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THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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ONLINE COUPONS



District lists Main Street property for sale

The Northville Public Schools district has released a request for proposal for the sale of its 501 W. Main Street property in Northville. The property includes the former Main Street Elementary School structure built in 1936, which currently houses Early Childhood classrooms and the district's administrative office. The property is being listed by

Great Northern Consulting Group Real Estate Services and Consulting in Ann Arbor.

The RFP offers three options for bidding:

■ Option 1 includes the purchase of the 43,610-square-foot building for repurposing on approximately 11 acres, with an additional 70- by 160-foot lot.

■ Option 2 provides for the purchase of the 0.96 acres, along with the 70- by 160-foot lot for residential redevelopment, after the school district demolishes the building.

■ Option 3 provides for the purchase of one or more individual lots after the school district demolishes the building and subdivides the property.

The property is currently zoned R-1B First Density Residential District (single-family residential). The R-1B zoning allows for single-family residential lots with a minimum of 60 feet of frontage and a minimum of 7,200 square feet of lot area. Under the R-1B zoning, the site

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The kitchen is a busy place on this Wednesday evening at the Birchler residence in Plymouth. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Tequila falls from coat as cop confronts would-be thief

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

An Ypsilanti man was arrested March 5 after being found outside the Meijer in Northville Township with four bottles of high-priced tequila under his coat.

The 25-year-old was charged with larceny under a township ordinance and turned over the next day to sheriff's deputies from Washtenaw County, where he was wanted on an outstanding warrant, a Northville Township Police Department report stated. He was scheduled for a Wednesday, March 21, pretrial hearing on the larceny charge in 35th District Court.

The four bottles of tequila together retailed at more than \$240, police said.

The shoplifting occurred shortly before 5 p.m. March 5 at the store on Haggerty. Via a video monitor, a Meijer security worker saw a man, whom she recognized from a February shoplifting, select boxed bottles of liquor and put them in a shopping cart, she later told police.

The worker began trailing the man in the store and later told police she witnessed him hide the liquor under his coat. When she confronted him as he left without paying, she said, he continued walking. She called police.

A responding police sergeant saw a man who fit the description of the thief walking in a grassy area between the store and the Meijer gas station, the police report read.

Blocking his path, the sergeant confronted the man, twice telling him to take his hands out of his coat pockets, the report said.

When the man complied, four boxed tequila bottles fell onto the ground from under his coat, police said.

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com.

All in the family

Locals offer home away from home for USA Hockey players

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The long journey for National Hockey League players such as Detroit Red Wings star forward Dylan Larkin involves plenty of God-given talent and a non-stop desire to excel.

But that quest often requires a necessary pit stop for players in the USA Hockey National Team Development Program, where Larkin cut his teeth be-

fore moving on to the University of Michigan and the NHL.

We're talking about unsung heroes — billet families who provide stability, friendship and a calm-before-the-storm environment for the teenagers who spend two years hundreds and even thousands of miles from their actual homes.

The next Larkin, Patrick Kane or Auston Matthews goes through their paces on the ice in hopes of hearing their name called someday by an NHL general man-

ager. Off the ice, they can't get to that destination without down-to-earth people such as the Birchlers, McKendrys and Wrights, among many others.

They give unconditional love and friendship — and no matter where a player winds up, it's as valuable to success as skating, stickhandling and sniping top shelf.

"My host family is a special group," said Luke Martin, a defenseman in the

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Library hosts annual Battle of the Books

The Northville District Library hosted its 12th annual Battle of the Books reading competition March 14 at Northville High School. More than 150 middle school students competed on 29 teams to answer questions about seven books they read as a team for this fun reading competition.

The Reader Raiders, a team of sixth- and eighth-graders from Hillside Middle School, won first place, scoring 255 points out of a possible 280. Team members include Siddharth Tirumala Kanduri, Ved and Nila Muthusamy, Sophia Alexander, Andrew He and Vishalakshi Meyyappan. The team was managed by Viji Velayutham and Muthu Sivanantham.

Second place was awarded to the Purple People Readers, from Meads Mill, which included Elena Czarnecki, Casey Leonard, Claire Masters, Mirielle

Bros, Sienna Calloway and Piper Ryan. Third place was awarded to the Meeps, from Hillside, which included Zachary Hoshaw, Rishi Narendra Kumar, Adhi Kunju, Sohan Madishetty, Alexander Milojevic and Aryan Shah. Fourth place was a tie between Books, Brains & Beyond from Meads Mill — including Srihari Hebbar, Rithik Deshpande, Saket Kulkarni, Aditya Giniwala and Tanmay Kundapur — and The Secret Service team from Our Lady of Victory, including Eve Martin, Klersten Hein, Emily Kuebler, Maggie Newell, Ava Camaj and Lauren Mullan.

"It was great to see the enthusiasm of over 150 middle school students who competed in this year's competition," said Natalie Molnar, teen services librarian. "Our goal is to make this a fun experience, while at the same time encouraging as many middle school students as possible to read a variety of types of books. The competition is set up so that not only avid readers, but also those more reluctant readers, can have fun participating together as a team."

"This event brings middle schoolers into the library to check out not only battle books, but to utilize our online homework help databases and to participate in special teen programs," she added.

There are two teen events scheduled in April: DIY Teacup & Mug Birdfeeders, 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18. Teens will upcycle teacups and saucers into a fantastic birdfeeder — and then make some birdseed to go with it. Also, Whose Lyric Is It Anyway: Broadway Trivia Bash, from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 28, an evening of Broad-



The first-place team was the Reader Raiders from Hillside Middle School.

way sing-a-longs and a trivia showdown. The Teen Summer Reading program, including prizes and special programs, begins Friday, June 15.

Library staff would like to thank the faculty and staff of Meads Mill, Hillside, Our Lady of Victory and Northville High School, as well as all team managers and

volunteers. The Friends of the Northville District Library sponsor this program each year and help to make it a success.

Complete Battle of the Books scores and photos can be found at the library's website on the teen page at www.northvillelibrary.org.

hometownlife.com

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Newsroom Contacts:

Don Dean, Managing Editor
Mobile: 248-396-0706
Email: ddean@hometownlife.com

Brad Kadrich, Reporting Coach
Mobile: 586-262-9892
Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Follow us on Facebook: @OEHometown

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Property

Continued from Page 1A

allows for a maximum of approximately five units/lots. The proposed master plan for the area allows for a higher density of development. However, in an effort to ensure any proposed redevelopment of the property is neighborhood-friendly, the school district is requiring all proposals include a concept plan proposal with the site and elevations of

the homes or project planned for the site.

RFPs are due Thursday, April 19. The school district will continue to occupy the 501 W. Main Street building and property through late 2018. If sold for redevelopment, the school district will demolish the building prior to closing on the sale in spring 2019.

The decision to sell the Main Street property is part of a \$104.85 million bond approved by voters in November 2017 to improve the school district's aging facilities, enhance security and pro-

vide modern learning environments across the district's schools. Under the bond plan, the school district is selling the Main Street building and property and refurbishing and renovating the previously mothballed Old Village School, adjacent to the Main Street property, to house additional preschool classrooms and the district's administrative offices.

For more information, contact Great Northern at 586-703-9882 or greatcgroup@aol.com.



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Novi development plans draw more objections

Maria Taylor
Special to HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Citizens from the neighborhood just east of Shawwood Lake gathered last week at the Novi Public Library to listen — and vent their frustration — to representatives from Robertson Bros. Homes, who are angling for a new high-density townhome development at 13 Mile and Old Novi roads, a largely family-oriented area of one- and one-and-a-half-story bungalows.

The meeting followed a contentious gathering last month, when the developers laid out the concept for their La-

keview Townes project. About 40 attended the first meeting; more than 85 packed the room March 12 and tempers flared.

Concerns again centered largely around the height and density of the complex and whether that would decrease quality of life and property values for the surrounding neighborhood.

"We said no, not to do it, plain and simple. Just don't do it," Troy Racicot said. "This is not about money — this is our homes, this is our neighborhood. We don't want it messed up."

Currently, the area is zoned R4 (residential), which calls for up to 3.3 units per square acre and a maximum height

of 35 feet; the three-story development meets the height limit. The city master plan for the area suggests a target density of 7.4 units per acre.

Robertson Bros. will be requesting a planned unit development, which overrides the original zoning. Its proposal takes up the density 15 units per acre, for a total of 49 townhouses on 4.5 square acres.

For most of the residents in the room that night, it was way too much density. Dorothy Duchesneau pointed out that the master plan calls for preservation of the neighborhoods as key to maintaining the character of Novi as it expands. She didn't think this proposal achieved

that goal. Neither did Carrie Schoening.

"How are 57 three-story townhouses, packed like sardines, going to do that?" she asked.

One resident summed it up: "By building up, by building at such a height and density, you're changing the character of the neighborhood. That's why they're angry. They're trying to keep the character of the neighborhood."

Other concerns included noise, traffic, flooding and an 1850s house that sits in the city right-of-way; it is not a designated historic landmark and the developer is not planning to keep it.

NORTHVILLE LIBRARY EVENTS

The Northville District Library is at 212 W. Cady Street. Call 248-348-5001 or go to northvillelibrary.org for more information.

March Is Reading Month

When: March 1-31
Details: Celebrate March Is Reading Month. All kids through fifth grade get hooked on books playing book bingo. Pick up your bingo game at the library, play the game by crossing off the boxes to make a bingo either across, down or diagonally, then submit your completed game to choose your reward. Last day to

turn in bingo games is March 31. One game per person.

Foreign Film

When: 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 26
Details: "Bad Lucky Goat," Creole, 76 minutes. After accidentally killing a bearded goat with their father's truck, two incompatible siblings in their teenage years embark on a journey of reconciliation. Just drop in.

LEGO Day Animal Creations

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

March 28

Details: Children in grades 1-5 make a fun hand-sized LEGO creation to be displayed in the youth area of the library. Limit 30.

Spring Storytimes

When: Varied, see website
Details: Go to northvillelibrary.org for details about Spring Storytimes or call 248-349-3020.

One-on-one tech help

When: 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. each Tues-

day; 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.

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.

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

Lecture Series: Great Lakes Light-

house Preservation: 7 p.m. March 28. New School Church at Mill Race Village. No fee. Donations accepted.

Fairy Garden Tea: 1-3:30 p.m. April 21.

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 Tues-

day.

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.

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MLS 218005243 248.684.1065 \$538,000



Modern Cape Cod!
*This three bedroom, two and half bathroom, Cape Cod features a first floor master bedroom
*New hardwood flooring in kitchen, island and breakfast bar
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*Located in the Village of Milford
MLS 218000275 248.684.1065 \$350,000



Gorgeous Colonial on Over 1 Acre!
*This four bedroom, two and half bathroom Colonial, has a spacious backyard perfect for any sport
*Bright & cherry kitchen with expansive island, granite counters and maple cabinets
*Master suite with sitting area, and huge walk in closet, master bath with soaker tub
*Located just minutes from downtown Milford and Kensington Park
MLS 218005228 248.684.1065 \$469,000



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 \$624,900



Beautiful colonial waiting for your personal touches to call home!
*State foyer welcomes you, private den with wall of built-in bookshelves is ideal for home office
*Formal dining room and living room, large family room with hardwood floors and brick fireplace
*Upstairs large master suite with room for a sitting area and walk in closet
MLS 218016259 248.363.8300 \$299,000



This magnificent home sits on a .75 acre lot on cul-de-sac!
*5 bedroom 4 1/2 bath Cape Cod with open layout kitchen w/granite counters, hardwood floors
*Extra recreation room in the basement with beautiful bar to entertain family and friends
*Park like backyard, live your best life in this home with lake privileges on popular Duck Lake
MLS 218009657 248.363.8300 \$361,999



Desirable Colonial in The Hills of Bogie Lake community, curb appeal abounds!
*2-story foyer is flooded with natural light and floored with sprawling hardwood
*Rich and warm gourmet kitchen has it all, open concept, breakfast nook with bay window
*Cozy family room and private office, expansive master suite with tray ceiling awaits upstairs
MLS 218017546 248.684.1065 \$429,900



Beautiful kitchen with gas fireplace, granite countertops, double ovens, backsplash!
*Gorgeous great room with second gas fireplace, 2 story ceilings and loads of natural light
*5 bedrooms, 3.3 baths, which includes a Jack & Jill bath and princess suite on upper level
*Fully finished basement with two separate rooms, full bar and tons of storage
MLS 217099527 248.363.8300 \$479,900



"Our agent was very professional and handled some stressful items with ease." KS & ET

Iconic painter Bob Ross inspires Coffee Bean artists

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Bob Ross is making a comeback and he's doing it in Plymouth.

Ross, the creator and host of "The Joy of Painting" on PBS from 1983-94, died in 1995. But for the last couple of months, he's been alive and well at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, where staffers have used his works — and his TV show — to bring a little bit of art to downtown Plymouth.

The Bean last week hosted its second monthly Bob Ross Night, encouraging painting enthusiasts to enjoy the iconic painter's laid-back, "happy" style.

"One of the things we're trying to do is to get more community involvement. ... Something I'm personally passionate about is art and bringing art into the community," said Holly Antal, a manager at The Bean. "(Ross) is becoming really popular right now; he's really trendy. He's famous for making art accessible. He really reached out to people and wanted everyone to do it. We wanted to bring that kind of spirit behind it and be, like, 'It doesn't matter how good you are or how bad you are, we just want you to make something and express your creativity.'"

The first attempt took place in January. Antal scheduled it in one of The Bean's smaller rooms, then watched as would-be artists flooded the room. When last week's February session came around, Antal moved it to the building's biggest stage.

"It was way better than we expected," Antal said. "We were in one of the other (smaller) rooms and we were way overcrowded. People were all over the floor. There's a need for it, we can tell."

Chelsea Lonsdale of Plymouth used to work at The Bean a dozen years ago and still considers it "my regular coffee place." She heard about the initial Bob Ross Night and came to check it out, only to find the large crowd.

When time for the second night



Kerry McCarthy of Novi and Lori Angove of Farmington put their artistic ability to good use. BRAD KADRICH



Jody Day (left) and Chelsea Lonsdale of Plymouth were on hand to enjoy Bob Ross Night at the Plymouth Coffee Bean. BRAD KADRICH

"I like his presentation. He's very calm, very positive, a very upbeat person. He has a very soothing delivery."

Jody Day
Plymouth resident

rolled around, she and her friend, Jody Day, got to The Bean early. Even though she may not be the biggest fan of his actual work, she does love Ross's style.

"I don't know that I love his art style so much, but I like watching him paint," Lonsdale said. "It's relaxing to watch and even just to listen to him paint."

Ditto for Day, also a Plymouth resident.

"I like his presentation," said Day, who is new to the area. "He's very calm,

very positive, a very upbeat person. He has a very soothing delivery."

Sami Scott, a 22-year-old from Flint, likes to paint as a hobby and, even though she's "way too young" to have seen Ross's show, she still enjoys his style.

And while she doesn't usually use Ross's wet-on-wet style, she still enjoys the art of painting.

Painting is something I do for fun ... it's a good stress relief for me," said Scott, a Kettering University student. "I enjoy listening to him talk. His style of painting is very easy to blend, which is something I struggle with."

Orla Hynes, the co-owner of the Plymouth Coffee Bean, encourages her staff to come up with ideas for these kinds of themed nights, especially during the cold winter months.

"People are always looking for something to do in the winter," Hynes said.

"There aren't many things to do, especially with your kids. This is just a cool thing that everyone can do, whether you're 5 years old or 90."

That kind of support — "We're lucky to have owners who encourage us to have ideas," Antal said — is welcomed by the staff. Antal said that attitude, along with the success of the first two Bob Ross Nights, has the staff thinking of things to do.

There are already poetry nights (Thursday) and Antal said more ideas will be coming.

"We're brainstorming ideas to bring in more creativity," she said. "We want to bring people together and bring a sense of community, using art and creativity."

Contact Brad Kadrich at bka-drich@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @bkadrich.

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NEW CO-WORKING SPACE OFFERS UNIQUE PACKAGE FOR ENTREPRENEURS

The Village Workshop in downtown Northville, a membership-based community workshop, just announced they're offering various size rental space as part of their new "co-working space" initiative.



The Village Workshop building was originally built in 1875 and completely restored in 2015

Starting at just \$200 per month, the basic plan gets you a dedicated workspace, your own mobile storage toolbox, and access to the workshop itself. There are also other options and add-ons for growing businesses, ranging from premium, private rooms to your own folding cubicle. Just steps away from your personal office is a wood shop, machine shop, metal shop, 3d printing, welding, laser cutters, and more. With these resources and a few classes, you can be up and running your own company in weeks. Also included with your monthly rent are a host of business amenities including internet access, conference room, mail service, coffee and donuts, printing, weekly social events and exclusive monthly meet-ups. There's even a cafe to grab lunch or a snack!



You don't even have to leave for lunch: Members can grab lunch or a snack at the cafe

Tracey Fors, the Workshop manager, recognized a need in the community:

"We have a lot of small businesses and start-ups establishing themselves at The Village Workshop. Many individuals achieved success and quickly outgrew our space, which is great. But we wanted to do more to facilitate their growth and keep them around! We recognized that one of the most demanded and lacking items was private, dedicated space for our entrepreneurs. Instead of having to lug their projects and material back and forth every day, renters can leave them on-site at The Village Workshop."

The co-working/shared office concept is very much like a business incubator. It has 24-hour access, open and flexible spaces, reservable conference and presentation rooms, and numerous communal benefits, such as networking and exchanging ideas in a highly creative atmosphere. If you need help with a particular challenge, especially related to making physical parts, you'll be able to find help from other members or the Workshop staff.

Not sure how to start your business? Don't worry, you're in good company. Members get access to monthly presentations and Q&A sessions on relevant start-up challenges, like "How to incorporate", "How to launch a product", "3D printing 101", and "How to submit a patent application", to name just a few.

Trevor Calero of LivingSpace Sunrooms, an established company renting space at The Village Workshop, tells of his experience:

"Our business is constantly changing. We're adding people and moving them around. It's nice to have a co-working space that lends itself well to our needs...I'm able to quickly add space for our team as we grow. The space offers wifi, onsite parking, and tons of other little perks throughout the week. They're extremely accommodating to our needs as a business."

Trevor Calero - Director of Marketing, LivingSpace Sunrooms



Tabletop workbenches are dispersed throughout the building, with private spaces available

Larger companies have also found unique value at TVW. Ken Pridmore of KUKA, a global robotics company, worked with TVW to create a custom-tailored, 32-hour hands-on Machine Shop mill and lathe training program for his engineers and designers.

"It really energizes the designers to have this kind of experience and I can already see a more educated approach in their work", said Ken. He added, *"Everyone benefits, including our customers."*

Whether you're just launching your new business, or want to set up shop for 10 employees, The Village Workshop offers a unique and flexible package that you simply can't find anywhere else in Southeast Michigan.

The Village Workshop is located at 455 E. Cady St. Northville MI 48167

Space is filling up quick! Call 248-667-7157 or visit www.thevillageworkshop.com/co-working to learn more.



Don't overspend during early retirement years



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Recently, I had a meeting with a client who had retired about two years ago. A few years before he retired, we restructured his portfolio to match his changing goals and objectives. At that time, the client said he would need \$4,000 to \$5,000 a month to cover all their expenses, including vacations. The problem is the client is two years into retirement and it doesn't cost him \$4,000 to \$5,000 a month, more like \$6,000 to \$7,000.

When we sat down to discuss his new spending habits, I was sort of surprised at his answer. As he explained, he knows that he's spending more than he should and he knows he's somewhat jeopardizing his future. However, he is enjoying his retirement and doesn't want to make any changes. My response was, since he doesn't want to control his spending, the only other way he can maintain his lifestyle is to increase revenue.

As I explained, there's only so much you can do with the portfolio without gambling and taking unneces-

sary risks, so he should look for new avenues of revenue. I suggested he consider a part-time job or even doing something like becoming an Uber driver. I explained that, unless he did something to increase his income, he would, in about a decade, run out of money. Being in your early 80s without resources is not a good way of going.

The problem of overspending in retirement is not new and it's one I see frequently. People find that, in today's world when they retire, they generally have their health and want to take advantage of things they denied themselves when they were working. I cannot stress enough how important it is that, when someone determines they have enough resources to retire, they factor into the equation what their lifestyle will be in retirement and the importance of having a rising income the rest of their life. When you decide whether you can retire or not, you need to honestly look at what your lifestyle will be. Too many people don't honestly look at what retirement will cost them and run into problems down the road. It is important to be honest with yourself, particularly when it comes to expenses.

After our meeting and after weighing his options, the client agreed that since he wasn't willing to reduce his spending, he had to increase his revenue. His solution was to rent out a couple of rooms in his house us-

ing services such as Airbnb. The client explained what he was planning to do and wanted to know my thoughts. I looked at the client's projections and I told him, based upon what I saw, he would still need to look for ways to reduce spending. My reasoning was when you make projections, they should be realistic, not based on the best-case scenario. If the best-case scenario did occur, the client would be in good shape. I think we can all agree that the best-case scenario rarely happens. When you're dealing with something as important as your retirement, you have to use realistic numbers. Unrealistic projections can look great on paper, but in reality, they are meaningless.

The postscript of the story is the client is going to rent out his house, but his projections have been reduced dramatically. As a result, the client has agreed to reduce his spending.

I cannot stress enough how important it is when you're in retirement to constantly monitor your expenditures. If you are overspending, the sooner you know about it, the easier it will be to solve the problem.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Sunshine Week would appear brighter with stronger FOIA laws



Jane Briggs-Bunting
Guest Columnist
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

As citizens around the country celebrate the 13th annual national Sunshine Week, March 11-17, Michigan residents have nothing to cheer.

A series of open records bills that would put Michigan in sync with the rest of the country are buried, once again, in the state Senate Government Operations Committee through the actions of Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, R-West Olive.

Despite unanimous bipartisan support in the House for the Legislative Open Records Act spelled out in House Bills 4148-4157, Meekhof will not move the bills out of the committee that he chairs or even allow a vote within the committee.

Michigan is the only state in the nation in which state law exempts the governor and lieutenant governor from the requirements of Michigan's Freedom of Information Act. In 1986, then-Attorney General Frank Kelley issued an opinion that the state Legislature also is exempt from FOIA. Current Attorney General Bill Schuette's office recently reconfirmed that opinion.

This makes Michigan a FOIA outlier among the states. It means the citizens here have no right to request and obtain records from their governor and lieutenant governor (a critical issue as the Flint water debacle unfolded) or their elected representatives.

City councils, township and school boards, local and county governments are all required under FOIA to provide public records — except in the case of a limited number of exemptions — to people who request them. But what is required of local public officials is not required of Michigan's state elected officials.

The state Supreme Court summarily exempted itself from FOIA's requirements when the law was passed in 1976. The high court ruled that FOIA's mandates violated the separation of powers of the three branches of government and that the legislative and executive branches could not compel the judicial branch to be covered by FOIA. So now Michigan citizens have no way of making the governor, lieutenant governor, legislators or justices respond to FOIA requests.

Meekhof told a group of journalists last year that only they care about FOIA. Journalists do file many FOIA requests as part of their job to watchdog gov-

Michigan is the only state in the nation in which state law exempts the governor and lieutenant governor from the requirements of Michigan's Freedom of Information Act.

ernment at all levels. But everyday citizens also file FOIAs and plenty of them, as we at the Michigan Coalition for Open Government know well.

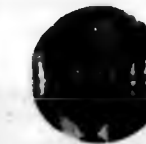
Our FOIA is not perfect. Improvements are needed. High fees are still an issue for citizens seeking public records. Another major loophole is in delivering records sought from public bodies. By statute, public officials are required to respond to a FOIA request within a maximum of 15 business days. Within that time period, they must respond by granting or denying the request all or in part. However, there is no deadline for when those records must actually be provided. This is a loophole that some public bodies already have used to slow down turning over records. Michigan State University played this game initially with FOIA requests by media over the Larry Nassar case. Requests from Flint also met, at times, with similar delays.

The bills making up the Legislative Open Records Act would be a major step forward toward making state elected officials more accountable. The current lack of accountability and transparency earned Michigan an F grade in 2015 in the Center for Public Integrity's survey of all 50 states. Michigan should earn another F in the next survey if lawmakers don't pass the Legislative Open Records Act.

