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NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Kroger makeover ushers in new era

Shoppers can use new Scan, Bag, Go technology

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Kroger Co. is rolling out a \$3.5 million makeover of a Northville Township store that incorporates the grocery chain's latest technology.

The store at 17447 Haggerty Road is

among the first in Michigan to offer Scan, Bag, Go — a new technology that allows customers to use a wireless, handheld, in-store scanner or a special app on their personal devices to scan and bag products as they shop.

When they're done shopping, customers simply proceed to the self-checkout area, make one last scan that

tabulates all they've chosen, pay the balance and go.

"I use it all the time and I love it," store manager Rick Hunley said. "It helps speed up the process for the customer."

It's one more way Kroger is trying to appeal to customers who are short on time.

"Many customers in other states have responded very favorably to this seamless checkout experience, so we're

thrilled to see how our own Michigan customers react," Hunley said.

Northville Township Manager Chip Snider said he believes the technology will be well-received in the community.

"We have a well-educated community that uses technology," he said.

His remarks came before Kroger celebrated the store makeover during an

See KROGER, Page 3A



Jerry Mihelich has a day job, but spends his evenings driving and training horses at Northville Downs. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

And they're off!

Northville Downs needs help to defy long odds for survival

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Angling a baseball-sized magnifying glass over the fine print of a racing form early Friday night, silver-haired Granville Bowling was studying to beat the odds in the enclosed viewing area just a stone's throw from the Northville Downs harness racing track.

A 40-year regular at suburban Detroit horse racing venues, the Kentucky-born resident of Livonia had no intentions of breaking the bank.

"If I win \$20 tonight, fine; if I lose \$20, that's OK, too," he said, his voice dripping with a syrupy southern accent. "I've been coming here since I was 20, because I love the action, I love the hors-

See HORSE RACING, Page 12A

"Fifteen, 20 years ago, this place was packed with people as far as you can see. ... As much as it hurts me to say it, I'd be surprised if this isn't the next one to go."

Granville Bowling
Livonia resident and horse racing enthusiast

Northville resident wins screenwriting contest

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Guided by an internal lens that focuses on life's boundless possibilities, Northville resident Natalie Lomske is making a name for herself in the demanding world of screenwriting.

Undaunted by a rare condition called congenital muscular dystrophy, which has left her unable to walk her entire life, Lomske inspires those who observe her accomplishments and is inspired by her family, friends and project-making peers.

Earlier this year, the 25-year-old graduate of the University of Michigan and Northville High School earned the grand prize in the Project Cinema Michigan screenwriting contest, a competition that attracted fast-rising creators from across the country.

In addition to the \$500 first-place prize — all of which Lomske revealed she will re-invest in her project-development budget — she will see her script, titled "Sheets of Sand," turned into a 10-minute movie that will debut in Traverse City later this summer.

Lomske said the drama that accompanied the news she had won the contest was equal to what she likes to portray in the movies and plays she develops.

"I was on break from my job (at the Fillmore Detroit music venue) when I happened to check my email," she said. "When I saw an email from Project Cinema that I had won, I was shocked, to say the least. It really didn't set in until last week, when I talked to Rich Brauer, who is going to turn my writing into a movie."

Tiptoeing around the film's plot so

See CONTEST, Page 2A

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NORTHVILLE DISTRICT LIBRARY EVENTS

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

App Café: Social Media

When: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 14

Details: What's trending in apps? Bring your tablet or smart phone and enjoy coffee and snacks while we share best social media apps such as Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. Our tech librarian will be on hand to answer questions. Meet other users and share your expertise. Tablet or smart phone required. Register online at northvillelibrary.org or call 248-349-3020.

Make Felt Flower Pins

When: 4:15-5:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 17

17

Details: For ages 9-12. Make a colorful felt flower pin as unique as you. Limit of 30 attendees. Register.

Apple iPad and iPhone with iOS 11

When: 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 17

Details: Learn the ins and outs of Apple iOS 11 operating system. Bring your iPad or iPhone, updated with the latest operating system iOS 11. Register.

Teacup & Mug Birdfeeders

When: 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18

Details: Celebrate Earth Day by up-cycling teacups, mugs and saucers into fantastic birdfeeders — and then make some birdseed to go with it. You can bring your own cup and saucer or use a set provided by the library. This program is open to teens in grades 6-12. Supplies are limited, registration required.

hometownlife.com

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Contest

Continued from Page 1A

as not to spoil the movie-goer's experience once the film is released, Lomske said it centers around a young woman with cerebral palsy who manages to break away from a monotonous waitress job thanks to a close bond she develops with a friend.

"The contest required the script to be five to 10 pages long and one page equals approximately one minute of the film," she said. "I love the beauty and nature of the area around Traverse City, so that is where the movie is set."

"Unforgettable" is how the articulate writer describes what she felt the first time her words were transformed into action.

"In high school, I won a play writing contest and my work was made into a play by the Northville drama department," she said. "It was amazing to see something you've put a lot of work into interpreted by other people. It was defi-

Kidz Time

When: 4:30-5:15 p.m. Thursday, April 19

Details: What grows in a garden? Learn about gardens and decorate a clay pot to plant surprise seeds. For grades 1-3. Register online or call.

Foreign Film

When: 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 23

Details: "The Teacher" is a Slovak film about the arrival of a new teacher to a Bratislava suburban school in the year of 1983, where life has turned upside down for students and parents. English subtitles, 103 minutes. Just drop in.

Broadway Trivia Bash

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28

Details: It's the ultimate battle of the Broadway fans. Compete in teams to answer trivia questions and quote or even sing lyrics to your favorite musicals for glory and prizes, followed by a sing-along with songs from "Hamilton," "Wicked," "Rent," "The Heathers" and

more. Register.

Drop-In Morning Storytime

When: 10:15-10:45 a.m. each Thursday through May 3

Details: Storytime fun for toddlers and preschoolers. These half-hour programs do not require registration — just drop in. All ages welcome to attend.

One-on-one tech help

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

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

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.

"I was on break from my job (at the Fillmore Detroit music venue) when I happened to check my email. When I saw an email from Project Cinema that I had won, I was shocked, to say the least. It really didn't set in until last week, when I talked to Rich Brauer, who is going to turn my writing into a movie."

Natalie Lomske
Northville screenwriter

nately a thrill see the words turn into visuals."

Lomske's ultimate ambitions include moving to Los Angeles or New York and writing either screenplays or scripts for television shows. She is currently working on a TV pilot she hopes to pitch to producers in the not-too-distant future.

The ambition-fueled go-getter said she won't let her confinement to a wheelchair hold her back.

"Living with my condition, I just have to double- and triple-plan things," she said. "I lived in New York City for a while and I did just fine. It just depends on how bad you want something and how hard you're willing to work."

Lomske shared that she was fortunate to grow up in Northville, which offered a thriving atmosphere for drama and theater lovers like herself.

"I've always liked drama and the choir and Northville High School is big on the arts," she said. "I was lucky to have some very good teachers, too, helping me along the way."

What advice would Lomske share with aspiring young screenwriters?

"Try to write at least every other day, if not every day," she said. "Also, observe your surroundings. Observe how people act and how they speak. Starting when I was in middle school, if one of my friends or family would say something clever, I'd write it down."

Contact Ed Wright at edwright@gannett.com or 517-375-1113.



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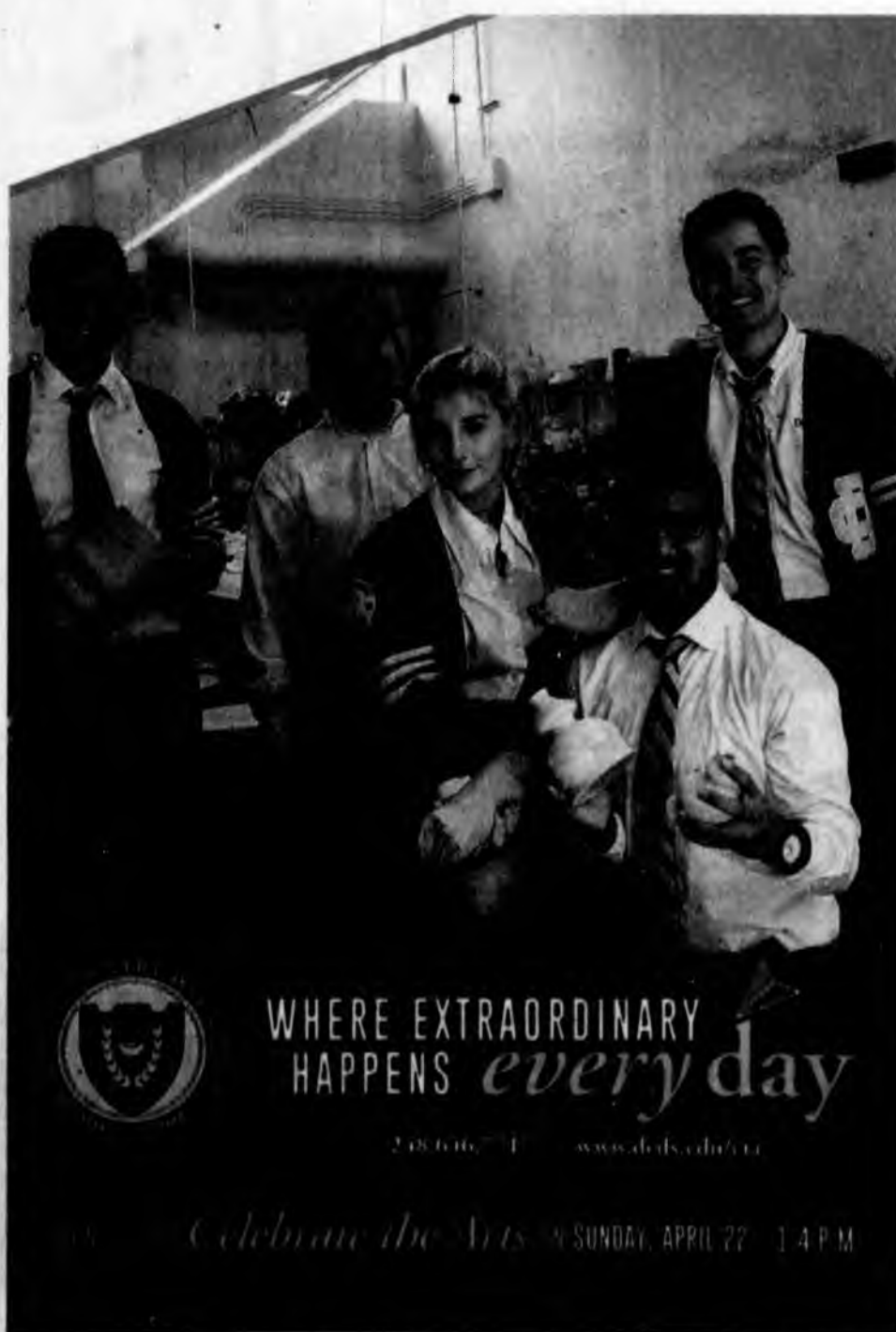
Independent Living

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

Here is a schedule of upcoming American Red Cross blood drives in the area. Donors can call 800-REDCROSS to make an appointment. For more information, go to redcrossblood.org.

Here is a schedule of upcoming American Red Cross blood drives in the area.

Thursday, April 26
Ridge Wood Elementary, 49774 Six Mile Road, Northville, 1:30-7:30 p.m.



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First Step hires new executive director

First Step, a nonprofit serving domestic violence and sexual assault survivors in Wayne County for 40 years with headquarters at 44567 Pinetree Drive, in Plymouth Township, has announced the selection of Lori Kitchen-Buschel as executive director. First Step's mission is to eliminate both domestic and sexual violence and to provide comprehensive services to individuals and families impacted by these crimes.

"We are excited to announce and welcome Lori to First Step. We know her



passion and experience will serve this organization and our community well," said Jennifer Hartke, board president.

Kitchen-Buschel has more than a decade of experience in the nonprofit sector in fundraising, program and board development. In her roles, she led education and advocacy campaigns on basic needs, 2-1-1, food access and human trafficking. Kitchen-Buschel has

worked on both sides of philanthropy, managing foundation and federal grant giving and also leading fundraising efforts. Kitchen-Buschel has also worked with numerous nonprofit organizations, coaching them on practical and tangible fundraising initiatives and board engagement, while also championing for nonprofit fundraising to be accessible for marginalized communities. Kitchen-Buschel has special education and expertise with issues affecting women and children and graduated from the Women and Politics institute at Amer-

ican University in Washington, D.C.

"I am excited and honored to serve this essential organization in our community to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and help eradicate this violence from our community," Kitchen-Buschel said.

First Step is having a 40th anniversary celebration Thursday, May 10. Information about this event can be found at <https://www.classy.org/events/-/e135128>.

For more information, go to www.firststep-mi.org.

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

Drop-in volunteer orientation: 1-2 p.m. Sunday, April 15. Interested in volunteering in the gardens or buildings, being a guide or working on our programming and events? Please drop in and hear more about those opportunities and more.

Fairy Garden Tea: 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21. Sold out.

Lecture series: "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald," 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 25. New School Church at Mill Race Village. No fee. Donations accepted.

General info

Website: www.millracenorthville.org

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

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

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

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

Office: The office is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. All other times by appointment only. Call 248-348-1845 or email office@millracenorthville.org.

Kroger

Continued from Page 1A

event April 4. The first 400 shoppers got a \$10 Kroger gift card and a free, reusable shopping bag.

The 64,485-square-foot store will offer food samples and product specials throughout the day. Shoppers also will notice new features such as a gourmet cheese department, bulk dry foods, an enclosed pharmacy consultation room and new self-checkouts.

Rachel Hurst, corporate affairs manager for The Kroger Co. of Michigan, said work inside the store began last October. She said the store remained open during the renovations.

Snider welcomed Kroger's decision to invest \$3.5 million in the Northville Township store. He said the community is a big draw for growing companies because it is prosperous and safe.

"I think first and foremost we're committed to keeping the community safe so that, at all times of the day and night, people can feel confident that they

can shop in a safe environment," Snider said.

Alongside the Scan, Bag, Go program, the store also offers Instacart, Kroger's online ordering service with same-day delivery, and ClickList, which allows customers to order online and pick up their groceries at the store curb.

Hunley said all the options are intended to give customers options and let them "choose how they want to shop."

The store makeover also included installing an energy-efficient LED system for the sales floor lighting and converting refrigerant gas to an eco-friendlier option.

Store hours are 6 a.m. to midnight daily, with the pharmacy open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. each weekday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

The Kroger Co. of Michigan is headquartered in Novi and operates 123 stores, 75 fueling centers, 104 pharmacies and the Michigan Dairy. It employs 19,000 people.

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



The Kroger store on Haggerty Road in Northville Township has received a \$3.5 million makeover. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Inappropriate emails from president cause for concern



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 to the office. 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.

Individuals can, of course, simply block this person from sending them emails, as most email providers make it pretty easy to do so. At the very least, the board should make sure that the president is not in charge of sending out anything important to the membership, because those who choose to block him won't get the association messages.

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, which provides legal representation for condominiums, homeowner associations, individual co-owners and developers. His book "Condo Living 2: The Authoritative Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium" is available at www.momentumbooks.com. He can be reached at 248-644-4433 or rmeisner@meisner-law.com. Go to the firm's blog at meisner-law.com/blog.

Time to prune outdated financial shrubbery



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

There's this belief that you should never throw out any tax information, but that's not the case.

It may not feel like spring, but it is. It also means that the majority of you have already filed your 2017 tax returns. With winter weather in the forecast, this is a great time of year to do a little spring cleaning of your financial records.

I would venture to say that most people have a fear for some reason of destroying financial records. As a result, they end up saving too much and, when they actually need to find something, they can't. Since you had to do some organizing because of tax season, this makes it a great time of year to do a little spring cleaning of those financial records.

From a tax standpoint, it seems people tend to save their tax records since the beginning of time. There's this belief that you should never throw out any tax information, but that's not the case. The way it works from a tax standpoint is, the Internal Revenue Service can audit you up to three years after you file your tax return. That means, if you filed your 2014 tax return by April 15, 2015, the audit period ends April 15, 2018. The one exception to the rule is if the IRS claims fraud, such as you under-reported your income by at least 25 percent. In that case, it can extend the audit period. For the great majority, your tax records before 2013 no longer have to be saved. My general rule is to keep the return itself, but shred all your backup information.

When it comes to retaining items such as brokerage statements and statements from your mutual fund companies, there's no reason to retain every statement. The reality is, most statements today are cumulative and saved by the financial institution; there is no reason for you to save them. Once I receive a statement and review it for accuracy, I shred the old statement. The one exception is, if I were buying an individual stock, I would probably retain the original statement that shows the purchase, so I have something to prove basis if I ever needed it. This is not necessary for mutual fund purchases, because the mutual fund companies keep those records.

I know people who keep their utility

and cable bills for decades. Why? Once you have received a bill and you review it, you can then shred the last statement. There is no reason to save old statements.

Every year, we receive new insurance policies from our auto and homeowners company. When you get a new policy, is there any reason to retain the old one? The answer is no. As far as I'm concerned, less is more. In other words, the less stuff you have, the more organized you will be. When you receive a new homeowners or auto insurance policy, shred the old ones.

There are certain documents that are important to keep long term. For example, your mortgage documents should be retained until you dispose of that mortgage. The same thing applies to wills and trusts. Once you execute a new will or trust, there is no reason to retain the old ones.

In disposing of any of this information, notice I did not say it should be thrown away — it should be shredded. A shredder is a tool that everyone needs. Identity theft is a major issue in today's world, so it's important that whenever you have sensitive financial information that contains such things as account numbers or Social Security numbers, you shred it as opposed to throwing it away.

By pruning out your financial files, not only will you have a file cabinet that is not stuffed to the brim and you don't have to force papers in, but you'll be in the situation that, if you need any financial documents, you'll have no problem finding them. Before the nice weather comes, why not spend a few minutes going through your financial files and pruning them? Just like cleaning out your closets, cleaning out your financial records can be very liberating.

Good luck!

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

Candidates talk guns with standing-room-only crowd

Maria Taylor

Special to Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It was standing room only Saturday at the Novi Public Library as a crowd of about 180 people cheered Democratic candidates at a town hall-style forum for supporting gun control reform as part of their congressional campaigns.

The event was one of more than 100 Town Hall For Our Lives gatherings taking place across the country as a follow-up to the March For Our Lives rallies March 24, calling for tighter gun control in the wake of the Parkland, Fla., school shootings Feb. 14 that left 17 dead.

In attendance in Novi were five Democratic candidates for Michigan's 11th U.S. House District: Tim Greimel, Suneel Gupta, Dan Haberman, Fayrouz Saad and Haley Stevens. Organizer Dana Fortier said all the candidates, including the Republicans and U.S. Rep. Dave Trott (who is not running for reelection), were invited as well. None were present.

"I was disappointed, but I wasn't surprised," Fortier said. "This is just par for the course. I wish they had, because it would have been a more well-rounded discussion."

The five-candidate panel largely agreed in their support for universal background checks for gun sales, red flag legislation that would allow law enforcement to temporarily take guns away from people who they see as a danger to themselves or others and banning bump stocks, which enable semi-automatic rifles to fire faster, similar to machine guns. They also talked about changing the culture around guns, violence and mental health.

Haberman congratulated young people for using "shame" to call for reform. "The leaders of this movement are students, are kids. They are standing up against the folks who are refusing to do their job to protect the people," he said.

Saad said gun violence in America is



A standing-room-only crowd estimated at 180 people turned out for a Town Hall For Our Lives event Saturday at the Novi Public Library. MARIA TAYLOR

a "public health crisis" and called for investment in research and community-based programs "that empower teachers and students ... to have conversations and identify those who might be going down these pathways of violence." When people "started dying disproportionately in car accidents," she said, research was done and laws were passed, mandating seatbelts and banning drunk driving. "No matter how it has hurt the car industry, we've gotten it done," she added. "This is the exact same thing."

Gupta said he believes gun control is compatible with the Second Amendment and that he believes 90 percent of people in America — plus a majority in the district — are in favor of common-sense gun laws.

"Why has nothing been done? There's a three-letter answer: NRA," he said, calling the National Rifle Association

a "lobby group for arms dealers" rather than representing the voices of NRA members. "Far too many people have been murdered for the profit of arms dealers," he said.

Greimel is serving his third term in the state House of Representatives, 29th District, and said he's been the "point person" in the House to oppose "some insane" Republican policies. Currently, Michigan law prohibits the banning of open-carry firearms in public areas like schools and libraries.

