base Prius pushes \$25,000. In the compact-sedan category where purchase price as well as the cost of ownership both can factor heavily in consumers' minds, this is a huge advantage for Ioniq.

Let's begin with the crucial metric of fuel economy, which even at a



Hyundai Ioniq Hybrid Interior Cabin

time of \$2.50-a-gallon gasoline is a top-of-mind consideration for most people who are in the market for a hybrid, possibly matched in importance only by their concern about the environmental footprint of whatever vehicle they purchase.

Ioniq SEL, the mid-trim version that retails for around \$26,000, posts a whopping 55 mpg in combined city and highway driving, sipping only 1.8 gallons of gasoline per 100 miles, according to Environmental Protection Agency official estimates. These numbers top Prius's by a bit: 3 mpg.

Move down price-wise to Ioniq Hybrid's base Blue trim and you pick up even more fuel economy, with an EPA-rated, eye-popping 58 mpg as the version optimizes propulsion efficiency. This, too, beats out Toyota's similarly minded Prius Eco version, which posts 56 mpg. In fact, according to Edmunds.com, the Ioniq Hybrid Blue version sets a new record in fuel economy

for a hybrid vehicle that lacks plug-in capability.

At the same time, the 1.6-liter, four-cylinder gasoline engine that anchors the Ioniq Hybrid is plenty capable as augmented with a 32-kilowatt electric motor fed by a lithium-ion battery pack. It delivers total output of 139 horsepower, which is enough to power Ioniq briskly through everyday driving and special acceleration needs.

In fact, Ioniq Hybrid hit 60 mph in 8.7 seconds in Edmunds' testing, quicker than a Prius. Sure, the car might be considered a bit sluggish compared with classically powered sedans in its segment, but it more than meets the needs of nearly all driving modes and demands.

Handling is adequate, neither too snappy nor sluggish. But overall, Hyundai Ioniq is not a "driver's car," and so it was wise of the brand not to try to pass it off as some sort of high-mileage performance wonder. However, when it comes to another

important set of criteria, Ioniq outshines much of the category: interior simplicity and comfort. Its interior controls are laid out well, and its multiply adjustable driver's seat adapts well to a wide variety of human frames. There's also ample head and leg room up front.

Meanwhile, the placement of Ioniq's dashboard controls is clear and logical with lots of big buttons, a far cry from the mistake that some manufacturers have made in overpopulating the front controls and making them confusing. There are even redundant hard keys for many of the infotainment-screen functions.



The Hyundai All-New Ioniq Hybrid

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MLS 217110619 248.685.1065 \$365,000



Move In Ready Condo!
 *This condo features four bedrooms and two and half bathrooms
 *Beautiful hardwood floors as you walk through large entry
 *Kitchen with stainless steel appliances, dining area with bay window and patio door to your back yard
 *Master bedroom with large walk in closet, master bath with ceramic floor
MLS 217105707 248.684.1065 \$230,000



Gorgeous Colonial, Great Location!
 *This home features four bedrooms, three and half bathrooms
 *Updated gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, backsplash and new cabinet lighting
 *Vaulted master bedroom, great size additional bedrooms with possible 5th bedroom
 *Perfect covered patio overlooking 20 unbuildable acres and amazing sunsets
MLS 217093043 248.684.1065 \$429,900



Perfect Ranch!
 *This three bedroom, three bathroom newly remodeled Ranch, is a must see
 *Open floor plan that is great for entertaining
 *Granite kitchen has multiple skylights that keeps it sun-drenched all year
 *Master suite with private deck, fully finished walkout basement
MLS 217101993 248.684.1065 \$280,000



Exquisite One of Kind Lake Sherwood Home!
 *This lake front home features five bedrooms, four and half bathrooms with amazing view throughout *Updated kitchen with delightful breakfast nook and barn wood accent wall
 *First floor master suite with lakefront views, jetted tub and custom walk in shower
 *Spacious finished basement with bedroom and plenty of for entertaining
MLS 217104397 248.684.1065 \$679,900



Adorable Bungalow with Lake Privileges
 *This home features two bedrooms and two bathrooms
 *Clean kitchen with concrete counter tops and stainless steel appliances
 *Huge upper level master suite and large first floor bedroom
 *Expansive fenced in backyard
MLS 217110131 248.684.1065 \$180,000



Wonderful Four Bedroom!
 *This four bedroom, two and half bathroom is located on a large wooded lot in desirable Timber Ridge
 *Kitchen with Maple cabinets, granite counters and backsplash
 *Amazing three season sunroom, with vaulted ceiling, ceiling fan and door to wooded yard
 *First floor laundry, super family room and three car garage
MLS 217083592 248.684.1065 \$335,000



Gorgeous New Construction Condo!
 *Perfect three bedroom, two and half bathroom, Condo
 *First floor master suite with balcony provides for beautiful views
 *Open floor plan, first floor laundry
 *Easy bike paths to Kensington and downtown Milford
MLS 217050469 248.684.1065 \$469,900



Gorgeous Custom Built Colonial!
 *This home features five bedrooms, four and half bathrooms located on a quiet cul de sac
 *Beautiful gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and hardwood floors
 *Great room equipped with temperature controlled wine cellar & cozy bar
 *Full finished basement with kitchen, bedroom, full bath and living room
MLS 217080346 248.684.1065 \$498,900



Beautiful Lake Front Home!
 *This five bedroom, three bath, Colonial features incredible views of Lake Sherwood
 *Open floor plan with lots of space for entertaining
 *Walkout lower level with family room and fireplace, separate bedroom and full bathroom
 *Choose to keep this existing home or build the home of your dreams on this amazing waterfront lot
MLS 217049046 248.684.1065 \$499,900



Charming Colonial!
 *This home features three bedrooms, two and half bathrooms on 2.1 acres
 *Updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, Quartz counters and marble backsplash
 *Great room with beautiful brick fireplace and crown molding
 *First floor laundry, 3 Car garage with shed
MLS 217090562 248.684.1065 \$359,000



Peaceful 8.23 Wooded Acres!
 *This delightful Ranch features three bedrooms and three bathrooms
 *Spacious master bedroom with spa like bath including a jetted tub, euro-shower and dual sink *Beautiful granite gas fireplace is a focal point in the modern living room
 *Finished lower level with full bath, second kitchen, large bedroom and family room
MLS 217085126 248.684.1065 \$629,900

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