This is Meekhof's last term due to term limits. The hope is that, in the next session, senators will join their House colleagues and make themselves, the governor and his lieutenant subject to FOIA and that the new governor signs the bills into law.

The Michigan Coalition for Open Government is a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation founded to promote and protect transparency and accountability in government at the local, state and federal levels. For more information or to join, go to www.miopengov.org. Jane Briggs-Bunting is a board member and founding president of MICOG.

Board should distance itself from president's emails



Condo Living
Robert Meisner
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Q: Is there a legal issue when a condo association president sends emails to all of its members expressing his political opinions that certain people and the media are biased against certain political figures?

A: While the specific content of the emails may determine the extent of actions we would advise to take, this is certainly an inappropriate use of the association's email list, which this person seems to have used for his own personal purposes.

If you are on the board of directors yourself and a majority of the board agrees with you, you may wish to consider a resolution that formally censures him for these actions. If the emails in question make negative generalizations about certain groups of people, for example, based on race, political affiliation or affiliation with the media, it is important for the board to distance itself from those comments in writing. It must be made clear to the association's members that his statements are his

personal opinions only and do not reflect the opinions of the board of directors. And if he happened to have "president" and/or the association's name in his signature line, that would be even more egregious, as you can imagine how someone reading it may reasonably conclude that he is representing the board's opinion. Formally distancing the board from those comments lessens the chance that the association will face claims of discrimination or disparate treatment from people who belong to the groups referenced in his emails.

Officers also serve at the pleasure of the board, so if a majority of the board agrees, you can remove him from the office of president and appoint someone else. But you could not remove him from the board, as only the members would be able to do that by a recall vote (there may be exceptions in some cases, but this would not be one of them).

Again, depending on the specific content of the emails, it may also be advisable for the association's attorney to write a letter to the president demanding he cease and desist from sending emails to everyone that are not related to the association's business. That letter would also put him on notice that the association would demand indemnification from him in connection with any suit filed against the association as a result of his actions. If you are not on the board and the other board members don't want to do anything about this, you should seriously consider running for the board yourself and getting some like-minded neighbors to run as well. If this person cannot see that these actions are improper, they are likely taking other actions to the association's detriment.

Robert M. Meisner, Esq., is principal attorney of The Meisner Law Group, based in Bingham Farms. He can be reached at 248-644-4433 or rmeisner@meisner-law.com.

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Vaccinations can contribute to divorce disagreements



Tales From the Front Lines

Henry Gornbein
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Is there any valid reason for not vaccinating your child?

I was recently in Judge Karen McDonald's courtroom, where a hearing was continuing on the issue of whether a child should be vaccinated. The former husband wanted the child vaccinated and his former wife does not. An accredited doctor was testifying as to why there is no medical reason to withhold vaccinations. There were camera crews and reporters in the courtroom and there has been a lot of controversy over this issue.

I was recently reading a magazine called *The Week*, which distills the news of the week both nationally and internationally.

There was a short piece from Rome stating that measles cases are soaring. It stated that more than 21,000 people got measles in Europe last year, more than quadruple the number in 2016, and at least 35 people died. The World

Health Organization blames the spike on parents rejecting or delaying vaccinations for their children because of the discredited but widespread belief that there is a link between childhood vaccinations and autism.

The vaccination rate for young children in Italy is 85 percent. The World Health Organization stated that 95 percent should be immunized to prevent outbreaks. Measles is highly contagious and can cause blindness, encephalitis and death.

In Michigan, under the best interests of the child statute where there is joint legal custody, there must be an agreement on issues such as health-related issues or else the parties must go to court.

What I am observing is a tremendous waste of time and money over an issue that has been medically resolved for years. Vaccinations have eradicated many terrible diseases here in the United States, including mumps, measles, and polio, as well as small pox. There are vaccines for chicken pox and even pneumonia.

A parent may argue that his or her child should not be vaccinated for med-

ical or religious reasons, but this fails to take into account the fact that if more and more people are not vaccinated, then the protection for our society as a whole will start falling apart and the gains in medicine to immunize and protect our children will be lost. Every competent physician I have spoken to has unequivocally stated that vaccinations are critical and are safe!

What are some solutions?

I have had some cases where a judge would award joint physical custody to one parent and sole legal custody to the other. There can even be rulings by a court to have some decisions made by one parent and others by the other parent. For example, the final say on medical issues could be with one parent, while the final say on school-related issues could be with the other.

This is something that can be negotiated by the parties and their attorneys or it could even be ordered by the court.

The end result would be to end the disputes that can go on endlessly in court.

In one of my cases, the mother who is a physician was granted sole legal custody and then had the ability to make all

decisions based upon the best interests of the child of the marriage.

We are going through an era where people are more and more contentious and will use the courts to take out their anger over almost every issue, even long after the divorce is final. Emotional problems, a failure to move on to the next chapter of life, as well as anger and bitterness — all contribute to what I call the never-ending divorce. In these cases, such as the one playing out over vaccinations, one or both parents are unable to move on and will put their child or children in the middle of this mess.

These are some of my thoughts on this issue. Please share yours.

Henry S. Gornbein specializes in all aspects of family law. He is a partner in the Birmingham law firm of Lippitt O'Keefe Gornbein PLLC, where he heads the family law unit. He is creator and host of the award-winning cable television show "Practical Law," with more than 800 episodes aired to date. Contact him at hgornbein@lippittokeefe.com or 248 646-8292.

Fowlerville company tests autonomous technology

Jennifer Eberbach
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Vehicles that drive themselves, or at least do some of the thinking for drivers, are the wave of the future, company officials at Fowlerville-area proving grounds FT Techno of America say.

FT Techno of America's Fowlerville Proving Ground is gearing up to build a new \$5 million test track specially designed to test advanced driver assistance systems and autonomous vehicle technology.

"We wanted to create a facility that creates real-world conditions to validate these systems, because you want to be able to practice to see how well it would work in reality," vehicle evaluation manager Jason Musson said.

The 950-acre proving grounds at 1750 Smith Road in Handy Township currently tests a range of automotive systems, including breaks, transmissions, chassis components and ADAS-related products for auto parts manufacturers and auto makers. It features a three-mile loop track and a multi-use testing pad.

The new test track will feature connected traffic infrastructure such as stop lights that can communicate with vehicles, and it will mimic real-world traffic conditions. It will have freeway ramps, a five-lane signaled intersection, a four-way stop intersection, a roundabout and a multi-use dynamic pad that can be customized to test a range of traffic scenarios.

While technologies related to connected cars and autonomous vehicles

are relatively new and still emerging, Musson said building the new testing facilities is worth any risk of the unknown.

"The Department of Transportation is pushing for vehicles to talk to each other and infrastructure like connected traffic signals," he said. "The public's perception of autonomous sometimes is it can be a scary thing. The key is to validate (in-vehicle) systems before they hit the road."

Automakers and parts manufacturers are developing driver assistance systems to increase safety and meet guidelines set forth by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, as well as European safety standards, Musson said.

"For example, forward collision warning systems alert drivers when

you're going to crash," he said. "Crash imminent breaking is the next level of that. It allows the vehicle to control the breaks itself to avoid or mitigate a crash."

He anticipates a "next step" in autonomous vehicle development "is vehicles being able to sense the speed of other vehicles and itself."

Mike Benjamin, FT Techno of America's senior operations manager, said as new technologies emerge, the company would continue adding new features to its 950-acre property to keep up with market trends.

The test track will create new jobs, but it is difficult to estimate exactly how many at this time, Benjamin said. The proving grounds employs 20 people.

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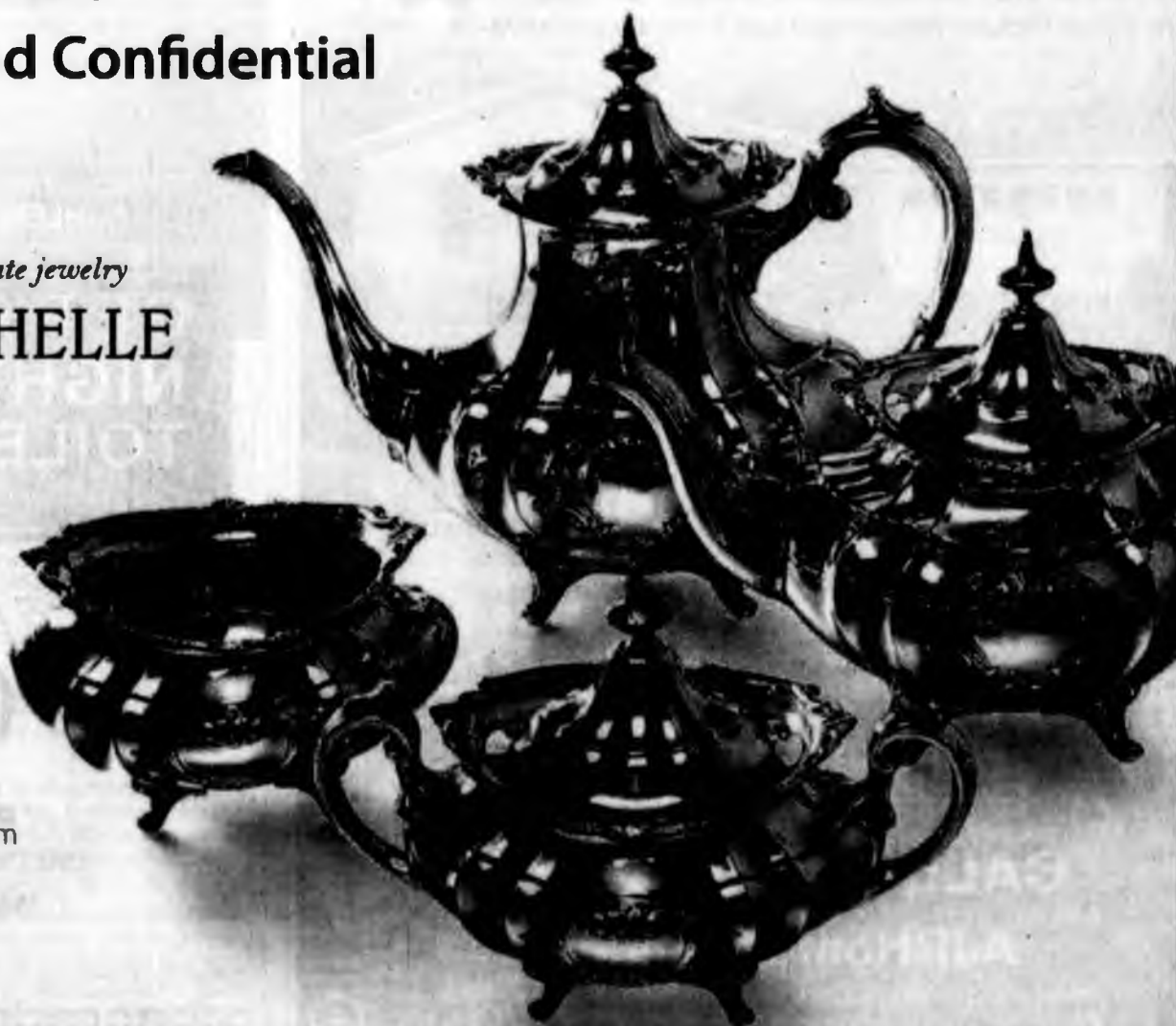
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Leukemia foundation gets four-star rating

Charity Navigator, the leading charity evaluator in America, recently awarded Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan a four-star rating for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to patients and families with leukemia, lymphoma and other blood related disorders. A four-star rating from Charity Navigator is the

highest an organization can receive. Charity Navigator's goal is to provide donors with essential information to verify and evaluate work in the nonprofit sector. It evaluates 1.5 million charities and only gives out four-star ratings to very select organizations. This evaluation process uses unique methods of data-driven analysis and criteria, in-

cluding communication, goals, progress, trustworthiness and long-term commitment, on which items CLF received a perfect score. Charity Navigator's four-star rating indicates that CLF, based in Farmington Hills, executes its mission in a financially effective way, exceeds the industry standards and outperforms other charities in their cat-

egory of work. CLF's four-star rating and review for commitment to accountability and transparency can now be viewed on Charity Navigator's website: <https://www.charitynavigator.org/>. For more information on CLF, call 800-825-2536 or go to www.leukemiamichigan.org.



Noah Boye (right) of Westland was one of six participants who carried a five-gallon jerrycan filled with water during the 2017 World Vision 6K for Water. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Family and friends of Westland's Boye family are participating as the Water Boyes at the Global 6K for Water on May 19. Pictured (from left) are Natalie and Brandon Kirkey, Elijah, Steve, Wendy, Jenna, Julia and Noah Boye. Wendy is wearing a race bib showing the child who will receive clean water as a result of her efforts. BOYE FAMILY PHOTO

Running for clean water

March 22 is World Water Day and the Boye family from Westland is serious about clean water. Wendy Boye has run races for seven years to raise money for World Vision's initiatives and vows to keep going until clean water is no longer a global issue. She's invigorated her children about the cause, as well.

Noah, Julia and Kayla Boye have joined their mom to form Team Water Boyes, with plans to join thousands around the globe, including hundreds at 22 host sites in Michigan, in World Vision's Global 6K for Water (May 19). Noah is using the event to train for the

Chicago Marathon, which he plans to run while carrying a jerrycan full of water (approximately 40 pounds), truly experiencing the physical weight of the water crisis.

As one of the leaders in the cause of clean water, World Vision brings clean water to one new person every 10 seconds and to three schools every day. The Global 6K for Water will raise money for the 844 million people, typically women and children, who walk an average of six kilometers a day to collect water — water that is often contaminated with life-threatening diseases.



Noah Boye and others carry five-gallon jerrycans of water during the 2017 World Vision 6K for Water. Boye will use the 2018 race to train for the Chicago Marathon on Oct. 7. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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CFCU wins national youth award

Community Financial Credit Union is one the nationwide winners of the Desjardins Youth Financial Education Award. The award, given by the Credit Union National Association, is bestowed annually to recognize model credit union efforts to teach personal finance concepts and skills to members and nonmembers under age 18.

Community Financial's award-winning program focuses on establishing student run credit unions and conducting classroom presentations to help in-

crease financial literacy in young people. Community Financial education partnership coordinators work with school administrators and teachers to ensure that the program is fulfilling Michigan State benchmarks and core competencies.

In the student-run credit union initiative, student volunteers apply and interview for positions and serve as tellers, accountants, branch managers, computer operators and marketing representatives. Students are also encour-

aged to set saving goals when they make deposits.

Community Financial has partnered with nearly 50 elementary, middle and high schools in its communities, with more than 1,200 student participants. Community Financial staff conducted 865 presentations to 22,204 students in 2017.

Community Financial CEO Bill Lawton and community relations manager Natalie McLaughlin received the award Feb. 28 at the CUNA's Government Af-

fair Conference in Washington, D.C.

"We are pleased to support teachers and families as they strive to teach children solid life skills. Each aspect of our partnerships is built to reinforce core competencies," McLaughlin said. "This award reflects the many years of partnership with innovative and dedicated teachers. It is an honor to work with each of them every day."

For more information, go to www.cfcu.org or call 877-937-2328.

Schoolcraft dedicates theater to late director

David Veselanak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Joseph Zettelmaier may not have known James Hartman all that well, but he knew him well enough to realize he was the heartbeat of theater at Schoolcraft College.

"He was the theater department," said Zettelmaier, a part-time faculty member at the Livonia college. "On a lot of levels, it was a one-man show himself. He did it all."

Hartman, who died last year after a three-year battle with cancer, received another honor March 8, when the theater in the liberal arts building was dedicated to the memory of Hartman, a former faculty member with the theater department who oversaw more than 75 productions during his 30-year career at Schoolcraft.

A small ceremony to rename the theater the James R. Hartman Theatre took place last week.

Zettelmaier said Hartman hired him last year. In his short time knowing him, he said Hartman was an embodiment of serious theater in western Wayne County.

"He took theater seriously, which is something I find very commendable," he said. "It wasn't a lark for him. It wasn't just something you could do for fun and throw away."

Hartman had rectal and liver cancer for more than three years, succumbing to the illness in May 2017. Following Hartman's death, Schoolcraft College President Conway Jeffress said last year Hartman was still involved even as he knew his life was coming to an end.

"He was extremely dedicated to his craft and profession and would take everything so seriously when you'd come to talk to him about plays. Jim was the first person to bring serious theater to our little place," Jeffress said last year. "He stayed so upbeat, even when he was sick as a dog."

First play under new name

The dedication's timing could not have been better, as Schoolcraft is preparing for its latest show, "Eleemosynary." The show, which features three actresses, opens Friday and runs each weekend through March 31.

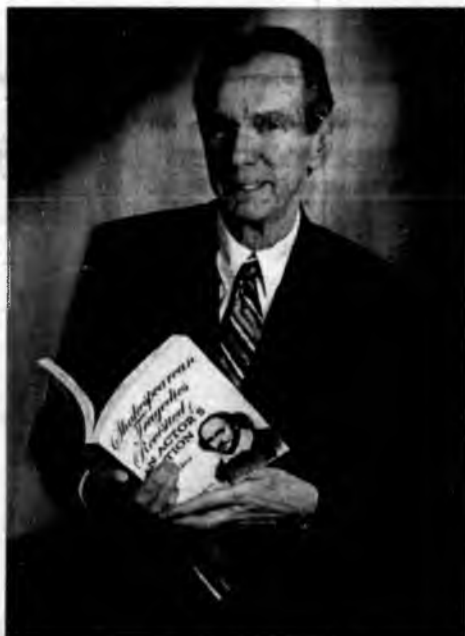
"It's a story about these three women trying and failing and trying again to reconnect with each other over many, many years," said Zettelmaier, who is directing the performance. "It's a beautiful play."

Tickets for the dinner theater show are \$27 for this weekend and next weekend. The shows being performed March 30-31 are theater performances only, with tickets costing \$15.

Tickets can be purchased by calling



Paul Beer (left) and Joseph Zettelmaier stand below the new sign outside the James R. Hartman Theatre. The theater was dedicated March 8 to the late director, who died in 2017 after a bout with cancer. SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE



James Hartman, professor of theater and drama at Schoolcraft College, lost his battle with cancer May 3.

the college at 734-462-4596 or in-person at the cashier in the McDowell Center, 18600 Haggerty.

Contact David Veselanak at dveselanak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6729. Follow him on Twitter: @davidveselanak.

"He was the theater department. On a lot of levels, it was a one-man show himself. He did it all."

Joseph Zettelmaier

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **TODAY'S DENTAL JSP 16-47 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL**. The site is zoned I-1, Light Industrial. The applicant is proposing 6,688 sq. ft. office building with two tenant spaces, of which one is proposed as a dental office, and associated site improvements. It is located on the south side of Grand River Avenue between Taft Road and Novi Road at 44911 Grand River Avenue (Section 15).



Subject Parcel ID: 50-22-15-351-015

Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center. All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Published: March 22, 2018

City of Novi Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on April 10, 2018 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

PZ18-0002 (ID Enterprises) 41875 Carousel Dr, East of Novi Road and North of Twelve Mile Road, Parcel #50-22-02-400-011. The applicant is requesting variance from the City of Novi Code of Ordinance Section 28-5(f)(3) to allow a proposed replacement sign located one foot from right of way, 10 foot distance required by code. This property is zoned Mobile Home (MH).

PZ18-0004 (Zach Gleisow) 623 South Lake Drive, East of West Lake Drive and South of South Lake Drive, Parcel #50-22-03-455-001. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Code of Ordinance Section 3.1.5 for a proposed side yard variances of 5.05 feet aggregate side yard of 9.05, 25 feet total minimum required by code and proposed lot coverage of 38%, 25% maximum allowed by code. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ18-0006 (Kimley-Horne and Associates, Inc. /Target) 27100 Wixom Road, East of Wixom Road and South of Grand River Avenue, Parcel #50-22-17-101-022. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Code of Ordinance section 28.5(a), for the proposed installation of two wall signs. One Order Pick Up sign on the north elevation and Section 28.5(b), (1)b for the installation of one 64 square foot oversized Bullseye sign, 51 square feet allowed by code. One sign allowed by code. This property is zoned Light Industrial (I-1).

PZ18-0007 (Robert Brand's Environmental) 21651 Fenway Dr, West of Novi Road and South of Nine Mile Road, Parcel #50-22-34-276-008. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Code of Ordinance Section 4.19 E 1, for a 682 square foot variance for a proposed accessory structure of 1,532 square feet, 850 feet allowed by code. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-3).

PZ18-0008 (Detroit Metro Signs) 44840 North Hills Drive, East of Taft Road and South of Nine Mile Road, Parcel #50-22-34-127-002. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Code of Ordinance Section 28.5(f) for the installation of a new proposed sign one foot from the right of way, ten feet required by code. This property is zoned Low-Density Multiple-Family (RM-1).

Published: March 22, 2018

LD-00000018 3/23/18

LD-00000018 3/23/18

Families

Continued from Page 1A

NTDP from 2014-16 currently at the University of Michigan and drafted in 2017 by the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes. "They made it (transition to U-M) incredibly easy on me. You have bad days while at the NTDP, but my host family understood that and made it easy to just come home and be myself around them."

Not everybody can be a humble host. The NTDP always is looking to replenish its billet roster.

"Everybody's different," said Lisa Vollmers, who oversees the billet program as director of student-athlete services for the NTDP. "We have couples that are retired, who are empty-nesters. We have families with little people. We have families with an only child."

"They really run the gamut of all sorts of backgrounds. It's really just about their passion for working with the program and supporting a player who is moving away from home, who is going to have a very challenging two years."

Vollmers heads a staff that thoroughly vets each prospective household to make sure it's a good match for players making their way to Plymouth, Canton, Northville or Novi (the communities where billets must live) from points on the map such as San Diego or Orlando.

Just like home

The matches, more often than not, are made in hockey heaven.

"They serve as your second family," said Gavin Hain, an NTDP U-18 forward whose billets are Laurie and John Birchler of Plymouth. "Obviously, if you have a small question or a life question, you need to talk to them about — and they'll answer it."

"Playing here, it's hard, so I'm able to come home to a good place. Keep you company if you need it. It's nice."

Hain enjoys all the comforts of home, which for him is Grand Rapids, Minn. There is a playful greeting from enthusiastic Labrador retriever puppy Rocket, who is named after the Montreal Canadiens Hall of Fame player Maurice "Rocket" Richard.

His girlfriend (Kaelyn Denker) stops by while Laurie Birchler cooks up a dish of chicken with honey mustard, one of Gavin's favorites.



USA Hockey NTDP players Judd Caulfield and Alex Vlasic are living with the Wrights of Novi (back, from left): Judd, Cameron Wright, Emily Wright and Alex and (front, from left) Nate, 9, and Ben, 12. FAMILY PHOTO

During this particular week, Hain had an NTDP brother hanging out with him at the Birchlers — U-18 forward and fellow Minnesotan K'Andre Miller (whose billet dad was recovering from surgery).

"It's awesome, obviously. I have a Minnesota chemistry," Miller said. "Just knowing (Hain) for so long, being on the same teams growing up, I wouldn't want to be with anybody else, to be honest."

Keeping it real

The role NTDP billet "parents" play is as key to how young men turn into potential pros as that of the coaches.

Without a stable home situation, the potential exists for a player to get distracted from becoming the very best he can be, both on and off the ice.

"It's been kind of fun, having these guys around and giving them a support system to be there," John Birchler said. "It's kind of a unique situation, to bring kids you don't know in that are top athletes, to see them play and be part of your family."

"They (USA Hockey) do give you a book, but the main thing is, our ultimate responsibility is to give them a stable environment, a place to sleep, feed them, provide them everything they need there — and a family to be a part



Grilled cheese for lunch at the McKendrys. Jonathan Gruden (left) and Jack DeBoer each ordered two sandwiches each. In the middle is Theresa McKendry. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

of."

With family life goes the same kind of chores that their actual children (Zane, 26, Vaughn, 23, and Bryn, 21) had to do.

"They've got things they're responsible for, just like our kids did," John said. "Whether it's cleaning up the dishes, taking the garbage out."

One recent snowy day, John worried about having to use the snowblower after work. When he arrived home, there was a nice surprise.

"Gavin had done it," he said with a smile. "I told him he's my new favorite kid."

