



Photographer Bill Bresler's Instagram year in review

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NORTHVILLE RECORD

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BATL hits a bull's-eye with ax-throwers

Bar draws from near and far for a chance to toss ax

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At some point in your life, you'll want to throw an ax.

Aaron DuCharme can help you realize that dream with style and skill.

"I believe everyone wants to throw an ax. They just don't know it until they see

it. When they stick their first ax, they get a big smile on their face," said DuCharme, general manager of Backyard Axe Throwing League in Novi. "Ax-throwing probably has been going on for centuries, but it hasn't been a thing until now, where you can go to a place and throw axes."

BATL, located in Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, is one of a handful

of ax-throwing venues in metro Detroit. One recent Wednesday evening, it offered free lessons that drew a crowd to its 16 throwing lanes.

"We just thought it was cool and I thought it would be a stress-reliever," Hope Dailey of Walled Lake said, after throwing for the first time.

Her friend, Kara Ferrebee of Wolverine Lake, was surprised by the simplicity of the ax-throwing form.

"It was not as involved as I thought it would be," she said. "It's more about

launching than throwing and you have to hold it lighter than you think. It's about trying to get it to have some momentum."

Darla Basom of Romulus managed to stick her ax into the wooden target on her fourth try, with help from a coach and her friend, Curtis Boyd, also from Romulus. Boyd had thrown an ax "up north back in the day" and, more recently, at BATL.

See THROW, Page 2A



Chuck Alkazan talks history of music at Pearl Sound Studios. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Hometown Life staffers answer call for early retirements

Dan Dean
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Eleven journalists with more than 350 years of combined experience are leaving the Hometown Life staff in 2019 as they accepted early retirement offers from Gannett Co. Inc., Hometown's parent company.

That's a lot of experience and passion for journalism leaving Hometown Life, which publishes daily at hometownlife.com and in print with five weekly and five twice-weekly papers.

The change will be hard, for both the retiring journalists and their colleagues who remain at Hometown. New journalists will be hired to replace some of those retiring. The number and timing of those hires is unknown.

"Hometown Life plays an incredible role in the communities it serves," said Stephanie Angel, state editor for the USA TODAY NETWORK - Michigan, which includes Hometown Life. "We'll miss these incredibly talented and dedicated journalists as they move on to their new adventures. At the same time, Hometown will continue to pursue meaningful community journalism."

Familiar and trusted names in local journalism will be missed. Retiring are: photographer Bill Bresler, sports editor Marty Budner, reporter Darrell Clem, reporter Sharon Dargay, strategist Dan Dean, copy editor Bill Emerick, sports editor Brad Emons, reporter Matt Jachman, editor Brad Kadrach, report-

See RETIRE, Page 5A

The most read stories on Hometown Life in 2018

Dan Dean
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At the beginning of the year, we dedicated four journalists to covering business and crime, responding to what we saw as a trend among Hometown Life readers. After nearly 12 months, the results would seem to confirm our hunch. Of the 12 top-read stories of 2018, eight were authored by these four staffers.

Saying goodbye

No. 1 — By Darrell Clem, April 16: The popular Hayden's Grill and Bar at

Ford and Lotz roads in Canton closed its doors for good April 15. Wayne County Business Reporter Clem's piece proved to also be popular, attracting more than 37,000 readers. "It wasn't one particular reason, just lagging sales over the years," said Megan Spencer, communications director for owner Spartan Pastabilities. "It's something a lot of restaurants are facing, especially with competition all over the place. It's a really tough game to be profitable in."

Pearl Sound Studios

No. 2 — By Ed Wright, May 21: Not too far from Hayden's in Canton Town-

ship sits a grey cinder block building, a far cry from the fancy new buildings that dot the landscape along Ford Road, where this nondescript building sits near the intersection of Beck Road. But it is the magic that happens inside that drew the attention of nearly 31,000 readers who read Wright's masterpiece on Pearl Sound Studios. "Once invited visitors cross the threshold through the royal blue front door, they join a star-studded guest list that includes everyone from Soundgarden to Pop Evil and Eminem — celebrities who appreciate the pri-

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Area property crime falls over last 5 years

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Reported crimes, 2013-2017

Police agencies provide statistics reflected in the FBI's annual Uniform Crime Reports. Here are the historical numbers of crimes, in eight categories, plus the estimated population of the community.

Community	Population	Murder and manslaughter	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary	Larceny	Vehicle theft	Arson
Northville 2017	5,981	0	1	0	5	1	45	2	0
2016	6,019	0	0	0	2	7	48	1	2
2015	6,026	0	0	0	4	8	54	2	0
2014	6,015	0	0	0	3	13	49	4	0
2013	5,992	0	1	1	2	9	41	1	0
Northville Twp. 2017	28,751	0	4	0	25	27	268	15	3
2016	28,890	0	6	0	6	25	299	19	1
2015	28,897	0	0	4	15	71	349	15	1
2014	28,801	0	6	2	15	38	295	22	0
2013	28,734	0	5	0	13	51	299	14	1

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Property crimes in 10 western Wayne County communities fell between 2013 and 2017, while violent crime rose in some of the same communities but was down sharply in others.

New statistics from the FBI, published recently in its report "Crime in the United States, 2017," show that 10 area communities — Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Wayne, Plymouth and Northville, plus Canton, Redford, Plymouth and Northville townships — reported a combined 6,634 property crimes in 2017. That's a 26-percent drop compared to 8,968 reported property crimes in those communities in 2013.

Property crime is defined as burglary, larceny, vehicle theft and arson.