"No other country would allow this lawless, Wild West kind of environment to exist," he said. "We need to change the fundamental culture that acts like guns are these great things that should be toted around in society."

Gupta, an engineer and entrepreneur, called for investment in technology. "If you look at any other product — toys for our kids, automobiles — tech-

nology has made them more safe. Technology has made guns more unsafe," he said, citing an app he'd worked on that matched patients with health care providers. "We can do the same thing with mental health. By doing this, we can help remove the stigma and start putting resources back into communities."

None of the candidates agreed with the repeal of the Second Amendment, as former U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens called for in a New York Times op-ed last month. They did, however, feel that the context of the Second Amendment has changed and that gun laws need to be modernized.

"When the Second Amendment was written, guns were not technology," Gupta said. Updates since then mean we need restrictions, "the same way as you can't stand up in here and shout 'fire.'"

During an audience comment period, Jon Cherney of South Lyon, a retired Detroit teacher, noted a "tremendous disconnect" in the way that people from the suburbs think of gun violence.

In areas like Novi, he said, folks think in terms of mass shootings "because that's all we see. We ignore the cities." In reality, he said, gun violence was part of his students' everyday lives.

Haberman agreed, saying that as a middle school student in Detroit's Cass Corridor, he had a gun pulled on him and didn't even think to tell his parents.

Saad said that, as an Arab-American, she was tired of the mentality that "when a white person has a gun, they're mentally ill. When a brown person has a gun, they're a terrorist."

It's a disconnect that Stevens noted, as well. "We absolutely, as a country, need to have a conversation around institutionalized racism and persecuted groups of our community who are maybe misunderstood," she said.

"We know as Michiganders that we can enjoy the sport of rifle hunting, but our kids should not have to go to school afraid. This is not a nuanced topic."

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Schoolcraft asking voters for additional money

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It looks like voters in several school districts in northwest Wayne County and southwest Oakland County will have one more item to vote on come November.

The Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees voted unanimously Wednesday night during its regular meeting to send a Headlee override proposal to voters in the college's district. The proposal would restore the college's millage rate to the original 2.27 mills. Today, it collects 1.7766 mills, meaning the override would increase taxes by 0.4934 mills.

College officials say the override is necessary for the school to keep operating at a high level, especially while combating declining enrollment over the next few years.

"We've gotten to the point where it's such a compelling necessity that you have to do it at this time," said Conway Jeffress, Schoolcraft College's president. "It's not a matter of scheduling an ideal time. The first major election timing you have is the Nov. 6 election. That's the first time you can really do it."

This proposal will essentially raise the millage rate less than the proposal the college floated to voters back in 2015. Voters then were asked for a 0.6-mill increase and ultimately rejected it.

This proposal would restore the college's tax levying to where it was when it was originally set at 2.27 mills. The levied tax rate has dropped as property values went down, though the Headlee Amendment, approved by Michigan voters in 1978, limits how quickly those levied tax rates can increase. Schoolcraft College has not levied the full 2.27-mill amount since 1986-87, the first year it was in effect.

If the override is approved, the college projects it could add more than \$6.2 million in revenue for the school, beginning in 2020. The college said the override proposal, if approved, would cost homeowners who own a \$200,000 home less than \$50 additionally a year.

Voters across the state will head to the polls Nov. 6 for the statewide general

election, which includes voting for governor, attorney general, secretary of state and state legislators.

This proposal sent to voters by Schoolcraft College will most likely see higher voter turnout, which typically comes in off-year elections. The previous proposal was voted on in November 2015, an odd-year election where only some of the municipalities had regularly-scheduled elections. Townships such as Canton and Northville, for instance, only voted on the millage increase put out by the college that year.

The 2015 proposal was ultimately voted down across the district by just more than 1,000 votes.

Jeffress didn't say exactly whether he expected to see a bigger turnout for the millage proposal, but indicated using his body language he would.

"I wouldn't hope for a thing like that," he said light-heartedly with a smile, crossing his fingers.

Schoolcraft College operates its main campus along Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, in Livonia and also operates a satellite campus, the Radcliff Center, just south of Ford Road in Garden City. The taxing district for the college includes the following school districts: Livonia Public Schools, Clarenceville School District, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Garden City Public Schools and Northville Public Schools. Those districts include all or parts of several communities spanning three counties, including Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Canton, Westland, Farmington Hills, Novi and Salem Township.

Trustee Carol Strom said the proposal is one the college is in need of and hoped those who work at and attend the college would work to try to pass the proposal later this year.

"It is imperative that we get everybody who's at all interested in this topic involved in this campaign," she said. "It's absolutely essential we get this passed for the college."

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



Dave Elgin is pictured repairing a power line in the deep woods of Puerto Rico.

Locals help restore power in Puerto Rico

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Throughout his 20-year career as a power-restoring lineman for DTE Energy, Dave Elgin has witnessed some pretty horrendous post-storm damage.

But none of those experiences came close to the widespread devastation the Milford resident saw during a recent 40-day stay in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

A multiple-time volunteer for DTE's mutual assistance program, which offers aid to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico that have been severely impacted by natural disasters, Elgin was emotionally moved by the daily scenarios he encountered.

Hurricane Maria barreled through Puerto Rico last September, leaving few areas unscathed.

"It was a very moving, extremely fulfilling experience, to say the least," said Elgin, who returned home April 3 on a flight that landed at Oakland County International Airport. "Everywhere we'd go, we'd meet people who had been without power for six months. Their gratitude toward us was beyond words."

"One older woman I met said she couldn't wait to take her first warm shower in six months," he added. "I mean, the basic things they went without for that long of time. ... It felt so good to help them."

Highland resident Dave Stoyk, who worked alongside Elgin in Puerto Rico, was overwhelmed by the warmth Puerto Rican residents showed the DTE workers.

"Even though most of those people had nothing to start with, when they saw us pull up and start working on the lines, they'd bring us sandwiches and soda," he said. "We could learn a lot from them."

Typical days for Elgin, Stoyk and their colleagues were long, exhausting and fulfilling.

Staying in a former luxury hotel that had sustained an estimated \$400 million in damage, the DTE workers would wake up at 4:30 a.m., eat breakfast, then head to their trucks, which were shipped down to the island on barges.

"We'd work until around 6 or 6:30 (p.m.), head back to the hotel, eat dinner, go to bed, then get up and do it all over again the next day," Elgin said.

The crews worked seven days a week.

Elgin said he took advantage of an opportunity to speak with his wife, Kathy for at least a few minutes each day, "but, as you can imagine, the WiFi wasn't the best down there."

The brutality of the hurricane was reflected in the path of destruction it left in its wake, Elgin said.

"When you work a site up here after a storm, you can see the lines and the pole that were affected," he said. "In Puerto Rico, the winds were so strong, there were no poles to use as guides."

"Most of the residents' homes were small, poured-concrete structures, so they stayed pretty much intact. But everything else was destroyed. One lady pointed toward a pile of about eight boards scattered next to her house. She said that's all that was left from her laundry room."

The DTE workers had to work around another obstacle they rarely saw in Michigan, Stoyk said.

"The biggest issue for us was the terrain," he said. "We would usually have to work on some kind of steep incline, so during the early going, we had to figure out how we could safely park the trucks. We were, like, 'Are the trucks going to hold?' The longer we were there, the more accustomed we became with the conditions."

"Also, Puerto Rico is basically a tropical forest, so given that it was six months since the hurricane struck, a lot of the wires were overgrown with brush. We spent a lot of time chopping away at the plants and weeds just to get to the wires."

Kathy Elgin was uplifted by the daily conversations she shared with her husband during his time away.

"He always had a joyful, loving story to share about another wonderful person, family or local business that were filling his heart," she said. "He'd have tears in his eyes when people would see their lights come on for the first time in six months."

Coincidentally, Dave Elgin was doing post-Hurricane Irma work in south Florida when Maria swept through Puerto Rico.

"Initially, the trajectory of Maria had it headed toward Miami, so we were, like, 'Oh, no, this area can't take anymore,'" he said. "Then it turned toward Puerto Rico, sparing Florida."

"And then six months later, there I was a little south of where I had just been, assisting people who were in dire need of help."


Elgin said he didn't miss any milestones, such as birthdays or anniversaries, during his time in Puerto Rico.

"But I missed my family and the comforts of home," he said. "My dog is 15 years old, so I was hoping nothing would happen to him while I was gone, because that would have put a lot of stress on my wife. But he's fine."


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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on the following request in regards to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance: To consider a variance request on premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District, on a vacant lot at the northwest corner of Hill Street and the undeveloped portion of Horton Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-22-34-406-018. The applicant is seeking a variance to construct a new residence in the front yard setback along the Horton Street right-of-way. The variance needed along Horton Street is 18 feet from the requirements in Section 15.01.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the variance request. The variance application is available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, local prevailing time. Written comments pertaining to the proposed variance request will also be received at the above address.

DATED: April 12, 2018

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Published: April 12, 2018

Livingston County couple ties the knot at Party City

Jennifer Eberbach Tiner
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A large Mylar balloon in the shape of "Mr. & Mrs." floated above a Livingston County couple's wedding archway at Brighton party supply store Party City.

The seasonal aisle was covered in blue and silver table covers the store sells. They covered up merchandise and transformed it into a more romantic kind of aisle.

For newlyweds Heather and Justin Sietman there was no better venue for their Easter Sunday wedding ceremony than a store full of decorations and party supplies.

"I was in shock when I went in there" and saw how store staff members had transformed the store into a wedding ceremony venue, Heather Sietman said. "He went in the night before to help with the decorations ... and the Party City staff did an amazing job of getting everything ready."

Another life-changing moment happened the same day as their wedding. Justin Sietman was promoted to operations manager of the store, at 8057 Challis Road, where he has worked since 2013.

His boss and the store's general manager Ben Shuh officiated their ceremony.

"(Party City) had decorations, so we said, why not have it there?" Justin, 26, said.

While some people questioned why they wouldn't have their wedding at a more traditional venue, he said they didn't care what other people thought.

"We thought it was an interesting and cool idea," he said.

Their guests liked it after they arrived at the store, Heather Sietman, 27, whose last name was Leland-Dillen before the wedding, said.

"People came and saw the decorations and said it was actually really nice," she said.



Livingston County newlyweds Heather and Justin Sietman walked down the seasonal aisle of a Party City store in Brighton at their Easter Sunday wedding. COURTESY OF PARTY CITY

Party City covered the cost of decorations and other party supplies, including balloons, curtains, table covers, party favors, props, plates and napkins, for the ceremony and a wedding reception that followed at a Holiday Inn Express and Suites across the street from the store.

The company's corporate office also surprised the newlyweds with a \$1,000 nest egg.

The ceremony was the first wedding ever held at a company store, according to spokesperson Brittany Fraser, a vice president of ICR Inc., a communications firm for the company. Party City has more than 850 stores nationwide.

The couple first met in 2014, when

Heather was working the morning shift at McDonald's.

"His mom was working the morning shift as well," she said. "I would compliment his hats, because he always came in with awesome hats."

The couple crossed paths again two years later, when he came into a Wendy's where she was working at the time.

"It was, you look familiar, and then we figured in out," Heather, who now works at a Staples, at 8063 Challis Road, said.

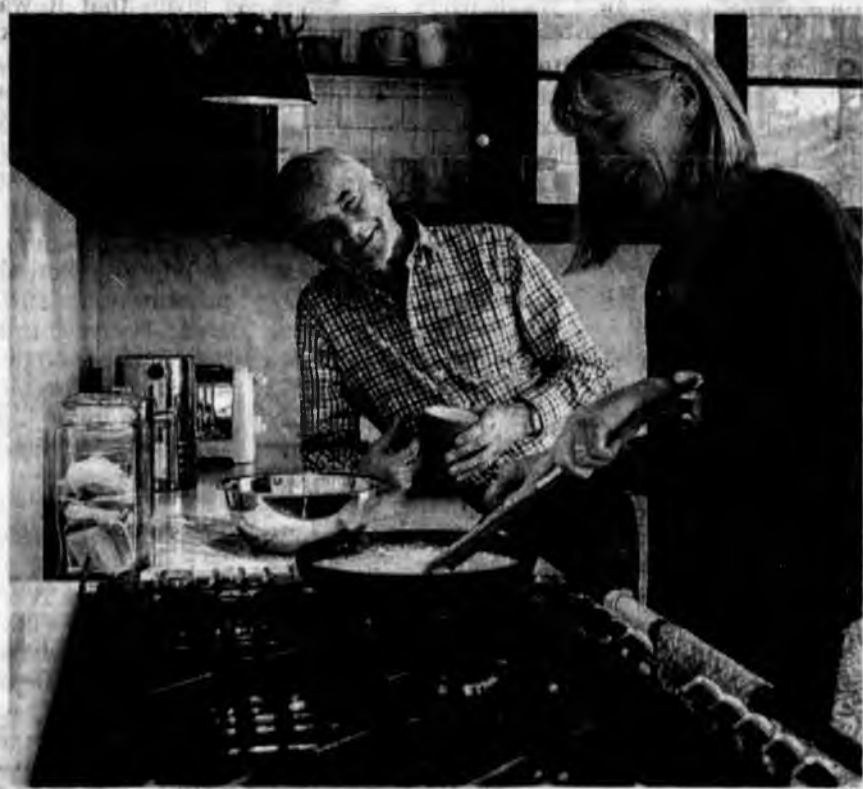
Now that they are hitched, Justin, who lives in Brighton, and Heather, who lives in Howell, are saving up money to get a new home for themselves and her three young children. He plans to work

for Party City for a long time and hopes to continue to move up the ladder.

"I just love the fact we are so close and how we started off as friends, and we can talk to each other about everything. We had that bond grow stronger and stronger," Heather said when asked why she fell in love with Justin.

Justin loves that his wife "is a nerd, like I am," he said. "We are both into video games. ... She's a Batman fan and I'm a Superman fan."

Aside from their shared interests, he loves her "because she understands me on an emotional level as well as a spiritual level."



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AREA EVENTS

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

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.

Church to host author

Diana Butler Bass, author of "Gratitude: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks," will be speaking April 13-15 at Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21355 Meadowbrook Road, in Novi.

Bass will lecture on "The Surprising Shape of Gratitude" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 13. A wine and cheese afterglow will follow. Tickets are \$25 per person. Her new book will be available for purchase and book signing.

She will present two lectures Saturday, April 14. At 9 a.m. she will discuss "Gratitude in Your

Private Life." Her second lecture at 11 a.m. is "Gratitude in Your Public Life." Tickets that include both sessions are \$20. Tickets may be purchased through the church website at mbccc.org. Bass will also preach at Meadowbrook's 10 a.m. service Sunday, April 15.

Runestad to host coffee hours

State Rep. Jim Runestad, R-White Lake, will host coffee hours Friday, April 13, at the following times and locations:

■ 8-9 a.m. at Leo's Conney Island, 6845 Highland Road, White Lake

■ 10-11 a.m. at Colasanti's Market, 468 S. Milford Road, Highland

■ Noon to 1 p.m. at Baker's of Milford, 2025 S. Milford Road

No appointment is necessary. Those unable to attend may contact Runestad at 517-373-2616 or via email at Jim.Runestad@house.mi.gov

Ninja Warrior fundraiser

Ninja Warrior Family Fun Night, a fundraiser for Five Points of Hope, is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at The Edge Training Center, 3285 Martin Road, Suite 101, in Commerce. Cost is \$20 and The Edge is donating 80 percent of all registration fees to Five Points of Hope, which is based in Milford and helps financially strapped Michigan cancer patients pay their bills.

Participants need to preregister and prepay for this event by clicking on the "events" link at the charity's website, www.fivepointsofhope.com, or by calling The Edge directly at 248-877-1525.

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 Library, 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.

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.

Mom to Mom sale
A Mom to Mom sale is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road. For more information, call 248-675-3431.

'Velveteen Rabbit' at Marquis

The Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main Street, in Northville will be presenting the play "Velveteen Rabbit" each week-end through May 6. Tickets for all performances are \$9.

The play is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15, 21-22 and 28-29 and May 5-6.

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.

Runestad to host consumer education event

State Rep. Jim Runestad, R-White Lake, is partnering with the Michigan attorney general's office to host a consumer education event at 6 p.m. Monday, April 16, at the Milford Public Library, 330 Family Drive. It will feature information on how to avoid identity theft and what should be done in the event of a stolen identity.

For more information, call at 517-373-2616 or email JimRunestad@house.mi.gov.

Art society spring show

The South Lyon Fine Arts Society's Spring Into Art Show runs Monday

through Saturday, April 16-21, at the Salem-South Lyon District Library, 9800 Pontiac Trail, during library hours. A free reception is scheduled for 2-4 p.m. Saturday, April 21.

The show will include art for viewing and for sale, as well as a raffle. Refreshments will be offered during the reception.

Dems of West Oakland County

The Democrats of West Oakland County will host a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, at Novi United Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road. Guest speakers will include Julia Pulvar, candidate for state Senate 15th District; Laura Dodd candidate for state House 44th District; Jennifer Sudan candidate for state House 30th District; and Colleen Crosssey, candidate for county commission.

For more information, go to www.DWOC.info.

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 pre-sale, \$5 fee).

This sale includes furniture, household goods, linens, books, CDs, toys, sports equipment and more. Community Sharing is a nonprofit 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.

American Legion benefit dinner

The Northville American Legion hall, 100 W. Dunlap, will host a fish and chips fundraiser dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 20. The dinner is open to the public and includes deep-fried cod, french fries, coleslaw, and roll.

Highland library book sale

The Friends of the Highland Township Public Library, 444 Beach Farm Circle, will be hold-

ing its annual spring book sale Thursday through Saturday, April 19-21. The lower level will have four rooms filled with thousands of gently used books. One of the rooms is dedicated to children and teens, another contains special priced items such as a great selection of vintage and collectible books.

Advance sale for Friends members will be 5-7 p.m. Thursday. Memberships will be available at the door. Public sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday. There will also be a \$5 bag sale from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call 248-887-2218, ext 5.

Euchre for Hope event

The Euchre for Hope tournament, benefiting Milford-based nonprofit Five Points of Hope cancer care fund, is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at the American Legion Hall Post 216, 510 W. Commerce Street, Milford.

The tournament features cash prizes, a pizza and salad dinner, a live dessert auction and raffles. Pre-register for \$25 at the charity's website, www.fivepointsofhope.com, or pay \$35 at the door, based upon availability. Dinner only is \$10. Table sponsorships are available for \$150 and include four euchre/dinner tickets and a table named for a business or family.

AAUW Northville-Novl art event

To benefit the community outreach programs of the American Association of University Women Northville-Novl affiliate, artist Joy Huyck will teach a course on how to create paper art 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21, at Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road. Participants will select a background scene, then add paper embellishments to fashion a uniquely personal, multi-dimensional work of art with the theme "a peek at spring."

All ages are welcome. Pasting is the only skill required. To reserve a seat, send a check for \$30 per person to AAUW Northville-Novl, c/o Susan Schanne, P.O. Box 511, Northville MI 48167. You can also pay by credit card at www.aauwnn.org

Seedling giveaway

The Northville Beauti-

fication Commission is sponsoring a seedling giveaway 9-11 a.m. Saturday, April 21, at Northville Township Hall, 44405 Six Mile Road. Seedlings will be available at no charge to city, township and Northville Public Schools district residents. Individuals must show proof of residency. Requests by phone, mail or from large groups cannot be accommodated.

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 artist lecture

The Village Fine Arts Association will host a free artist lecture featuring professional illustrator Barbara Goodsitt at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, at the Suzanne Haskeew Art Center, 125 S. Main Street, Suite 700, in Milford. Goodsitt is a published illustrator for the University of Michigan Press and teaches at Washtenaw Community College and Ann Arbor community education.

VFAA informational meetings are free and open to everyone the fourth Wednesday of each month, January through October. For more information, email contactus@milfordvfaa.org or call the SHAC at 248-797-3060.

SAHS meeting

The Salem Area Historical Society will host a membership meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, in the South Salem Stone School, at the northeast corner of Curtis and North Territorial roads.

A short business agenda will be followed by a presentation on local area Native American history pre-1600 by Carol Clements, retired Nankin Mills naturalist. Admission is \$2 for non-SAHS members.

Your thyroid and your health

Providence Park Hospital will host a free lecture on thyroid health 6-7 p.m. Thursday, April 26, presented by Suchitra Zambare, M.D., endocrinologist. Learn more about how you can recognize the symptoms of thyroid disorder and how it can be treated.