"We would definitely consider doing it again," Laurie said about billeting. "It wasn't as much of a burden as you might think it would be, because they have such a good support system through USA Hockey and because they're very focused."

"These guys have a lot at stake. This is a really important time for them. ... We try to keep them humble."

Like old times

In the Canton home of Pat and Theresa McKendry, NTDP U-18 forwards Jack DeBoer and Jonathan Gruden mostly are quiet and serious as they go about their business.

The two players — whose fathers

have National Hockey League connections — typically get up, chow down and commute to Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, where they attend morning classes before going to practices at USA Hockey Arena.

After returning to the McKendrys' home, it's usually dinner time. On game days, of course, naps come first.

The McKendrys are back in the billet game after a lengthy absence. Back in the 1990s, when Jack DeBoer's dad (Pete DeBoer) coached the now-defunct Plymouth Whalers of the Ontario Hockey League, they hosted future NHL player Harold Druken.

"The only difference was the (Whalers') players were a little bit older," Theresa McKendry said. "There's a little more restrictions on the kids we have now, just because of their age. They're a little more disciplined, because of their age and what they have to do. But it's pretty similar, other than that."

When Jack DeBoer earned a two-year stint with the NTDP in 2016 (24 months is the typical cycle of player development in the program), the McKendrys contacted their longtime friends about a "reunion" of sorts.

Jack DeBoer said the experience with the McKendrys — whose children Ryan,

See FAMILIES, Page 11A

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Families

Continued from Page 10A

32, and Laura, 31, are on their own — has been perfect. "I think it's been awesome," he said. "Pat and Theresa are like a second family to me."

Finding a connection

Gruden, son of former NHL player John Gruden, didn't join DeBoer and the McKendrys until midway through his first NTDP season.

"I was living with (original billet family) for four months. It just wasn't the right fit," said Gruden, 17. "I brought it (changing billets) up to the people there, that it wasn't the right fit."

Vollmers wouldn't have moved Gruden to the McKendry household had their been any issues with the younger DeBoer, either.

"It was no problem for us to say yes," Theresa said. "We already had Jack and we thought it would be more fun for Jack to have someone else here his age, rather than just hanging out with us."

"So my first question was, 'What do you feel about it, Jack?' ... The fact that they get along so well and don't have any issues and the four of us can get along and laugh a lot, it's a good fit. It makes their life a little easier."

Nodding in agreement was DeBoer, adding that "it's been a great experience here, just hockey-wise and billet-wise, too. Some guys, like him before (nodding toward Gruden), didn't have the best billets. They welcomed him with open arms. I think both of us can say they've been awesome and we couldn't ask for better people to stay with."

Gruden acknowledged he is in a much different situation than virtually all other NTDP players, simply because his actual family lives in Rochester, about 40 miles from the arena.

But USA Hockey mandates players live in the school districts that serve the program, which beginning in 2017-18 include Plymouth-Canton, Novi and Northville.

"On days like these, driving 45 minutes through the snow can be tough," Gruden said. "And also going to school with the guys, I wanted to have that team camaraderie outside the rink, doing activities with the guys."

Vollmers said it is rare when a player and family don't hit it off. When that



Jack DeBoer is all smiles after a U.S. team goal during a recent game. RENA LAVERTY



K'Andre Miller smiles from the bench during a recent NTDP U-18 game. RENA LAVERTY



NTDP U-18 player Gavin Hain is being hosted by Plymouth's Birchler family. RENA LAVERTY

WANT TO BE A BILLET?

What: Families are invited to consider hosting U.S. National Team Development Program hockey players for the 2018-19 season.

Who: The NTDP includes the U-17 and U-18 teams; players from all over the country join the program for two years. Billets provide a place for the players to live during their stay.

How: Contact Lisa Vollmers of USA Hockey at 734-453-6400, ext. 392, or send an email to housing@usahockey.org. More information is available at the USA Hockey website by clicking on the NTDP link.

happens, the program finds a suitable new billet.

"As players are there, they might not like the food or their rules," Vollmers said. "But we really try to work through things and, 90 percent of the time, just with open communication, everything can be resolved."

"Sometimes it's coaching a player (on how to integrate into a family environment). You can't just go there and go in your room and not participate. It's really important for you to become a member

of the family. That's huge ... if there's good communication, it's usually golden."

Youngsters at home

The Birchlers and McKendrys have adult children who have moved away, but it's a completely different situation at the Novi home of Cameron and Emily Wright.

They now have a household with their two sons (Ben, 12, and Nate, 9) and NTDP U-17 players Judd Caulfield and Alex Vlasic (who attend Novi High School). Caulfield is about 1,000 miles from his home in Grand Forks, N.D. Vlasic's family lives in Illinois.

"We volunteered to billet because we thought it would have a positive impact on our family," Emily Wright said. "Our kids learn from watching others and we thought there wouldn't be better role models than the type of person selected for the program — boys requiring both a strong work ethic and a passion for hockey."

"The most challenging time for us was early in the season. When the players first move in, there is definitely an adjustment period as we get to know each other. The first few meals together were fairly quiet, but we tried to make

everyone feel comfortable by cooking foods they know and liked — and, of course, talking about favorite foods are good ice-breakers."

One reason Vlasic was placed with the Wrights is because "he, like our family, cannot eat gluten. And since Alex and Judd realize how important nutrition is, they don't eat much junk food."

"So cooking a large enough quantity of food for meals requires multiple trips to the grocery store in a week," she added. "And since our boys are active in activities in the evenings, the food needs to be ready at various times."

The Wright boys get along with the players as though they were siblings.

"There is a lot of activity and sports in the house," Emily said. "Alex and Judd will play all sports with Ben and Nate, whether it is basketball or football in the backyard to soccer or knee hockey in the basement."

"You can see the excitement on our neighborhood kids if Alex and Judd are able to play when they come over."

Indeed, with potential NHL players "in the house," neighborhood watches have never been so much fun.

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports.



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 Pastor Jeff Noble would like to invite you to experience the joy of Christ this Easter at our brand new church. April 1st Easter Sunday Service 10am
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fourwindsnorthville.org

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
 We welcome all to join and celebrate Holy Week together with us at First Presbyterian Church of Northville.
 Palm Sunday, March 25, 9:30 am
 Pancake Breakfast (free will offering) in support of Youth Mission to Puerto Rico following Worship.
 Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7:00 pm
 Communion around the Table
 Easter Sunday, April 1, 9:30 am and 11:00 am
 Traditional Worship Services
 For more information, please call the church office at (248) 349-0911 or visit our website at www.fpcnorthville.org.
 200 East Main Street, Northville, MI 48167

Meisner: Help available to avoid tax foreclosure

As the April 2 tax foreclosure deadline approaches, Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner is appealing to families and businesses with delinquent property taxes to engage the treasurer's office immediately and explore options to prevent foreclosure.

Taxpayers with delinquent taxes should contact the county treasurer's office immediately by calling 248-858-0611, visiting the office at 1200 N. Telegraph Road in Pontiac, or going online to www.oakgov.com/treasurer.

"My primary goal to help strengthen Oakland County's neighborhoods, tax base and economy starts with keeping families in their homes and functioning businesses open and operating," Meisner said. "There are options for well-meaning owners to save their property, but we can't do it alone. Please contact the treasurer's office before the April 2 deadline."

County treasurers are responsible for collection of delinquent property taxes.

Properties face tax foreclosure after taxes are delinquent for three years. Meisner's office offers many options for taxpayers to manage payments and avoid foreclosure, including establishing monthly payment plans.

Under Meisner's leadership, the office has increased efforts to reach, inform and educate taxpayers by adding several additional steps above what is required by law, including postings, mailings, calls and home visits made personally by the treasurer. Foreclosure prevention messages have been translated into Spanish, Korean, Russian and Chinese in a further attempt to reach Oakland County's diverse population.

"It's important to balance compassion and accountability. Help is available to assist taxpayers who have fallen on hard times, but the window for assistance closes after this critical April 2 deadline," Meisner said. "It's only fair



Meisner

that taxpayers owing delinquent property taxes pay their share, so that burden isn't shifted onto the backs of the 97 percent of taxpayers who do pay their bills on time."

Options available to Oakland County taxpayers include:

■ **Taxpayer Assistance Meetings** are face-to-face meetings to review circumstances and negotiate payment plans with those eligible. Scheduled by calling the treasurer's office at 248-858-0611, this technique alone has facilitated the payment of more than \$75 million in delinquent property taxes since 2012. Taxpayers can utilize automatic withdrawal for their monthly payment plan obligations.

■ **The Step Forward Michigan Loan Rescue Program** can provide up to \$30,000 in federal funds to resolve delinquent property taxes, interest and fees. The program has been particularly impactful in Oakland County, yielding

more than \$10 million in taxpayer assistance over the last five years.

■ **DHS Property Tax Assistance**, available through the state of Michigan's Department of Human Services State Emergency Relief Fund, can pay the final \$2,000 of a tax bill to avoid foreclosure. Available one time to income-eligible citizens.

■ **Oakland County Financial Empowerment Center** is staffed by financial counselors from nonprofit partner JVS Detroit. Taxpayers receive counseling on housing, financial literacy (including budgeting), Step Forward applications and service referrals, among other things. The Accounting Aid Society, which accepts meetings with taxpayers each Saturday at the treasurer's office, offers tax preparation assistance.

"Preventing foreclosure is in everyone's best interest. Not only can we keep families in their homes, but we can protect property values and keep our neighborhoods strong," Meisner said.

Oakland County K9 to receive body armor

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office K9 Jax will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from nonprofit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. Jax's vest is sponsored by Matthew Pearson of White Lake and will be embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Jade and Mattie Pearson." Delivery is expected within eight to 10 weeks.

"We are very honored and grateful for this donation to K9 Jax, who is an indispensable member of our K9 team at the sheriff's office," Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard said. "K9 Jax is assigned to the road patrol division and takes calls for service all around the county and region. K9 Jax and his K9 partners have seen an increase in service calls and this equipment will ensure his safety."

Jax is a six-year-old German shepherd. He is trained in obedience, tracking, narcotic detection, area and building searches, evidence searches and handler protection. He is certified by the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charity located in East Taunton, Mass., and established in 2009, whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided more than 2,800 protective vests in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of more than \$2.4 million.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$950. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 and \$2,283 and a five-year warranty, with an average weight of 4-5 pounds. There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events and accepts tax-deductible donations at www.vik9s.org.



Jax is a six-year-old German shepherd assigned to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.



Hometownlife.com Consumer Experience Director Phil Allmen shows off his bowling form. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Seedlings event draws record number of bowlers

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The folks at Kennedy Industries, Inc., are big on helping out in the community.

That's why the company had six teams bowling March 10 in the 31st annual fundraiser for Seedlings Braille Books of Livonia, which provides braille books to visually impaired children.

It's the biggest fundraiser for Seedlings every year and Kennedy helped the 2018 event, held at Novi Bowl, clock in as the biggest and best ever.

More than 200 bowlers helped raise money toward Seedlings' \$60,000 goal.

"Our company does one charity event a month," said Margie Kubasta, who organized the six-team Kennedy contingent. "We challenge ourselves to raise more money for each event. This event is fun and it's for a great cause."

The event drew a ton of support from around Livonia and surrounding communities. There were eight headline sponsors and nearly 60 event/prize/lane sponsors.

While final figures weren't yet available, Seedlings officials are confident the event topped the \$55,000 raised last year.

It's the kind of support Deb Bonde, the founder and director of Seedlings, appreciates.

"We totally rely on supporters and donors," Bonde said. "Without them, we can't do what we do for the kids."

Anyone who'd still like to donate can do so at www.firstgiving.com/event/seedlingsbraille/31st-annual-bowling-for-braille-books.

Contact Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.



Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright speaks with Dave Rexroth of WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) and celebrity bowler for the event. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participation

Sprint proposes the upgrade and collocation of a monopole telecommunication facility at 44170 Grand River Ave, Novi, Oakland County, MI. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Andrew Smith, RESCOM Environmental Corp., PO Box 361 Petoskey, MI 49770 or call 260-385-6999.

Published: March, 22, 2018

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OFFICE CLOSING

The Charter Township of Northville Administrative Offices will be closed on Friday, March 30, 2018 in observance of Good Friday. The offices will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 2, 2018.

POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE.

Sue A. Hillebrand, Clerk

Published: March 22, 2018

AREA EVENTS

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

Candy sale for disabled

Members of Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586 Knights of Columbus will conduct the 43rd annual State M.I. Drive to assist those with intellectual disabilities. Members will be at both Kroger and Busch's and on public streets in their yellow vests Friday through Sunday, March 23-25, to accept donations in exchange for a Tootsie Roll.

In previous years, the money donated has gone to South Lyon Community Schools district special education, Special Olympics South Lyon Special Stars, St. Louis Center in Chelsea and Special Olympics MISO Area 27.

K. of C. fish fry

The Knights of Columbus, Council 7586, will sponsor a fish fry during Lent 4-7 p.m. each Friday through March 23, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette Street, in South Lyon. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$6 for children ages 12 and under. Carry outs are available 4-6:30 p.m.

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 \$42 or \$37 for SASH members.

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 Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com.

Art House members' exhibition

The Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street, announces the 12th annual members' exhibition, showcasing the talents of current member artists through original works of art created in a variety of media and styles. The exhibition runs through Saturday, March 24, during Art House hours: noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Admission to Art House exhibits is free and open to the public. For more information, call 248-344-0497 or go to www.northvillearthhouse.org.

'Velveteen Rabbit' at Marquis

The Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main Street, in Northville will be presenting the play "Velveteen Rabbit" each weekend through May 6 (except Easter weekend). Tickets for all performances are \$9.

The play is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25, and April 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 and 28-29, and May 5-6, as well as special performances Tuesday through Thursday, April 3-5.

No children under age 3. Group rates and reserved seating are available for groups of 20 or more, as well as birthday parties and Scout days. For more information, call 248-349-8110, email marquistheatre@sbcglobal.net or go to www.northvillemarquistheatre.com.

Highland recreation area hike

The Crossroads Group is organizing a hike and optional lunch at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 25, in the Highland State Recreation Area, 5200 Highland Road, in White Lake. Hikers are to meet at the trail head parking area in front of the historic barn. After passing toll booth, go straight for 1.4 miles, barn parking lot will be on the right side. For anyone interested, there will have lunch at a local restaurant after the hike.

The hike is free, but requires state park entry fee or passport. For more information, call 734-355-3822 or email crossroadsoutings@michigan.sierra-club.org.

Support children in foster care

Parents of African-American Students in Novi will host a volunteer event at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, at the Novi Public Library, 45255 W. 10 Mile Road. PAASN and partners Novi Rotary and HAP will be making a difference by funding, packing and decorating new duffel bags filled with supplies like a hygiene kit, a teddy bear and a blanket. Registration is required at <http://bit.ly/2FAVpxx>.

Artist lecture at VFAA

The Village Fine Arts Association invites the public to hear award-winning artist Todd Marsee, who will discuss his variety of techniques in fine art watercolor, abstracts, illustration, graphic design and photography, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, at the Suzanne Haskew Art Center, 125 S. Main Street, Suite 700, in Milford.

For more information, email contactus@milfordvfaa.org or call the SHAC at 248-797-3060.

K. of C. fish fry

The Knights Of Columbus, Council 7444, will sponsor a fish fry during Lent 5-7:30 p.m. each Friday through March 30, at St. Mary Our Lady Of The Snows Church, 1955 E. Commerce, in Milford. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$7 for teens, \$6 for ages 6-12 and free for ages 6 and under. Carryouts are available.

Kiwanis Club Easter egg scramble

The South Lyon Kiwanis Club will hold its annual Easter egg scramble at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 31, at Volunteer Park, 21620 N. Dixboro Road, in South Lyon. Kids and parents will be able to visit the Easter Bunny and view police and fire vehicles. The scramble itself will start at noon. For more information, call 248-939-6432.

Novi Choralaires concert

The Novi Choralaires will host their spring show, titled "Women Composers in the Spotlight," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, at the Novi Public Library, 45255 W. 10 Mile Road. This concert is free.

For more information about the Choralaires and their concerts, go to www.novichoralaires.org or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/novichoralaires.

Northville Newcomers and Neighbors

The Northville Newcomers and Neighbors club will hold its monthly meet and greet 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 3. Host is Beth Hoolehan. RSVP to hoolehan@aol.com.

Tollgate Farm spring classes

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center, 28015 Meadowbrook Road, in Novi will host four spring classes for gardeners of all levels. Regional experts will be in the Conference Center to help solve problems in the garden. The schedule includes:

■ Thursday, April 5 — Holly Vaughn covers four-legged critters, such as deer

■ Thursday, April 12 — Nick Zimmer shares his solution to six-legged creatures, such as aphids

■ Thursday, May 31 — Farm manager Roy Prentice offers a glimpse into the history of Tollgate Farm

■ Thursday, June 14 — Mary Gerstenberger leads a class on water

Advance registration is required and space is limited. The cost of each class is just \$20 and supports further adult education programming at Tollgate Farm. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/events/evenings-in-the-garden>.

New Art House exhibit

The Northville Art House will present Art of the Family: Donald, Robert, Susan and William Perrish, featuring paintings and sculptures from a family of award-winning artists. The exhibit opens with a public reception, sponsored by Mark Corbin of Raymond James, 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 6, and runs through Saturday, April 28, during Art House hours: noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The Northville Art House is located at 215 W. Cady Street and is a facility of the Northville Arts Commission. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 248-344-0497 or go to www.northvillearthhouse.org.

SLAYA recognition program

The South Lyon Area Youth Assistance will hold its 19th annual youth recognition program Monday, May 21, for youths in grades 6-12 in the South Lyon Community Schools district. The group is looking for nominations for this recognition.

Nominees will be selected on the basis of a commitment to volunteer services performed within the past year. Any individual or organization is eligible to submit nominations. SLAYA will receive nominations for consideration through Thursday, April 12. The students and nominators will be invited to attend the youth recognition program.

SLAYA will again be awarding two scholarships for the Julie Berz Outstanding Youth Volunteer to exceptional youth who will be continuing to college or trade school. The Lyon Area Rotary Club will also be awarding two Lyon Area Rotary Scholarships.

The awards from both organizations are reserved for graduating seniors who have exhibited exceptional leadership and character within the area of community service and volunteerism. If you nominate a student for the either the Julie Berz Scholarship or the Lyon Area Rotary Scholarship, you do not need to also nominate them for a Youth Recognition Award.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Call the South Lyon Area Youth Assistance office at 248-573-8189 or to request nomination forms.

Milford Community Garden

The annual meeting for the Milford Community Garden will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 14, in the Community Room at the Milford Public Li-

brary, 330 Family Drive.

Plots, approximately 15 by 15 feet, are still available for \$35. There are a small number of slightly larger plots for \$40. There is a one-time, per plot, cleanup deposit of \$20. Bring a check or cash to the meeting. For more information, go to www.GrowingGreensMilford.org.

Annual creek clean-up

South Lyon's 14th annual creek clean-up will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 14. Volunteers meet at 400 McMunn Street (Michigan Seamless Tube and Pipe truck parking lot). They will remove trash and debris from area creeks and streams.

Plan on mud and water. Please bring rubber boots, and gloves. Wear warm clothing, hats and sunscreen. Also needed are pickup trucks to haul trash to dumpster. Sponsored by: Michigan Seamless Tube and Pipe, South Lyon Area Boy Scouts and the city of South Lyon Storm Water Management Planning Program.

Community Sharing garage sale

Community Sharing's 2018 spring garage sale will be held at its new location at Duck Lake Center, 5061 N. Duck Lake Road, in Highland. The sale is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, April 18-21 (the first day is presale, \$5 fee).

This sale includes furniture, household goods, linens, books, CDs, toys, sports equipment and more. Community Sharing is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides food, clothing, emergency services, referrals and advocacy for individuals and families in need within the Huron Valley School District. Ninety cents of every dollar will be used to fill its food pantry.

For more information, go to www.community-sharing.org.

Road rally scavenger hunt

The American Legion Auxiliary of Ernest E. Oldenburg Post 216, 510 W. Commerce Road, in Milford is sponsoring a road rally scavenger hunt at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21. Cost is \$10 per person and includes prizes and dinner. RSVP to 248-684-9919.

VFAA exhibit at library

The Village Fine Arts Association, in partnership with the Milford Public Library, 330 Family Drive, has a rotating exhibit of its member artwork in the library community room. The current exhibit features the artwork of Pam Siegfried. Her work is also currently on display at Heritage Park in Farmington. Siegfried's artwork will be displayed until April, after which another artist will have a turn.

Artists interested in participating should contact Linda Onderko of the VFAA at 248-842-6789. The free exhibit is open during regular library hours: 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

To learn more about the VFAA and the Suzanne Haskew Arts Center, go to www.milfordvfaa.org.

Operation Injured Soldiers golf outing

Operation Injured Soldiers will be hosting its ninth annual golf outing Friday, May 18, at the Links of Novi, 50395 W. 10 Mile Road. Operation Injured Sol-

See EVENTS, Page 15A

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Events

Continued from Page 14A

diars is a nonprofit organization based in South Lyon that provides recreational opportunities to wounded military veterans of all eras.

Golfers and sponsors can register online at www.injuredsoldiers.org/golfouting. For more information, call 248-437-3130.

World Vision 6K run

The 2018 World Vision Global 6K for Water charity run is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, May 19, at Kensington Metropark, 4570 Huron River Parkway, in Milford. Participants will join the fight for global access to clean water — six kilometers is the average distance people in the developing world walk for water.

The cost is \$50, which includes a T-shirt, race medal and race bib with a photo of the child who will receive clean water as a result of the event. For more information, call 888-511-6548, email LRunyan@WorldVision.org or go to <https://www.teamworldvision.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=921>.

Salem Historical Society yard sale

The Salem Area Historical Society will hold a yard sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 19, on the grounds of Jarvis-Stone School Historic District, 7991 North Territorial Road. This will be a community-wide yard sale featuring flea market and resale items. You can buy a space to sell your items or you can donate items to SAHS, with all proceeds from the sale going to SAHS general fund.

Vendors welcome. Reservations will be accepted until May 10. Cost for a 15-by-15-foot space is \$15 for non-members and \$10 for SAHS members. This is for space only; tables and space coverings are not provided. There is no electricity.

For more information, go to www.SAHSHistory.org or email SAHS.YardSale@gmail.com.

Friday and Saturday 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



MSU Tollgate Farm in Novi is offering spring classes geared for gardeners.

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.

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 writ-

ing. 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, go to www.slrec.net.

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FOR EVERY TURN

Sports give students chance to challenge themselves



Super Talk
Steve Matthews
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

It is difficult to describe my athletic career. Words truly are inadequate.

Inept. Clumsy. Maladroit.

Those words do not begin to paint the true picture of my athletic ability.

Yet, I enjoy sports. I love the competition, the anticipation of the outcome, the pain and joy that can come from a simple game.

I recognize that sports, more than likely, have an outsized impact on our culture. Sports are just games, yet athletes make millions of dollars. Rich owners are given favorable land and tax considerations from cities and states to locate stadiums in communities. Coaches, especially at the college level, are often the highest paid employee in the organization.

But even with all of these negatives, in my opinion, the positives of athletics outweigh the negatives.

Sports provide a connection for people, they help people face and overcome challenges and they help people learn to set and meet goals.

In our school district, athletics serve a variety of purposes. I would like to highlight two.

First, athletics connect our students to our school and community. Students who participate in our athletic program suddenly find themselves playing not only for themselves, but also for their school and their community.

In Novi, our athletes represent us all when they take the court or step onto the field or run the track because the front of their uniform proudly displays Novi. Our student-athletes learn quickly that when they represent Novi, they are representing all of us.

Second, through athletics, our students find themselves challenged and encouraged and held accountable by a coach who is not their parent. Most of our student-athletes have had parent coaches as they grew up. That is a good thing.

However, in our school district athletic program, more than likely, an adult who is not related to them will coach them. Our student-athletes will learn to take

direction from, be challenged by and be motivated by someone from outside of their family. This helps them gain perspective, learn to take criticism, find a way to get better.

In our school district, we spend approximately \$937,000 on our athletic program, approximately 1.2 percent of our entire budget. That pays for coaches, uniforms, supplies and support. We raise money for the program through pay-to-participate fees, gate receipts and sponsors.

I think that is money well invested. Almost half of our student body in grades 7-12 participates on one of our athletic teams. Almost 1,500 students are Novi Community School District athletes.

Our district will continue to support athletics as we look to provide students with opportunities — to challenge themselves, to connect with other students, to connect with our school and community.

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

Brinza is featured veteran for March

Anthony Brinza III, a Vietnam War veteran from Westland, was honored as the March 2018 Veteran of the Month by the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 32, of the Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

Brinza served in the U.S. Navy from 1970-76. He was born in Detroit and lived there until his teens, when he moved to Southfield. He graduated from Southfield High School in 1965 and then attended Oakland Community College, where he earned an associate's degree. He received notice that he would be drafted in October 1969 and, not wanting to settle for the U.S. Army, Brinza went to the recruiting office to enlist.

He was told there was a two-year waiting list for the U.S. Air Force, so he decided to take the test for the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Navy. The navy offered him training in nuclear power, which sounded very interesting to him. He was also told that he could have three months to get his life in order before being inducted, but he would also have to commit to six years service. Brinza signed up and was inducted in February 1970.

He was sent to for basic training San Diego, where he graduated as Co. 102 Honor Man and was nicknamed "Motown." Following initial rate training and completion of electricians mate 'A' school, he transferred to the USS Puget Sound (AD-38, Destroyer Tender) in Newport, R.I., for temporary duty in the electrical motor repair and rewind shop and, in November 1970, was advanced to EM3. In January 1970, he was selected to attend Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge, Md.

"It was a rugged class," Brinza said. "I spent about 85 hours a week between classes and study hall. We started with 50 in the class and wound up with only seven that took the final test. I had a 'B' average in the classes, but washed out on the final. I was told I was not strong enough in the areas that mattered the most. Only five of the seven were ultimately selected. I think it was a blessing in disguise."

In July 1971, he transferred to the USS Providence (CGL-6, guided missile cruiser and flagship) in San Diego. In April 1972, they were assigned to WESTPAC and departed for the Pacific.

"We were told we were going out on operations, but the next thing we knew, we were in Hawaii, then the Philippines and then on the gun line off Vietnam," Brinza said. The USS Providence then spent the next eight months in Vietnam, providing gunfire support to allied forces ashore and blocking supply ships to North Vietnam in the Haiphong harbor area. They inflicted serious losses on the enemy and often came under intense hostile fire and received a U.S. Navy unit com-



Anthony Brinza III, a Vietnam War veteran from Westland, was honored as the March 2018 Veteran of the Month.

mandation for their actions.

"The first week on the gun line was a real indoctrination to hell," Brinza said. "We had three days of general quarters with no sleep we were like zombies. One night, I decided to go on deck to see the action. It looked like a scene from 'Victory at Sea.' Then I said to myself, 'Are you nuts? Get back inside.' The next morning, I went back outside and there was shrapnel all over where I was standing. I still get the shudders thinking about how stupid I was, but you get so mentally fatigued you don't think straight."

They returned to San Diego in December 1972 and Brinza was transferred to PTF-25 Osprey Class patrol boat at COSRIVON ONE (Coastal River Squadron One) at Coronado Island, San Diego, and advanced to EM2. In May 1974, he was hand-selected as a research and development crew member for the new CPIX-X (a new

hydrofoil coastal patrol boat) in Tacoma, Wash. They spent six months testing the new systems at sea and working with Seal Team 1. They completed final testing at Port Hueneme, Calif. In November 1974, he returned to COSRIVON ONE and was advanced to EML.

Brinza separated from active duty in April 1975 and remained in the reserves until 1976. He returned home to Michigan and got a job at J.L. Hudson's in security. In 1978, he went to work as a draftsman at the Ford Van Dyke plant and, in 1983, transferred to the Livonia transmission plant as a torque converter engineer and calibration tester.

While at Ford, he attended Northwood University in Livonia and graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in business administration. He retired in 2007. He married Maryann in 1970 and they have a daughter, Tonya. He is a member of VFW Post 6695 and a life member of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 528 in Plymouth. He has been a member of American Legion Post 32 for 19 years and chairs the annual golf outing that raises money to place wreaths on veterans graves at the Great Lake National Cemetery in Holly each Christmas season.

Brinza was interviewed by members of S.A.L. and a DVD was made of the interview. He attended the S.A.L. March membership meeting, where the video was shown to all. A plaque was presented to him from Livonia Trophy with his picture and service information. An additional plaque was also put on display in the vestibule of the American Legion Hall. The public is encouraged to nominate veterans to be honored at its meetings. Nomination forms can be picked up at the American Legion Hall, 9318 Newburgh Road, in Livonia.



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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Wayne Memorial's historic season ends

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With 38 seconds left in Friday's Class A semifinal game at Calvin College, Wayne Memorial's star guard Camree Clegg was saddled with her fifth foul and was forced to leave with East Lansing enjoying a comfortable 11-point lead.

The Clemson-bound senior sauntered over to the bench and accepted hugs from her coaching staff and teammates. Moments later, the undefeated Trojans had wrapped up a 60-52 win over the Zebras.

The loss ended a historic Wayne Memorial season, which saw the team win its first regional championship, its first quarterfinal game and advance to its first final four.

It wasn't the way Clegg, a runner-up in the recent Miss Basketball voting, had hoped to end her career. But she found a silver lining, knowing the she helped lead the girls basketball program to a spot it had never before experienced.

"Of course, we wanted to win it all. But we worked so hard this year," Clegg said. "Everybody counted us out. Nobody expected us to get this far. So we had a pretty successful season and they'll come back even stronger next year."

Fourth-year Wayne Memorial coach Jarvis Mitchell said East Lansing was every bit as competitive as he thought it would be.

"Those kids played as hard as just about any team we played against," he

See WAYNE, Page 3B



Wayne Memorial's Camree Clegg goes up for a basket against East Lansing's Jaide Hampton (left) and Aazhenil Nye during the Class A semifinal. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS BASKETBALL

FINISH WITH A FLOURISH



Novi's Traveon Maddox Jr. hit the game-winning shot to beat Ann Arbor Skyline in the regional final. THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Maddox proves clutch as Novi upends unbeaten Skyline

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It had to be the sweetest kiss off the glass in Traveon Maddox Jr.'s high school basketball career.

The 6-foot-5 senior guard from Novi

handled the ball just inside half court and milked the clock during the final 33 seconds before making his move in a winner-take-all 59-59 deadlock against undefeated Ann Arbor Skyline in the Class A regional final March 14 at Salem.

The Oakland University signee drove just to the right of the key and banked a

running one-hander high off the backboard with 2.8 seconds left to send the Wildcats (16-8) to a 61-59 triumph and into their first-ever state quarterfinal, scheduled for Tuesday, March 20 at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall

See NOVI, Page 2B

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

U-M walk-ons Bair, Ozeir prove worth

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It might be Michigan basketball's best-kept secret.

They'll never be as famous or as talented as the original Fab Five of Webber, Rose, Howard, Jackson and King, but John Beilein knows a good walk-on when he sees one.

When it comes to the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th players on the roster, the Michigan coach won't underestimate their value for the newly crowned Big Ten tournament champions, one of college basketball's hottest teams entering the Sweet 16 this Thursday in Los Angeles against Texas A&M.

"We have what we call a Fab Five and that's the five guys, and no disrespect to our famous Fab Five, as I put it," Beilein said. "They are the guys that do a lot of demonstration. When we dummy against certain things, they know it and we just go against it."

The five are senior Brent Hibbitts (Hudsonville), who is dealing with an injury, along with freshmen Luke Wilson (Boulder, Colo.), Rico Ozuna-Harrison (Detroit Cass Tech), C.J. Baird (Novi Detroit Catholic Central) and Naji Ozeir (Novi).

"First of all, their teammates love them even though they know they're not going into the game unless we're way ahead," Beilein said. "And they've just been a really welcomed addition to the team. They have great attitudes, they're no maintenance off the court. People don't believe it, but those guys are significant in any success the team has or they could also be the demise of the team if they don't have right attitude or they can't remember plays or they're not giving it their all on defense. So these guys have done every-



Baird



Ozeir

See WALK-ONS, Page 3B





Novi celebrates its first boys basketball Class A district championship after a 61-59 win over Ann Arbor Skyline. THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Novi

Continued from Page 1B

against Belleville (20-5).

After a timeout, Skyline (23-1) had one more chance, but Brandon Wade's half-court attempt missed the mark, sending the Wildcats into a wild celebration.

"My coach (Brandon Sinawi) looked at me and said, 'Tra, this is yours right now,'" said Maddox, who played a stellar all-around game and finished with 14 points and six assists. "And I looked at him, I was dribbling the ball, and I said, 'I got it.' And I even told my team in the locker room, 'I got it, I got it.' And I came out and got it. It was a buzzer-beater."

The win erases some of the sting still felt by Novi in last year's controversial 67-66 last-second double-overtime loss to West Bloomfield in the regional.

"That was our goal and I can't tell you how proud I am for our kids," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi said. "Not only to get back to this position, but to come out on the other end this time. And fitting it was a last-second shot that got us the win in terms of Traveon's basket and then, of course, the desperation triple (by Wade)."

Skyline relied once again on the prolific scoring of the 6-2 Wade, who had 32 points during a regional semifinal win over Howell.

But the Wildcats held the Duquesne University signee in check for the most part as he finished with a game-high 19 points on 7-of-19 shooting.

But it was his triple with 1:05 left, after a Novi turnover, that tied the game at 59-59.

"Credit to (assistant) coach Kevin Hankerson, who said, 'We're going to throw as many guys as we can to make him work for 32 minutes' because he doesn't come out of the game," Sinawi said. "And I felt ... we made him work as hard as possible tonight, harder than he has all season long. And I thought that was the difference. And they missed shots in and out that they normally make. Credit to our defensive strategy in terms of that."

After taking a 32-25 halftime lead, Novi went up by as many as 10 points in the third quarter and had an eight-point advantage, 57-49, with 4:46 left in fourth on a basket by Giovanni Miles before the Eagles clawed back.

Novi trailed 12-9 after the first quarter, hitting only 4-of-16 shots, but after some adjustments, the Wildcats were 22-of-38 from the floor over the final three quarters.

"Usually, I play on the wing position and my shots weren't falling down early, so I had to go in the middle and, basically, bang down low with the big dogs," Maddox said. "With my size being 6-5, 195 ... I can go down there and play in the post. That's one of the ways I helped my team get the (win)."

Skyline's 3-2 zone defense gave Novi fits during the opening quarter.



Novi's Austin Mackay lets out a yell after winning the Class A regional title. THOMAS BEAUDOIN

"I had to be more of the facilitator today, because they know I'm a scorer and I rely on my jump shot a lot," Maddox said. "I had to drive to the basket and kick more and get my teammates in scoring position."

Tariq Woody, the 6-8 senior transfer from Plymouth, finished with a team-high 16 points to go along with 14 boards for his fourth straight double-double.

"I was telling them stop shooting threes, because we weren't making any," Woody said about his team's first-quarter woes. "When we got it inside to me or inside to (Maddox), we were scoring. (Maddox) definitely kept us in the game with his passing and scoring. He played great."

Senior point guard Tendon Hankerson, who hit some clutch shots, added 13 points, while Giovanni Miles, the junior swingman, contributed 11.

The Wildcats also got a boost from senior forward Blake King, who chipped in a pair of 3-pointers, one each in the second and third quarters.

"Blake King did a great job, hit two big threes," Sinawi said. "I went off on his third attempt when he hit the backboard. We're deep and we've got guys who know their role and understand their role when it's time to contribute. Tonight was not different."

Here are some other takeaways:

EAGLES GROUNDED

It was the first loss of the season for Skyline, which defeated the Wildcats in the season opener, 72-56, back on Dec. 5.

Ryan Wade, the junior guard, added 12 points, as did junior center DeSean Munson. Sharp shooting senior guard Jack Ammerman added 11, all in the first half, but went scoreless over the final two periods.

"We didn't make enough shots in the first half," Skyline coach Mike Lovelace said. "We had a lot of opportunities, a lot of layups rolled off. Defensively, we had a few things here and there where they scored inside and had more active hands. There was just a few little minor things here and there the first half. I felt like if we had a normal shooting night to start, we would have had a six- to eight-point lead with the zone and I was really going to feel good about that."

ON A REBOUND

Novi started out 1-5, but has now won 10 of its last 11 games after two starters were out for nearly half of the season.

"This team continued to get better and better really in the last two months, since Hankerson came back from injury and Tariq came back and Traveon has been healthy now," Sinawi said. "It's just been building, building up until now. And we're not going to be happy to be there. We've got work to do. We've got a great Belleville team that we have to play on Tuesday and we're looking forward to that."

ZONE PRINCIPLES

Skyline's zone defense was effective, particularly during the first quarter before Novi solved it by going on a 23-13 second-quarter run.

"They're good and we knew that we

might struggle if we didn't hit some shots from the outside," Sinawi said. "And we talked about at the quarter, 'Get the ball in' and the kids listened. Traveon had a handful of baskets in there, Tariq did some things inside there and really made them come out of the zone. And we wanted that. We wanted them to play man and guard us. We felt we had the advantage against their defense that we were able to get to the basket and hit some open shots."

MR. BIG SHOT

Novi's final possession fell strictly into the hands of Maddox, who missed a last-second drive to the basket in a 60-58 district semifinal win March 7 over Canton (19-2), only to be tipped in by Woody for the game-winner at the buzzer.

"The play was drawn up for (Maddox) to go and I was waiting there for him to miss, so I could tip it in, but he made it, so that was huge," Woody said. "I was right there ready for it."

But Maddox, who bid his time calmly dribbling nearly half court, made Skyline pay all by himself this time.

"Actually, I've been working on that in practice lately. It's more of a runner, going toward the baseline and I said, 'Let me pull one out of my arsenal real quick' and that was my runner on the baseline," Maddox said.

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com.

Walk-ons

Continued from Page 18

thing you could ask for."

Ironically, Baird and Ozeir were rivals in high school, but have been united as teammates at U-M.

"Both great guys, first and foremost," Michigan senior forward Duncan Robinson said. "Kind of different additions as they kind of happened late in the game, but we're very appreciative to have them. They do a lot of the dirty work and a lot of stuff that goes unnoticed that are integral for the success of this team. And that should never be overlooked."

The 6-foot-7, 225-pound Ozeir, who graduated from Novi in 2016, joined the team as a preferred walk-on after spending a postgraduate year at Salisbury (Conn.) School, where he averaged 18.9 points (shooting 56 percent from the field) and 8.0 rebounds.

"It was a good experience and it helped getting that extra year," said Ozeir, who helped Novi win a district title his senior year while averaging 12.7 points and 8.0 rebounds a game. "I grew up, got older, more mature as a basketball player and as a person. I liked it there and it was a lot of fun. It was always in the cards and I just went there to open up my options and, obviously, use that year to get better."

Ozeir had interest from Division II-III schools, but decided to give Division I a try. He played in his first collegiate game during the final four minutes against UC-Riverside and played the final three minutes against Alabama A&M, scoring

his first career basket.

"It's been a dream ever since I was growing up, because I was always a Michigan fan," he said. "To play here is awesome."

The 6-5, 220-pound Baird, who averaged 15.7 points and 8.0 rebounds as a senior, started out as one of Michigan's student managers after Bill Dyer, his high school coach at Catholic Central, contacted former U-M director of basketball operations Waleed Samaha about walking on.

"They didn't have any spot, so they said I could start as a manager and, hopefully, if something opened up, I'd get a chance to try out for it," Baird said. "In mid-October, one of the spots opened up. They held a tryout and decided to take me."

Baird also appeared in his first collegiate game for four minutes against UC-Riverside and got his first basket, too, against Alabama A&M.

"That whole process and getting that chance to play basketball again, it was just a dream come true for me," Baird said. "I've taken that to heart and try and take advantage every day at practice ... just remember where I am and how lucky and blessed I am to have this opportunity to play at Michigan."

Baird is enrolled in the Ross School of Business. He took 16 credit hours during the fall semester and is taking 13 in the spring, with such challenging classes as History of Art and Culture, Econ 101, Latin 232.

"It's definitely more difficult than now I'm a walk-on at school with basketball, but it's one of the best challenges this school has given me," he said. "So I often have a lot of work to do from the classes

from the business school that I'm taking and I've just learned great time management skills, having my work go around practice and making sure I give myself enough time for every project and assignments."

Hibbitts, the lone upperclassman among the five, is the Wolverine's 13th player and normally travels with the team on the road, while the other four walk-ons dress only for home games, although Baird made the trip to the first- and second-round games in Wichita that U-M won against Montana and Houston.

"We mainly participate in the scout team, run their offense, play the defense," Baird said. "Like for the Purdue game, we follow the rules and prepare them for everything they'd see. We go two-on-two, three-on-three drills with the scholarship players. Usually, they use us where they need us."

Ozeir, who is leaning toward a major in economics, has international experience while playing for the Lebanese Junior National Team.

"I've tried to put as much work as I can in the gym, learn little things from the coach and do whatever I can to get better," he said. "It's a lot different than my past roles. I've accepted it and I do whatever I can to help the team in any way. That's basically my role. It's awesome, obviously, (Bellein) is a really smart coach. Learning from him and what he says playing here is pretty cool."

It's only his freshman season, but Baird has bought into Bellein's way of coaching as well.

"He is one of the nicest men you'll ever meet, but he really likes to challenge you as well through his intricate

offense, the way he presents himself and the way he presents himself to the team," Baird said. "It really makes you want to play for him and work hard for him. And he does it with all his players and he's one of the best coaches in the country right now. He's got us playing as one of the best teams in the country right now."

And with Baird and Ozeir coming from the same area, the experience this season has been even more special and rewarding.

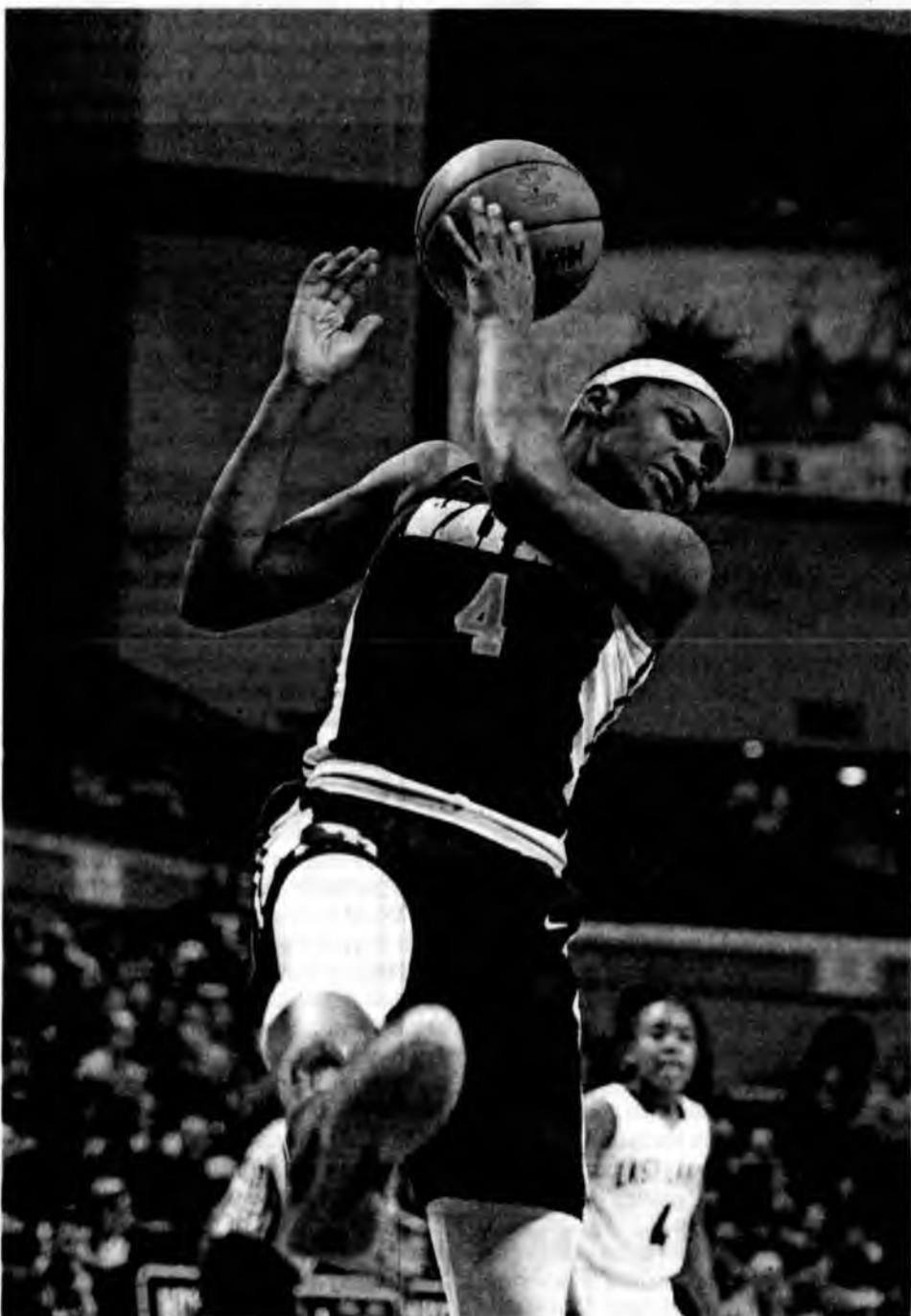
"We've become very close over the course of this year," Baird said. "It's kind of funny, both of us are from the Novi area and how we grew up playing against each other. Naji and I definitely bond over that. One of the best parts of that is seeing a familiar face in the locker room really helps you get more comfortable. Naji has been that for me and I'm just really grateful two people from Novi can represent the town and play at the university."

Baird said he'd like to return again as a support player in 2018-19.

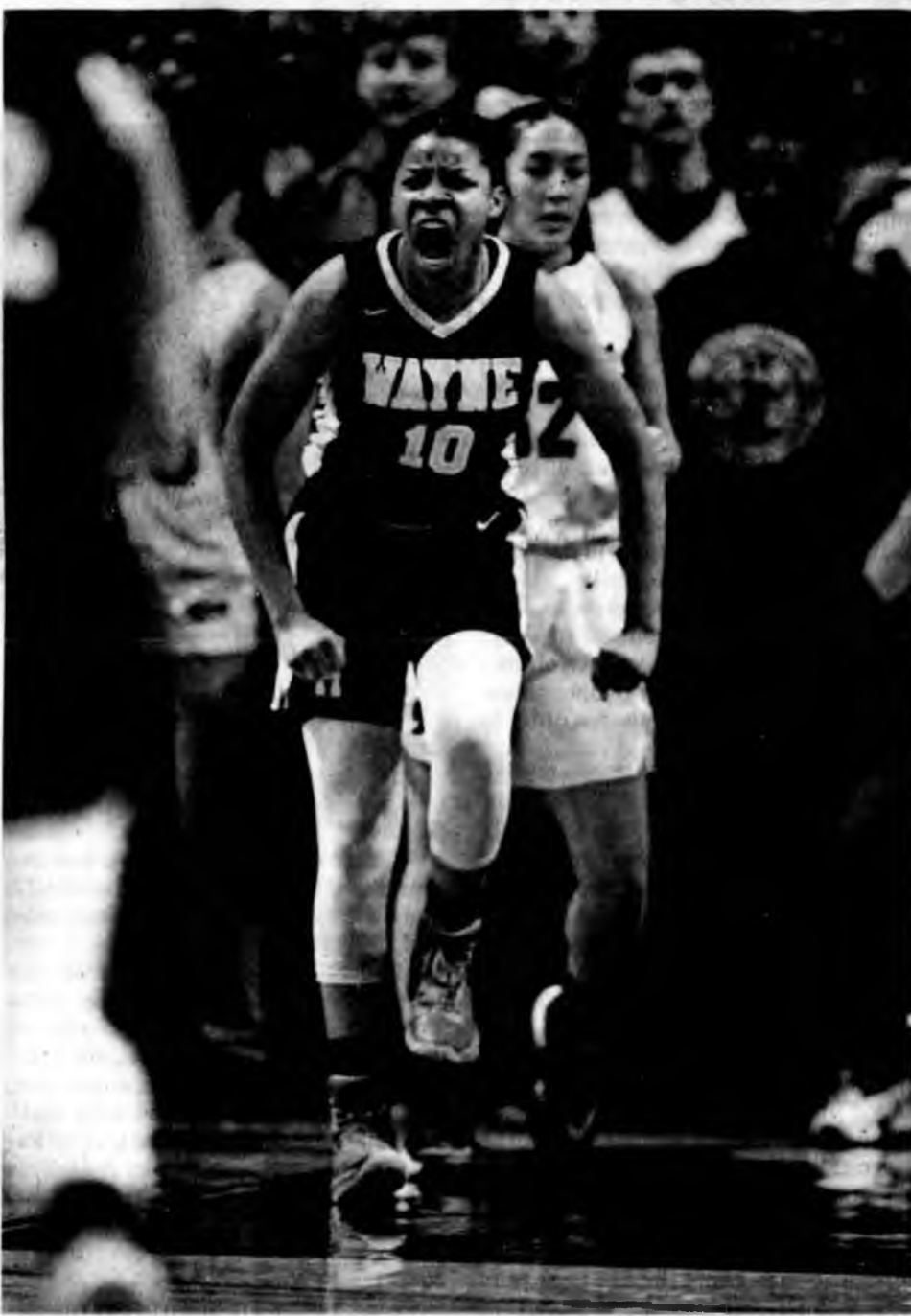
"Being a walk-on is a one-year deal," he said. "I'm hoping they ask me back. This year has been amazing. I couldn't have asked for anything more. All the walk-ons on this team have worked really hard. I think we're all looking for that opportunity next year, so ... I guess we'll wait and see."