It will take place at the Novi Campus, 47601 Grand River Ave., in conference rooms A and B in the outpatient building. For more information, call 888-751-5465.

Folk singer to perform at HVCA

Jim Malcolm, known as "the ultimate Scots troubadour," will perform a concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at the Huron Valley Council for Arts building, 205 W. Livingston Road, in Highland. He sings traditional Scottish music as well as his own songs.

The concert will also feature visual works from local artists. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by visiting the HVCA, by calling 248-889-8660, at Main Street

See EVENTS, Page 9A

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Detroit Grooming Co. grows after relaunch

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Detroit Grooming Co. is a story of success and setbacks, gain and loss, revival and rescue — and a whole bunch of good-looking beards.

The Ferndale-based company sells 120 men's grooming products that are made by hand and contain natural ingredients. It's best known for its beard oils and butters.

Mike Haddad of South Lyon and Shaun Walford of Westland launched the business in 2013, grew their product line and were taking in \$1 million in revenue by 2016. A year later, they watched it all come crashing down as a falling out with another partner led to a lawsuit and receivership. The company was shuttered in March 2017 and prepared for sale to the highest bidder.

"Of the buyers in the room, there was one that hadn't even contacted us. They were just going to take it and formulate their own stuff," Haddad said. "They were just going to buy the brand. That would have been a nightmare scenario, because this is your baby and someone was just going to take it out from you."

There were two potential buyers who wanted to hear more about the founders and their company. Stephen Henes and Faiz "Victor" Simon had walked through Detroit Grooming Co.'s 7,000-square-foot building with the receiver and saw potential. Henes lives in Birmingham and is president of staffing agency d.Diversified Services. Simon, a Bloomfield Hills resident, is managing director of real assets for Simon Group Holdings in Birmingham.

Buyers

"I got a random phone call on a Sunday afternoon and it was Steve Henes," Haddad said. "He told me, 'I want to hear more from you, because you guys are the creators.' I gave him the whole story. He said, 'Honestly Mike, you've caught me on fire.'"

Next came a face-to-face meeting. "We sat down for a burger and a beer and went over the finer points of what this company means to us as founders," Haddad said. "They said, 'We're not



Shaun Walford, Victor Simon, Stephen Henes and Mike Haddad are partners in Detroit Grooming Co. SHARON DARGAY

touching this without these guys on board."

Henes said he and Simon initially thought no one else would be interested in buying the company.

"We thought we could low-ball it, get it for five cents on the dollar," Henes said. "But what happened was the receiver had a first bid on it, which we won, and then he went to the court and two other individuals wanted to bid on it. It was like an auction."

The pair paid more than three times their initial offer, but consider the business "a gem."

"We bought it, thinking we could grow it to a much larger company," Henes said. "We self-financed this whole thing. We've been putting our own money into it. We've put in about \$100,000 since we bought it."

"Our goal in a couple years is about \$6 million in sales."

Haddad and Walford went back to work at Detroit Grooming Co. in July 2017 and the business reopened Aug. 21, the day of the total solar eclipse.

Growing the business

After its re-launch, the partners eliminated 20 products and added 10 new items.

"I've been looking at analytics on

who's buying on our website. Over 30 percent are women purchasing our products," Henes said. "Our target market really is (ages) 18-34."

Some women buy the men's products for themselves. They use the Belle Isle beard butter to treat split ends in their hair and the Orchard Lake beard oil to soften cuticles.

Most of the products are named after Michigan cities and connect scent to locale. The Traverse City brand, for example, combines cherry and tobacco fragrances. Cedar Springs beard oil is scented like cedarwood.

Seventy percent of sales are through the company website, with barber-shops, salons and other retailers accounting for the other 30 percent. Henes hope to increase retail sales and says 80 additional retailers came on board during the past seven months, including the museum at The Henry Ford, The Henry Hotel in Dearborn and the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City.

"When people say what makes you different, it's that we hand-make everything using the highest quality ingredients possible and we use everything natural when we can," Henes said. "The product sells itself. We've got to get the distribution out there. We just got our first sale to a distributor for Saudia Arabia. We're hoping to have some big

things happen with that.

"The tricky thing is that a lot of national brands are carried at CVS, Meijer and Walgreens. We don't want to do that right now, even though we've got someone who can get us in. We want to make sure the barbershop and salon owners are protected."

That's a relief to Walford and Haddad, who want to maintain quality ingredients and a hand-crafted process. They became partners with Henes and Simon in the relaunched business in January and say the collaboration has worked well.

"Their input is invaluable," Haddad said. "We know how committed they are and they know how committed we are. These guys are as on fire as we are about this stuff, because they use it, too. Stephen and Faiz fell into our laps in the best possible way."

"Our story is a Detroit story. This is what it is. The teardown and the comeback. That is what the city is all about."

Detroit Grooming Co., 2615 Wolcott, Suite E, has limited retail hours. Call 877-294-5826 for more information or go to www.detroitgrooming.com for a list of barbershops and salons that carry its products.

Contact Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

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Pets increasingly becoming part of divorce battleground

Susan Peck
Special to HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When a couple gets a divorce, they divide their assets and generally share custody of their kids — but what happens with the family dog?

Who gets the dog, cat, horse or boa constrictor when the marriage ends is a question that has sparked some ferocious custody disputes and is a growing area of family law in Michigan.

A recent survey of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers noted a marked increase in pet custody cases during the past five years. Dogs fetched the top spot as the most disputed family animal, with a clear majority at 88 percent, while cats came in a distant second at 6 percent, with a combination of horses and others also at 6 percent.

Family and matrimonial lawyer Nancy Stone of Rotter & Stone in Franklin says it's definitely a growing issue in her busy practice.

"I have clients who have worked together to divide million-dollar assets, but they can't agree to a settlement regarding their family dog," Stone said. "The intensity people can invest in a pet is phenomenal, because they view it as a member of the family."

There is a trend in the law to enact legislation that would treat pets more like children in a divorce. For example, Illinois recently passed a law stating that judges in divorce proceedings can consider the well-being of companion animals and put in place sole or joint custody for the couple.

But Michigan hasn't adopted those laws as of yet.

"Laws here still state that pets are treated no differently than personal property, such as a couch, silverware or a painting — and are dealt with under the equitable property division statute," Stone said. "The court doesn't typically look into things like what is the best interest of the pet or who is the 'better' dog parent."

There may be a few scenarios that Michigan judges would consider in a divorce settlement. Stone says if the dog was a gift from one spouse to the other,

that party may have an argument that the dog is their separate property.

"Or if one spouse brought the pet to the marriage and is still the primary caretaker, that could be persuasive," Stone said. "But if the pet was purchased during the marriage with marital funds, there really is no greater right to the pet by one spouse over the other."

For expert advice to successfully handle pet custody issues when divorcing, Stone gives these tips:

■ First, it's best to reach a resolution with your spouse regarding your pet outside of court proceedings. Your lawyer can counsel you as to the current state of the law in Michigan.

■ Then, if you are sharing custody of a pet, draw up a detailed visiting plan similar to what we typically use for children that includes a parenting schedule. Make sure it includes a right of refusal, so that if one party will be out of town, the other party has the right to be with the pet vs. boarding it.

■ An added word of advice is that it's best for the pet to follow the same parenting schedule as the kids. This will make the kids more comfortable, especially during the divorce transitions.

■ Lastly, don't forget finances. Make sure the plan you put together includes how pet expenses are to be divided between the parties and define what is considered "reasonable" expense. It's not unusual for one party to believe that an extraordinary pet expense such as a certain medical procedure is reasonable, while the other party will find the same expense completely unnecessary.

The goal is to remain "pet-centric," which means thinking about how you can work together for what is best for your dog or cat. Because, Stone said, "That's inevitably what is going to be best for the whole family."

And for those just contemplating marriage with pets involved, it is possible to draw up a pet prenup to protect you and your pet in the unfortunate case of divorce. "Both parties can make an agreement in advance," Stone said. "Just make sure it is detailed, in writing and signed by both parties and enforceable across the U.S., in case one party decides to move to another state."

Witness: Shooting victim 'did not deserve this'

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Cheryl Vatcher Martin couldn't sleep after witnessing the aftermath of a Tuesday night shooting in Canton Township.

"It's traumatic to see a gunshot victim," said Martin, who arrived at the Salvation Army store on Joy Road at Morton Taylor just before a man with a gun there tried to steal a woman's vehicle, then shot the woman and fled to a nearby neighborhood, where he stole a car.

"You do not expect to see somebody shot," said Martin, of Belleville. "All I could think about was, 'Why is this happening in Canton?' This poor woman did not deserve this."

The incidents in Canton, which began around 9 p.m. April 3, were the first in a series of crimes that took the gunman and police through Plymouth and Northville townships to Highland Park and Detroit, where, police said, the suspect was found dead on the city's east side Wednesday morning after exchanging shots with officers.

The suspect, identified later as Allan Farris, 56, had multiple gunshot wounds and no law enforcement officers were struck. The Michigan State Police and officers from several local departments were involved in the manhunt.

Martin and her husband, Gerald Martin, both U.S. Army veterans, hadn't been in the Salvation Army store more than a few minutes before the shooting.

"I heard commotion. I heard screaming," said Martin, who had been browsing women's clothing while her husband looked at record albums. "I heard somebody say somebody got shot."

Martin saw the victim on the floor near the cash registers. She was conscious and bleeding from the right thigh, she said.

"It was bad, but she looked like she would be OK," Martin said. Police said the woman was hospitalized and in stable condition.



Police tracked a suspect in connection to a crime spree that went from Canton to Northville Township to Highland Park to Detroit, where he exchanged shots with troopers and was later found dead. BRANDON PATTERSON | DETROIT FREE PRESS

Martin wasn't sure how the woman got into the store.

"She came running into the store or somebody carried her," she said. "I cannot say for sure."

Martin, who uses a walker, abandoned it to find cushions to elevate the shooting victim's head and legs. She gave them to an employee and they ended up being used, she said. "The people at the Salvation Army were wonderful," she said.

A police officer arrived quickly, followed a minute or less later by paramedics. Martin was grateful for the first responders.

"When somebody's laying there, you don't want another second to go by. But I knew they would be there," she said. "They did an excellent job."

Martin believes she and her husband saw the shooter as they arrived at the store in a rainstorm.

A man was standing outside, pacing; he and Martin made eye contact and "I just knew something was wrong," she said. The couple parked their vehicle and hustled inside.

Police in Canton couldn't immediately provide details, but Plymouth Town-

ship Police Lt. Dan Kudra that said after the carjacking attempt outside the store, the gunman apparently went to a nearby house in Canton, fired shots there and stole a Buick Regal. A woman was reportedly wounded in that incident but details on her status weren't available at press time.

Officers saw what was thought to be the stolen car on northbound Sheldon, but lost sight of it, Kudra said, then learned the Regal had crashed at Five Mile and Sheldon in Northville Township.

Police set up a perimeter in that area to try to locate the gunman, police said, but several hours later learned he had escaped by stealing a woman's car outside the CVS drug store at the intersection.

The gunman had forced the car's driver to accompany him, Kudra said. Northville Township Police Lt. Mike Burrough said the woman was able to escape from him in Highland Park and contact police there. She was not hurt, Burrough said.

Contact Matt Jachman at mjachman@hometownlife.com.

RCOC now accepting dust-control applications

Oakland County residents living on gravel roads who would like to participate in the Road Commission for Oakland County dust-control program this summer and fall can now submit applications for the service. Applications must be received by Monday, April 30.

Residents also should check with their township to see if the township participates in the cost of dust control (this could change from year to year, so even if a resident checked with the township last year, they should check again this year).

The program involves RCOC applying mineral-well brine to gravel roads four times during the summer to help control dust. The cost to participate in the program is 45.2 cents per linear foot of road. Residents living on subdivision streets pay for a minimum of 1,000 linear feet of application (\$452).

On "mile-type" gravel roads, orders should be for a minimum of 500 feet, with no more than one skipped section (non-participating property).

To place an order, residents can fill out and submit RCOC's application.

To get an application, visit RCOC's Department of Customer Services offices, 2420 Pontiac Lake Road, in Waterford Township, call the office toll-free at 877-858-4804 or send an email to dcsmail@rcoc.org.

Some township offices will also accept the applications — residents should check with their township to see if their application should be submitted there or directly to the road commission.

Private roads are not included in the dust-control program.

Mineral-well brine is naturally occurring salt water that is pumped from the ground. When applied to gravel roads, the brine draws moisture from the air and ground and the moisture helps to bind the materials in the road surface, reducing the amount of dust that becomes airborne and providing a better driving surface.

Rare white deer gains attention at Kensington

Bill Laitner
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A rare white deer has been attracting admirers almost since it was born last year, according to nature buffs and officials at Kensington Metropark near Milford.

"We started seeing her in spring '17 — I've seen her quite a few times," said Dave Kirbach, deputy director of the Metroparks system — officially, the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority.

"We're pretty sure she's a doe. She's a little small, but this is her first year and she got through the winter just fine," Kirbach said.

He said the unusual deer, whose coat is sheer white and which has a pink nose and blue-ish eyes, is one more reason that nature lovers enjoy coming to Kensington Metropark.

"We've got blue herons and a bald eagle nesting out here. It's really a thrill to see these creatures," Kirbach said.

The white deer is often seen in early morning, grazing on the park's east side near the entrance to the golf course, he said.

Among its fans recently were Mick McDonald, 48, and his fiancée, Karen Ilinik, both of Brighton. One day last month, "we were going down the road and she spotted it," McDonald said.

Nature photographer Lou Waldock, 64, of Howell said he has seen the white deer numerous times in his frequent visits to Kensington Metropark. Waldock said he knows the deer population so well that he remembers when the white deer was born.

"She was born in May last year. She was one of three triplets. Two were brown. I see her just about every morning," Waldock said. She's so appealing to visitors that some try to chase the animal, seeking better photos or just to get closer, he said.

"I've yelled at people, 'Stay in your car.' People can get very nice photos from inside their cars. But if you chase her, that stresses her and she can't chew her cud," he said.

Unlike a true albino animal, which



A rare all-white deer stands next to a normal-hued deer in summer 2017 at Kensington Metropark near Milford. HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY

would have pink eyes, Kensington's white deer has a pink nose but blue-ish eyes that indicate it's a genetic variation less rare than an actual albino, according to the website ProtectTheWhiteDeer.com, based in Wisconsin.

Albino and other exotic, all-white deer were once illegal to hunt in Michigan, but the state lifted protection of the creatures in 2008, according to previous Free Press reports. Nature buffs criticized Metroparks officials in 2015 when sharpshooters, hired to reduce the deer herd because it was destroying vegetation, shot a rare white buck. Several states continue to have laws forbidding hunters from taking white deer. Such laws have been criticized by online naturalists, who call them a holdover from age-old bans on hunting the animals when they were linked to mystic powers.

In 2014, a Hartland boy, then 11, legally shot a 12-point white buck with a crossbow, but after the sixth-grader's feat was posted online, there were thousands of negative comments posted on USA TODAY'S website, including death threats against the youth and his father, according to the paper's follow-up report.



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Horse racing

Continued from Page 1A

es, not necessarily to win a lot of money."

On the day after Hazel Park Raceway abruptly shuttered its doors — making Northville Downs the last live horse racing venue in Michigan — Bowling didn't need a magnifying glass to see what the future may hold for his No. 1 source for entertainment.

"Fifteen, 20 years ago, this place was packed with people as far as you can see," Bowling said, gesturing toward a sparsely filled grandstand area. "Back then, if you wanted to gamble, this and the lottery were the only places to do it. Now, with the casinos, there's a lot of competition for the gamblers' dollars."

"As much as it hurts me to say it, I'd be surprised if this isn't the next one to go."

The future is her

A couple of furlongs east of where Bowling sat, 21-year-old groomer/trainer Jessica Otten walked briskly through the bustling Northville Downs stables just over an hour before post time, exchanging greetings and smiles with jockeys, attendants and trainers.

A self-proclaimed third-generation horseman, Otten was introduced to the sport by her dad Peter, a harness racing driver/trainer/owner. It's been in her blood



Vern Blackburn talks about his years of coming to the track. He is from Ypsilanti. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Tom Barrett, president of the Michigan Horsemen's Association, talks about the decline of the industry in Michigan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Jessica Otten grooms Master House. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ever since.

"My parents built a horse barn in Lennon (Mich.) the year I was born, 21 years ago," she said. "It held 30 horses. Now, we have four horses. That shows you how far the industry has declined, at least in Michi-

gan.

"We have to travel a lot now — to Canada, Ohio and Indiana — because racing is still doing well in those areas."

'Racino' royale

Everyone interviewed

Friday at Northville Downs agreed on one thing: Michigan's Legislature needs to legalize the use of slot machines in horse racing venues to keep the business afloat.

Ohio's horse tracks were infused with new life when "racinos" — race tracks combined with slots-only casinos — were added a few years ago.

According to Cleveland.com, revenue at Northfield's Hard Rock Racino was up \$38.2 million over a 12-month stretch beginning in July 2016.

"We need the racinos or everybody is going to be closing up shop here and going to Ohio," veteran trainer Ed Zubkoff said. "I hope we get a governor in office who backs us up. They have no idea how many people are active in this business. It's not just the people you see here, it's the feed mills, the farmers who grow the hay."

"Look at all the trucks that are pulling in and out of here today. Look at all the maintenance guys. They all depend on this."

More and more Ohio horse racing tracks are appealing to younger consumers by diversifying their entertainment, adding comedy clubs, concerts and gaming lounges that appeal to millennials.

Novi resident Thomas Barrett, president of the Michigan Harness Horse-

man's Association, said the potential for a significant influx in funding for horse racing in Michigan is real — and it's not too late to turn things around.

"Other states are bringing in millions of dollars in revenue from people betting on their phones," Barrett said. "Unfortunately, this is illegal in Michigan. We're hopeful that the Legislature will pass a new bill that would create more options for people who want to bet on horse racing."

"If we could get something like this legalized in Michigan, we could even re-open some of the tracks that have closed, as long as they're not plowed over by then."

Mood-changer

The news April 5 that Michigan's lone surviving thoroughbred horse racing track in Hazel Park was closing for good affected a large percentage of the people in the Northville Downs prep areas.

"I was at a loss for words when I heard Hazel Park was closing," Otten said. "I grew up in this business and, along with Sports Creek and Jackson closing, it's like watching my childhood disappear."

Like most industries these days, drawing millennials like Otten is a key component to thriving.

"It's tough getting people my age here, because not a lot of them gamble," she said. "But once I do get them here, they're amazed by the place, the horses, the competition and they want to come back."

"I get an adrenaline rush to the max every time a race starts, even if one of my horses isn't running."

Timing is everything

As Otten tended to her horse, Master House, veteran driver Charles Taylor pulled a turtle-neck sweater as high as it would go around his neck in preparation for a qualifying run through the night's bitter cold air.

As he pulled on his green-and-red-highlight-

ed helmet, a smile creased his face, evidence of the passion he's developed for the night of racing he was about to dive into.

When asked for suggestions that would help his sport thrive, Taylor said that timing is important.

"I'd like to see us start earlier, say 5:30 or 6 (p.m.), like a lot of the tracks in Ohio and Indiana do," he said. "We start at 7:30, which isn't late, but we try to get 12 races in each night and it's hard for people to stay that long."

"I think running faster might help, too. Instead of having 20, 25 minutes in between races, let's run them closer together. People don't like sitting around like they used to."

A horse enthusiast since he was 12, Taylor's livelihood depends solely on harness racing.

"This is my real job," he said with a smile. "This is my life. I still get charged up to race. I hope they can figure something out to keep this going."

For semi-retired veteran trainer Karen Tkaczyk, it's not all about the money.

"I love the competition of horse racing; it's a thrill for me and always has been," she said. "It's almost like a disease, like smoking or alcohol ... I can't quit."

Tkaczyk points to the rise in smart phone usage and high-tech alternatives to attending the track as a primary reason for her industry's hard times.

"A lot of it is technology," she said. "People are on their phones, you can bet online. It keeps a lot of the young people from coming out and the old-timers are dying off. People would rather go to casinos and play cards."

Veteran driver Jerry Mihelich admits he still "gets butterflies" during the moments before a race.

"It's still a little scary, too, when everybody is going for the lead and we all come together like this (he brings his two hands together, forming a point)," he said. "If you're in the middle, the wheels are right there and you don't want to hook wheels."

Michigan's horse racing demise has reached all the way down to the first step of the process, Mihelich said.