"It's a fun group," Ozeir said. "We always get to compete with other guys. The whole Fab Five is a cool name. It actually came from the coaches."

Contact: Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.



Wayne Memorial's Alanna Micheaux tries to get a handle on a rebound during the Class A semifinal. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Wayne Memorial's Jeanae Terry is fired up early in the game after scoring during the Class A semifinal. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Wayne

Continued from Page 18

said. "They executed well. We knew they could shoot well, but they are also a very, very scrappy bunch. My hat's off to them. They had a great game plan and they stuck to it."

"You can have a talented team, but if you have a team that's disciplined and that's willing to stay within the course of what they are trying to do, and I'm not saying nine times out of 10, but more than likely, that team will come out victorious," he added. "They're competing and competing at every possession. We knew even if they weren't going to be scrappy and might not get to the 50/50 loose balls, that they were still going to be at a compete level and rebound like their life depended on it."

A strong first half

Wayne Memorial gave highly-regarded East Lansing a wake-up call after taking a 30-27 halftime lead. It marked the first time all season the Trojans had

trailed after the first two quarters all year.

The Zebras scored the game's first basket, a lay-up by junior guard Sammiyah Hoskin, and took a 16-14 lead after the opening eight minutes on Clegg's triple late in the first quarter. Wayne Memorial maintained its defensive pressure in the second quarter en route to its three-point halftime lead.

Clegg finished the highly-entertaining and energetic first half with 11 points, four rebounds and four assists. She was the offensive spark-plug and put on a show with her spirited play.

Things changed dramatically in the third quarter.

East Lansing came out on fire, hitting its first three shots to take a 33-30 lead. The Zebras responded with four straight points to skip back into the lead at 34-33. That would be their last lead of the game.

The Trojans went on a 10-0 run and outscored the Zebras by a 23-11 margin in that pivotal quarter, en route to a 50-41 lead heading into the final eight minutes. Wayne Memorial never got within striking distance in the final quarter, only trimming East Lansing's margin of vic-

tory to eight points when junior forward Jayah Hicks hit a pair of treys late in the final minute.

The future is bright

Mitchell said rebounding proved the difference in the crucial second half.

"We had a lot of miscues on rebounding (in the third quarter) and they went on a run, which I warned the girls that they would," he said. "But that's basketball. Basketball is a game of runs. Hopefully, you're on the positive side of the runs. But if you're not, you have to find a way to stop the bleeding somehow and rebounding, normally, solves that."

East Lansing had three players reach double figures. Amella McNutt poured in a game-high 20 points and sophomore forward Aaliyah Nye contributed a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Aazhenli Nye added 11 points. East Lansing's Miss Basketball, senior Jaida Hampton, finished with seven points and nine rebounds.

Clegg led Wayne Memorial with 16 points, six rebounds and five assists. Hoskin was the only other Zebra in double figures with 11.

Wayne Memorial finished the memorable season with a 22-5 record, including an undefeated mark in winning the KLAA Black championship. That's a far cry from just four years ago, when the Zebras suffered through a winless season.

Mitchell is excited about the future of his young squad.

"When I first took the job, I was unaware of their past," Mitchell said. "A lot of people had given me indications that they hadn't won a game in two or three years, but I wasn't concerned with that. Anytime you take over a program, you want to try and impose your will on it."

"I saw the future and I saw it getting better," he added. "I'm extremely proud. We did a lot of firsts this year. Despite the loss, I still feel very positive about the season and to know that my whole team will be back next year, minus (Clegg). We not only had a good season, but we have something to look forward to next year."

Contact: Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

USA HOCKEY

U.S. topples Madison to earn spot in USHL playoffs

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Championship teams — at any level, in any sport — feature unselfish players who crank up the work ethic to augment their talent.

Such is the case this season with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program, a.k.a. Team USA and composed of two teams (U-18, U-17).

The U.S. is going to the United States Hockey League playoffs for the first time since the program moved from Ann Arbor to Plymouth, with the U-18 team sweeping the Madison Capitols to clinch a spot. Nine different players scored March 15 in a 10-3 victory and then Jake Wise recorded a natural hat trick in Friday's comeback, 6-4 triumph at USA Hockey Arena.

"It's not something we talk a lot about here, the USHL playoffs," said Seth Appert, who this year coaches the U-18 squad. "We're so focused here on development and on the international competition, trying to build toward a world championship at the end."

"But at the same time, we have elite competitors in that room. And the same within the U-17 room. Now that you're in this situation, you want to take advantage of it. We're trying to win the Eastern Division first of all and to have a chance to compete for the league championship. Those are things that have never been done here before, so anytime that opportunity's there, you want to try to seize it."

Team USA's USHL record combines league results of both teams (not including college and international competition).

With the U-17 team losing 6-1 Friday at Waterloo, that record is 34-13-0-1 for 69 points, good for first in the Eastern Conference and overall standings.

Should the U.S. finish among the top two teams in the division, it will receive a first-round bye. Because the U-18 team will be competing in April at the 2018 IIHF U-18 World Championships in Russia, the U-17s will participate in the playoffs (set to begin in mid-April).

Appert stressed the compete level up and down the roster for both teams (the U-17 team is coached by John Wroblewski) and a sense that no one player needs to go on a scoring tear in order to rack up victories.

Helping each other

In the Friday win, however, the line of Jake Wise, Joel Farabee and Cole Caufield turned up the attack — combining for four of the goals.

Scoring twice was forward Jack Hughes, with goalie Drew DeRidder (23 saves) posting the win.

Wise scored three consecutive goals opening the third period, turning a 3-1 deficit into a 4-3 lead.

Oliver Wahlstrom set up Wise for the first one, a blast from the left circle during a power play.

The tying goal was a re-direction of defenseman Spencer Stastney's point shot. And then came the hat trick tally with 3:35 left, making it a 4-3 lead for the U.S. Farabee feathered a feed from the left side of the rink over to Wise in the right circle and he snapped it past Madison goaltender Joey Lamoreaux



Goaltender Drew DeRidder makes a stop during the U.S. NTDP U-18 team's win over Madison. RENA LAVERTY



Digging for the puck is U.S. forward Oliver Wahlstrom. He had two assists in a 6-4 victory over Madison. RENA LAVERTY
Linemen Joel Farabee (left) and Jake Wise combined to score four goals Friday against Madison. RENA LAVERTY

(35 saves).

"I don't even know how he saw me over there," Wise said with a chuckle. "It was a sick pass, he's a great player and he's really fun to play with."

Madison came back to re-tie the game at 4-4 with 2:26 remaining, but it took only 20 seconds for Hughes to put the home team back in front. He gathered the puck inside the Caps blue line, circled into the high slot and went shelf.

Then came the insurance goal by Farabee, into an empty net, at 19:13. This time, Wise had a chance to score his fourth of the game, but instead returned the favor by sending a pass over to Farabee.

"Yeah, I think I'm just a pretty unselfish kid and me and Joel are really good buddies," Wise said. "He's fed me a ton of pucks, he gave me the hat trick, so I figured we had an empty net, why not

give it to him?"

Farabee said he "wouldn't have been surprised if he shot it, the (defense) was on him. But it was an unbelievable pass to get it to me and I'm really thankful for that."

Fast start

The March 15 rout was sparked by a four-goal first period, with goals by Cam York, Farabee, Gavin Hain and Alex Turcotte. Farabee added a second goal in the middle period. Making 28 saves was goalie Spencer Knight.

"I think the last couple weekends, we've really been spreading it (scoring) out and it's been really fun," Wise, said when asked about his three-goal, one assist performance. "I guess all the luck was with me this weekend. It felt good, but it was a great team win."

Appert said it will be great for the program and area hockey fans to experience the USHL playoffs for the first time.

"What I'm most happy about is we've had this success with both teams without sacrificing development," he said. "We've been rolling four lines on both teams and not shortening the bench to try to win games."

Farabee said it is "pretty cool" for the NTDP to be headed to the playoffs. He noted that the fact both teams simultaneously are having outstanding seasons is a feather in the program's cap.

"We play a lot of the same systems," Farabee said. "If guys are coming up, it's really easy to fit in. We're playing with a lot of speed and a lot of talent, so that definitely wins."

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

BOYS SWIMMING

Stevenson enjoys success at D-1 state finals

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Nine members of Livonia Stevenson's boys swimming and diving team competed March 10 at the Division 1 state meet at Eastern Michigan University.

The Spartans, coached by Jeff Shoemaker, finished 12th with strong performances from Hans Anderson, Connor Beck, Gabe Curtis, Ben LaPorte, Nolan O'Dowd, Bryan Reppenhagen, Ben Rojewski, Luke Santi and Parker Wasielewski.

Finishing second in events were Wasielewski (100 backstroke, 50.89 seconds) and Rojewski (500 freestyle, 4:31.15).

In addition, Wasielewski placed fourth in the 50 free (21.13), while Rojewski's time of 1:43.67 was good for 13th place.

Stevenson had two other individual qualifiers, including Hans Anderson (12th in the 100 breaststroke, 58.25) and Bryan Reppenhagen in the 100 backstroke.

Two Spartans relay teams finished in the top 15 at EMU.

The 200 medley relay team of Reppenhagen, Anderson, Wasielewski and Beck came in 13th with a time of 1:36.24.

Finishing 15th was the 200 free relay team composed of Curtis, Reppenhagen, Santi and Beck (1:28.98).

Contact Tim Smith at tsmith@hometownlife.com.



Livonia Stevenson boys swimming and diving coach Jeff Shoemaker poses with team members that qualified for the Division 1 state meet.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Novi's Hankerson on the rise with Phoenix

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It was "One Shining Moment" that Kameron Hankerson hopes will continue as he enters the next two basketball seasons at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

The 6-foot-5, 200-pound sophomore guard from Novi went "en fuego," scoring a career- and game-high 36 points in a 93-81 victory over the University of Detroit Mercy during the first round of the Horizon League tournament March 3 at Little Caesars Arena.

"It felt good. I just started to catch fire the second half and I kind of never looked back," said Hankerson, who went 12-of-17 from the floor, including 7-of-9 from 3-point range. "I just started to hit shots and my teammates found me open. I just felt like we were invincible at that point and time."



Hankerson

Green Bay defeated Detroit three times this season (also 107-97 and 95-83), while also beating Oakland University twice (80-79 and 96-90), as Hankerson had 19 and 13 points, respectively.

Hankerson didn't suffer through the proverbial sophomore jinx, but improved his stock from his freshman year, when he appeared in 24 games while averaging 3.1 points for the Phoenix (18-14).

This season, Hankerson improved his numbers dramatically, starting 24 of the Phoenix's 33 games, averaging 10.7 points. He shot 44.3 percent from the floor, including 38.7 percent from the 3-point line. He averaged 3.1 rebounds and had a total of 87 assists with 78 turnovers.

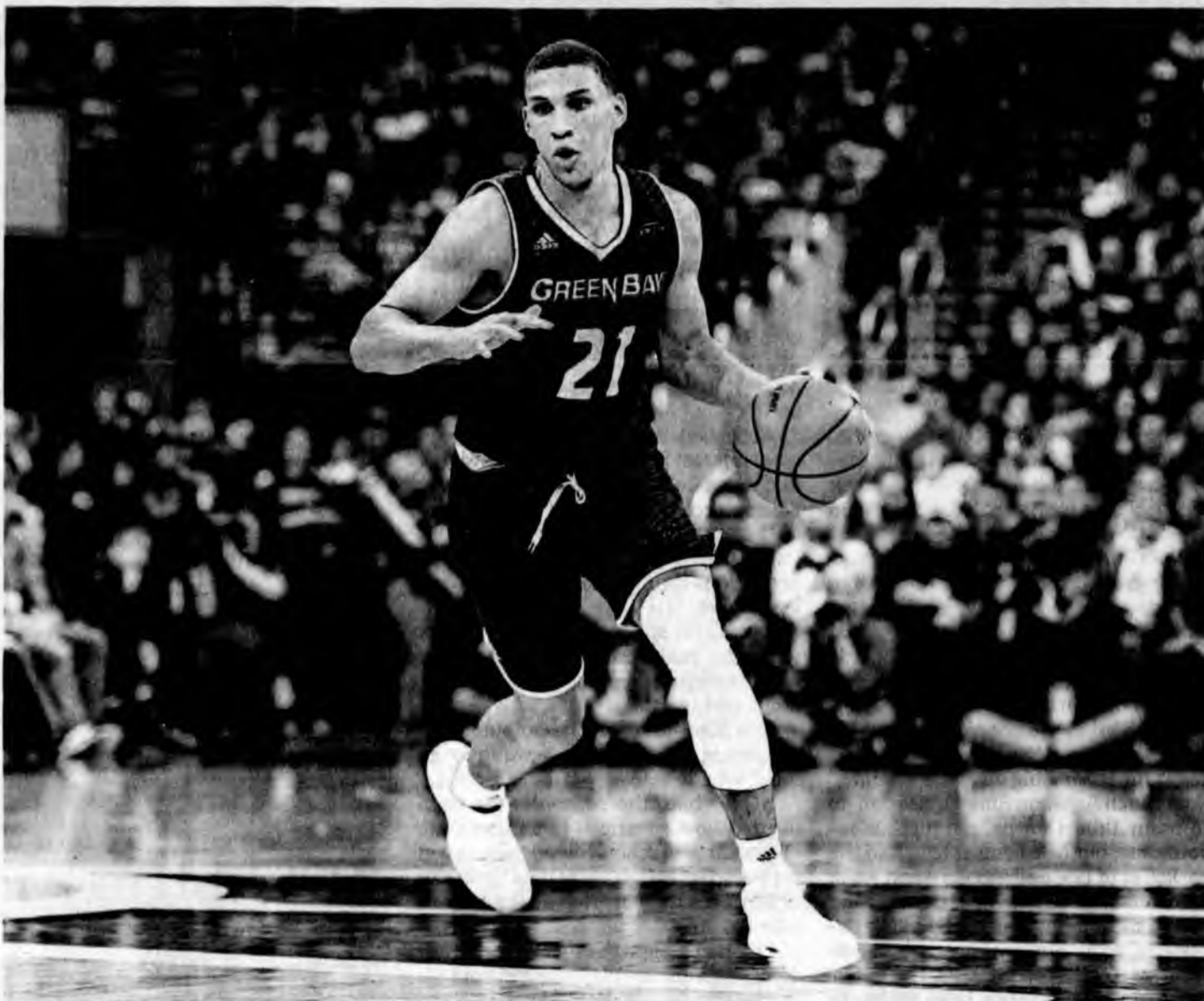
"Just a lot of time in the gym, a lot of shots, a lot of reps, a lot of game-time reps," said Hankerson, who also shot 74 percent from the foul line. "You never really think about how much going full speed, how, like, it affects your game until you actually start doing it, start working and it starts to work."

Hankerson went 24/7 in the gym during the off-season, but also tried to improve his mental approach.

"I didn't have a lot of film freshman year, so it was hard to watch film," Hankerson said, "but as we got closer to the season and we started working on things and the season started to get into full swing, I had a lot more film to look at, so I had more stuff to correct, more stuff to kind of go off of, so I could get myself better throughout the season."

Hankerson also dedicated himself by eating right and lifting weights to get into the best shape possible. And Green Bay coach Linc Darner believes Hankerson is headed toward a higher trajectory next season.

"The first year, he was behind a lot of upperclassmen, a lot of seniors, so he was kind of getting in a little bit here and a little bit there," the third-year coach



Novi High grad Kameron Hankerson enjoyed a highly productive sophomore season at Green Bay. GREEN BAY SPORTS INFORMATION

said. "But this year, he got the opportunity to play a lot more and I thought he progressed as the year went along. He had some really great games for us, including the one in the tournament over there. We really saw some improvement in him this year and, hopefully, he'll make the same strides next year for his junior year."

Although Green Bay went 13-20 overall and 7-11 in the Horizon League, Hankerson likes the direction the team is headed going into next year.

"We've got a lot of guys coming back," Hankerson said. "The year before, we lost six, this year we were only losing two. Our goal is to continue to improve. I really want to have a 20-win season next year, possibly win the conference, the season conference title and go in and be able to compete in an NCAA tournament."

From his freshman to his sophomore year, Hankerson went from averaging eight minutes to nearly 28 minutes per game.

"He got an opportunity to shoot the ball more this year, so that certainly helps," Darner said. "I think he improved in all areas — handling the ball, he shot a decent percentage, close to 39 percent from three. His assist-to-turnovers were good, but they got to be bet-

ter for next year. He's got to rebound the ball better next year for us. I thought he became better at becoming a leader on the floor. All those areas, he still has to get better in. But when you get the opportunity to play, you always seem to play better. Defensively, he's made great strides there. He's just got to keep improving and working on those areas."

During his senior year at Novi, Hankerson suffered a partially torn lateral collateral ligament in his knee. He missed the final month of the season after earning all-Kensington Lakes Activities Association honors as a junior.

"I felt like it set me back a little bit," Hankerson said. "My confidence wasn't as high going into my freshman year. It was hard, especially at the beginning, but my confidence got back up as I went along."

Hankerson committed to Green Bay prior to his senior year and believes he made the right choice.

"(Darner) just spoke very highly of me, had a lot of confidence in my game and the way he plays, I enjoy playing," Hankerson said. "It was a no-brainer for me. Fast-paced, up-and-down, full-court press, just relentless defense and a lot of shots."

And in Tittletown USA, home of the Green Bay Packers, the Phoenix have

their fair share of support, too.

"It's good, we get a lot of people to come out, a lot of fans," Hankerson said. "They know who we are and it feels good to be known in a city like that with the football team around that area. It's interesting, I haven't been to a (Packers) game yet, but plan on going just to see what it's like. It's crazy, it's like a cult. Everybody shuts down on Sundays and they just watch the game."

Hankerson is an accounting major who recently changed his minor from business management to finance.

"I plan to own my own business, just kind of do something with accounting," he said.

And after the way his sophomore season unfolded, the future is bright for Hankerson, with more shining moments to come.

"He's a great kid and comes from a great family," Darner said. "His mom and dad did a great job raising him. He's very coachable, which is a good thing. He listens to you. He tries to do what you ask him to do to get better and, as a coach, that's all you can ask from your players."

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

COLLEGE SOCCER

Michigan Bucks to host Collegiate Showcase

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Michigan Bucks of the Premier Development League will host their 10th annual College Challenge on two Saturdays, March 24 and April 7, at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac.

A men's showcase March 24 features four exhibition matches, beginning at 12:20 p.m. between No. 7 Michigan State and No. 12 Butler, followed at 1:55 p.m. by Oakland University against the Bulldogs (coached by former OU star forward Paul Snape).

Michigan State and No. 14 Notre Dame follow at 3:30 p.m. and the day concludes with a Michigan-MSU match-up at 5:05 p.m.

On April 7, the Bucks College Showcase returns with four full-length matches featuring two men's and two women's games at Ultimate, an indoor facility at 867 S. East Boulevard East, between Opydke Road and Centerpiece Parkway.

Action begins at 12:15 p.m. when the No. 22 Michigan men take on MSU in a rematch, followed by Oakland, guided by coach and former MLS New England Revolution goalkeeper Eric Pogue, against the Western Michigan University men at 2:05 p.m.

Beginning at 3:55 p.m., the OU women take on WMU in a rematch of last fall's NCAA tournament match won by the Broncos, 3-1.

And for the first time in the event history, the Bucks welcome the women's teams of Central Michigan University and University of Detroit-Mercy to close out the four-game slate with a 5:45 p.m. kickoff.

General admission tickets are \$10 at the door, which admits each fan to all four of the day's matches. Children ages 5 and under are free.

Special presale tickets can be purchased online for only \$8 at www.bucksoccer.com. Group discounts (20 or more) are also available for \$6 each by contacting the Bucks office at 248-334-7460.

The Bucks, members of the Great Lakes Division, are the most successful minor league soccer team in history, winning nine national championships during the club's first 22 years in the PDL. They recently celebrated one of their best off-seasons in history when the team had nine former players sign or drafted by MLS clubs over the winter.

The Bucks officially open their season Wednesday, May 9, in the first round of the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup. It will be their record 16th appearance in the country's oldest sporting tournament.



The Michigan Bucks will host the College Soccer Showcase March 24 and April 7 at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac. JAY DUNWELL

For more information on the Bucks' 2018 schedule, player signings and other team announcements, follow the Bucks on Twitter: @MichiganBucks; on Facebook: @MichiganBucksSoccer; and

Instagram: @MichiganBucksPDL.

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Novi's Woody captures weekly online vote

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

He's appeared in only 17 games this season, but Tariq Woody has quickly found his niche with the Novi boys basketball team.

The 6-foot-8 senior transfer from Plymouth had 15 points and 15 rebounds in a 74-56 Class A district championship win March 9 over Northville after posting another double-double with 17 rebounds and 14 points, including the game-winning put-back at the buzzer, to beat Canton (19-2) in the district semifinal, 60-58.

And for his efforts in the Salem district tourney, Woody garnered hometownlife.com Prep Athlete of the Week honors with a total of 11,989 votes (52.55 percent). Farmington United gymnast Elisa Bills was runner-up with 6,629.

Woody continued his strong play in the post this past week, posting two more double-doubles in two regional games, including 16 points and 13 boards as the Wildcats (16-8) defeated previously unbeaten Ann Arbor Skyline, 61-59, for their first regional title in school history.

"Tariq is starting to hit his stride," Novi coach Brandon Sinawi. "He can do so many things for us, not just his rebounding, but he's been able to find the basket as of late and proved it last week with a big game against Canton and then a big one (against Northville). Especially with him hitting that game-winner, it kind of boosted his confidence a little bit. He's been trying to kind of find his place within our group of kids, with him being new this year, try-

ing to find his role, and he's settling in nicely."

Under the MHSAA transfer rule, Woody sat out the first seven games. Novi went 2-5, but is 14-3 since. He had 17 points and 12 rebounds in his season debut Jan. 16 in a victory over Livonia Stevenson.

For the season, Woody is averaging 12 points and 10.4 rebounds per game.

"I've been going to the gym a lot more, with Trendon (Hankerson) and Traveon (Maddox Jr.)," Woody said. "We've been putting in work. We've been working hard."

According to Sinawi, Woody has the most interest from Madonna University, Rochester College, Ohio Dominican and Florida Tech.

"I don't know what I'm thinking yet, I'm just waiting and I'm just keeping all my options open," Woody said of his college choice.

During his spare time, Woody enjoys watching basketball and hanging out with friends. He carries a 2.9 grade-point average.

"My favorite subject is computer programming. That's what I want to go into," Woody said.

Meanwhile, the season is far from over as Novi advanced to its first state quarterfinal in school history, scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall against Belleville (20-5).

"He had a big week and we don't advance without his play," Sinawi said.

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com.



Woody



Novi's Tariq Woody shoots over Canton's Noah Brown. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hankerson gives Novi big lift in regional semifinal

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Teams are finding out you can't sleep on Trendon Hankerson either when it comes to defending Novi's boys basketball team.

The 6-foot-4 senior point guard, who sat out half the season with a broken foot, scored a game-high 21 points to put the Wildcats back in the Class A regional final for the second straight year with a 74-55 win March 12 at Salem over White Lake Lakeland.

Novi's top two scorers, senior guard Traveon Maddox Jr. and junior guard Giovanni Miles added 17 and 13, respectively, but it was Hankerson who helped fuel a 26-12 first-quarter run.

Novi (15-8), in fact, made its first six 3-point attempts of the game and finished with 12 triples on the night.

"I just started out hot with two threes and then, as the game went on, we just tried to play as a team and share the ball," Hankerson said. "More than anything, it was just open looks then it was, like, taking opportunities, so I thought it was a solid night for us."

Lakeland (17-6) tried to make a game of it by outscoring the Wildcats 19-9 in the second quarter to close the gap to 35-31 at halftime.

But Novi responded with three more triples and took a 51-39 advantage into the fourth quarter before going up by as many as 23 points.

"We started out really hot, then we got a little cold in the second quarter," Hankerson said. "After they made their run in the second quarter, we went to the locker room and coach (Brandon Sinawi) said we were going to drive and kick more and keep driving and kicking to make those extra passes within the paint so we could get more layups. Then they would have to guard that so we could, hopefully, get hot again."

Here are some other takeaways:

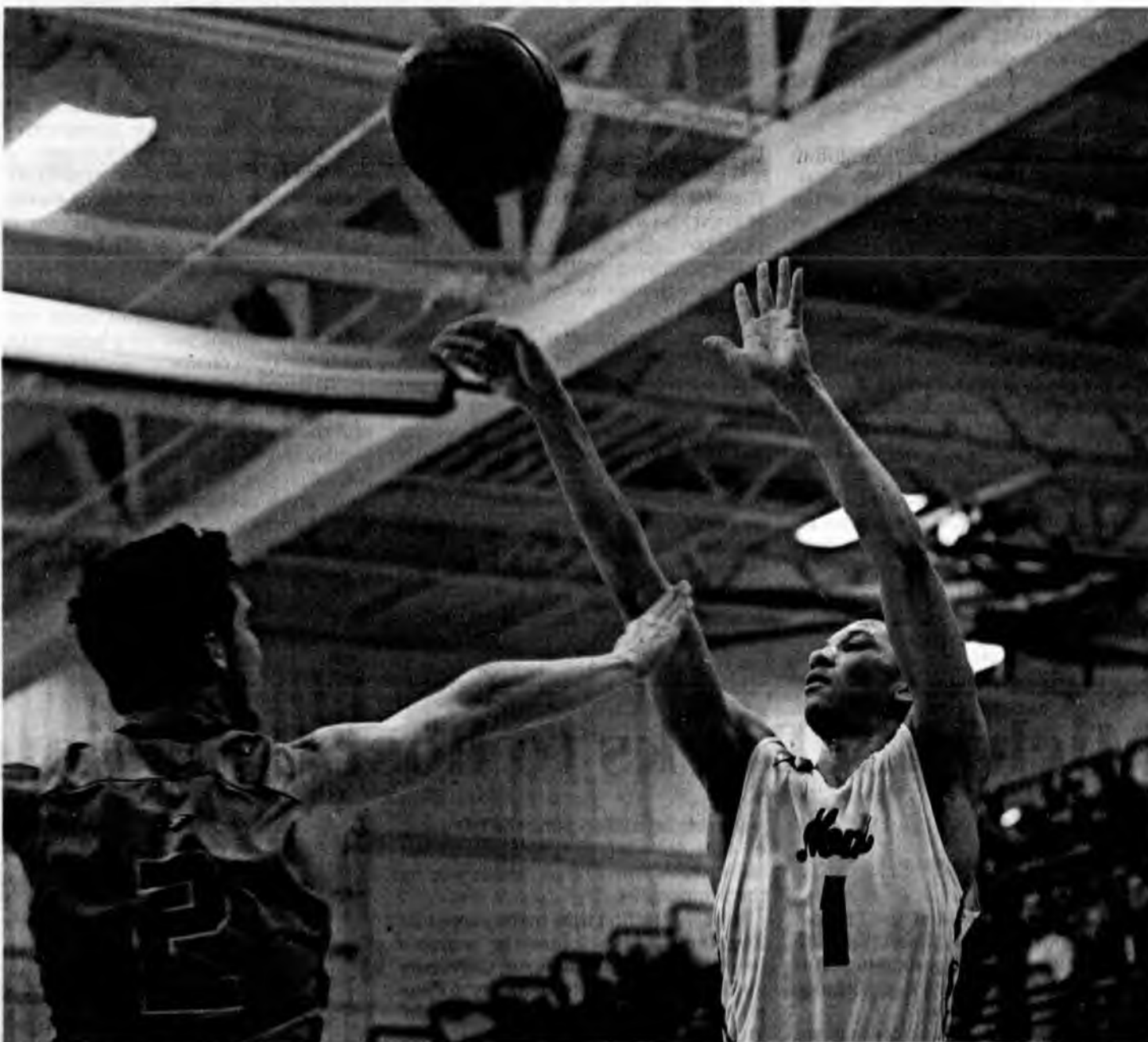
PHILLIPS'S FINALE

Lakeland's 6-8 senior center Cass Phillips, a three-year varsity player, finished with a team-high 20 points to go along with 10 rebounds.

"It was a great game," Phillips said. "We really struggled that first half. They hit a lot of good shots on us. There's nothing we could really do about that. Even in the second quarter, we were looking to make a run at them, but we couldn't pull it off."

Phillips, also a pitcher, has decided not to rejoin the baseball team this spring.

"This is my last high school basketball game and last high school game ever," Phillips said. "I'm emotional right



Novi's Trendon Hankerson, guarded by Lakeland's Sean Cullen, shoots a 3-pointer during the Class A regional semifinal. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

now."

Phillips is staying home after graduating in June and plans go into his uncle's real estate business.

"I'm going to be an independent entrepreneur," Phillips said.

LAKELAND'S RUN

The Eagles, behind three triples from junior guard Trent Farquhar, outscored Novi 19-9 during the second half to trail only 35-31.

But in the second half, Lakeland was unable to sustain its momentum and was outscored, 39-24.

"Our game plan was to make them a jump-shooting team and they made us pay," first-year Lakeland coach Ron Thompson said. "They're a great team. You got to pick your poison with them. I

watched them the last three games ... every single one of them was dunking, going to the basket; they kill you in every dimension. We did a great job of taking away one of their dimensions of taking the ball to the basket and keeping them out of transition. And those were two of the keys for us. We did a great job with it, but they hit shots and got some second opportunities ... they made us pay."

LAST HURRAH

In Thompson's first season after coming over from Walled Lake Northern, the Eagles finished third in the new Lakes Valley Conference (11-5) and won their first district championship since 2007.

"They built a foundation of what I want Lakeland basketball to be all

about," Thompson said. "The seniors have done an unbelievable job. Thinking back 365 days ago, if you had told me we'd be sitting in a regional semifinal with Lakeland High School, I'd say you're crazy. The kids would have thought you were crazy, too. But they really bought in and played their hearts out this year. I'm so proud and very emotional tonight, because I love these kids and got to spend the summer together, all fall and then basketball season. It's been a grind, but there wasn't one day I didn't show up where I didn't want to be in the gym. It's very refreshing."

Contact Brad Emons at be-mons@hometownlife.com. Follow him on Twitter: @BradEmons1.

PREP GYMNASTICS



The Northville gymnastics team placed second at the Division 1 state finals meet, its best finish since 1998.

Farmington United vaults to state gym crown; Northville 2nd

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

There wasn't much that separated the top three teams at the gymnastics state meet. In fact, it was mere tenths of a point.

In the highly-competitive team finals held March 9 in Rockford, Farmington United scored 144.75 points and emerged with its first state championship in 12 years. Northville and the host Rams were right behind in second and third with respective scores of 144.55 and 144.45 points.

Livonia Blue (142.65), Brighton (142.575) and Plymouth (141.35) were the other schools that tallied at least 141 points.

It is the sixth gymnastics state crown in the Farmington Public School history. Coach Jeff Dwyer's Tri-Farmington team won three straight titles from 2004-06. North Farmington, under coach Mary Johnassee, captured state titles in 1979 and 1981.

"This year was so much harder, considering how close we were to all the other teams competing," Dwyer said. "All season long, we were only one- or two-tenths better. Whereas in our previous state championship years, we were clearly the favorite. So there was a different kind of pressure."

"Back then, if we didn't win, we would have choked because we were that good," he added. "This year, it was crazy close. We were in a dog fight. We weren't the clear projected winner. We had to flat out fight for this win."

Mustangs thrive

Like Farmington United, Northville also snapped a long gymnastics drought.

The Mustangs posted their highest finish since winning the state title in 2001 as a united team with Novi under then-coach Lindsey Crews. Northville won the state title outright in 1998.

"I emphasized to the girls all season that they are not given anything, they must earn it," first-year Northville coach Victoria Clay said. "We knew that we had a group of talented athletes this season, however that did not stop them from preparing to be the best."

"We also emphasized again and again the importance of practicing with consistency," she added. "They knew they needed to put in work in the little details day in and day out to stand out at the state competition."

This year's meet came down to the last pressure-filled moments.

Farmington United ended on the uneven bars and Northville ended on its best event — the vault. Although Northville won the vault, the Mustangs didn't score enough points to overcome Farmington.

Razor-thin margin

As a team, Farmington United did not win any of the four disciplines. However, Dwyer's squad showed the most con-



Senior Elisa Bills returned from a knee injury to conclude her amazing prep gymnastics career as a two-time all-around state champion. KATHY BURNS

sistency.

Farmington United was second in the vault (36.525), uneven bars (34.675) and the floor exercise (37.375) and placed fifth on the balance beam.

The state championship team consisted of seniors Elisa Bills, Kacey Noseworthy, Ava Farquhar, Emily Stecevic, Shelby Smith, sophomore Lily Tyler and the Schultz twins — Sydney and Allison.

"If I had to pick a group of athletes to give us a shot, I would pick these girls, as they were driven all season," Dwyer said. "I told them before the meet I would bet on them to win it, because I liked what they bring to the table. They proved themselves many times this season."

"They learned to grind it out and they

learned meets can be determined by tenths," he added. "They learned not to get down when they had an off-day. You can tell them that all day long, but to actually do it is another. I am so proud of these athletes."

Northville won both the vault (36.95) and uneven bars competition (34.95) and was fourth on the balance beam (36.675). The Mustangs stumbled a bit in floor exercise, where they placed eighth (35.975).

"I can attribute preparation and team work to our high finish," Clay said. "We have prepared since day one of the season physically and mentally to not only get to states, but to achieve high goals at states."

"The girls also came together as a

team like I have never seen before," she added. "They worked hard as a team all season and were consistent, so when it came time to compete at the state meet, they really came together to elevate their strengths."

Bills defends title

Individually, Bills defended her Division 2 all-around state championship. After suffering a knee injury halfway through the season, she returned just in time to qualify for the regional and then performed magically at the state finals.

Bills scored 37.175 points to edge Rockford's Morgan Chase, who placed second with 36.825. Bills won the balance beam (9.575), placed third on the uneven bars (89.5), fourth in floor exercises (9.45) and seventh off the vault (9.2) to earn all-state honors on all four events.

"Elisa pulled off a feat that does not happen a lot — winning the all-around competition for two years in a row," Dwyer said. "I have not coached an athlete who has accomplished such a task in my 31 years and I have been blessed with a lot of talent."

"She has proven herself to be one of the top gymnasts in the state over a two-year span. It takes someone special to pull this off. Her ability to learn and handle pressure over the years and to trust her God-given talent are a huge part of her success."

"Athletes like this don't come along very frequently," he added. "I knew this was her last meet. What a way to end a career."

Noseworthy tied for third overall with Linden's Blake Hutchins, as both registered 36.575 points. Farquhar also made it into the top 10 by scoring 36.075 point to place seventh.

Allison and Sydney Schultz were 12th and 20th, respectively, in the all-around competition.

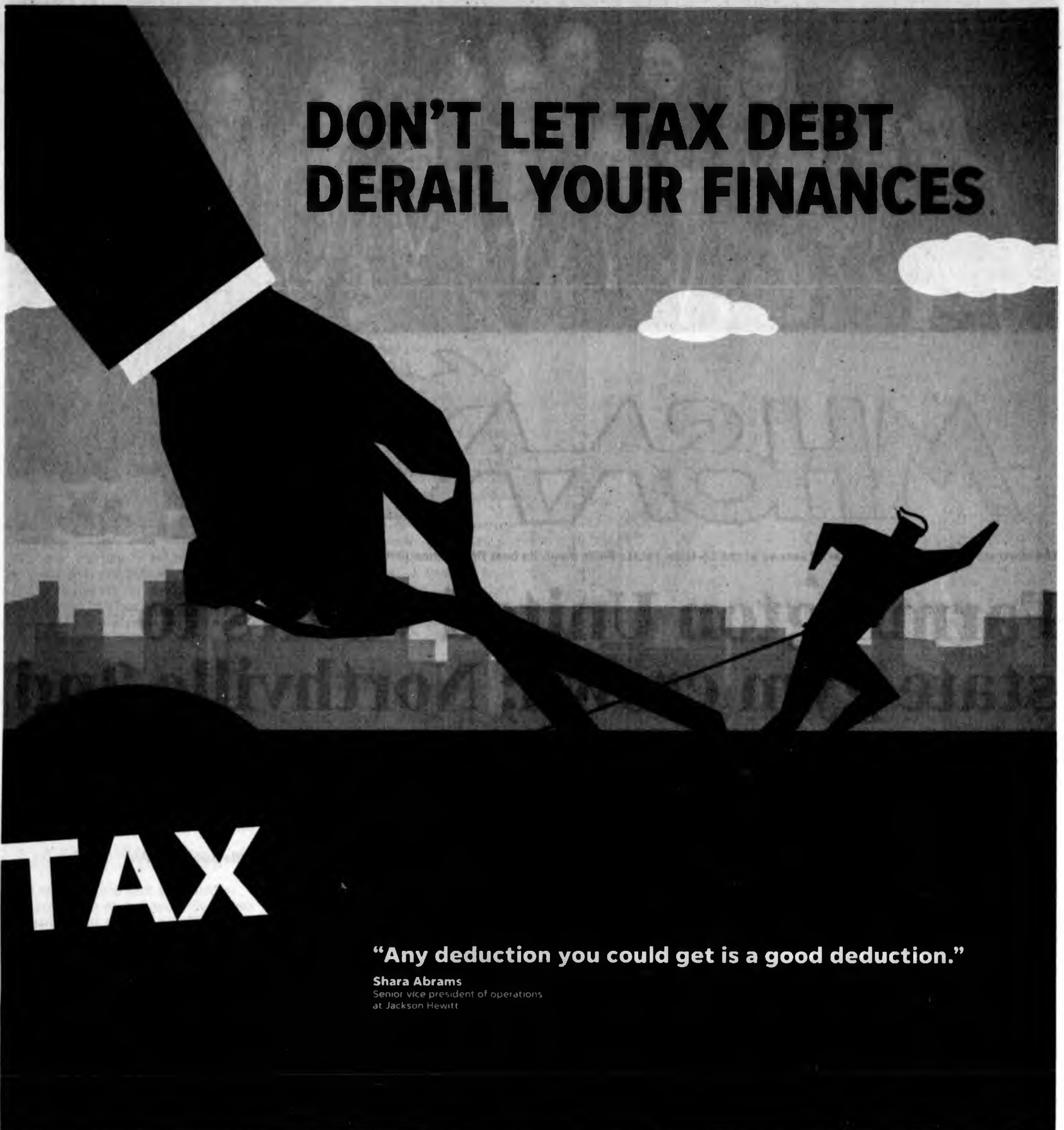
McCallum stars

In Division 1 all-around, Northville senior captain Erin McCallum placed fourth all-around with a score of 36.15. Her best individual showing was a second-place off the vault with a 9.4.

Northville's two other senior captains — Maddie Dragon and Grace Janowski — helped lead the team all season through their hard work and leadership. Juniors Maddy Lewis, Mackenzie Willson and Lora Haupt, sophomore Maria Scavnicky and freshman Sarah Gallagher were other key contributors to the team's success.

"As a first-year head coach, I could not be more proud and honored to have been a part of such a memorable season," Clay said. "Although I am beyond thrilled about the second-place finish at the state meet, the hard work, dedication and passion that this team showed all season is something to be recognized. These will be some of the most cherished memories."

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.



DON'T LET TAX DEBT DERAIL YOUR FINANCES

"Any deduction you could get is a good deduction."

Shara Abrams
Senior vice president of operations
at Jackson Hewitt

GETTY IMAGES

Use these tips to get back on track

Sean Pyles
NerdWallet

Tax season — and tax refunds — can be a financial lifeline for many Americans. But the season can pose challenges for those who owe money to the IRS.

More than 18 million Americans owed taxes in September 2014, according to the most recent data from the IRS. Meanwhile, an estimated 10 million face tax penalties each year, the IRS found.

Act now: If you have a balance after crunching the numbers, make sure you still file. Ignoring your taxes will make the situation worse, says Michael Kay, a certified financial planner from New Jersey.

"You'll need to pay the piper. There are no good alternatives," Kay says. "The penalties for not filing can become criminal, so absolutely file, even if you don't have the money."

By not filing by the deadline, you could face a monthly penalty of 5% of unpaid taxes, up to a maximum of 25% of your balance, making your tax debt a lot worse. You can request an extension if you need more time to file. But you should still pay as much of your estimated tax as possible by the April deadline to avoid interest and penalties.

Review payment options: If you can't pay your taxes in full within 120 days, the IRS offers options to help manage your balance.

A long-term payment plan, also known as installment agreements, is best if you need more than 120 days to resolve your balance. Note that these payment plans can add penalties and interest to your debt and are only available if you owe less than \$50,000, including penalties and interest.

You can temporarily delay payment on a tax debt if you can prove paying the debt would prevent you from affording your basic living expenses. Eventually, the IRS will come knocking at your door for payment, though, and the debt will accrue interest and penalties.

The "offer in compromise" plan can help you resolve the debt with the IRS for less than you originally owed. You'll have to prove paying the debt would cause financial hardship to qualify.

Get help: Tax debt can be tricky. Kay advises consulting a certified public accountant or financial planner to ensure you're handling your tax situation in the best way possible.

"When it comes to tax prep and dealing with the IRS, you should absolutely work with a CPA from Day 1," Kay says. "As far as a financial coach or planner, that might be helpful for them to see what opportunities they have in terms of their cash flow. Sometimes it helps to lay it out and see the bigger picture."

Add tax write-offs to your wedding vows

Kellie Ell
USA TODAY

Last year the average wedding in the U.S. cost more than \$35,000. The bill for coastal city couples was even higher. As wedding fees continue to soar, twosomes are looking for creative ways to merge their fairy-tale day with financial realities. While married couples generally receive higher standardized deductions than singles, some people are opting to deduct wedding expenses instead.

"Many of the costs you incur during a wedding are often a one-time thing," says Steven Gill, associate professor in the Charles W. Lamden School of Accountancy at San Diego State University. "You can donate them to the extent that you can find a place that will take them."

"Any deduction you could get is a good deduction," says Shara Abrams, senior vice president of operations at Jackson Hewitt.

The venue: The venue is often the most expensive portion of a wedding. The average venue cost more than \$16,000 in 2016. Fees paid to churches, historical locations and other non-profits are considered a charitable donation and can be deducted as a charitable contribution. Some churches won't charge members for use of the facilities but accept donations instead, which are also tax deductible, according to Abrams. This goes for any kind of eligible 501(c)(3) non-profit venue, including temples, parks and museums, and must be accompanied by a receipt.

In some cases, the membership fee itself can be deducted, Gill said.

The dress: Both men and women consider their wedding attire a one-time shopping expense. But while most men rent a tuxedo, women spend thousands. "You can hang the dress up in your closet and try it on at your 25-wedding anniversary," Gills says. "Or, you can donate it."



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Some organizations to consider are Brides Across America, which donates to military brides, and Wish Upon A Wedding, which takes used wedding dresses and gives them to underprivileged women. When you drop off the dress, get a receipt. The amount deductible is the resell value, usually around 50%, according to Abrams. Same goes for bridesmaid dresses or any other wedding apparel that can be worn again.

Party favors and flowers: Instead of cluttering up the love nest with items you no longer need, donate them to charity. That includes flowers, party favors, candles, decorations and any other kind of trinkets from the event.

Food: Any leftover, unopened food from the wedding can be donated to a soup kitchen or church. And get a receipt. Typically, charities accept packaged food over catered food, as it is less likely to have been tampered with.

Finding a balance

Try gratitude journals, meal prep and forest bathing

Meredith Newman Delaware News Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Let's be real: 2017 stressed a lot of people out. Everything seemed to ratchet up from the day President Donald Trump took the oath on Jan. 20, and the stress kept right on tightening its tentacles through the bitter, snowy weather that ended one year and began a new one.

A November report by the American Psychological Association found that almost 60 percent of Americans considered themselves to be living through the lowest point of U.S. history that they can remember, including people who lived through World War II, the Vietnam War and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

And about two-thirds of people said the country's future is a very or somewhat significant source of stress, more so than money and work.

So how does one reduce their stress level in 2018? While there are a lot of fads out there, experts recommend trying gratitude journals, meal prep and forest bathing.

Kris Bronson, a licensed psychologist in Wilmington, Delaware, who specializes in stress reduction, said people often face two different types of stress: acute and chronic.

Acute stress usually happens once — think: your car won't start — and your body and mind have time to deal with and recover from the stressor. But with chronic stress, people face one stressor after another. This could be your car not starting, the sudden illness of a child, a new job dumped on your at work, getting the bills for Christmas and, on top of it all, constant relationship issues.

Gratitude Journal

In order to combat chronic stress, which can manifest in a myriad ways muscle tension, fatigue, and headaches, people need to find time for their body and mind to recover, Bronson said.

This could be different for everyone, she said. It could range from watching a football game with friends to taking a bubble bath.

When looking for additional ways to reduce stress, she advises looking to activities that help with the basics: sleep, nutrition, and exercise.

"Those are tried-and-true and people don't

like to hear it," she laughed.

Bronson endorses creating a gratitude journal, which has become trendy in the past year. The idea is simple: For five to 10 minutes before going to bed (or anytime during the day) write a list of what you were grateful for on a particular day.

It could be as small as a person helping you at the gas station or as big as your child being happy, Bronson said. She has recently recommended this to her clients and has found it has made them "enjoy life more." "It's very easy to be focused on stress and negativity over the past year and it's easy to have that on our mind," she said. "This is the idea, though, of taking some time each day to notice, name, acknowledge and feel what you are grateful for."

Let someone else meal prep

Maintaining a healthy diet is another key way to reducing stress, experts said. It's no secret that stress can lead to emotional eating, especially with foods that are high in fat and sugar.

But meal prep has become a popular way to avoid unhealthy eating.

According to The Nutrition Source, a website run by Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, meal planning can help with weight control, contribute to having a more nutritionally balanced diet and reduce stress about making last-minute decisions about what to eat.

The Square Meal, an Oaklyn, New Jersey, cafe that serves local and minimally processed foods, has launched a lifestyle meal plan service, which can provide up to a month of healthy meals.

Jackie Walther, who co-owns the cafe with her husband, Dan, said the couple has found people, especially those looking to lose weight, become stressed at the idea of creating healthy meals to eat during the week. By having prepared nutritious meals at hand, people are less likely to make bad food choices and can have more time to focus on other areas of their life, such as their health and fitness, she said.

The menu caters to meat eaters and vegetarians, as well as those on a Paleo diet, which is low in carbs and high in protein. The dishes in-

clude: Chili con carne, turkey meatloaf, roasted squash pilaf and falafel patties. "It will give you the energy you need to get through the day," Walther said of the meals.

One meal costs \$12, while seven meals cost \$75 and ten meals cost \$100.