"There are no breeders left in Michigan, there are no horse auctions anymore," he said. "There used to be auctions with 120 horses. Now there are none."

Telling it like it is

The face of today's horse racing fans may belong to retired University of Michigan janitor Vernon Blackburn, who sports a neatly-trimmed white beard and boasts a robust level of enthusiasm for the sport that its supporters want to spread.

"The people have always been nice to me here," said Blackburn, a 52-year regular who walks with the aid of a cane after suffering two strokes.

"My wife and I still like to come here. It's something to do. I used to come with my two sons all the time, but they moved to Saline and they bet on the races on their computers."

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

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Estate of James A. Murray (a/k/a James Arthur Murray) Date of birth 10/25/1960

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, JAMES A. MURRAY (a/k/a James Arthur Murray), died March 21, 2018.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Katherine J. Thompson, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building #12E, Pontiac, Michigan 48341 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: April 5, 2018

Attorney Name Bar No.
Laura Ann Schreiner P65533
800 W. Long Lake Road, Suite 100
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
(248) 842-1056

Personal Representative Name
Katherine J. Thompson
26102 Alexa Drive
Commerce Township,
Michigan 48390
Published 4/12/18 LS-00000100 120

Flavored ice is hot commodity for Canton family

Ed Wright
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Everything about the Berryhill family's side business is chill.

From the multi-colored company vehicle that features a giant smiling penguin to the amount of money they donate to local charities, members of the Canton family are all in when it comes to making cool customers.

When Jeff and Jennifer Berryhill decided to look for a fun and profitable franchise opportunity, their research led them to Kona Ice, a Kentucky-based company that delivers tasty shaved-ice treats to large groups of people at special events.

Jeff, an engineer at Yazaki, and Jennifer, a fourth-grade teacher at Smith Elementary in Plymouth, have teamed with sons Wilson and Jace to sculpt a successful business in the flavored-ice market.

"The first thing that appealed to us with Kona Ice is that it seemed like one of their trucks was always at our sons' lacrosse tournaments and there was always a line of people waiting to buy something," Jeff Berryhill said.

"After we did a lot of homework, talked to some people who are already franchisees and talked to their CEO, Jen and I decided to give it a shot."

The next thing they knew, the Berryhills were attending a mandatory three-day learning course at Kona College in Florence, Ky., where they were educated on all of the intricacies of selling flavored ice.

With a coverage area that includes south Canton, Van Buren Township and Ann Arbor, the Berryhills' hard-to-miss Kona Ice truck became a staple at major gatherings, like the Canton Cup soccer tournament, Canton's Liberty Fest and youth sporting events.

By the time their first summer was over, they had donated roughly \$15,000 of their sales to local charities and organizations.

"The company is very big on giving back to the community and that was something that appealed to us," said Berryhill, who has decided to leave his longtime engineering job at Yazaki to work full time with the Kona Ice franchise. "Whenever we work at a fundraising event, we donate 20 percent of our sales to the host."

The family's business peaks during the hottest stretches of the calendar, Berryhill confirmed, but cold days don't necessarily mean cold sales.

"Last spring, we were over at Independence Park in Canton for a normal day of soccer," he said. "The temperatures were only in the 40s and most of the parents were bundled up in winter coats, but the kids didn't



Canton's Berryhill family (from left) Jennifer, Wilson, Jeff, Sparty and Jace bring joy to summer events with their Kona Ice truck.

care how chilly it was — they wanted their Kona Ice."

The brand's top-selling flavor, Berryhill revealed, is Blue Raspberry, with Ninja Cherry a close second.

When Jennifer Berryhill's students found out about her second "job" as a flavored-ice entrepreneur, it expanded her already impressive popularity.

"Yeah, they think it's pretty cool," she said. "I love when we have the truck at a soccer tournament or Liberty Fest and one of my current or former students comes up and says hi. This is a great business, because we get an opportunity to get out into the community

and give back to the community."

Jeff Berryhill has had to on occasion good-naturedly remind potential customers that the Kona Ice brand has been developed with children in mind.

"I've had people ask me if we can add alcohol to the flavored ice," he said with a chuckle. "I tell them, 'No, we can't, but you can add anything you want to it once you carry it away from the truck.'"

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

CC robotics teams headed to world championships

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Catholic Central High School senior Paul Schulte has been working on robots the last four years at the Novi school. It's a passion he's had for years.

"I've always been interested in robotics and how this stuff works," the Livonia resident said. "I've been learning a lot the past four years and I've been loving it ever since."

Now Schulte, along with several other students at the school on Wixom Road, will take their robotics knowledge to Louisville later this spring to compete in the VEX Robotics World Championships, the fourth time the school has had a team there the last six years.

Two teams from Catholic Central will head to the tournament, set for April 25-28. There, they will use their robots to compete in alliances with other teams to stack cones into specific zones on the playing field to score the most points. The competition lasts two minutes per round, with the first 15 seconds relying on programming the robot to move autonomously and the reminding time being driven by a team member.

It's a competition that truly puts students' wits to the test, said coach Larry Schulte, Paul Schulte's father and a theology teacher at the high school.

"Every team has access to the same standard parts, which would be different from FIRST (Robotics), where they can machine their own stuff," he said.

The two teams from Catholic Central are not the only Michigan students to compete. Sixteen total teams from the state are headed to Louisville that week, including five teams from Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills.

The teams get together and begin work at the beginning of the school year, meeting for several hours a week working on their robots. Because everyone uses the same parts, the students begin crafting their own ideas at first, but then begin to adopt more effective ideas proven at other competitions.

That progression is evident in the spring after teams have competed in several contests, sophomore Patrick Ryan said.

"Toward the end of the year, everybody has a very similar design," the Novi resident said.

Ben Ahromhelm, another coach and a math and computer science teacher at the school, said the program is one the students take complete control of. They're the ones responsible for construction and for figuring out the proper mechanics of the robot, while he and other coaches let them figure it out.

"I don't believe I ever really have laid hands on either robot. I don't touch them," he said. "The programming, the design, everything, is entirely done by the students."

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



Patrick Ryan, of Novi makes an adjustment to his team's robot. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Christopher Kolhoff is from Livonia. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Grant Zydeck of Farmington Hills, Justin Sanderson of Plymouth, Wesley Campbell of Wixom and Rahul Sethi of Northville prepare to tear down their robot for modifications. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Local leaders question proposed mass transit plan

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Could the buses come rolling down major roads such as Eight Mile, Woodward and Grand River again? A new transit proposal for southeast Michigan pitched by Wayne County Executive Warren Evans calls for doing just that.

The proposed plan, pitched by Evans to the Regional Transit Authority right after he attended Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright's State of the City address back on March 15, consists mostly of bus lines that run across Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. The plan, if approved by the Regional Transit Authority, would go on the ballot in four counties and be decided by voters.

Gone are the bus rapid transit lines originally pitched in the 2016 mass transit plan rejected by voters. Instead, the service calls for 15-minute express lines along roads such as Woodward, Gratiot, Michigan Avenue, Grand River and Mound/Van Dyke.

Several 15-minute rush hour express lines would run along other routes in the four-county area, including:

- Eight Mile, between Mack and Grand River

- 12 Mile, between Royal Oak and Novi

- 15 Mile, beginning at Harper in Macomb County, running through Birmingham and Bloomfield Township and ending at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi via Haggerty, among other lines

Four express lines would take passengers to Detroit Metro Airport in Romulus, with routes beginning at places such as Twelve Oaks Mall, downtown Ann Arbor, the Phoenix Center in Pontiac and Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights. Other express lines would connect places such as Livonia to Ann Arbor; Canton to Ann Arbor; Plymouth to downtown Detroit; Twelve Oaks Mall to downtown Detroit, with another line running from the Novi mall to Lincoln Park and another to St. Clair Shores.

The plan, dubbed Connect Southeast Michigan, would be expected to raise about \$5.4 billion throughout its lifetime and an additional \$1.3 billion in fares.

The hope from Evans is such a plan could receive regional support from voters, who voted down the last plan in 2016 by about 18,000 votes, with the biggest deficit coming in Macomb County.

Evans, while speaking at the grand opening event for the Amazon fulfillment center in Livonia last month, said transit is something the region needs to pay attention to, especially with industries such as Amazon coming to town.

"We also have to start thinking about transit in a different way," he said. "One of the things we've learned is, to continue to grow is you have to provide the resources for that growth. And we want to see this county and this area grow exponentially in the next few years. People have to think about the idea of transit."

"You can't be the worst in the country on transit and the best on everything else," he added. "It just doesn't happen that way."

One such local leader who endorsed the plan after it was announced was Westland Mayor Bill Wild, who said he, too, would like to see the plan put to a vote of the people.

"Regional transit is not just about buses, it is about moving this region forward and putting people back to work," he said. "I fully support Evans's goal of placing the plan on the ballot this year. Sometimes leadership means you put your best plan together and just get out of the way to let the voters decide."

Opposition

Most notably opposed to the plan is Evans's counterpart north of Eight Mile, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, whose office released a statement the day the proposal was announced saying it would end up costing Oakland County residents more than the taxes the system would collect.

"The latest regional transit tax scheme concocted by HNTB (a Detroit-based infrastructure firm) on behalf of the RTA is at its core nothing more than the plan voters rejected in November of 2016," the statement reads. "It's a pie-in-the-sky proposal that allows the RTA to reach deep into the pockets of Oakland County taxpayers who will pay 40 percent of the regional transit tab but receive far less than 40 percent of the regional transit services in return."

The plan, if approved as is, would levy a 1.5-mill increase on property taxes across the four counties. That is an increase from the 1.2 mills in the 2016 plan rejected by voters.

County-level officials aren't the only ones expressing concern over the proposal. Several local leaders, especially in western Wayne and Oakland counties, say they have concerns over costs and need for such a plan.

Livonia City Council President Laura Toy, a former state legislator, said she has an issue overall with authorities, saying decision-making is taken out of the hands of elected officials. But she said she has not heard a big cry from Livonia residents clamoring for such an expanded, regional service, especially after the city pulled out of the SMART bus service back in 2005.

"I don't know if I hear a public outcry in our city that says, 'We have to have this to have our businesses run and make our lives easier,'" she said. "Hopefully, they're going to do some public hearings around on this."

Public hearings could come if the RTA board votes to send it out to the public for feedback. Mario Morrow, a spokesman for the RTA, said the board can vote to send it out for comment, before making some changes to the plan. If such a plan is then presented back to the board, seven of the nine voting RTA board members must vote to place the question on the ballot. Those seven votes must consist of at least one representative from each county, as well as the representative from Detroit.

The RTA board is next expected to meet April 19, though Morrow said it's always possible the board calls a special meeting to handle the issue sooner.

If it were to make the ballot, Morrow said it's expected it could be put on the general election ballot in November.

Outlying services

In addition to the established lines along major roads in more densely-populated parts of metro Detroit, the outlying townships, villages and cities would also receive funding titled Hometown Services. This would provide farther-out townships and cities, such as Highland, South Lyon, Milford, Walled Lake and Wixom, with funding from the 1.5-mill levy to fund transit services that best meet each community's needs.

Don Green, Milford Township supervisor, said he's not sure another transit millage is the answer for his township. The township currently utilizes a service called People's Express, which can provide service around the township and to other destinations in the region.

To utilize any lines of the new plan, Green said Milford Township riders would need to pay \$8 (\$4 each way) down to Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi to just pick up any part of the system. Fees would then be charged to use the lines there as well.

Also at odds with Green is the return of funding. Counties are expected to receive no less than 85 percent of the funding they put into the system, though the proposal states counties could receive 105 percent return on their investment through leverage of fare box, state and federal funding.

He said those figures just don't add up.

"The proof is in the pudding," Green said. "There isn't a transit system in the world that breaks even."

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



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CC tri-captains blazing a new trail

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Is this the season when Novi Detroit Catholic Central's lacrosse team finally breaks down the door?

The Shamrocks certainly came close last year, falling one goal short to 13-time state champion and nemesis Birmingham Brother Rice in last June's MHSAA Division 1 state final, 8-7.

Catholic Central finished with a 15-6 record a year ago, with three of those losses coming against Rice, including a 15-14 overtime setback.

CC, led by senior tri-captains Liam Cunningham, Peter Thompson and Ethan Pattinson, is already off to an impressive 3-0 start this season with road victories over Huron Valley United (25-4), Birmingham (23-0) and Division 2 runner-up East Grand Rapids (10-4).

"The goal this season is to take one game at a time," said Cunningham, who returns as a midfielder. "Every game is just as important as the other and we're just looking for that team that's going to test us and show us what we've got this season."

See LACROSSE, Page 2B



Catholic Central lacrosse senior captains (from left) Liam Cunningham, Peter Thompson and Ethan Pattinson lead the way. BRAD EMONS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



At left, Canton grad Greg Williams came off the bench for NCAA Division II champ Ferris State. At right, Northville grad Andrew Meacham launches a jumper for Division II national champion Ferris State. FERRIS STATE ATHLETICS

Bulldogs off the bench

Williams, Meacham soak in Ferris State's first national title

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Greg Williams and Andrew Meacham may have played bit roles this season in Ferris State's run to the NCAA Division II men's basketball championship.

But the area duo proved to be unsung heroes as they helped the Bulldogs to their school's first NCAA title in any sport following a 71-69 win March 24 over Northern State (S.D.) before a jam-packed and highly partisan crowd of



Williams



Meacham

3,538 at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls.

Williams, a 6-foot-3, 200-pound sophomore guard from Canton High, and Meacham, a 6-7, 230-pound junior center from Northville High, both took on a limited role this season for the greater good of the team.

After red-shirting as a freshman walk-on, Williams earned a scholarship his second year and appeared in all 33 games for the Bulldogs during 2016-17, making two starts, while averaging five points per game. Af-

See BULLDOGS, Page 2B

PREP HOCKEY

Stevenson's Mitchell joins state Hall of Fame

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The night of the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association All-State banquet, Livonia Stevenson's David Mitchell got another unexpected surprise.

On the heels of being named the state's Division 2 Coach of the Year on March 11 at USA Hockey Arena, the site of the state finals, the 43-year-old Mitchell was also one of four inducted March 18 into the MHSCHA's Hall of Fame at the Farmington Hills Manor.

"Extremely honored, humbled, overwhelmed," Mitchell said. "I sent them a text back and said, 'Are you sure?' I did not see it coming, especially when you look at other people that have been inducted and received this honor. Very humbled to be mentioned in the same breath with some of those guys."

See MITCHELL, Page 2B



Stevenson's David Mitchell was named Division 2 Coach of the Year and inducted to the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame.



Mitchell

Continued from Page 1B

Mitchell is joined in the latest Hall of Fame coaching class by Livonia native Todd Johnson, who was part of five state titles at Detroit Catholic Central; Dan Barry, Warren De La Salle; and Tony Byers, Alpena.

Mitchell, a 1992 Churchill High grad who played goalie at Western Michigan University, comes from a hockey family. His father Adam coached at Churchill and the University of Michigan-Dearborn and has been a longtime statistician for the Detroit Red Wings. Mitchell's brother Paul serves as the team's videographer and announcer at Stevenson home games.

David Mitchell served one season as an assistant coach at Churchill under Pete Mazzoni, while also spending eight years with the Compuware youth hockey program.

In his 10 seasons at Stevenson, Mitchell has compiled a 193-69-15 record, including one Division 2 state title (2013) and two other runner-up finishes (2014-15). He also guided the Spartans to five regional crowns and two Kensington Lakes Activities Association championships.

This season, the Spartans finished 23-6, capturing the KLAA Black Division and KLAA titles, as well as the regional before being ousted by Trenton in the state quarterfinals, 3-1.

"It's by no means an individual honor," said Mitchell, who resides in Livonia with his wife Kim and two children, Emily, 14, and Justin, 13. "It just also shows the great people that have surrounded me and I've been very, very fortunate to be surrounded by a number of great staff members, administrators, families and, of course, players."

Several Stevenson players earned MSHCA all-state honors this season,



Several Stevenson players were honored by the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association.

including defenseman Jake Beaune, who was named to the Dream Team after scoring 23 goals and adding 26 assists.

Also named first team Division 2 all-state were senior goalie Will Tragge, who posted a 23-6 record with 1.81 save percentage, and forward Julian Decina, who had 10 goals and 20 assists.

Tragge has spent the past 15 days as an emergency backup goaltender for the Corpus Christi (Texas) IceRays of the North American Hockey League and will make his first start Friday night

against the Lone Star (Texas) Brahmas.

Beaune and Julian Decina have also signed tenders to play next season with the NAHL's Aberdeen (S.D.) Wings.

Also earning second team all-state honors for Stevenson were forwards Cole Parkhurst and Vincent Decina and defenseman Kevin Stefanick. Meanwhile, Jack Williamson earned academic all-state and the MSHCA Perseverance Award.

"In terms of the year, it was truly a memorable, very successful year for the team, as well as some individuals," said

Mitchell, who teaches computer technology and social studies at Livonia's Holmes Middle School. "Those guys all competed at a very high level. They did the things that were necessary to be elite players on an elite team on a daily basis, day in and day out. They gave it absolutely everything they had, each and every day. That was reflected in the success that we had."

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

Lacrosse

Continued from Page 1B

The Shamrocks were scheduled face their first litmus test April 10, when they traveled to Rice, which has lost to only one Michigan opponent (2014 in overtime to Detroit Country) during the past 13 seasons.

"Everything is different," said Pattinson, a midfielder who has signed with NCAA Division I school Bellarmine (Ky.) University. "We have new guys stepping up. We've got guys returning and everyone has a really good spot on this team. The first three games were, basically, all good games. Everybody stepped up and a lot of the starters showed what we could do. And we're getting to know each other. We're developing chemistry and we're really starting to work well together and we're going to show that more the next couple of games."

Due to poor field conditions and impending poor weather, CC had to postpone its April 5 Catholic League road opener against Warren De La Salle, while a non-league game at North Allegheny (Pa.) was also scratched.

CC coach Dave Wilson, in his 13th season, gave the Shamrocks four days off during the Easter holiday weekend, but his team was back at it, practicing early in the week in preparation for Rice.

"We're young in a few spots and we need to improve in a few areas," said Wilson, who has guided CC to four straight state runner-up finishes and seven overall. "We have some good seniors and we're in constant attack mode."

Catholic Central lost five seniors off last year's squad, including Brennan Kamish (University of Detroit Mercy), who finished with 126 career goals and 64 assists in four varsity seasons.

First team All-America and all-state goalie Hunter Braun (UMass-Lowell), who was recently named America East Defensive Player of the Week, was another notable graduation loss.

"It's tough when you lose somebody like Brennan Kamish and Hunter Braun," Wilson said. "Those are big roles to fill, but we have a nice balance of offensive leaders."

Thompson, a Georgetown University signee, will pick up some of the scoring slack.

"I don't think anybody has like a specific role," he said. "Kamish, that was just in his wheelhouse. He was a really great shooter, but that was really his strongest suit. Other guys are stepping up that were plenty capable last year. We loved him while we had him, but we're not trying to think about the past. And I think this team is just as good, if not better than last year — to be quite honest — in terms of talent and potential. I think we're not worrying about that too much."

Thompson, who wore a brace all last



Catholic Central's Joey Kamish (right) unloads a shot during last year's Division 1 state final loss vs. Brother Rice. SCOTT CONFER

"We're young in a few spots and we need to improve in a few areas. We have some good seniors and we're in constant attack mode."

Dave Wilson
Catholic Central coach

season, was coming off a meniscus injury. But he now feels unencumbered and has already shown he can score from not only from his natural left side, but also from the right.

"Just trying to diversify my game and just try and help my team, whether it be if they need me to score one day or be more of a distraction or assist guy," Thompson said. "I just love winning. That's what I'm all about."

Junior Johnny O'Shea, who started the first two games at goalie, will share duties with sophomore Jakob Hemme and senior Zach Downey.

Returning on defense is senior Brendan Martin, along with juniors Jeffrey Trainor and Nick Matuszak.

The team's face-off specialists include junior Connor Beals, along with sophomores Connor Baratta and Nick Abdelnour, while juniors Justin Petouhoff and Kyle Love return as long-stick midfielders. Junior Patrick Brandemuhl also returns at midfield.

Among the returning attackers are junior Joey Kamish, Brennan's younger brother, and sophomore Ryan Sullivan.

"I think every year a team always loses good players," said Cunningham, who will play next year at Hope College. "I think a lot of our younger kids are stepping up. A lot of our older kids are showing their dominance over everyone and I think we've got some good leadership and some good players."