Embrace the silence

Forest bathing, a Japanese practice in which one immerses themselves in nature, has become a common stress-relief activity, said Susan Buffalino, sanctuary director of the Rancocas Nature Center in Westampton, New Jersey.

Buffalino believes being outside and going on hikes can help reduce stress because it's a multi-sensory experience. When people go on hikes, they are surrounded by greenery and sounds they often don't come in contact with. They're removed from the traffic and commotion of city life, she said.

On Wednesday nights, the nature center holds its "Hump-Day After-Work Hikes" in which adults go on 90-minute hikes that can span several miles. Buffalino said the nature center has experienced a high turnout from adults who are looking for some relief after work. The group hikes will resume in March. "It helps break up the week," she said.

To Arden resident Joe del Tufo, hiking almost every Sunday has started to feel like a "mini-vacation." He joined a group of Delawareans who go on weekly hikes, no matter the weather conditions, throughout the state and Philadelphia area.

Del Tufo said the most relaxing aspect of hiking isn't necessarily the beautiful sites or exercise. It's the silence.

"There's always this need to converse and entertain and connect verbally," he said. "It's OK to be quiet for hours. That is very calming to me."

The hikes are one of the few places where del Tufo doesn't think about going to work on Monday, upcoming assignments or the intricacies of running a small business. "It's hard to be stressed and hiking at the same time," he said.

Contact Meredith Newman at (302) 324-2386 or at mnewman@delawareonline.com. Follow her on Twitter at @merenewman.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHELSEA O'DONNELL/USATODAY NETWORK

These campgrounds are hidden gems

USA TODAY

As spring approaches, popular campgrounds across the country are already selling out, with travelers making reservations months in advance. But some equally wonderful sites always seem to have room, say **Jessie Johnson** and **Matt Schneider**, authors of *North Carolina Adventure Week-ends* (Menasha Ridge, \$16.95). The spouses say they've found many parks that rarely see crowds. "They're just not well-known. They're kind of like a base camp for seeing some unique and beautiful outdoor spaces," Schneider says. "Once you've parked your car and set up your tent, you can do a lot of cool stuff." The couple share some favorite finds with **Larry Bleiberg** for USA TODAY.

Horse Cove, Nantahale National Forest, N.C.

Located next to the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness and close to the Tennessee state line, this easily overlooked campground offers great hiking and exploring. "It's near one of the largest old-growth forests in the Southeast. You have absolutely huge beech and poplar," Schneider says. www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nfsnc/recarea/?recid=48924

Mount Timpooneke Campground, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Utah

Johnson says they first found this campground during a wilderness hike through the American Fork Canyon area and were astonished that it was accessible by a seasonally open road. "If you want to do car camping that feels like a backcountry experience, it's an awesome place to go," Johnson says. www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/uwcnf/recarea/?recid=9906

Lolo Creek, Lolo National Forest, Mont.

With easy access to fishing, this is a prototypical Montana campground, Schneider says. It's located near the Lewis and Clark/Nez Perce National Historic Trail, as well as a commercial hot springs resort. "You can camp by a creek that just about runs through your campsite. The

sun sets over it, and the water spirals, and there's trout. It's Montana through and through." www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/lolo/recarea/?recid=10268

McDowell Mountain Regional Park, Arizona

Located just outside Phoenix, this park isn't hidden, but few people realize it offers camping in a gorgeous Sonoran Desert setting. "You can ride your bike on miles and miles of bike trails, surround by cacti galore," Johnson says. "It offers 360-degree views. You can watch the sunset out of one end of your tent, and in the morning you can unzip the other side and watch the sunrise." maricopacountyparks.net/mcdowell-mountain-regional-park-mm

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, Idaho

This volcano-scarred landscape feels like something from outer space. "It's a totally weird place, but there's so much beauty. There are huge lava formations and lava caves that have snow well into the warm seasons," Schneider says. nps.gov/crmo

Dockery Lake and Lake Winfield Scott, Chattahoochee National Forest, Ga.

Although these campgrounds in the Blood Mountain Wilderness are within hiking distance of the Appalachian Trail,

Spruce Knob Campground, Monongahela National Forest, W.Va.

While there's no shortage of camping spots in the Mountain State, Johnson is a fan of this site near the Cranberry and Dolly Sods wilderness areas. It's located just below Spruce Knob, the highest point in West Virginia, yet rarely visited. "We went there in August, and there was a period when we were the only people. It's this hidden little campground. There's no one on top of you." www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mnf/recarea/?recid=7005



Spruce Knob Campground is sparsely visited. PHOTOS BY JESSIE JOHNSON AND MATT SCHNEIDER

they're surprisingly quiet and remote. "There are awesome hiking opportunities from either campground, but there's almost no one there ever. I don't know why," Schneider says. wilderness.net/NWPS/wildView?WID=62

Montana de Oro State Park, Calif.

Although not large, this park has a prime location on the Pacific Coast, near the San Luis Obispo wine country. "There are views out to the Pacific. There are awesome rock beaches. There's horseback riding, mountain biking and pockets of forest," Schneider says. www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=592

Jouffias campground, McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, Colo.

This free Bureau of Land Management campsite sits on the edge of the 123,430-

acre McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, and is just off Interstate 70 in far-western Colorado near the Utah line. "It looks like you're heading off into Mad Max territory," Schneider says. "There are huge sandstone formations and petroglyphs, and it's totally free." blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/CO_McInnisCanyons_NCA.pdf

Pickett CCC Memorial State Park, Tenn.

The campground lies near one of the couple's favorite spots: the often-overlooked Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. "It's huge, and every time we go there, we think: Where are all the people? Why is no one here?" Johnson says. Those who make the trip find cliffs and sandstone arches, which can be explored by foot, by mountain bike or on horseback. tnstateparks.com/parks/about/pickett

Try a home exchange for your next vacay

Home-swapping websites can remove the guesswork

Christopher Elliott
Special to USA TODAY

Home exchanges may be the oldest trend in lodging. Older, even, than the modern hotel. They're also the newest thing, to hear some travelers talk about it.

Paula Eldridge is among them. She and her husband, Tom, are retirees on a limited budget, so they can't always afford the thousands of dollars a week it would cost for a hotel or a home rental. So they decided to swap their home in Rockport, Mass., for accommodations at their desired destination a few years ago, and they never looked back.

"We stay in our exchange family's home and drive their car with no exchange of money, so a three-week vacation can be accomplished at a very reasonable cost," says Eldridge, a former high school biology teacher. "The only large expense is the airfare."

The Eldridges have traveled all over the map, including a restored vicarage in Devon, England, a vacation home in the Swiss Alps, and a three-story townhouse in Amsterdam. Accommodations like that would have cost tens of thousands of dollars, but their price was zero.

Home exchanges — or HEX, as the exchange community sometimes calls it — may be an ancient thing (think about it — where did people stay before hotels?) but home swapping has picked up a few 21st-century tricks. And it might be something worth considering for your upcoming summer vacation.

Much of the recent growth in the home exchange sector is coming from people that Ben Woskow, the managing director of Love Home Swap (LoveHomeSwap.com), a home exchange service, calls "pluralists." They're travelers who consider hotels, home rentals or exchanges, depending on the kind of trip.

"This blended way of traveling will become an ever-increasing trend within the travel space around the world over



You might make some lifelong friends in the process. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Unlike hotels or vacation rentals, home exchanges are often deeply personal affairs.

the next 12 months," he predicts.

Sites like Woskow's do much more than facilitate a simple swap. They offer several options for exchanges, including a points system that allows you to use credits anywhere in the network. Love Home Swap also helps you screen other potential home exchangers and hosts an active community of other home-swappers. An annual membership starts at \$240.

Another popular swapping site, HomeExchange.com, works in a similar way. Its \$150 annual membership even includes a guarantee that if you don't do an exchange in your first year, you get a second year free. And you have to love the name of its customer-service department — "happiness support." Couldn't we all use a little bit more of that?

Jim Pickell, the former president of HomeExchange.com, is a poster boy for the home-swapping community. He's personally traded homes more than 20 times, and his daughter, Madison, was even born in a home exchange.

For him, a home exchange is about more than accommodations; you also join a community that allows you to make new friends and discover places

you wouldn't ordinarily visit. Yes, there's the appeal of a "free" stay, but it's also an adventure. That's something no resort can offer.

The decision to trade your home with someone else comes down to one thing: How much money you can save. For Jennifer Bocchi, a dental hygienist from Reno, swapping her Lake Tahoe vacation home and her car with a family from Chicago through Love Home Swap saved her more than \$8,000.

"We did not have to pay a nightly rate for a hotel, or rent a car, and we had a full kitchen to be able to cook more and not have to eat out all the time," she says. "The people who stayed in our place in Tahoe were thrilled with our place as well, and we have already said we would both swap again with one another."

That's the thing about home exchanges. Unlike hotels or vacation rentals, they're often deeply personal affairs. I've spoken with many travelers who don't use any platform at all, relying on Craigslist and their due diligence to find the best exchange partners.

And why wouldn't you research the heck out of it? After all, there's a stranger staying in your home. And maybe even driving your car. As Eldridge, the frequent swapper, warns, "It's not for everyone."

Three questions you should ask before you swap your home:

1. Is your home worth exchanging? It's easy to swap a house or apartment in a desirable location like Lake Tahoe or Rockport, but you may find it a bit more challenging if you live in an anonymous small town or city.

2. Do you want someone else staying in your house? They will be using your bed, linens, everything. Are you comfortable with that?

3. Have you done your due diligence? If you're on a platform like Love Home Swap or HomeExchange.com, you can leave some of the vetting to the company. But if you're on Craigslist or getting a referral from a friend, you'll need to take a harder look at the exchange request.

Christopher Elliott is a consumer advocate. Contact him at chris@elliott.org or visit elliott.org.

RETIREMENT

How you can protect yourself from elder fraud



Robert Powell
Columnist
USA TODAY

The Justice Department and law enforcement partners recently announced the largest coordinated sweep of elder fraud cases in history. The cases involved more than 250 defendants from around the globe who victimized more than a million Americans, most of whom were elderly, according to a release.

According to the Justice Department, there were a variety of fraud schemes ranging from mass mailing, telemarketing and investment frauds to individual incidences of identity theft and theft by guardians. Many cases also involved transnational criminal organizations that defrauded hundreds of thousands of elderly victims, while others involved a single relative or fiduciary who took advantage of an individual victim, the Justice Department noted.



Marti DeLiema

So how might you protect yourself and your loved ones from falling victim to elder fraud?

You too could become a victim. According to recent research, there is no single reliable predictor of fraud victimization. "More financially literate and educated adults are not necessarily immune to financial fraud," wrote the authors of "Exploring the Risks and Consequences of Elder Fraud Victimization: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study."

Talk with family members

Adults should engage family members in a conversation about financial goals/retirement objectives early in the life course — while they are their late 60s and early 70s — before there are changes in processing and decision-making, says Marti DeLiema, a postdoctoral scholar at the Stanford Center on Longevity in the Financial Security Di-



Senior citizens write their wills at a center that offers free legal aid in Beijing.
HANNAH GARDNER

vision and co-author of the research paper.

"Adult children should be familiar and comfortable with their parents' financial goals so that they are prepared to take over if the older people cannot make financial decisions independently," she says.

Name joint agents

Instead of giving one person power of attorney, DeLiema says older adults

should consider naming joint agents. "Both agents must agree on financial actions which makes exploitation more difficult," she says.

Leave your money in your 401(k)

Even after retiring, DeLiema says older adults should keep their money invested in their former employer's 401(k) or 403(b) plan. For one, it reduces liquidity; there's less money for scammers to get their hands on. Plus, she

says, "it is a great option because large employers generally operate these funds on a cost basis rather than a for-profit basis which keeps fees low."

Opt out of credit card solicitations

DeLiema also recommends opting out of credit card solicitation marketing lists run by the major credit reporting bureaus. You can do this by calling 1-888-567-8688 or by visiting www.optoutprescreen.com. You can also remove names and addresses from mailing lists at <http://www.dmachoice.org>.

Check the security features on your financial accounts

Always activate security features on your financial accounts. This means, says DeLiema, selecting to receive fraud alerts and using two-step authentication to access the accounts online.

File a complaint

Elder fraud complaints may be filed with the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov or at 1-877-382-4357.

General fraud-safety tips

■ Never send money in advance to claim a sweepstakes, prize or lottery winnings.

■ Hang up if you don't recognize the caller.

■ Keep track of when you last paid to renew a membership or made a donation. Don't be fooled into thinking it's time to donate or renew again.

■ Learn to spot a counterfeit check.

■ Throw away promotional mail.

■ Don't "confirm" or "verify" personal information with callers.

■ Don't send or wire money to people you have never met in person.

Robert Powell contributes regularly to USA TODAY, TheStreet, and The Wall Street Journal. Got questions about money? Email Bob at rpowell@all-thingsretirement.com.

REVIEW

2018 Porsche 911 GT3:
Drive it like you stole it

The GT3, the wonderfully unruly cousin of the 911, can go zero to 60 in a neck-snapping 3.2 seconds. PORSCHE

Beaut will remind you why you fell in love with cars

Marco della Cava
USA TODAY

NICASIO, Calif. — Were it not for a wife, kids and moral compass, this review might have been written from some badlands hideout south of the border, my trusty 2018 Porsche 911 GT3 doubling as both escape vehicle and cramped hotel room.

Instead, I dutifully handed back the crest-embazoned keys and resigned myself to a life devoid of wicked acceleration, metallic aural symphonies and the jacked feeling that you're driving the baddest car on the road.

You've no doubt heard of the iconic Porsche 911, a two-door sports car born in 1964 that, shrugging off five decades of design evolution, basically looks the same now as it did in 1964.

Those Germans are either stubborn or know a good thing when they see one.

Likely both.

These days, the 911 — a car that in late '70s Turbo guise routinely threatened to kill its drivers thanks to a lively and heavy rear end — has been tamed. It's now a stately grand touring machine that, for around \$100,000, will do 100 mph all day long while soothing you with classical music, plush seats and adaptive suspension.

And then there's the 911 GT3, its wonderfully unruly cousin. This iteration of Porsche's legend amounts to a racing car with a hall pass to terrorize the streets of Anytown USA, capable of hitting 60 mph in a neck-snapping 3.2 seconds and boasting a top speed of 197 mph.

Back after a three-year hiatus and a bit of controversy when the 2014 version suffered engine recall issues, the new GT3 is priced at around \$50,000 more than a standard 911 and offers more power and perks than its predecessor.

It certainly looks the menacing part with its lowered ride height (scrapping the front spoiler is almost guaranteed without the optional front axle lift system at

\$2,590) and airplane-worthy wing (larger and taller than last year's model so as to generate more downforce).

But better yet, the GT3 sounds every bit like you made the wrong turn off the Mulanne Straight at Le Mans and somehow wound up in the drive-through at Starbucks. Its flat-six cylinder naturally-aspirated engine (look Ma, no turbos!) generates 500 horses that run free up to a staggering 9,000-rpm tachometer redline.

Needless to say, a car as potent as the GT3 skirts a fine line between being fun and downright dangerous.

In a few days of hard driving on winding and often wet roads in bucolic west Marin County just north of San Francisco, our nicely if modestly equipped \$147,910 Carrara (no carbon ceramic brakes for \$9,210, no carbon full bucket seats at \$5,200) did its best to showcase what a half-century of refining one product can produce.

The car also scared the wits out of us on a few blind hairpin turns slick with damp leaves. Without proper heat in the

2018 Porsche 911 GT3

What: The German automaker's race-ready variant of its timeless 911 coupe

When: Available now, but in short supply at dealerships

Where: Made in Germany

What makes it go: A 4-liter flat-six cylinder making 500 hp, 25 hp more than last model

How thirsty: 15 mpg city, 20 mpg highway

How big: 15 feet long

How much: Starts at \$143,600, plus destination and delivery of \$1,050 and gas-guzzler tax of \$1,000. Price as tested of \$147,910, which includes heated front seats (\$700) and auto-dimming mirrors (\$700). Porsche says most folks load up on options such as carbon brakes and seats that can add as much as \$20,000 to the final tally.

Overall: A collectible 911 for the ages (but get the stick).

Michelin rubber, the grip wasn't ideal, and the track-tuned suspension wasn't happy with potholes. But the end result was a James Bond-like thrill ride that left one both shaken and profoundly stirred.

In fact, with a modicum of driving skill and common sense, an automobile like the 911 GT3 reminds you why you fell in love with cars and driving in the first place. It offers an undeniable and overpowering sense of presence and demands that attention be paid.

The GT3 is not for everyone. If you truly want to hear music or a companion's voice, opt out. Ditto if you're not keen to cross every driveway at a 45-degree angle for fear of scraping delicate carbon fiber parts.

The standard Porsche 911 is, somewhat comically, a family car, as it can fit small children in the back seats. Not so with the GT3, which doesn't offer rear seating.

Nor is the GT3 a daily driver, as it's just too unruly to be a bragging rights steed you'd pop over to the office in. It is, however, a car for a daily pick-me-up, one that delivers a truly special thrill in an increasingly commoditized transportation world.



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LO-080000794-01



Alex Sergio (front left) and Jim Calkin (front right) react to a last-second shot during the opening round of the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament. ED WRIGHT

March Madness a slam dunk for fans, sports bars

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Less than two hours into the 2018 NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament — better known as March Madness to the hoops-loving masses — a seismic roar of approval shook the Buffalo Wild Wings sports bar in Canton early March 15.

The catalyst was not a buzzer-beating basket by a player wearing maize and blue or green and white, rather a dagger-like 3-point overtime shot by a smallish point guard donning the baby-blue threads of Rhode Island — yes, Rhode Island.

"That's the beauty of March Madness," Canton resident Alex Sergio said, gesturing toward the throng of adrenaline-fueled patrons seated around him. "Just about everybody fills out a bracket, so every game means something, even if the local teams aren't playing."

"I love the atmosphere. It's a lot like going to church, in that you're sitting in a room full of people, most of whom you don't know, and you're all there for the same purpose. If someone at the table next to you yells for Rhode Island, you're, like, 'Yeah, Rhode Island!'"

According to bleacherreport.com, an estimated 70 million brackets were filled out prior to last year's tournament.

And while Sergio doesn't place any money on his brackets, many people do.

Darren Rovell, a sports business analyst for ESPN, reported that approximately \$10.4 billion was wagered on last year's tournament — almost identical to the net profit for Ford Motor Co. in 2016.

"The culture of college basketball has a special appeal, especially when it gets to the tournament," Buffalo Wild Wings general manager Scott Fysh said. "No. 1 is people love to follow their bracket, but it also seems like a lot of games come down to the wire, which creates excitement. There are usually a couple Cinderella stories, too, and it's something people like to watch in large groups."

Fysh estimated that day his restaurant would do double the business for a typical Thursday.

"A couple minutes ago, I was behind the bar doing dishes and there was a huge roar; people were going crazy because a team made a basket to make the score 55-50," he said. "The closer to the end of the games, the more intense it gets in here."

When it comes to Cinderella stories, Canton resident Sarah Messer is putting her faith in an underdog that would require an extra-large glass slipper.

"I filled out two brackets," she said. "On my 'real' bracket, I have Villanova going all the way. In my other bracket, I have my alma mater, Lipscomb University, winning it all. They never made the tournament before and they're playing North Carolina in the first round, but you never know."

Canton resident Steve Kays admitted he only fills out one bracket each year. In 2007, he successfully picked all of the Final Four teams and the eventual winner.

Other than opening day for the Detroit Tigers, the first Thursday and Friday of the NCAA tournament rank among the top days that employees give their bosses, um, unique excuses for missing work, according to dish.com. Among the most creative: "I missed my carpool ride" and "I have to take my dog to the vet."

A staggering \$1.3 billion is lost hourly by corporations during the first two days of March Madness due to the time employees spend filling out brackets and time spent away from work, CNBC.com reported.

"I heard on the radio earlier this week that the Wednesday before the tournament is the No. 1 day of the year men schedule vasectomies, so that they can get a doctor's note to miss work on Thursday and Friday," Fysh said with a chuckle.



Staff members of the Canton-based Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant pose for a "team" photo during a quick break during their hectic shift March 15. ED WRIGHT

It's not the potential monetary winnings that draw local pastor Drex Morton to the annual hardwood drama.

"The aspect of March Madness I like best," Morton

said, "is that it gets my mind off the rigors of Lent."

Contact Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com.

Obituaries

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

Patricia Ann Ruggles

SURPRISE, AZ - Patricia Ann Ruggles, age 86 of Surprise, Arizona and formerly of Howell, passed away on March 14, 2018. Pat was born April 14, 1931 to the late Delor John and the late Mary "May" (Nau) Markel. She married Elmore R. Ruggles on September 30, 1950. He preceded her in death on May 30, 1983. Pat worked at the Byron Road Medical Clinic in Howell for nearly 30 years before retiring to Arizona. While in Arizona she continued her career along with becoming a world traveler. Pat's adventurous spirit led her to more than a dozen countries. Among her adventures she para-sailed and took up roller blading at the age of 70. She is survived by her sister, Delores Pudduck of White Lake Township; her children, Sharon Ruggles (Dennis Moffitt), Carol (Chuck) Caverly, Robert Ruggles and Rick Ruggles (former spouse, Jaci Ruggles). Grandchildren, Roy (Jessica) Caverly, Ryan (Saima) Caverly, Conor (Shelby) Ruggles and Alaina Bishop; great grandchildren, Kylie Caverly, Landon Caverly and Avaya Caverly. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Roy Duane Ruggles on May 25, 1972. Services are being held privately by her family. Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com



Richard J. Reichenbach

-- Age 78, passed away March 17, 2018. He was born May 18, 1939 in Sandusky, Ohio, son of the late Charles and Janice Reichenbach. He is survived by his beloved wife, Virginia (Hart) Reichenbach; his children: Heidi (David) Finley, Molly (Douglas) Covert, Suzette (James) Morgan, Phillip (Sonja) Beaudoin, Craig (Lisa) Beaudoin, Teri (Oskar) Holzinger, Cynthia (Dennis) Inman, Noreen (Steven) Schneider, Kathleen Stuby, and Susan Rynkiewicz. Richard is also survived by his grandchildren: Anna, Erik, Giovanna, Francesca, Steven, Caitlyn, Mark, Nate, Allison, Alex, Megan, Andrew, Alex, Nathan, Ellie, Claire, Charlotte, Evie and one great-grandchild Cael. He was preceded in death by his parents; his former spouse, Rosalyn Beaudoin; and his brother, Dean. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 21, from 4:00PM-9:00PM with Scripture prayers at 7:00PM at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, March 22 at 11:00AM instate 10:30AM at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon. Richard will be laid to rest in South Lyon Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Active Faith Community Services or American Cancer Society. www.phillipsfuneral.com



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Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Assoc. Pastor: Randy Weeks
Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com
• Email: fbcsouthlyon@bcbglobal.net

St. Joseph Parish
Regular Mass Schedule:
Saturday 5:00 P.M.
Sunday 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., 12:00 Noon
Confessions: Saturday 3:30 P.M.
Phone: 248-446-8700
Web Address: www.saintjosephsouthlyon.org
830 South Lafayette

Novi

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All Classes 9:00
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www.faithcommunity-novi.org
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www.oakpointe.org

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Sunday School @ 11 am
Wednesday mid-week programs
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South Lyon MI 48178
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Parish Office: 347-7778

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(In Brookdale Shopping Center,
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Reed Heckmann, Campus Pastor
Jay Currie, Next Generation Pastor
www.cbcsouthlyon.net

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Fr. James Houbbeck, Associate
Parish Office: 248-348-8847 www.holyfamilynovi.org

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How to get the best severance package

 BY KATE LOPAZE
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

So ... it happened. You've gotten the bad news that you're fired, or laid off. It may feel like the world is ending — or you may just feel shock. Whatever you're feeling, the fact remains the same: You're leaving your job, and not by your own choice. While you do need to embrace that reality, you don't necessarily have to take the severance package that was initially offered to you.

When the worst happens, take these considerations into account to see if you can improve your severance:

Talk to a lawyer

An employment attorney can help you navigate the waters after you've been terminated, particularly if you feel like you were fired without proper cause or you were marched out of the office quickly without the chance to take stock of the situation. This doesn't mean "sue the bastards," but it does mean you should get a professional's advice on whether you do have grounds for a potential suit. An attorney can also help you figure out if you have any wiggle room for negotiation.