Wilson likes what he sees from his three senior captains.

"They have great intensity and they

have very good leadership, which has been great for our team, especially the young guys," Wilson said. "They're very good servant leaders. They get the water or they'll pick up the balls. I encourage them to do that and just not pass it off to the low man on the totem pole, so to speak. I think they've done a great job with that and their attitudes are fantastic."

With those three seniors leading the way, this could be the year the Shamrocks get over the hump.

"Our job is just try and keep everybody positive," Pattinson said. "The main goal for us is to always try and keep each others' heads up. I know sometimes we get really heated in practice, but we just know we have each others' backs. We always come back harder and better than before."

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

FIGURE SKATING

United Farmington enjoys strong season

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Small and mighty.

That certainly was an accurate mantra for the United Farmington figure skating team.

The squad consisted of just six skaters — four from North Farmington High School and the other two from Farmington — coached by Liz LaBurn. But those half-dozen team members made their mark on the recently completed high school figure skating season.

United Farmington finished first in each of the three Level C district competitions leading up to the Michigan high school skating state championship meet.

The girls won outright in the December district held in Birmingham and the January district in Farmington. At the third competition held in mid-February, UFFST tied for first with Livonia.

"A lot of (other school districts) have A, B and C teams, but we call ourselves 'small and mighty,' because we just have a (Level) C team," said LaBurn, who also coaches at the Farmington Hills Figure Skating Club out of the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. "We were pleasantly surprised at our first competition and that kind of laid the ground work for us. And we were thrilled at the second one."

"After we won the second competition, we didn't totally seal (a trip to the state meet), but we knew we had a good chance to get there," she added. "If we just performed in the third competition like we did in the first two, we knew we would definitely be going to states. And I knew what the girls could do, so we were pretty excited heading into that third competition."

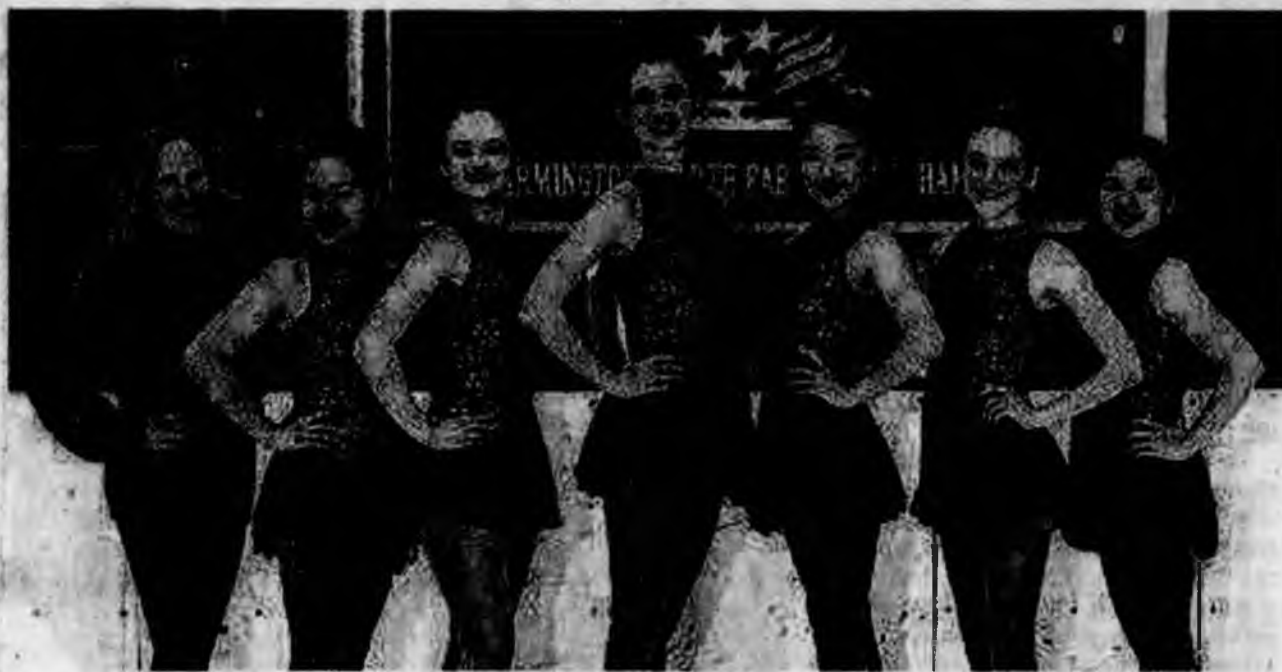
Competing in Level C

As a result of those three district showings, United Farmington was one of 13 Level C teams across the state that qualified for the state championship meet, held March 3 in Bay City.

The state finals did not go as well as the regular season.

Ann Arbor United won the state crown with 38 points, followed by defending state champion Trenton (31) and Flint Area United (29). United Farmington and Bloomfield Hills tied for 11th in the final standings with 12 points apiece.

"We were just pleased to make it to states, because last year, with the same group of girls, we did not make it (to states)," LaBurn said. "I think the girls hoped for a better finish, but I think they were just thrilled to be at states for the first time and experience that with skaters from all over the state."



The United Farmington figure skating team, which qualified for this year's state championship meet, included (from left) head coach Liz LaBurn, Mindy Leidal, Elizabeth Niemenski, Hannah Zylman, Emma Choe, Julia Tatone and Tessa McGlashan.

ers from all over the state.

"We just put out the best skate that we could," she added. "Maybe it wasn't as strong as we did (during the regular season), but it's just figure skating. There was nothing earth-shattering that went wrong."

LaBurn took United Farmington to the state championships for the second time in three years.

The only UFFST member who was on the state-qualifying team in 2015-16 was junior Hannah Zylman, who attends North Farmington.

The remaining five skaters were state-meet rookies, including junior Tessa McGlashan (North Farmington) and sophomores Emma Choe (North Farmington), Elizabeth Niemenski (North Farmington), Mindy Leidal (Farmington) and Julia Tatone (Farmington).

Equal in skating skills

All of the skaters competed last year and, according to LaBurn, were equal in their ability to execute the required elements of spins, moves and jumps.

"The girls improved overall with a year under their belts," LaBurn said. "With all their private skating lessons, they all improved on their skating skills over the

past year. They are the same elements that they have to perform every year, so they know what they have to do."

"The girls get up and practice Thursday mornings at 6 a.m. and are always on time. All the girls participated in all the competitions and pretty much the elements were distributed fairly evenly throughout the team. They were all supportive of each other, whether they were skating well or had a bad day."

"I was mainly thrilled for the girls that they had such a good season," she added. "They are a lovely group of girls who work hard, have great attitudes and show great sportsmanship. They excel in school and they really love to skate."

The good news for LaBurn is that all six skaters figure to return tnext year.

"I was elated with the season we had and their parents were elated," LaBurn said. "It was just a really exciting season. We look for them all to come back and we are hoping that we might have some other skaters join us and we will be happy to have any new people come on board."

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

Bulldogs

Continued from Page 1B

ter suffering a fractured foot in early August, Williams saw his playing time scaled back to nine minutes per game this season while appearing in 28 of the Bulldogs' 39 games.

"Greg struggled through injury, easily could have selfishly red-shirted, but I kept telling him we needed him and this was the year," Ferris State coach Andy Bronkema said. "And he believed in it and he played less minutes than the year before ... and was willing to do whatever it took for the team to win."

Meacham, who also red-shirted as a freshman, had a similar story. He was also a regular in the Bulldogs' playing rotation last season, appearing in all 33 games, but his minutes were reduced in 2017-18 as he played in 25 games.

"He took a little bit a lesser role this year after playing in every game for a record-setting 28-win team," Bronkema said. "He has a story of sacrifice like the rest of our guys do and that's why we won a championship, because of him and his character."

On Feb. 10, Meacham played a pivotal role in the Bulldogs' 97-91 overtime win at Ashland (Ohio). The host Eagles built a 10-point lead with 6:32 to go in the game before the FSU rallied at the end of regulation on Peter Firlik's 3-point bank shot, coming just across the mid-court line, to send it into OT.

"Meach has been a big part of our program since he's been here," Bronkema said. "He's part of that original class that has won all the conference championships here. He's been nothing but a winner since being here. And now one of his best stories this year was making the baseball pass at Ashland — comes cold off the bench — and making that play. And if he doesn't, we probably don't get the No. 1 seed and not able to host the tournament and who knows who far we can go without him doing that?"

Williams's role was to come off the bench and support senior guard Drew Cushingberry. Former Michigan Mr. Basketball DeShaun Thrower (Muskegon), a first-year transfer from Division I Stony Brook, also gobbled up minutes at the guard spot.

"My role was really playing backup point guard behind a first team all-conference point guard," said Williams, who played three minutes in the championship final. "My role was kind of like, go out there, play defense, bring energy, rebound and move the ball and get us into our offense."

Williams played quarterback at Canton and was an all-state basketball player who averaged 21 points per game as a senior. He last won a title as an 8-year-old junior football player for the Canton Steelers.

"I won a Super Bowl when I was a little kid, but didn't win a state championship or anything like that," he said. "I've been playing sports since I was a little kid and it takes a really special team, a really special group of guys, to accomplish something like that."

And winning the title on the road gave it added meaning.

"I think if that place held 3,500 people, we had 500 people and they had the rest," Williams said. "I think

"Both these guys have bright futures in the next year or two to come in our program. Those two stories of sacrifice are the reason we win."

Andy Bronkema
Ferris State basketball coach

(Northern State) played there eight times already that year and they're three hours away. And their team has the best attendance of D-II. But even though it was kind of like an away game and a home game for them, it was still a great atmosphere and that's what you want for a national championship game. Being out there, it was super loud and the adrenaline was crazy. It was an awesome experience and the biggest game I've ever played in on a really big stage with a lot of people watching it."

Coming out of Northville, Meacham was the team MVP and all-KLAA player for the Mustangs who averaged 19 points, 11 rebounds and 3.5 blocks per game.

"One of the reasons I came to Ferris is kind of a family atmosphere with the team," Meacham said. "We're all really close and we all hang out together off the court. It's really fun."

During past two years, he served as a backup to 6-10 junior center Zach Hankins (Charlevoix), who was named the NCAA Division II Player of the Year.

"Last year, I played in every game," Meacham said. "This year, I struggled with my 3-point shot. Coaches took me out of my role as far as minutes every game. I played here and there. That was hard to deal with, but I always put the team first. I never let it affect my play. (I) shot better after I lost my role. I ended the year probably around 40-something percent, brought it up from what it was. I was always pushing my teammates in practice and just helping out when I could."

Meacham, who excels in the classroom, is currently completing his first of four years in FSU's pharmacy program.

"We basically have an exam every week," Meacham said. "It's all about time management, honestly. I've done really good managing my time between sports and school my four years here. It is a lot of work, but I get through it. My classmates help and my professors help, too, when we have study table. After I get the time management down, it's not that bad."

Meacham said he plans to return and use his fifth and final year of eligibility. Hankins, who also red-shirted as a freshman, announced Thursday that he'll become a senior graduate transfer at NCAA Division I Xavier University, a power program from the Big East.

"Next year, I'm going to put in the work to get minutes at the center because we're losing Zach Hankins, who was a big part of the team," Meacham said. "And those were big minutes to fill. Hopefully, I'll be getting minutes next year."

Ferris State opened its season last November by taking Michigan State down to the wire before losing at the Breslin Center, 80-72. Next season, the Bulldogs have accepted an invitation to take on Duke in an exhibition game.

Williams, while still recovering from his fractured foot, did not play in the exhibition game against MSU. But he intends to be ready next fall when the Bulldogs visit the famed Cameron Indoor Stadium.

"Going forward, I have two more years of eligibility," he said. "Three starting guards are graduating and Hankins is leaving, so there's four starting positions open and I'm going for one of those starting positions. The past two years, I've been a bench player coming off the bench, bring energy, be an at-role player, but I'm kind of ready to step up and be the leader, be more aggressive, get some more shots and more playing time."

Ferris State players and coaches were honored recently by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder during a ceremony at the state Capitol in Lansing as FSU became the first NCAA Division II men's basketball team from the state to win a national title.

"It's unbelievable, honestly," Meacham said. "That was one of the goals for the team coming into season. Our team as a whole put in the hard work and it paid dividends. We won 38 games, school record, we won the conference outright, back-to-back, and won the conference tournament for the fourth straight year, so it's really special. It's an experience I won't forget."

The road to the national title, however, didn't come without some bumps in the road, but Ferris was able to pull it off.

"We all had stuff going on, outside stuff, distractions ... and it's crazy how a group of people can come together, throwing all that out, just work hard," Williams said. "The head coach is an amazing guy and we have a great coaching staff. They just brought us in together and we had some really great team chemistry and it's just an amazing group of guys."

Although five seniors will graduate, nine return as Bronkema maps out his strategy next season to defend a national title. He has added another top-notch class of incoming recruits, including Schoolcraft College guard Walter Kelsner (Walled Lake Central).

But he knows that selfless players like Williams and Meacham have proven to be invaluable in the program's new-found success.

"Both these guys have bright futures in the next year or two to come in our program," Bronkema said. "Those two stories of sacrifice are the reason we win."

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ICE HOCKEY

Sorrows, seminarians play for 'fun as a faith community'

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

As a man of the cloth, the Rev. Paul Graney's main goal is to spread the word of God. However, for a one-hour period Friday evening, his mission was to prevent a goal.

Graney played defense for the Our Lady of Sorrows parish hockey team, which skated against a squad representing Sacred Heart Major Seminary at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. The game was a first-time activity meant to provide fellowship and camaraderie among the parishioners, while providing fun, not to mention a few bumps and bruises, for the players.

"I've been looking forward to this for a long time," said Graney, who started playing hockey at age 4 and still plays recreation hockey at Suburban Ice Arena in Farmington Hills. "It's a night for just getting together and having fun as a faith community. Also, it was a chance for the seminarians to come out here and meet the parishioners."

"It is a way to remind everybody that we have a seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit that puts out priests for the church," he added. "And that the priesthood is definitely a possibility for young men and that (the seminarians) are real and now you get to meet them. It's a good thing and it can increase our faith for everybody just by seeing all of them."

Associate's love for hockey

Graney, 33, grew up in Oxford, where he played high school hockey for the Wildcats before graduating in 2003. He later attended Oakland University and played for the university's club team. He entered Sacred Heart Major Seminary in 2010 and, after earning both a master's of divinity and baccalaureate in sacred theology, completed his calling to the priesthood in 2016, when he was or-



The Rev. Paul Graney (left) skates the puck up the ice during Friday's game against Sacred Heart Major Seminary. MARTY BUDNER

daigned.

Graney has worked at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington for the past 18 months as an associate to the church's pastor, the Rev. Mark Brauer. He also works with Deacon Mark Livingston, a seminarian at Sacred Heart during the week who tends to weekend duties at Our Lady of Sorrows.

Livingston is a defender on the SHMS squad, which plays "four or five" games yearly around the area.

Since Graney and Livingston both grew up playing the sport and are big

hockey fans, they conceived a plan for Sorrows to lace up the skates against the seminary. Sorrows brought 15 players, while the seminarians had a larger squad of close to 25.

"Typically, we only play other seminarians, but this year we wanted to try something different by going out to the community and inviting folks from the parish in the local community to come and watch," Livingston said. "I have a rule on our team that, if you practice, you play. You don't have to have experience. I love it. I love seeing people come

together and have a good time."

Sorrows earns 3-2 win

The game consisted of three 13-minute periods of running clock. Since there was time remaining in the rental fee, they played an extra 10 minutes.

After a scoreless first period, the visiting seminarians soared to a 2-0 lead with a pair of second-period goals from Mitch Logeais and Karl Hartman. Sorrows rebounded in the third period to tie the game on goals by Jason Zewatsky and Kevin Williams.

The extra time proved beneficial for the home team, as Sorrows received a goal by Alan LaTour, who pounced on his own rebound to smack home the eventual game-winner in a 3-2 outcome.

"I knew about (the game) for a long time, but just got asked to play on Sunday," said LaTour, who played house hockey in Grosse Pointe as a youth. "It was great. It was good for the church and it was a nice fellowship opportunity. It was great to play the seminarians and it was a fun night."

Friday's game was preceded by a free skate open to all parishioners — youngsters and adults alike — who not only took a few trips around ice, but enjoyed some pizza and pop as well.

After the game, Graney delivered a prayer and Livingston addressed the large crowd that came out to support both teams.

"We have a big parish and there are a lot of rinks around here. There are a lot of guys who like to play hockey," Graney said. "I knew a few guys and they knew a few guys, so we sent out messages and got a team together."

"This is a chance for all of us to work out and make our faith community just that much stronger," he added.

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PREP BASEBALL

Novi earns sweep in frigid twinbill

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Novi's baseball team got a head start during spring break, playing a double-header Saturday as temperatures barely climbed into the upper 30s.

Regardless, the host Wildcats took advantage by sweeping Garden City, 7-6, and North Farmington-Harrison, 8-3, to improve to 3-2 on the season.

But the news wasn't all good as Novi returned to practice April 5 and suffered a damaging loss when standout junior center fielder Brian Wendt suffered a broken hand while batting in an intrasquad scrimmage.

"I don't know how anybody in the outfield can be better than him, he's so fast and smooth," Novi coach Rick Green said. "He's definitely got to be one of the top guys in our league, for sure."

Green said Wendt is more than likely lost for the season and he'll have to tinker with his lineup.

"We have (Evan) Yokie playing some first base, I can put him back in the outfield," Green said. "(Tyler) VanKirk runs down a lot of balls out in center field. He'll fill in well, I'm pretty sure. And then we have (Ryota) Torri can play some outfield as well as (Kyle) Klosterman, who is returning, too. Then we have a couple of younger kids like Alstone Mealy, who can play outfield, too. We're pretty solid in the outfield, even though we lost a pretty big player in Wendt."

Despite being out-hit Saturday, 11-7, Novi took advantage of five Garden City errors to win the opener as junior Ryan Farris had two hits and two RBIs, while Drew O'Connor went 2-for-4 with a double and two runs scored.

Torri, a senior right-hander, went 3½ innings to pick up the win. He allowed two earned runs, struck out three and walked two. Senior right-hander Johnny Bean got the final out to pick up the save.

Garden City's Jacob May suffered the loss, while Austin Even went 2-for-4 with two RBIs. The Cougars also got two hits apiece from Brandon Dicker and Jacob Grant.



Drew O'Connor (top) will figure prominently this season in the infield and on the mound for Novi. SCOTT CONFER

As the clouds and wind picked up later in the day, Novi got a solid outing on the mound from senior right-hander Grant Pytel, who picked up the win against North-Harrison.

Junior Alex Choma was sharp, working 3½ of scoreless innings in relief, allowing no earned runs on no hits and one walk to go along with four strikeouts.

O'Connor paced Novi's nine-hit attack, going 2-for-4 with two RBIs, while Pytel was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Torri also collected two hits and an RBI, while junior Aidan Rosinski had an RBI and scored three runs. Sophomore Joshua Ermo also knocked in a run.

Before spring break, Novi opened its

season March 23 at home with a loss to Walled Lake Northern, followed by a 10-0 KLAA crossover setback to Salem.

But the Wildcats rebounded March 28 at home by rallying from a 6-0 deficit to beat last year's MHSAA Division 1 runner-up Northville, 7-6.

Choma, in relief, did not allow a run in 4½ innings to earn the victory.

Bean's suicide squeeze bunt tied the game at 6-6 in the bottom of the sixth. Novi got out of a bases-loaded jam in the top of the seventh and won it on a Northville throwing error in the bottom of the seventh.

Northville led the second game, 2-0, when play was suspended because of darkness in the bottom of the fourth in-

ning. (The game will be completed at a later date.)

Green, in his 19th season, is hoping for more consistency on the mound. The Wildcats finished 18-20-1 a year ago.

"Pitching, so far, hasn't been good. We're throwing way too many walks," he said. "And Wendt was going to be one of my pitchers, a left-hander that can throw 78 (mph). Right now with the cold weather, it's been kind of hard. I don't think you really can judge each pitcher by the way the weather is. We're just hoping for some warmer weather and throwing first-pitch strikes."

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PDL SOCCER

Thomas takes over Bucks manager reins

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The Michigan Bucks of the USL Premier Development League announced Monday that Paul Thomas has been elevated to head coach.

Thomas, the former Madonna University women's soccer coach, replaces former PDL Coach of the Year Demir Muftari, who for the past four seasons has been a part of the team's successful stretch of national titles since he joined in 2014.