Negotiate yourself

Even if you do have an

attorney, it's usually the best course to do the negotiating yourself (unless you are likely to file a lawsuit — then it's best to have your attorney either present or speaking on your behalf). Having someone negotiate for you can escalate the tension, so be careful to keep the tone civil if you're hoping to get a better deal.

Ask for more

At this point, you have little to lose, so you should request a higher severance payment. You should definitely be real-

istic — the payment is unlikely to double or triple from an initial offer, but you may be able to negotiate a lump sum payment versus continued salary or an increase in the total payment.

Nail down insurance information

One of the trickiest parts of unemployment can be insurance coverage, especially if you're used to having solid coverage through your job. The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act

of 1995 (COBRA) means you can likely continue your insurance coverage for up to 18 months, but at your own expense. If coverage is a concern, this is a point to raise with the company. You may be able to get the company to keep paying for your insurance for a period of time after you leave.

Ask about unused benefits

Some companies may offer a check in exchange for unused vacation or personal

time, so be sure to see what's on the table and fully understand what your company's policies are on that front.

Be clear on what's in the severance agreement

Always, always, always read the fine print. Some severance agreements contain "noncompete" language, which limits your ability to go work for a competitive company. Others contain a nondisparagement clause, which means you may have to forfeit your total severance package if you're busted saying anything negative about the company after you leave (even if it's true). Make sure you understand what the conditions are if you accept the severance package.

Once you get the bad news, the important thing is: Don't panic. Or if you do panic, try to get it out of your system and then settle in for the next phase of talking through the logistics of your leaving. Just like negotiating a salary, you may have the chance to improve your package — if you ask for it.

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



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ACROSS

1 Cut, as film
5 "— I lie?"
10 Grows dim
15 Opera parts
19 Major—
(butler)
20 Region of old
Greece
21 Fictional
belle Scarlett
22 Tales of old
23 One stealing
a serpent?
25 Houses, to
Hernando
26 Came to rest
27 Aid in
antiquing
28 Escort a wild
canine?
31 Slender, like
stags tend to
be?
35 Suit jacket
36 35mm
camera inits.
37 Wimple
wearers
38 King Kong
and others
39 Caucus state
42 "Capeesh?"
44 Golf prop
45 Glass rims
46 Grizzly who's
a country
music star?
48 Battery part
49 Vital artery
50 Norse deity
51 Of the eyes

DOWN

54 Verdi opera
56 Vim
58 Terminate
62 Choice
between
an impish
practical
joke and an
aquarium
fish?
66 Boomer's
son, say
68 Sequoia, e.g.
69 Gobbling
fowl
70 Show open
disdain for
72 Neighbor of
Kenya
75 Butyl ender
76 Feline sign
78 Young
sheep from
an ancient
Palestinian
region?
80 Varnish stuff
83 Antelope of
Africa
85 Went lower
86 French
novelist Jules
87 Octa- plus
two
89 Belie
92 \$5 bills,
informally
94 Pinniped
pedestrian?
98 Certain Fed
99 K-12 org.
102 Mrs. monster

ACROSS

103 Make at work
104 Singer Andy
105 Outward
appearance
106 — hunch
107 Tiny, to tots
109 Steed
native to
the Garden
State?
112 The absolute
best
117 Thus
burrowing
rodent?
116 "I smell —!"
(This is
fishy!)
117 Thus
118 Gymnast
Comaneci
119 Gratitude
expressed
by a chatty
bird?
124 Retail (for)
125 Wicked
things
126 Innately
know
127 — Tzu (dog)
128 Sequoia, e.g.
129 Chief belief
130 Trample
131 Totally fill

DOWN

1 Mag staffers
2 Phil who had
a talk show
3 Conceive of
4 Coin
substitutes

ACROSS

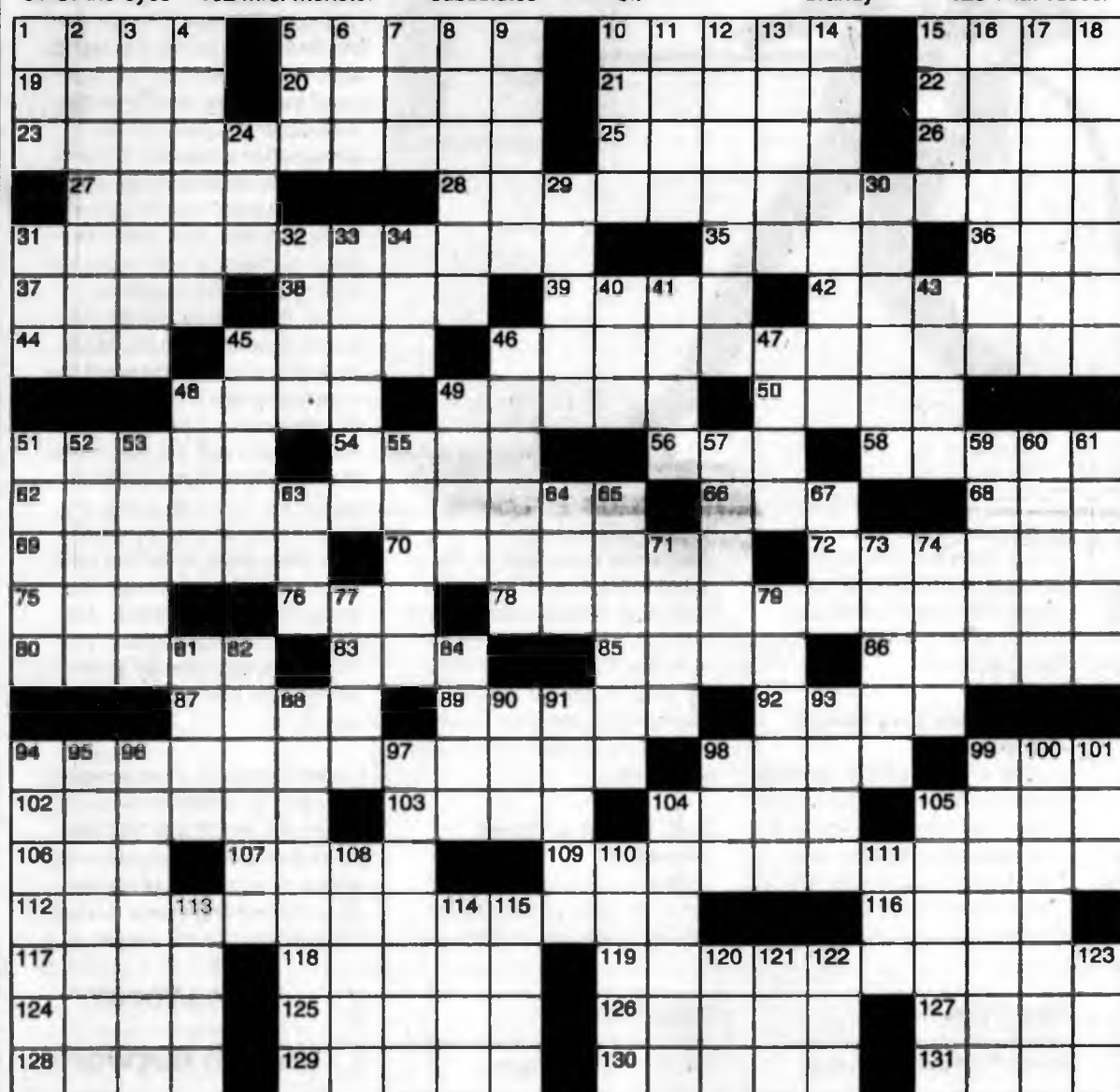
5 Jokerster
6 "Nice one!"
7 Octa- minus
seven
8 Feudal
superiors
9 "Platoon"
actor Willem
10 Points where
rays meet
11 At the drop
of —
12 Windshield-
attached
recorder
13 Muse of
hymns
14 Glided down
the runway
15 "There
oughta be
—!"
16 Huge
statues
17 Singer doing
a vocal
quaver
18 Emancipate
24 Time period
of interest
29 More twisted,
as humor
30 Running
shoe brand
31 Blasting
material
32 Go by sea
33 Materialize
34 — Moines,
Iowa
40 Granola bar
bit

ACROSS

41 End a shoot
43 — Reader
(magazine)
45 "Willard"
actress
Sondra
46 Moored ship
used as
lodging
47 Get by
48 Opt for
49 Yemen port
51 Ferret cousin
52 Pare down
53 Car's four
55 "Let's do this
thing!"
57 Praise highly
59 Seven-Emmy
Ed
60 Neighbor of
Ethiopia
61 Get by
63 Popeye's
Olive
64 Stephen of
"Still Crazy"
65 Amount
that can be
carried
67 Hairpiece,
slangily
71 Help in a bad
deed
73 Accepted
fact
74 Toby brews
77 The same, to
Henri
79 Served
in blazing
brandy

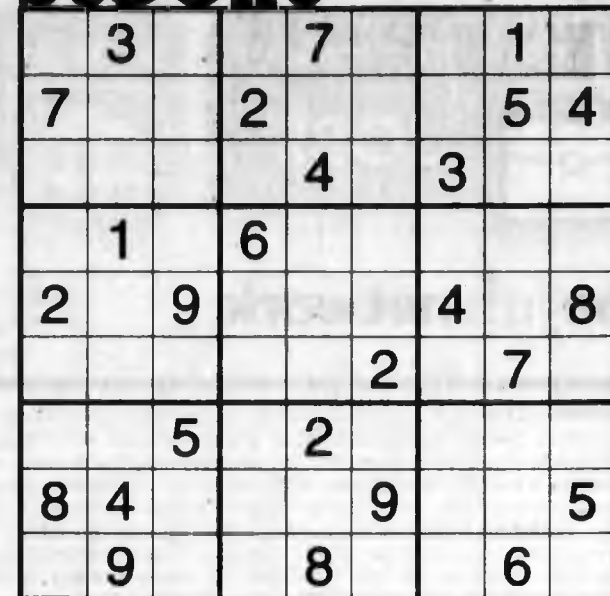
ACROSS

81 Notion, to
Henri
82 Reporter,
colloquially
84 — Major
88 Musical
clicker
90 Always, in
sonnets
91 Bluegrass
instrument
93 Wee toddler
94 Most quickly
95 Cold-
shoulder
giver
96 Make dirty
by trailing
through mud
97 Entered, as
data
98 Mil. enlistees
99 Nasty fish
100 Diagnostic
package
101 Hex- follower
104 Less cheery,
to a Brit
105 Boggy tract
108 Barrel slat
110 "Nightmare"
film setting:
Abbr.
111 "So there!"
113 Part in a play
114 Really peeve
115 Gigantic
120 Rome-to-
Vienna dir.
121 Slow — snail
122 Politico Cruz
123 That vessel



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!

CRAFTY WORD SEARCH

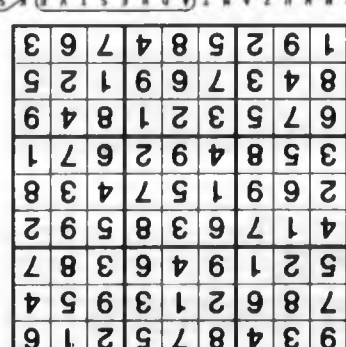
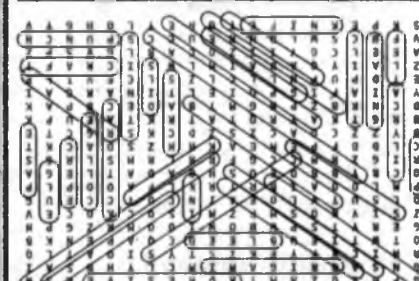
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O T W T I E U B L E E D C Q A P E N K B
G E R Y T S P W B O W I O O M R Z G P H
Z S I Y K O S M F Z M I S O C K O C E V
D L S U T V L O E A I N C O T C C E U G
P M L O Q A I B R T R K L F A O O P L P
O C B Y B B O E U S H O A D A T L E G A
R I G Z H M C C G F R R L R M S L R G S
C L D B F P E M E A K H H Z S D A C K T
D Y Z Z C G A C Z S Z D C K S R G C T E
B R G T K A Y R Q T A T R K T A E U P K
D C N R B Z P B G M T B A O E C B P A K
Y A I A F I G P Q I E L T I N A R G A I
E T D P U P N L L C L Z S L C F V I L P
Z L A I Y Q A D A I M L W S I C R A F T
A E E L C G Y I I Z Q C A B L G V S P Z
V F B C S M L D N N E U C S P U N C H
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WHAT'S A BUICK? BRAND WANTS TO LEAD WITH ITS ENVISION SUV, OTHER VEHICLES, AS IT PLANS TO LEAVE NAME OFF FUTURE MODELS



By Dale Buss

Say this for Mary Barra, General Motors' CEO: She keeps shaking things up. And letting her lieutenants shake things up.

The latest examples, of all things, are what is happening to Buick's logo, and how GM is expanding its ride-sharing trials through Maven.

Now consumers who really believe "That's Not a Buick," in line with the brand's long-running marketing campaign, may have a point: Buicks won't say "Buick" on them for much longer.

GM's fabled near-luxury marque will remove its brand name from its 2019 model-year vehicle line, the Detroit News reported, starting with the refreshed, China-manufactured Envision crossover this spring.

What will remain is the Buick tri-shield logo without the name, both on the front grille and on the back of each vehicle.

Buick is counting on research that it conducted at the beginning of 2017 that established 73% of those surveyed were able to connect that logo with the Buick brand without the wordmark or lock-up version of the logo and name to jog their memory, the report said.

GM may feel reassured by what happened when it toyed with the Cadillac logo several years ago, removing the iconic laurel branches that surrounded the Cadillac shield. Consumers accepted it fine.



Envision's panoramic sunroof is a key feature.

Now it's Buick's turn to refresh its visual identity. The brand would like to continue to distance itself from its traditional identification as the vehicle of choice for the over-50 crowd by modernizing its look to appeal to millennials and newcomers to the brand.

As GM has noted, "Nearly 60 percent of all Encore buyers come from outside General Motors. These new-to-Buick customers are increasingly return buyers, with nearly half of them likely to trade in their vehicle to buy another Buick SUV. In addition to attracting new customers to the Buick brand, the 2019 Envision is designed with these existing Encore customers' evolving needs and preferences in mind."

"The Envision's exterior has a sculpted front fascia, new grille and headlamps that align with the new face of Buick. Crisp horizontal lines on the front create a more premium look and feel, while redesigned

taillamps, reflectors and side markers give the back end a wider and more athletic stance. New optional 19-inch wheels provide an expressive and distinct profile.

A new pricing approach is revealing: "All trim levels have been adjusted toward the heart of the premium compact SUV market, further positioning the Envision to capture the interest of loyal Buick owners looking to move up to the next-sized compact SUV and conquest buyers who are considering Buick for the first time."

"The Envision brings a tremendous growth opportunity for the Buick brand," noted Sam Russell, Buick marketing director. "The new pricing strategy not only puts the Envision in the heart of the industry's largest segment, but also better positions it in relation to Encore, our top-selling nameplate."

In recent years Buick has introduced a number of SUVs and crossovers in a bid to appeal to millennials and

to escape that identification, even as it has dramatically overhauled and slimmed down its sedan lineup.

With Super Bowl spots, celebrities such as Miranda Kerr and attractive vehicles ranging from its well-received SUVs to a new convertible, "That's Not a Buick" certainly helped in recent years as the brand survived the remake of GM's brand architecture post-recession and became a dependable player in the company's U.S. lineup.

So far this year, in what is a down year overall for the U.S. light-vehicle market, Buick sales have declined by only about 4%, compared with declines of more than 7% for GMC and nearly 14% for Chevrolet, and a 7% boost for Cadillac.

The brand also is trying to build up its Avenir trim line in its vehicles as an important premium sub-brand, based on a sleek concept vehicle that Buick introduced three years ago. The move basically mimics what GM

has been able to accomplish already with the Denali high-end trim line for its GMC trucks and SUVs; GMCs typically are sold alongside Buicks in US showrooms.

Buick also has become GM's best-selling brand in China—where its cars also don't say Buick—selling 1.18 million vehicles there last year.

In the meantime, GM also General Motors also keeps pushing the envelope in ride-sharing, expanding its Maven service to Austin and Toronto and now, reportedly, launching an Airbnb-style service that will enable car owners to rent out their vehicles when they aren't using them.

Bloomberg reported that GM plans to start a pilot program this summer through Maven that will allow car owners to put their vehicles on Maven's digital platform for other drivers to rent and then share revenue with the automaker. To date, Maven has only rented GM-owned vehicles.



The 2018 Buick Envision has the brand performing well in an important SUV segment.

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do it ALL from A-Z! 517-579-2914

Home Maintenance

Wes's Home & Yard Maintenance
for Free Estimates, call 810-347-3995

Lawn & Garden Care

Aaron's Ace Tree Service Climbing
Expert, Insured. 517-376-0159

Painting

Painting By Robert • Wallpaper Re-
moval • Interior • Exterior • Staining •
Drywall Repair • Staining • 40 yrs exp
Free Est! 248-349-7499 or 734-464-8147

Plumbing & Heating

POLK'S PLUMBING SERVICE
Special \$45 service fee 248-259-2432

Roofing & Siding

D&R ROOFING
Call Don: 517-376-2644

Community

Announce

announcements, events...

Special Notices

PUBLIC VEHICLE AUCTION
March 26, 2018, 10AM
8035 TOWING
21240 TELEGRAPH RD.
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033
248-354-6011

2008 Chevrolet 2e1w155n04228463
2002 Honda 1hgc956742m17795
2004 Ford 1fmcu95644d04079
1999 Ford 3f0p1132xr101942
2010 Dodge 2b3c3c8wch182998
2004 Chevrolet 1g1u53566760023
2008 Chevrolet 1g1u53566760023
1995 Toyota 1t1a1566m120939
1998 Dodge 1b1h3396w4920001
2003 Ford 1f1r118w92m0743
2010 Buick 1g4c46w491184722
2003 Ford 1f1m1u42623m07100
2003 Chevrolet 1g1m1u42623m07100
2003 Ford 1f1m1u42623m07100
1999 Jeep 1j4f66m9x1565755
2010 Ford 1f1h3396w4920001
2004 Ford 1f1h3396w4920001
2004 Ford 1f1h3396w4920001
2004 Ford 1f1h3396w4920001
1998 Oldsmobile 1g3m1u42623m07100
2001 Pontiac 1g1u53566760023
2001 Ford 3f0p1132xr101942
2008 Ford 2f1m1u42623m07100
2004 Pontiac 2b3c3c8wch182998
1998 Mitsubishi 4c3m1u42623m07100
2013 Kia 5xyl160pca007215
2004 Chevrolet 1g1u53566760023
2011 Chrysler 1c3c409m9m564490
2003 Ford 1f1h3396w4920001
2003 Pontiac 1g1u53566760023
1999 Honda 1h3c3304xm300996

We can
sell it in
CLASSIFIED!

Great Buys

neighborly deals...

Estate Sales

Farmington Hills: 27600 Spring Valley
Dr. Fri-Sun 10a-6p, antiques,
collectibles, china, glass, crystal,
furn., tvs, stereos, kitchen ware,
appliances, office & BR furn., sofas,
carpets, wall art, holiday decor,
freedmill, sewing mach., lawn &
garden items & much more!

ESTATE SALE

LIVONIA: 30095 Kenwood Cr.
Thur 3/22: 9a-5p, Fri 3/23: 10a, Sat
3/24: 10-3pm Packed house & garage
www.ournextsale.net

Garage-Tag Sale

WESTLAND: Garage @ 8235 Opal Dr.
48183 Fri: 10-4, Sat: 10-4, Household,
Garden, Tools, Tables, Art, Jewelry
Dir: N Creek Estates, E on Visto off
Newburgh, S of Joy

Adopt Me

Pets

find a new friend...

Pet Services

LOW COST VACCINE WELLNESS
RURAL KING
Sun, March 18th, 9:30am-12:30pm.
DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51. Rabies.
3 yr \$17. Heartworm Test \$19.
Must bring ad.
Questions: 313.686.5701

LOW COST VET VACCINE

WELLNESS CLINIC
Highland Feed & Supply
217 E. Livingston Rd.
Sat March 17th, 10am-1pm
DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51, 3 year
Rabies \$17. Heartworm Test \$19
MUST BRING AD. Skin, Ear &
Eye exams avail. 313-486-5701

LOW COST VET VACCINE

WELLNESS CLINIC
The Wild Indoor Pets Supply
Pinckney, MI
9546-954 Chilton Rd Circle
Wed March 28th 3pm-4pm
DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51, 3 year
Rabies \$17. Heartworm Test \$19
MUST BRING AD. Skin, Ear &
Eye exams avail. 313-486-5701

Assorted

Items

all kinds of things...

Cemetery Lots

Parkview Memorial Cemetery in
Livonia, 1 burial plot in Masonic
Section. 248-996-5357

Novena

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SPRUCE TREES- Spring Special!
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Commercial

opportunities, lease, invest...

Commercial

Industrial Lease

SOUTH LYON: For Lease, Office/
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great place to live...

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(248) 760-9749 denisekulak@gmail.com

Homes-Rent

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BR brick ranch in excellent area
C/A, crpt, bsmly, 1255 Ford Rd area
Nr. shops no pets \$700 734-991-9163

Transportation

Wheels

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M&W: \$5 Cash for salvage & scrap ve-
hicles. Free towing. Call 734-225-5561

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Highest \$\$\$ Paid.
Free friendly towing!
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Batteries wanted too.
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Everything you need to
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Serta Majestic Sleep Firm
Twin Mattress with
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\$899

Availability subject to prior sale. HURRY Sale Ends Soon.



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F-150

ECOSPORT

NEW 2018 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW SXT 4X4

• 2.7 V6, EcoBoost

• MSRP \$46,390



NEW 2018 FORD ECOSPORT SE FWD

• 1.0L EcoBoost

• MSRP \$23,900



\$140 A MONTH*

*24 Months, plus tax. A Plan, 10,000 miles per year with F-150. MSRP plus \$2,499 due at signing. Dealer fee. Plus tax, title, license, acquisition fees. Residual security deposit. Expires 03-31-18.

\$160 A MONTH*

*24 Months, plus tax. A Plan, 10,000 miles per year with EcoSport. MSRP plus \$2,499 due at signing. Dealer fee. Plus tax, title, license, acquisition fees. Residual security deposit. Expires 03-31-18.

FUSION

ESCAPE

NEW 2018 FORD FUSION SE FWD

• Reverser Sensor, Sync

• 200A Pkg

• MSRP \$23,390



NEW 2018 FORD ESCAPE SE FWD

• 1.5L EcoBoost

• 200A Pkg

• MSRP \$28,600



\$104 A MONTH*

*24 Months, plus tax. A Plan, 10,000 miles per year with Fusion. MSRP plus \$2,499 due at signing. Dealer fee. Plus tax, title, license, acquisition fees. Residual security deposit. Expires 03-31-18.

\$140 A MONTH*

*24 Months, plus tax. A Plan, 10,000 miles per year with Escape. MSRP plus \$2,499 due at signing. Dealer fee. Plus tax, title, license, acquisition fees. Residual security deposit. Expires 03-31-18.

EDGE

EXPLORER

NEW 2018 FORD EDGE SE FWD

• 2.0L EcoBoost, 100A Pkg

• 200A Pkg

• MSRP \$30,317



NEW 2018 FORD EXPLORER XLT FWD

• 2.0L V6

• 200A Pkg

• MSRP \$36,015



\$174 A MONTH*

*24 Months, plus tax. A Plan, 10,000 miles per year with Edge. MSRP plus \$2,499 due at signing. Dealer fee. Plus tax, title, license, acquisition fees. Residual security deposit. Expires 03-31-18.

\$196 A MONTH*

*24 Months, plus tax. A Plan, 10,000 miles per year with Explorer. MSRP plus \$2,499 due at signing. Dealer fee. Plus tax, title, license, acquisition fees. Residual security deposit. Expires 03-31-18.

TAURUS

FLEX

NEW 2018 FORD TAURUS SE FWD

• 2.0L V6

• 100A Pkg

• MSRP \$28,500



NEW 2018 FORD FLEX SEL

• 3.5L V6, Power Liftgate

• MSRP \$37,250



\$181 A MONTH*

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\$253 A MONTH*

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