The Bucks begin their 23rd PDL season with their record 15th appearance in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup in a match beginning at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, against host Detroit City FC at Hamtramck's Keyworth Stadium.

Thomas, who posted a 45-20-7 record in four seasons at Madonna, brings a wealth of experience to the Bucks at the youth and collegiate coaching level, with vast experience in the U.S. and England. While assisting the Bucks since 2014, Thomas was also the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association director of coaching.

"I love working with the young players who are all aspiring to chase their dream to become professional soccer players here or abroad and I will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that this year's team continues to produce champions," Thomas said in a team press release. "It is an honor and a challenge to be handed the reins of this great program and I appreciate the trust that ownership and management has given me to expand my career."

Thomas is also currently on the USSF national coaching education staff, as well as a Michigan Wolves/Hawks Academy coach and technical adviser. He has held a USSF 'A' license since 2007.

"I have been involved in high levels of soccer the past decade, but nothing has been as challenging and rewarding as being a part of the most successful team in American soccer history at this level,"



Paul Thomas is the new head coach of the PDL's Michigan Bucks. BRAD EMONS

"It is an honor and a challenge to be handed the reins of this great program ..."

Paul Thomas
new Michigan Bucks coach

said Thomas, a Beverly Hills resident.

Thomas's first order of business was to appoint Will Thornton as his first assistant. Thornton, who hails from Pennsylvania, is also a staff coach with the Michigan Wolves/Hawks Academy and was an assistant coach for two seasons with the PDL powerhouse Reading (Pa.) United.

Thornton's resume also includes coaching at legendary youth club FC Delco in Philadelphia.

"Thanks to Paul for giving me this opportunity to be a part of the Bucks organization," Thornton said. "Having previous experience coaching at Reading, I am very aware of the standards for winning and developing players that the Bucks have established over the past two decades. I believe my passion for

helping young players reach their ultimate potential will help me succeed in my role during this upcoming Bucks season."

Muftari, meanwhile, has been promoted to technical director of the Bucks and will continue to work closely with Gary Parsons, the team's director of coaching, as well as Thomas and his new staff.

While leaving, as he described it, as the "best coaching job in the world," Muftari approached Parsons with the idea of moving Thomas into this role for the 2018 season.

"Paul has earned this opportunity and, with all the upcoming movement with pro soccer in the area, the time is right for Paul to be able to show how talented he is," Muftari said. "He may have been listed as an assistant coach last year, but he was responsible for more of the coaching decisions than people know. He has a very bright future ahead of him and the Bucks team we are assembling this year should give him and Will a great opportunity to succeed in their first season."

While the Bucks are most well known for their championships and professional players developed, the team takes as much pride in developing coaches as well.

"If you look at where some of our past coaches have been in their careers, we are as proud of them as we are of the player's advancement," Bucks CEO and Livonia native Dan Duggan said.

Steve Burns, the Bucks' first head coach, went on to lead Michigan to an NCAA Final Four berth, while Joe Malachino (Eastern Michigan) and Paul Snape (Butler) also became college head coaches. Dario Brose also played MLS for a short time and Don Gemmell is heading up one of the most successful youth programs in Houston, Texas.

Dan Fitzgerald, Parsons and Muftari were also part of Bucks championships since 2006.

"We are proud of what all these great coaches have done to advance the game of soccer at the academy, college and

professional level here in America," Duggan said. "We have some of the brightest young coaches in the country on this staff ready to embrace the exciting opportunities that professional soccer will provide right here in the state of Michigan in the coming years."

Parsons is looking forward to working with this year's staff, which also includes third-year goalkeeper coach Rajko Jovanovic.

"With our coaching staff set for the season, now we look to reload the player side of the equation," said Parsons, who formerly was the men's coach at Oakland University. "Last year's success was great for our players, as 11 of them signed pro contracts and two others are about to sign this week, so that leaves us a bit more depleted than most years. But we have a good core of returning underclassmen and we have worked diligently all year long to replace the players we expected to lose."

The Bucks open their PDL season on the road Saturday, May 12, against Lansing United. The Bucks' home opener is 4 p.m. Sunday, May 20, at Royal Oak High School against the Derby City (Ky.) Rovers.

"As always, the first game in early May is a problem for all teams at our level because you don't know who will be in camp yet and the new players coming won't even be settled," Parsons said. "So Paul will have his work cut out for him with a heavy schedule in May that could include three U.S. Open Cup games, four PDL games and two Steinbrecher Cup national championship games the first weekend in June. It is going to be a busy month of preparation for the start of the season."

For information regarding individual season tickets and family passes for the upcoming PDL season, go to www.bucksoccer.com. You can also follow the Bucks on Twitter @MichiganBucks and on Facebook @MichiganBucksSoccer.

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@hometownlife.com.

YOUTH BASEBALL

For the love of the game

Inge to teach joy, teamwork to youth players in new role at Legacy Center

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Brandon Inge's measure of success won't be how many college baseball players he helps develop or how many championship teams have his imprint.

Those things are all well and good, but that's not what will motivate Inge in his new position as player development director at the Legacy Baseball Organization.

The bottom line for Inge is that baseball should be fun. It was because he enjoyed being on the field every chance he got that Inge grew up to become a 13-year major league player, 12 of those seasons with the Detroit Tigers.

For Inge, cultivating a love for the game will be more important than producing elite players.

"The main ingredient is I want to see a smile on a kid's face when he's on a baseball field or when he's walking off a baseball field," Inge said after being introduced to players, parents and staff at the Legacy Center.

"Yeah, there's strikeouts. Yes, there's errors and they're going to have moments when they shrug their shoulders. But at the end of the day, when their team is happy behind them, I want a big smile on their face. Then I can teach them a little bit without them knowing I'm teaching them a little bit. That's the best situation possible."

The prospect of working with young players excites Inge, because he can reach them before they develop bad habits. That's a key reason he said he chose this path after his playing career, rather than working in pro ball.

"I really want to instill more of a team mentality to these kids right now," he said. "When they're young, that's when you get that mentality set in their minds. In the minor leagues, every man's for themselves. They're trying to move up through the ranks to get to the major leagues, and I don't fault them for that. But once kids learn to be good teammates, even if they don't make it in baseball, they become good members of



Former Detroit Tigers player Brandon Inge (left) shares a laugh with Legacy Center baseball instructor Jason Ladd during a fielding clinic. BILL KHAN | LIVINGSTON DAILY

society."

When Inge retired following the 2013 season with Pittsburgh, his focus switched from maintaining a skill level necessary to succeed in the major leagues to working with his sons, Tyler, 13, and Chase, 10, after moving back to his hometown of Lynchburg, Va.

"It was a little less intense," Inge said. "You're talking about playing every day, full speed, nine innings of baseball in front of 50,000 people as opposed to now you're going to a little back field with your kids. You play with them and you watch them play and you watch them have fun. Each has their own rewards to it. Major league baseball is what it is, and it's amazing. I'm glad I was able to participate in that at some point. Now, watching your kids grow up and playing on a field, there's not a better feeling on Earth. That's why I'm coming back here and giving back to this community right here and see if I can develop some of these young athletes into maybe potential Tigers one day."

Inge's sons played a significant role



Brandon Inge (right) talks to youngsters during a fielding clinic at the Legacy Center in Green Oak Township. BILL KHAN | LIVINGSTON DAILY

in bringing him back to Michigan.

The opportunity to do some arose when Jason Carr, son of former Michigan football coach Lloyd Carr, and his wife Tammi visited the Inge family. Knowing that Inge was involved with coaching youth baseball and was looking to return to Michigan, Jason Carr brought up the baseball program at the Legacy Center.

After several meetings, Inge was offered the job in January while in Detroit for TigerFest. He was at the facility this week during his sons' spring break to conduct a fielding clinic earlier this month and a hitting clinic. Inge will begin working full time at the Legacy Center in August.

Working with young players reminds Inge of how he got started in the game, though in a less-structured environment.

"My dad was very hands-on with me," he said. "We'd go play at the park as many times as I could possibly get out there. It was just that level of bonding with my father and my brother playing in the backyard."

"But looking at this place, I would have been in here every single day. This place is amazing. It's state-of-the-art everything. But they keep it fun. Most of these state-of-the-art places you go to, they're very arrogant. They make it hard to actually get in. This place is very warm, open arms, come on in and they treat you like family. That's what I really love about it."

The Legacy baseball program has 33 teams for ages 8-18, ranging from recreational to elite. The baseball and softball training facility is 12,000 square feet, with seven batting cages.

Bringing in someone with Inge's background will be a major boost for the program, said Ryan Ford, director of baseball at the Legacy Center.

"It's an instant impact," Ford said. "You get that instant connection from any of the kids who are listening and hearing his thoughts and how he teaches. But what we want out of him is to be able to make his fingerprint on what we do here as an organization and the curriculum we have the coaches use to teach their kids."

WOMEN'S HOCKEY



Fans of all ages came to meet Megan Keller and admire the gold medal she won as a defenseman for the U.S. women's hockey team. RENA LAVERTY

Keller's post-Olympic days a whirlwind of activity, adulation

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's an understatement to say it's been a whirlwind for Megan Keller since her gold medal conquest at the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea.

The 21-year-old Farmington Hills resident helped the U.S. women capture their first Olympic hockey gold medal in 20 years — second overall — as the young Americans defeated arch-rival Canada, 3-2, in another international classic decided via shootout.

Since returning from PyeongChang in late February, Keller and her Olympic teammates have crisscrossed the country like Hollywood movie stars. She's hardly been able to spend any time at home to recap Olympic adventures with her parents Lynn and Gregg and older brother Ryan.

For instance:

■ Keller has been part of ceremonial puck drops at NHL games in Tampa, Los Angeles, Detroit and Boston.

■ She's made television appearances on the Ellen DeGeneres show in Los Angeles and Jimmy Fallon in New York.

■ She was part of the Stadium Series hockey game in New York, where she met Serena and Venus Williams.

■ Keller signed autographs a did a puck drop ceremony March 30 at the USA Arena in Plymouth at the USA Hockey's NTDP U-18 game against the Youngstown Phantoms.

"There are so many things that we've done — too many to count. People are always asking: 'What's your favorite? What's your favorite?'" Keller said. "Each time, it's something new and each one tops the other and, to be honest, I can't choose."

"I never thought it would be this amazing of an experience. Just to see the support from everyone. Everywhere we go, there's always somebody who recognized the team and was so excited about the game, whether they watched it or followed it."

"So I think that's probably been the best part," she added. "Just seeing all of that excitement from everyone wherever we go."

Cementing her reputation

Although Keller has been a member of the three women's world championship teams — including 2017 at the USA Arena in her own backyard — this was her first Olympic experience. The 5-foot-10, left-handed shooter cemented her reputation as one of the country's top defenders with an outstanding tournament.



Olympic gold medalist Megan Keller from Farmington Hills dropped the first puck at the recent U.S. NTDP U-18 hockey game against Youngstown in Plymouth. RENA LAVERTY

Keller, who still has one year of eligibility remaining at Boston College, where she will resume her studies in communications this fall, helped the U.S. win four of the five Olympic games it played.

The U.S. opened pool play with victories over Finland (3-1) and the Olympic Athletes from Russia (5-0). Keller and her teammates dropped their first encounter with Canada in the final round of pool play by a goal (2-1).

In the semifinal round, the Americans blanked Finland (5-0) to earn another shot at the Canadians in the much-anticipated gold medal game. The rematch absolutely lived up to the pregame hype.

The U.S. opened the scoring with a late first-period goal, only to have Canada score twice in the second to take a 2-1 lead into the final period. The Americans tied it with seven minutes remaining in the third and that's the way regulation ended.

Neither team scored in the overtime, but Keller was penalized for an illegal hit with 1:35 left in the period, which caused for some anxious moments. Canada, however, did not score and the game went into a shootout.

The U.S. pulled out the thrilling 3-2 victory in a tense shootout that was finally decided in the sixth round, with Keller forced to watch from the penalty box. When Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson scored the game-winning shootout goal, Keller skated out and enthusiastically joined her teammates in a wild and

memorable on-ice celebration.

An exciting, proud moment

In that gold medal game, Keller led her team with 29:05 minutes of ice time. She had two shots on goal, both in OT.

Keller said it was an exhilarating and proud experience.

"The game was a whirlwind. We were ahead, then we were down — and then we went to a shootout," Keller said. "But, I mean, to be able to win a gold medal with your teammates at the end of the day and see your flag go up while you're singing the national anthem with them, it was something I will never forget, for sure."

"It was a crazy ending, but (I was) excited that we were able to get the job done and bring home gold to share it with every one," she added. "These are some of the most talented players that I've ever gotten the opportunity to play with and there is just so much belief in confidence among us that we were going to be able to do it."

Keller's Olympic debut was one for the ages.

"I never had more fun than those two weeks (at the Olympics). I don't know if anything will ever top it," Keller said. "Maybe if I get back there one day."

Favorite Olympic moments

Following are some other memories outside of hockey-playing moments:

■ **Favorite Olympic moment:** "Hav-

ing this (as she pointed to her gold medal) put around my neck by Angela Ruggerio (a former U.S. player and current member of the International Olympic Committee) and standing next to my teammates. Outside of hockey, it was probably the opening ceremony. It was, like, the first taste and, being with all the other USA athletes and getting to walk into the stadium and see the seats lit up with the United States of America, it was really surreal."

■ **Favorite Olympic sport to watch:** "Speedskating. Short track. We got to see it live, a few of us. I mean, the South Koreans are really good at it. We got to see a few of them win gold and the place erupted. And one of our team USA athletes won silver and we got to see that. I mean, the sport is just so fast and they're cutting each other off and it's always changing who's in first. It is just crazy. It amazed me, too. I don't know if I could skate on those (tracks)."

■ **Favorite Korean food:** "My parents got to eat more Korean food than we did. We kind of stayed to the American food track just in competition to stay healthy and make sure nobody had any bad reactions. But after the tournament, I had quite a bit of McDonald's from the village."

■ **Favorite experience with family:** "Probably just going to the team USA House up in the mountains and the time I got to spend with them and see them ... after the games, they were the first people that I wanted to see and that I was able to see. Just to see the smiles on their faces made the entire experience better."

■ **Top celebrity or personality you met:** "We met (U.S. snowboarder) Chloe Kim in the mountain village. We were actually lost, because there are two separate villages and we were down in the coastal one, so we were up there and trying to figure our way around. She had a competition that day, but she knew we were lost and that we didn't belong up there. She asked if we needed help. She was super-nice. Then we got to see her win gold. That was pretty cool. She was awesome."

■ **The North Korean cheer contingent:** "One of our teammates (Hannah Brandt), her sister (Marissa Brandt) was on the Korean hockey team. So we tried to watch a lot of her games and show support for them. We saw (the North Korean cheer contingent) at those games. Yeah, they were always in sync and they were loud. I mean, it was cool to see that they were there and wanted to cheer on the team."

Contact Marty Budner at mbudner@hometownlife.com.

Have a fun and safe time as you play ball



Dr. Joe
Joseph Guettler
USA TODAY NETWORK -
MICHIGAN

Even though winter does not want to end, Detroit Tigers baseball is upon us.

If you're lucky enough to be a part of this timeless tradition down at Comerica Park this year, it's sure to be a "win" regardless of how the Tigers perform. Opening day is now history and that also means the baseball season is here for all of our high school athletes and Little League players.

Personally, I always look forward to the beginning of baseball season.

It's a time to enjoy the spring weather — when it arrives — and it's also a time enjoy "playing ball" at all levels, from T-ball to the church or city softball league to the pros.

In the sports medicine world, it also means that baseball injuries will hit their yearly peak.

More than 40 million people across the country will hit the diamond this season and roughly 500,000 will suffer baseball- or softball-related injuries. While baseball and softball can't exactly be equated with professional bull riding as one of America's riskiest sports, there are certainly a variety of injuries that do occur. These injuries can be divided into throwing injuries, running and sliding injuries and those injuries that occur when a player is struck with a bat or ball.

If you want to take a trip around the bases — and not a trip to the doctor's office or emergency room — you'll want to read the following recommendations.

Throwing injuries

Many injuries occur when players

overuse their arms. This time of year, my practice is swamped with Little League and high school pitchers who have "overdone it." In my practice, I see kids with Little League elbow and Little League shoulder every day during the baseball season.

These conditions occur because the throwing motion irritates, and can even fracture, the growth plates of a young thrower's elbow or shoulder. What's troubling is that the number of young throwers flocking to doctors' offices with sore shoulders and elbows has risen dramatically over the last decade. What's even more alarming is that the incidence of shoulder and elbow surgery for problems in young throwers has skyrocketed.

To combat this, most leagues have put in place some sort of rule that involves pitch counts or limiting the number of innings pitched in a week — that's because it's really important. Your child really doesn't want a "spent" shoulder or elbow by the time he or she's in college.

Based upon its expertise and review of existing studies, the USA Baseball Medical & Safety Advisory Committee makes the following recommendations for minimizing a pitcher's risk of future serious arm injury: Recommended limits for youth pitchers are as follows:

Recommended limits for pitchers ages 9-10: 50 pitches per game; 75 pitches per week; 1,000 pitches per season; and 2,000 pitches per year.

Recommended limits for pitchers ages 11-12: 75 pitches per game; 100 pitches per week; 1,000 pitches per season; and 3,000 pitches per year.

Recommended limits for pitchers ages 13-14: 75 pitches per game; 125 pitches per week; 1,000 pitches per season; and 3,000 pitches per year.

By using some additional guidelines, that include things like not throwing

breaking balls before high-school age, as well as pitching a maximum of nine months out of the year, many injuries and problems can be avoided.

With that being said, young pitchers are still running into trouble because they are pitching for multiple teams and they are often pitching too many months of the year by being involved in travel leagues and specialized clinics. The bottom line is, if a pitcher at any level experiences significant pain with throwing, it's probably time to get it checked out.

By the way, we did a really cool study that was published in the American Journal of Sports Medicine in 2014.

We found that if your young pitcher is pitching with a tired or sore arm, the risk of serious injury goes up exponentially. If your young pitcher is not taking at least one-third of the year off from pitching — or engaging in other sports during the year to break up the repetitive stresses that pitching invokes on the growing shoulder and elbow — his risk of injury goes up significantly. If your young pitcher is not adhering to the commonly accepted guidelines regarding pitch counts and rest as outlined above, then his risk of injury will also skyrocket.

When in doubt, just remember Dr. Joe's Rule of Ones:

■ One game at a time ... don't pitch in two games in one day

■ One day at a time ... don't pitch on consecutive days

■ One-hundred pitches is the absolute upper game limit for even our more developed young pitchers

■ One position at a time ... don't play pitcher and catcher on the same team

■ One team at a time ... don't play on teams with overlapping pitching schedules

■ At least one other organized sport

or one season off

■ One complaint of arm pain or tiredness equals one week off

Other baseball injuries

Other injuries occur while players are running around or sliding into bases.

Proper sliding techniques, coupled with breakaway bases, can significantly reduce the risk of injury (unfortunately, we can't do much about the "strawberries" that occur while sliding on our lovely gravel fields here in southeast Michigan). In addition, players should always survey the surrounding field for holes, glass or other debris before play begins.

Finally, appropriate protective equipment can help prevent the catastrophic injuries that occur when a player is hit by a bat or ball. This is a no-brainer and appropriate equipment is a must when it comes to organized baseball and softball.

So whether you're down at Comerica Park this summer, watching your son or daughter or playing in your own softball league, have a fun and safe time as you play ball.

If you want more info on injury prevention in youth sports, go to www.aossm.org.

Our recent research is part of a huge effort by our sports medicine society to educate the public on ways to prevent injuries in young athletes and its website has useful links and information.

Dr. Joseph Guettler is an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in sports medicine, as well as surgery of the knee, shoulder and elbow. His practice, Performance Orthopedics, is located in Bingham Farms. Guettler also specializes in the treatment of baseball and softball injuries in growing athletes.

YOUTH WRESTLING



The Michigan Matcats girls were National Club Dual runner-up in Lansing. CARRIE GREEN

Matcats shine as spring season commences

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Michigan Matcats opened their spring season Saturday at the Michigan USA Wrestling tournament at Brownstown Woodhaven High School by earning the team trophy.

In Greco Roman, individual first-place finishers for the Matcats were Mason Aluia, Gavin Boller, Odysseus Schlusler, Jamison Wood, Bronson Shinkonis, Conrad Eberly, Sullivan Haas, R.J. Green, Nathan Esser, Duke McDonald and Aiden Meyers.

Placing second were Peyton Searing, Nathan Weiland, Wesley Honiss, Drake Pollins, Alex Erhman, Joa Gekiya, Devin McKinney, Theo Hoadley, Travis Richardson and Rory Styles.

Finishing third were Wyatt Green, Peerless Schlusler and Max Honiss, while Joshua Styles, Jaden Rogers and Michael Peppers each placed fourth.

In freestyle, first-place Matcats included Boller, Schlusler, Wood, Shinkonis, Green, Meyers and Richardson. Those in second were to Searing, Aluia, Weiland, Pollins, Haas, McDonald, McKinnney, Hoadley and Max Honiss.

Placing third were Gabriel Adam, Nathan Esser, Conrad Eberly, Tanner Adam, Wesley Honiss, Rory Styles, Chase Adam, Rogers, Green and Peppers. Those in fourth were Brayden Hopkins, Joshua Styles, Koa Sekiya, Owen Hopkins and Schlusler.

"These two disciplines are what the rest of the world practice and not as popular in the U.S. due to the aggressive and less conservative scoring and safety protocols," Matcats coach Steve Richardson said. "The Matcats have all along had a very successful history with freestyle and Greco Roman, winning the team points championships last year and placing more at the Central Regional national qualifier than

any other event in 2017. This year, we have doubled our numbers and are looking to be even more successful."

NUWAY Duals

In the season ending folkstyle, the Matcats competed in the National United Wrestling Association for Youth Club Team National Duals at the Lansing Center as the girls team earned a runner-up national placement.

Members of the Matcats girls squad included Bella Cepak, Rayna Richardson, Kaleigh Kiesgan, Grace Gallop, Brynn Green, Ashley Hardesty, Kailyn Garrett and Grace Gallop.

"These girls worked extremely hard against dozens of teams from the Midwest and Canada," Richardson said. "I'm so proud of these girls for the effort demonstrated. It was also nice seeing their brothers from the boys team cheering them on."

The age-group tournament was for kindergarten through eighth grade.

Earning boys victories for the Matcats in the opening round against the 2017 national champion Illinois squad were Beck Yurkunas, Benny Leece, Antonio Nauss, Boller, Searing, Meyers and Richardson.

"Unfortunately, we tied the match in points losing by criteria," Richardson said.

Following the setback, the Matcats rebounded by capturing five straight matches and winning their pool, defeating teams from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Canada.

"Our Matcats have never had an easy path and facing the defending champions was exactly what we wanted," Richardson said. "This head-to-head was exciting for us. Every one of our Matcats wrestled beyond well."

Contact Brad Emons at bemons@hometownlife.com



ISTOCK IMAGES

Help your partner's credit — without harming your own

Talk about it, then pick a strategy that works for both

Bev O'Shea
NerdWallet

When you get married, your credit files stay single.

And if one spouse has a good credit score and the other does not, it's particularly important to maintain your credit histories' separate status. There are ways to provide help if your credit-challenged mate wants it but in a way that doesn't risk harming your finances — or your relationship.

First, determine whether your partner even wants help, says Amanda Clayman, a financial wellness coach and therapist. "One thing the more creditworthy person needs to find out is, how much is the other person bothered" by their low score, Clayman says. If they're not too worried about it, she says, then they're probably not motivated to change.

■ Do we have to talk about it? Discussing high student loan balances and household budgets may not be the most enjoyable activity. Frame the discussion in terms of shared goals, because a high credit score by itself isn't worth much, says Joshua Harris, a certified financial planner and lecturer at Clemson University.

Dreaming of a future together is fun; harping about credit-card use, not so much. Focus on the former, and work together on strategies to get there. Teaming up to address a bad score can improve your relationship,

whereas nagging could cause friction. You'll always have to talk about finances, and the better you communicate, the easier it will be.

■ Strategies to help: If your spouse wants help with their credit score, work together to identify the issue and find potential solutions. Common reasons for a low credit score are late payments, a high balance or balances on credit cards, and a collection or court judgment for unpaid debts.

Three basic strategies that can help:

■ Have your spouse open a secured credit card. Then simply put a small recurring expense on it, such as a Netflix subscription, and activate autopay.

■ Make your spouse an authorized user on your credit card. Your mate need not even have a physical card. (Note that this strategy is more effective for those new to credit.)

■ Help your spouse take out a credit-builder loan, a product typically available at credit unions. Pick a payment you both can easily afford, make the payments on time, and receive the loan proceeds at the end. The lender reports your payment history to credit bureaus.

Less advisable is co-signing for a loan or a credit card. Although doing so can potentially bump up your partner's score, missteps could result in you losing your own good credit, and that could cause relationship friction, too. Proceed with extreme caution if you decide to go this route.

Homeowners look for new ways to cut property tax

Almee Picchi
Special to USA TODAY

The new GOP tax law included an unwelcome surprise for some homeowners: a \$10,000 cap on the state and local tax (SALT) deduction.

The cap could cause financial pain for residents of some high-tax states where even middle-class homes can easily exceed that threshold.

Given the new cap, is it worth trying to lower your property tax bill?

The first step is to figure out if you are likely to be affected by the \$10,000 limit on SALT deductions.

Next, you'll want to determine if you're likely to itemize deductions in 2018. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act almost doubled the standard deduction to \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for married filers, a change that is effective for the current tax year.

■ Feeling the pinch: Homeowners in California, New Jersey and New York are the likeliest to feel the pain of the new SALT deduction cap. A Trulia analysis found that almost 1 out of 10 U.S. homeowners have property tax bills higher than \$10,000. The metropolitan area with the highest share of tax bills above \$10,000 is New York's Nassau County-Suffolk County region, where almost half of all homes have property taxes that exceed the new cap, Trulia found.

Even without the pain of the SALT cap, property taxes across the country are on the rise. Homeowners paid \$18.4 billion in property taxes during 2016, or 4.6% more than in the previous year, according to the U.S. Census.

■ How to start: Property taxes can change when a municipality increases its tax rate or when it changes the assessed value on your home. While you can't challenge the former, you have the right to appeal your home's assessed value.

Compare your property's value against similar properties in your area. If your home seems to be assessed at a higher amount than those comparable ones, that data will help you build your case. Hiring an independent appraiser is also helpful.

■ Making your case: Your property tax bill should include information about how to appeal your assessment.

Remember to document everything, including photographs, your independent appraisal and comparable home information.

Some homeowners, such as seniors and veterans, may be able to take advantage of waivers or property tax relief programs offered by their municipalities or states. Those residents may be able to get a lower tax bill without challenging assessments.



GETTY IMAGES



Sliced avocados offers a twist on a ramen bowl. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO RGJ MEDIA/CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION



Linguine is tossed with avocado, arugula and spinach pesto.

Avocado Tips

Selecting

- California avocados are in season from spring through fall.
- Ripe fruit is firm yet yields to gentle squeezing.
- Hass avocados become dark green or black when ripe, but some varieties remain light green.

Ripening

- Place hard, unripened avocados in a brown paper bag and store at room temperature (two to five days) to accelerate ripening.
- Add an apple or banana to the bag; these fruits emit an ethylene gas that speeds ripening.

Storing

- Store ripe, uncut avocados in the refrigerator from two to three days.
- To store cut avocados, sprinkle with lemon juice, lime juice or white vinegar to prevent discoloring, then wrap in plastic wrap or place in an airtight container and use as soon as possible.

Slicing and peeling

- Wash and dry a ripe avocado and place it on a clean cutting board.
- Slice into the avocado until the knife touches the seed, then cut the avocado in half lengthwise, rotating the fruit with one hand while holding the knife horizontally with the other hand.
- Position the avocado lengthwise facing you, give it a quarter turn toward you and cut in half lengthwise again.
- Pull quarters apart and remove the seed.
- To peel the avocado, slide your thumb beneath the skin and pull to remove.

Source: California Avocado Commission

It's delicious BEING GREEN

A duo of dishes for the start of California avocado season

Johnathan L. Wright Reno Gazette-Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

There's more to avocados than guacamole (or, thank God, than silly avocado toast). ■ Spring marks the start of the avocado season in California that runs through fall. California produces about 90 percent of the nation's crop, with nearly 4,000 growers raising the fruit (nope, it's not a vegetable). ■ Although several varieties of avocado are grown in California, most are Hass avocados that darken as they ripen (some other varieties, however, remain lighter green when they're ripe). ■ Whatever the variety, avocados feature rich, subtly flavored flesh that's a versatile ingredient, as demonstrated by the recipes we're sharing today. ■ An easy salad mingles mixed greens, sliced avocado, walnuts, blue cheese crumbles and strawberries (another spring staple). ■ Linguine is tossed in avocado, arugula and spinach pesto, then finished with cherry tomato halves and a flurry of basil.

Linguine with California Avocado Pesto and Cherry Tomatoes

- 1 pound linguine
- 2 ripe fresh California avocados, pitted and peeled
- 1 cup baby arugula leaves
- 1 cup baby spinach leaves
- 1 cup packed fresh basil leaves
- ¼ cup toasted pumpkin seeds
- ¼ cup toasted cashews
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and smashed
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup halved cherry tomatoes
- 2 tablespoon julienned basil leaves, for serving

Fill a stockpot with 6 quarts water, generously salt and bring to a boil. Cook linguine until al dente, then drain, reserving 1 cup cooking water. Place cooked linguine and reserved pasta water to the side.

Meanwhile, add halved avocados, baby arugula, baby spinach, packed basil leaves, pumpkin seeds, cashews, garlic, lemon juice, extra-virgin olive oil, sea salt and pepper to a blender or food processor and blend until smooth.

Once the pesto is smooth, add the grated Parmesan and pulse a few more times to combine.

Place pasta in a large serving bowl, top with pesto, then toss until coated. A small amount of reserved pasta water can be added to the pasta, as needed, to create a loose, silky pesto that coats the linguine evenly.

Add the halved cherry tomatoes. Sprinkle pasta with the julienned basil leaves and serve. Makes 4 servings.

Berry Walnut and Avocado Spring Salad

- 1 (5-ounce) package spring mix salad
- ¼ cup quartered fresh strawberries
- ½ cup glazed walnuts
- ½ cup golden raisins
- 1 ripe fresh California avocado, pitted, peeled and sliced
- ½ cup blue cheese crumbles
- 4 ounces favorite bottled raspberry walnut dressing

In a medium bowl toss together spring mix salad, strawberries, walnuts and raisins.

Top with avocado and blue cheese crumbles. Drizzle lightly with dressing just prior to tossing and serving and pass dressing with salad. Makes 4 servings.

Recipes courtesy of California Avocado Commission

HAVE HOTEL ROOM PHONES BECOME OBSOLETE?

Nancy Trejos USA TODAY

The hotel guestroom telephone is being ignored more and more these days.

The average hotel guest checks in with three mobile devices. That has pushed the guestroom phone down the list of preferred communication devices.

"We have noticed a significant decline in guest room phone usage and that guests, by and large, bring and use their own mobile phones," says Kevin Carl, executive vice president and chief information officer of Radisson Hotel Group.

And why not? Hotels traditionally have charged exorbitant prices for the privilege of using a landline.

"Long ago, hotels helped to train guests not to use the room phone for long-distance calls due to egregiously high fee structures," says Robert Cole, founder of RockCheetah, a hotel marketing strategy and travel technology consulting firm.

Travelers are now hanging up on the traditional phone and using the hotel room phone only for minor logistical purposes, thanks to the advent of new technologies.

Kate Ashton, senior vice president of operations for Wyndham Grand, says the most common uses for in-room phones are for calls to the front desk. The most frequently asked questions are "What's the Wi-Fi password?" and "When is checkout time?"

Guests also call to make housekeeping requests, order room service or get advice on local restaurants and attractions. That said, hotels say they would never give up landlines for the simple reason they need them for security.

"Having a landline accessible means guests can always have a way to call in case of emergency or if they have any issues with their own devices," Ashton says.

Telephone manufacturers say a mobile device may not necessarily be the best way to handle an emergency.

"The traditional phone identifies the exact location of the guest for emergency responders, rather than just an estimate of location available with mobile network and Wi-Fi devices," says John Grubb, senior vice president of

marketing for Cetus Inc. That doesn't mean the guestroom telephone is not changing or that hotels aren't finding technologies to supplement the landline.

"Telephones continue to evolve and become more stylish in the hotel space," says Andrea Torrance, vice president of operations for AccorHotels North and Central America.

Hotel room phones used to be quite simple with one line and basic services. Now companies such as Cetus provide extensive services out of one device such as one-touch voice mail retrieval, Bluetooth pairing for music streaming and digital clocks. They also have built-in USB charging ports for smartphones. The hotel landline has gone from a single line to a two-line corded telephone to a cordless phone.

"Now, the trend seems to be going backward in time to a single line corded telephone," says Chad Collins, vice president of sales for the Americas at VTech, a company that produces hotel landlines. "I believe this is driven by the fact that hotels simply want a telephone with a dial tone, not all of the bells and whistles. Guests' demands are changing, and the telephone is not excluded from those changes."

But many hotels are finding other ways to communicate with guests. Roxy, a Seattle start-up, has created speech-enabled devices that will allow hotels to replace landlines with voice-activated calling. The devices also act as a guests' personal concierge. Guests can place requests to the front desk and get recommendations for restaurants and activities.

Some hotels are experimenting with Alexa, which lets users message or call other users if they have the app installed on their smartphone. Wynn Las Vegas has equipped all 4,748 rooms with Echo, Amazon's hands-free voice-controlled speaker.

Collins says there is no way a landline will compete with a mobile phone. But he believes both can serve different purposes. "The idea that we are trying to compete with mobile devices is a bit misguided," he says. "That's a bit like asking the wrench how it competes with the hammer. Both devices serve different purposes."



WYNDHAM HOTELS AND RESORTS

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Annual travel insurance policy may be best bet, but read the fine print



On Travel
Christopher Elliott
USA TODAY

If you're thinking of buying a travel insurance policy for your summer vacation, here's a thought: Why not get one for the whole year?

If you take more than two trips in 2018, you could save money by choosing an annual policy instead of insuring each trip separately, experts say. But most annual coverage comes with significant restrictions and limitations, and it can be difficult to find.

Consider what happened to Gary Arndt when he embarked on an open-ended trip around the world more than a decade ago. First, he priced a regular policy, which would have cost somewhere between \$114 and \$204 per segment, depending on the length and type of coverage. An annual policy, by comparison, cost \$459.

"Assuming I had a series of one- to two-week policies that I had instead of an annual policy, I would have had to pay anywhere between \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year for the same coverage," he says.

Arndt, a professional photographer, went with the annual policy. And although he doesn't travel full-time anymore, he has kept his coverage.

Annual policies differ from typical travel insurance purchased on a per-trip basis in at least one important way. They tend to focus on medical coverage, as opposed to cancellation benefits. That's because it's difficult for insurance underwriters to know how much you'll spend on your trips, and they are trying to limit their exposure, according to Damian Tysdal, who publishes the site TravelInsuranceReview.net.

"An annual plan might be right for you if you are taking multiple trips throughout the year, especially abroad where you will need medical coverage, but cancellation is not your primary concern," he says.

For example, the basic version of Arndt's annual policy doesn't have cancellation benefits. It offers emergency



You might run into a problem with an annual travel insurance policy if you like adventure. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Shopping for Insurance

I Take a quick inventory of your upcoming trips. The cost of a single insurance package, in most cases, is less than half the cost of an annual package, according to Stan Sandberg, co-founder of TravelInsurance.com, a travel insurance comparison website. That makes single-trip insurance the logical choice for anyone who plans to take two vacations or less a year.

I Compare, compare, compare. In addition to TravelInsurance.com, you can easily compare policies on sites such as InsureMyTrip.com, QuoteWright.com, SquareMouth.com, TriplInsurance.com and TriplInsuranceZone.com. Because annual policies are such a niche product, you sometimes have to search a while to find an annual policy. This list on TravelInsuranceReview.com may be helpful: travelinsurancereview.net/plans/annual.

I Check to see whether you're already covered. That's the advice of Joel Ohman, a financial planner who founded InsuranceProviders.com. "You could potentially end up buying a policy that has some duplication of benefits with what you already have," he says.

medical transportation, auto rental collision damage waiver and accident coverage. Several companies, including Allianz Travel Insurance, HTH Worldwide, International Medical Group, RoamRight, Seven Corners and Travel Guard, offer annual policies. You can pay extra for additional cancellation coverage.

Another limit: trip length. "Buried in the fine print, it states that a single trip during the calendar year is limited to maximum 45 days duration," says Jeffrey McElwee, who works for a tour operator in Nampa, Idaho. "So, you might think you have a year's worth of coverage but need to coordinate trips to fit the fine print details. Even if you get sick within the 45-day limit, if your planned itinerary was longer than the 45 days, they will still refuse payment."

You also might run into a problem if you have an appetite for adventure.

"If you like to do a little adventure, like ziplining, scuba diving, hiking, white water rafting or just like to travel deeper, you might want to explore what your annual policy covers — and what it doesn't," says Margie Jordan, who works for a travel agency in Jacksonville.

Regular travel insurance has those restrictions, too, plus limits on coverage for pre-existing medical conditions. Sometimes you have to get extra insurance to address those gaps.

As a travel writer, I spend 365 days a year on the road and have no permanent residence. So an annual policy was a clear choice. I went with one that offers a modest \$5,000 in trip cancellation and trip interruption benefits. It also provides my family with \$50,000 in emergency medical and dental coverage and \$250,000 in emergency medical transportation.

Some of my travel purchases are also covered through my Visa card. My primary health insurance covers us for health care domestically.

Even with all of the restrictions, the travel professionals I spoke with were unanimous that an annual policy is worth a look.

ASK THE CAPTAIN

CRM leads to better communication in the cockpit

John Cox
Special to USA TODAY

Aviation's worst disaster occurred on March 27, 1977, when two 747s collided on a runway in Tenerife, Canary Islands. Five hundred and eighty-three people were killed in an accident that should not have happened.

The next year, a United DC-8 landed short of the runway near Portland, Ore., out of fuel. Ten passengers lost their lives.

Neither accident should have happened, because crewmembers knew things were going wrong but could not persuade the captain.

Aviation had to create a way for crewmembers to effectively communicate safety concerns. Crew Resource Management (CRM) was born.

The concept of CRM is that everyone is responsible for safety. Although the captain is in command, he or she must take into account safety concerns from fellow crewmembers. We began to build better teams flying the airplanes.

In 1989, United Flight 232 had an engine explode, crippling the DC-10. The explosion sent shrapnel through the tail, severing hydraulic lines in all three systems. The jet was uncontrollable. Using CRM, the captain and crew, along with a DC-10 instructor who was flying as a passenger, managed to gain limited control of the crippled airliner. They landed in Sioux City, Iowa, destroying the airplane, but 185 survived. CRM built the team that flew a nearly unflyable jet.

Today, CRM is a major component of every airline safety program, and it is a contributor to the lower accident rate we see today.

John Cox is a retired airline captain with US Airways and runs his own aviation safety consulting company, Safety Operating Systems.

Obituaries

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

Paula Anne (nee Messens) Buran

MENOMONEE FALLS, WI - Paula passed away peacefully at her home while surrounded by her loving family on Monday April 2, 2018. She was 61. She was born to Elizabeth and the late Paul Messens of Clinton Township in 1956.

Paula is survived by her loving husband of 33 years, Greg Buran, and her three children: Andrew Buran of Washington, DC, Kyle Buran of Menomonee Falls, WI and Amy Buran of East Lansing, MI. She is also survived by her three brothers: Mark (Lynn) Messens of Chesterfield Township, MI, Matthew (Whitney) Messens of Orange, CA and John Messens of St. Clair Shores, MI. Paula leaves behind numerous other loving relatives and friends, including four nephews and two nieces.

Paula grew up in Detroit and graduated from Dominican High School before moving on to Eastern Michigan University where she achieved Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Clinical Psychology. Paula had a varied career. In addition to practicing as a clinical psychologist, she worked as a youth counselor, a medical equipment planner, a physician liaison, an office manager and a tutor. First and foremost, she was a full-time mother to her three children. She had a love for music and enjoyed playing the piano. She became interested in pastel painting and created many beautiful paintings for friends and family to enjoy. In her own words, "Art is a healing process which attempts to draw the viewer into an empathetic union with the artist and an experience of wholeness with all living things". The last chapter in Paula's life truly showcased her courage and faith. Paula fought cancer valiantly for seven years and will be always be remembered by us as a role model for inner strength and a sense of humor. She liked to quote Woody Allen: "I'm not afraid of dying. I just don't want to be there when it happens." Known for her good nature, kind heart and willingness to lend a helping hand, Paula will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her. Our time with Paula wasn't enough, but she reminded us that she will be with us every day, just in a different way, and we can take comfort from that.

Her final wish was to return home to Michigan, so arrangements have been made for a Memorial Service for Paula in Northville. The service will be held on Friday, April 20th, at First United Methodist Church of Northville, 777 Eight Mile Rd, Northville, MI 48167. Visitation will be from 10am to 11am. The service will run from 11am to noon with a light luncheon thereafter at the Church. Donations in her memory may be made to the Farah Fawcett Foundation for Cancer Research, Blog for a Cure, the Michigan Humane Society or National Public Radio.



James R. Ward

SUMMERFELD, FL - Formerly of Highland and Fenton, James passed away suddenly while vacationing with his family in Florida on March 30, 2018. Beloved husband of Carol Pardell for 20 years. Dear father of Becca Temrowski (Ken) and Adam (Kristen) Ward. Loving grandpa of Tate, Maty, Shea, Weston & Ryder Temrowski and Evan & Emma Ward. Brother of Judy (the late Ed) Dysart, Jay (the late Carol) Ward, Jack (Sue) Ward and JoAnne (Juan) Morales. Jim also leaves the mother of his children, Marty Brian; his brother-in-law; Bill (Judy) Brian; sister-in-law, Cathy Brian; many nieces, nephews and loving friends. A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, April 14, from 5-9pm, at Broadview Christmas Tree Farm, located at 4300 N. Hickory Ridge Rd., Highland. Please come and share stories and memories.

www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com



Temrowski

Family Funeral Home
& Cremation Services

Thomas L. Root

- - Thomas L. Root, age 59, passed away April 9, 2018. He was born September 23, 1958 in Ann Arbor, son of the late Robert and Frances Root. Tom was a master plumber, loved gardening and fishing and never turned down the chance to play a round of golf. His family and friends were very important to him and nothing brought him more happiness than being with them.

Tom is survived by his wife Vicky that he has been with since high school and has been married to for 39 years. He is also survived by his daughter, Lindsey (Jason) Babcock; two grandchildren: Jena and Austin; and his siblings: Perry (Kathleen) Root, Phyllis Farrell, Amy (Bill) Drongowski, Charlotte (Dennis) Dwyer, Jim (Pat) Root, Donald Root, Louise (Ken) Robbins, David (Katie) Root and Ed Root. He was preceded in death by his brother, Dick and his brother-in-law, Jim.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, April 27 at 11:00AM at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 West Lake St., South Lyon. A time to celebrate Tom's life will be held on Saturday, April 28 at 2:00PM at the Upper Peninsula Club, 10770 Calumet Rd., Whitmore Lake. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. www.phillipsfuneral.com

Richard Jacques

FARMINGTON HILLS - Faithful husband of Wendy (nee Glick) passed away April 6, 2018, age 65. Survived by brother Thomas Jacques (Barbara), uncle Robert S. Rooke Sr. (Winifred), cousin Kathleen Walser (Kurt) and cousin Robert S. Rooke Jr. (Susan). No ceremony planned. Donations to Salvation Army: <https://give.salvationarmyusa.org>



May peace be
with you in this
time of sorrow.

William E. Carey

- - William E. Carey, age 88, passed away March 24, 2018. He was born July 29, 1929 in Marion, Indiana, son of the late George and Pansy Carey.

William enjoyed carpentry, deer hunting and never turned down the chance to play euchre. He will always be remembered by his family and friends for his kind and friendly nature.

William is survived by his wife, Jacqueline of 70 years; his children: Susan Carey, David (Cathy) Carey, Cathy (John) Gelardi, Lori Carey, and Jim (Jane) Carey. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and his sister, Joann Myers. William was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Richard Carey.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 28 at 1:00PM with the family receiving friends beginning at 12:00PM at New Hudson United Methodist Church, 56730 Grand River Ave., New Hudson. www.phillipsfuneral.com

Melvin Gilbert

SOUTH LYON - Dr. Melvin Gilbert. 4-6-18. He was a dentist serving Redford Twp. and Livonia over 55 years. Served as an Officer in The US Navy and as a USMC dentist at Camp Lejeune. An avid golfer and a pilot, he also served in the Redford Lions Club for the blind. He is survived by his companion of 26 years, Diane Luckey. Also survived by his daughter Susan (Jack) Wills, a son John (Diane) and three grandchildren Kevin, Jessica, and Trisha. Funeral Arrangements Private with Memorial at a later date.

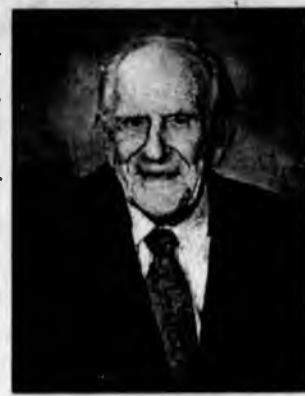


Betty Dryer

MILFORD - A longtime resident of Milford and former operator of Herb's Standard Service at Grand River and Novi Road, Novi, Betty died on April 2, 2018 at the age of 92. She is survived by her son, Terry (Teresa) Dryer of Milford; her daughter, Patricia (Wayne) Loder of Milford; grandchildren, Michael Dryer (Christine), Brian Dryer (Jason Gold), Todd Dryer (Ame), Christopher Loder, and Kathryn Loder (fiance Timothy Jones); great grandchildren, Cole and Noah Dryer, and her niece, Janice Fischer, who she cared for and loved as a daughter. A Funeral Service was held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford, on Saturday, April 7, 2018. Burial Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi. For further information, visit www.LynchandSonsMilford.com

Carl W. Stephens

NORTHVILLE - Mr. Stephens passed away peacefully on April 1, 2018 at age 98. He was born May 26, 1919 in Horton Bay, MI; son of Bernard and Ollie (nee Van Amburg) Stephens. He proudly served in the United States Army as a Military Policeman; serving in North Africa and Italy. Carl was united in marriage to Pearl Denton on July 19, 1947; dedicated to each other for over 56 years until her death in 2003. Carl moved to Northville from Horton Bay when he was 4 years old and has been a resident for over 94 years. He graduated from Northville High School, Class of 1937. Carl was a Machinist with Ford Motor Company for 30 years, retiring in 1976. He was past president of his Local Union 896. Carl was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church of Northville where he was very active especially with the choir. Carl was a wonderful singer and used his gift of music as a hired soloist at the Christian Science Church. He enjoyed golfing, woodworking, and relaxing up north at his cottage. Carl loved to travel all over Europe with his wife Pearl. He was a devoted husband, a great dad, and a hands-on grandpa. He was a very proud great grandfather as well. He is survived by his children, Carl (Karen) Stephens and Mary (the late William) Crowley; his grandchildren, Peter (Tina) Stephens, Victoria (Jonathan) Pack, Lauren Crowley, and Melissa Crowley; and his great grandchildren, Anna, Samuel and Sarah. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and his son-in-law. A funeral service was held Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 East Main Street, Northville. Rev. Rob Allen officiated the service. Mr. Stephens was laid to rest at Rural Hill Cemetery where full military honors were rendered. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or the Michigan Humane Society, 30300 Telegraph Road, Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.



Susan J. Gregg

NORTHVILLE - Longtime resident of Northville, Susan passed away March 30, 2018. She was born on October 5th in Antigo, Wisconsin; daughter of Charles S. and Nola A. (nee Malliette) Bally. She was united in marriage to the love of her life, Steven F. Gregg, on December 26, 1977. They were married for over 40 years. Susan graduated from Redford High School. She owned and operated a horse farm with her husband. They each managed different aspects of the farm; her main job was stable operations. Susan was an extreme gardener. She loved taking care of her floral garden and tending and harvesting her vegetable garden. Susan was a very thrifty woman and was blessed with an innate financial skill that she shared with family and friends. She was a very devoted and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She is survived by her husband Steven; her children, Donald Fisher, Suzanne Fisher, Anthony Fisher, and Steven Fisher; her brother David (Laura) Bally; her grandchildren, Ashlee (Sean) Laskosky, Samantha Fisher, Jessica Fisher, Ariana (Bradley) Ferguson, A.J. Fisher, Zackary Fisher, and Ethan Fisher; and her great grandchildren, Rylee, Leah, and Hunter. She was preceded in death by her parents. A funeral service was held Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 West Dunlap, Northville. Rev. Kathleen K. Smallwood officiated the service. Susan was laid to rest at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Operation Smile, 3641 Faculty Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23453, the Salvation Army, 9451 Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, or a charity of the giver's choice.



Josephine Zaleski

WHITE LAKE - Josephine Zaleski March 19, 1934 - April 3, 2018 Expressions of sympathy may be made at obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

Lori Hoy

- - Lori Hoy January 2, 1957- March 24, 2018 Expressions of sympathy may be made at obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

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Memorial Day - Labor Day 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley, Lead Pastor
www.fumcnorthville.org

Our Saviour Apostolic Lutheran Church
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248-374-2268
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10:30 a.m. Fellowship/Coffee
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10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
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www.milfordumc.net

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Phone: 248-437-2893
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Website: www.fbcouthlyon.com
Email: fbcouthlyon@earthlink.net

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Sunday 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., 12:00 Noon
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www.oakpointe.org

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Sunday School @ 11 am
Wednesday mid-week programs
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59255 10 Mile Rd.
South Lyon MI 48178
Sunday Worship 9:30 AM
Rev. Thomas Scherger
248-673-7320
www.shepherdswaysouthlyon.org

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Rev. Michael Horlocker, Pastor
www.fpcsouthlyon.org

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248-486-4460
Sunday Worship: 11:00 A.M.
7372 Grand River, Brighton
610-227-2256
Sunday Worship: 9:30 A.M. & 11 A.M.
www.communitybible.net

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Fr. James Houbek, Associate
Parish Office: 248-349-6947 www.holyfamilynovi.org

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LO-000311878

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How to prepare your kids for career success

 BY ERIC TITNER
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

If you're a parent, chances are you spend a great deal of time worried about your kids. You do your best to ensure that they grow up happy and healthy, prepared for the world around them and well positioned to achieve fulfillment and success in life.

The truth is, some of what will happen to your kids in their lives will be out of their control — and your control as well. That said, as a parent, there is plenty you can do to help set them up for their best shot at success.

Use the following tips to help guide your kids along the right path:

Build a learning partnership

When it comes to education, it's best to make it a collaboration between you and your child's teachers.

Make time to work closely with them to ensure that your child's needs are met and that they are getting the most out of their educational experiences.

Get involved and stay involved in their educational development.

Make learning a lifelong pursuit

Learning should not begin



GETTY IMAGES

This can be a great way to completely miss out on success and happiness in life. Instead, teach your children that it's OK to fail, that life is a learning process full of trial and error, and that the only way to know what they're really capable of is to test their limits, step outside of their comfort zones and understand the notion of failure.

Face the future

Many people are really good at putting things off that they don't want to confront — sometimes until it's too late. Like it or not, the future is coming for all of us, and those who plan for it as early as possible are most likely to be prepared for a variety of outcomes and develop a winning strategy for success.

Although we can't guarantee success for our children, we want to help them have successful futures.

Use the tips here to guide your kids as they learn, mature and grow, and you'll be setting them up well for achieving their goals in life. Good luck!

Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics. He currently lives in New York City.

and end in the classroom; it's a lifelong journey, and those who learn early in life that we are constantly surrounded by opportunities to grow are best positioned for success.

Create an environment in which your child can develop a love of learning and a fascination with the world.

Encourage their passions

The most successful and fulfilled people aren't necessarily the ones who make the most money.

Rather, they are often

those who have discovered the things that they are truly interested in and passionate about and have found a way to make it a significant part of their life — either as a profession or a hobby.

Encourage your children at an early age to explore the world around them and find something that excites them, and then support them and encourage them to follow their passions.

Instill the value of lifelong friendships

Building strong social bonds

early in life can be invaluable. Help your child recognize the importance of building and cultivating solid friendships.

It will help them recognize the value of having a strong network of support — to find new opportunities, face obstacles, overcome challenges, and make the most out of life.

Dare to fail

Too often, we avoid trying something new — and potentially wonderful — for fear that we won't be good at it, or worse, that we will completely fail at it.

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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Firing sound
- 6 Frog sound
- 11 Kerfuffles
- 15 Soldiers of Seoul
- 19 Old Aegean region
- 20 Singer with the 2013 #1 hit "Royals"
- 21 Typesetter's option
- 22 Saber's kin
- 23 Film that's both funny and gloomy
- 25 Thin material used in painting and baking
- 27 Bulls scores
- 28 Putt-putt
- 30 Yard sale proviso
- 32 With 40-Across, classic grape drink
- 33 Step inside
- 34 "Mirage" actor Edward James —
- 38 Boolean logic operator
- 40 See 32-Across
- 42 Opening bets
- 45 Overhead air circulator

48 Films, TV, hit songs, etc.
51 Fancy snack
52 — McAn
54 See
55 10-Down
56 Chilly powder
56 "The Simpsons" shopkeeper
57 Clock setting in NYC
59 "... man — mouse?"
61 Sketched
63 Priest follower?
64 Homeland
69 — "Brockovich"
71 Cynic's look
72 Sheep crowd
73 — vu
75 Metal debris
79 Pianist Hine
81 Alternative medical practices
84 Rubble maker
87 TVs "Better Call —"
89 — "hool" ("Hool")
90 Equal: Prefix
91 Subpar marks
92 High cards
94 FBI agent
96 Bulky brass

- 98 Michigan county or its seal
- 101 Important biblical meal
- 104 Clownish type
- 106 Really bug
- 107 Give and take
- 109 — chi
- 110 Sales talk
- 111 Of Tehran
- 114 Fish story
- 116 Pulitzer winner William
- 118 Dictionary, e.g.
- 122 Film theaters
- 127 Ethiopia, formerly
- 128 Playing card apt to this puzzle's theme (hint: see the ends of the longest answers)
- 130 'That's — bad idea'
- 131 One fibbing
- 132 Barbecue
- 133 Ruhr Valley's chief city
- 134 Tie feature
- 135 Many August babies
- 136 Determined to carry out
- 137 Sown things

DOWN

- 1 Lettuce variety
- 2 Dancer
Falana
- 3 Santa —
(some winds)
- 4 Ill
- 5 Test the tea,
say
- 6 Shutting
- 7 CD —
- 8 City NNW of
Provo
- 9 Also include
- 10 Economist
John
Maynard —
Scared by
- 11 Scared by
- 12 "Get busy!"
- 13 Well-timed
- 14 Rigid
- 15 Mixtures for
chemical
analysis
- 16 Well-timed
- 17 Boat's spine
- 18 Feudal peon
- 24 Dollar or
euro divs.
- 26 Blossom bit
- 29 Breakfast
chain, briefly
- 31 Unstiffened
shoe part
- 34 — razor
("keep it
simple"
principle)
- 35 Tackle
- 36 Part of mm

37 Suffix with
boff
39 Rally cry
41 Imitated
43 Winged god
44 Makes a
dress, e.g.
46 At no time,
to poets
47 12 p.m.
49 Quaker
products
50 With
54-Across,
service
charges
53 "D.C. Cab"
actor
58 Slobby sort
60 Difficult and
tiring
62 Far-reaching
65—"haw!"
66 Epochs
67 Java holder
68—"out!"
(ump's call)
70 Gun rights
org.
74 Relative of
handball
76 Nickname
for Yale
77 "Remington
—"
78 Singer Crow
80 Sauce brand
82 Kiddie
83 Halo-worthy
84 Fish story
85 Univ. sports

86 Serve as
evidence of
88 Racing
units
93 Eyes
95 They begin
on January 1
97 Iota
99 Failures to
attend
100 Domino dot
102 Big names
103 Broccoli
— (salad
green)
105 "Honest
Abe"
108 Fork parts
112 Sam of
"Backtrack"
113 Many a
navel
115 Bête — (pet
peeve)
117 Certain PC
pic file
118 Echelon
119 Very dark, to
poets
120 "Gotta run!"
121 Make a
sweater, e.g.
123 Additionally
124 Think
deeply and
at length
125 Under the
covers
126 IDs for the
IRS
129 "Xanadu"
rock op

SUDOKU

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

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!

HORSE RACING WORD SEARCH

[illegible]

WORDS

ADVANCE
ARAB
BAY
BEHAVIOR
BETTING
BIT
BUCKLE
CANTER
CHALLENGE
CHAMPION
CHARGE
COAT
CONTENDER
DERBY
EQUESTRIAN
EVENT
EXERCISE
FALTER
FEED
GAIT
GAMBLE
GRAZE
HANDICAP
HANDLER
HOOF
HORSE
INJURY
JODHPUR
KICK
MOVEMENT
ODDS
OFFICIAL
RACING
SKILL
TERRAIN
WINNER

ANSWER KEY

A crossword puzzle grid with 15 numbered squares. The grid is 15 squares wide and 15 squares high. The numbers are: 1 (down), 2 (across), 3 (down), 4 (across), 5 (across), 6 (across), 7 (across), 8 (across), 9 (across), 10 (across), 11 (across), 12 (across), 13 (across), 14 (across), 15 (across).

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

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Car Report

DEMAND FOR THREE-ROW SUVs CATCHES UP WITH FCA'S RELIABLE DURANGO, WHICH IS BECOMING MORE OF A DODGE ALL THE TIME



By Dale Buss

FCA calls the Dodge Durango "the Dodge Charger of the SUV segment." And there's a lot of truth in that description. That's one reason Durango remains a keystone of

Dodge's lineup many years after it became one of Chrysler's original entries in the still-young SUV derby.

Now that utility vehicles are all the rage — especially three-row versions like Durango — Dodge needs this nameplate to compete in an increasingly important category and segment.

As the company has reshaped the identities of its brands, Durango over the last few years has emerged with a hardy, sporty, no-nonsense yet fully

capable footprint as a workhorse SUV. It's almost become a quasi-Jeep in that sense. Durango has held its own, sales-wise, as a result, even though it hasn't been significantly overhauled since the 2011 model year.

Durango keeps finding ways to refresh its proposition and continue to move it further under the Dodge performance umbrella. Case in point: the 2018 Durango SRT version, which features the legendary 475-horsepower Hemi V-8 engine, a quarter-mile time of 12.9 seconds, a 4.4-second time going zero-to-60mph, best-in-class towing capability of 8,700 pounds, and dual-center stripes that are available in five different colors (Bright Blue, Flame Red, Gunmetal Low Gloss, Low Gloss Black and Sterling Silver) to add what Dodge calls "a sinister factory-custom look."

And, oh yes — each purchase of a Durango SRT comes with a



The new Durango SRT sports dual center stripes.

certificate for a full-day session at the Bob Bondurant School of High-Performance Driving.

But you don't have to drive the SRT to partake in Dodge's steady elevation of Durango into its current persona. The three-row SUV got a significant refresh in 2014 that added an eight-speed automatic transmission and a revised interior with Chrysler's excellent 8.4-inch touchscreen and Uconnect infotainment system.

These enhancements built on what Durango had going right for it from the start: plenty of power and room.

Durango is one of the heaviest vehicles in its class, meaning that its fuel economy is nothing to write home about. The base V6-powered version gets typical mileage for its class, at 19 mpg in the city and 26 mpg on the highway. Stepping up to the V8 diminishes fuel economy to 14 in the city and 22 on the highway. The new SRT is even less fuel-efficient

means it: The third row in Durango can comfortably ensconce two adults, without their having to scrouch or hunch to accommodate space limitations.

And when it comes to hauling stuff, Durango provides a maximum cargo capacity of 84.5 cubic feet, which is very competitive in the segment, while its 47.4 cubic feet behind the second row bests many competitors. An available cargo cover can conceal the area behind both the second and third rows if required.

Safety-wise, Durango notches four to five stars (out of five) in government crash tests and includes as standard antilock disc brakes, stability and traction control, front side airbags, a driver knee airbag and full-length side-curtain airbags. A rearview camera and rear parking sensors are optional on the SXT and standard on all other Durangos.

Uconnect provides large virtual buttons, logical menus and helpful secondary physical controls, and through it FCA — despite perceptions that it is challenged in some areas of new technology — provides one of the best infotainment systems available.

Inside, Dodge also knows how to accentuate Durango's strengths as well. With an exterior design that is about as box-like as anything in its class, Durango can provide plenty of space inside for both passengers and cargo.

When Dodge says Durango can seat seven, the company



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