In the same communities, there were 1,104 violent crimes reported in 2013 and 1,120 in 2017. That's an increase of about 1.4 percent.

But a look at individual communities' statistics shows mixed results when it comes to violent crime: in Westland, it fell by almost 29 percent (363 violent crimes in 2013 versus 258 in 2017) while in Redford it rose by 31 percent (244 in 2013 compared to 320 in 2017).

Violent crime is defined as murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Most of the 10 communities noted double-digit declines in property crime, with Westland leading the way with a 42-percent drop (2,399 property crimes in 2013 compared to 1,388 in 2017).

Westland Deputy Chief Brian Miller, who keeps track of crime statistics for the department, said the fall in the raw numbers was encouraging.

"We believe that a large part of this success has to do with the hard work that our officers are putting in day in and day out on the streets of our city," Miller wrote in an e-mail.

Miller also credited detectives for what he said was their persistence in pursuing cases. "This sends a message to those looking to commit crimes that the city of Westland is serious about followup and prosecution, hopefully deterring future crime," he said.

Curtis Caid, the police chief in Livonia and the secretary/treasurer of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, said he's happy to see the city's numbers

heading in the right direction, but cautioned against making too much of the improvement. The numbers, he said, can change quickly.

Livonia noted 27-percent declines in both property and violent crime since 2013.

"Any community is going to be pleased when they see a reduction, but I'm always wary about pounding our chests and hanging our hats on those successes, because at times they can be fleeting," Caid said.

He added: "We could be up a couple ticks next year, but that's not necessarily an indicator that things are out of control."

Violent crime was up since 2013 in Garden City, Northville, Wayne, and Northville, Canton and Plymouth townships.

But several of those communities had low numbers to begin with, so a small increase appeared to be a sharp one, percentage-wise. The city of Northville, for example, had just four reported violent crimes in 2013

and six in 2017.

In the city of Plymouth, the number of violent crimes fell by one — there were 14 reported incidents in 2013 compared to 13 in 2017.

Combined, the 10 communities, home to 425,933 people last year according to estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data, had rates of both violent and property crime in 2017 that were well below statewide rates.

Michigan, with more than 9.96 million people, recorded 450 violent crimes and 1,800 property crimes per 100,000 residents in 2017, while the 10 local communities overall saw about 263 violent crimes and 1,558 property crimes per 100,000.

The FBI issues a detailed report on national crime statistics annually, with the raw data provided by more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the country, through its Uniform Crime Reporting program.

THROW

Continued from Page 1A

"The first time I threw, I threw too hard and it bounced off. When I relaxed and threw, it was the best thing," he

said.

Both said they'd visit BATL again.

"It's something different," Basom said. "It's a great stress-reliever."

Started in Toronto

BATL, which opened in May, isn't the

first ax-throwing venue to open in the Detroit area, but it claims to be the oldest. The company CEO started the sport in his backyard in 2006, moving it indoors 10 years ago and turning it into a business that is primarily based in Canada.

The Novi location is BATL's third in the U.S., after venues in Tennessee and Illinois. Another is set to open next month in Scottsdale, Ariz.

All of the locations hold similar hours and follow the same safety procedures. Public walk-in sessions cost approximately \$20 and run 6-9 p.m. Friday, noon to 3 p.m. Saturday and 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Walk-ins share lanes and coaches. Private ax-throwing events for two to five persons are an hour long and cost \$35.99 to \$42.99. They must be reserved in advance. Leagues run 6-9 p.m. Sunday and 7-10 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and cost \$135 for seven weeks of play and one week of playoffs. Names of playoff winners are posted on the "champions" wall in the Novi location.

"There is no unsupervised throwing here. If you are throwing, there is a coach in with you," DuCharme said. "Company-wide, over the last 18 months, we've probably had two million axes thrown with no major accidents. We run a tight ship. We have fun, but we also want people to be smart and safe."

"This is our focus. Yes, we have a bar, which a lot of people find helps them throw easier, but our focus definitely is on the throwing. We don't even have a kitchen on-site."

BATL has an arrangement with two nearby restaurants for food delivery. It also sells snacks.

Players share a set of lanes that are partially separated by fencing and must throw at approximately the same time and retrieve their axes at the same time for safety. Each match consists of 15 throws at the target in three rounds. Highest score wins.

League players may use their own axes or BATL's equipment, which consists of a standard ax and "bigger ax." The standard has a head that weighs 1½ pounds and has a wooden handle. The big ax has a longer handle and its head weighs 2½ pounds. It's used in tie-breakers during league play.

DuCharme's personal ax is slightly lighter than standard equipment.

"Ace Hardware is where I found mine," he said. "The ax I use, a lot of people in the company like it. But it's whatever the thrower likes. Everyone throws differently. Our goal here is we want them to stick (on target) as quickly as they can and as much as they can while they are here. It's a thrill to stick an ax."

"It's the coach's job to figure out how each person does (things) differently. Maybe they need to be closer to the board. Maybe they need to be father away. It's different for everyone. It's not a power game. Your foot placement is pretty critical to this game."

Arms overhead, lean, throw

Coach Alex Stransky instructed a first-time thrower to hold the ax handle in the left hand, wrapping the right hand over, near the bottom of the handle, while keeping the wrist straight.

"Come straight back with it overhead and then come straight forward," he said. "As you come forward, keep the wrist straight, lean in and follow through. You don't need to throw it super-hard."


A player with good form will let go of the ax while leaning toward the target, not when hands are overhead.

It took Sandy Marcum of Ann Arbor an entire league season to improve her game. During her second season, she made the playoffs.

"Don't give up," she said. "It's not how hard you throw. It's leaning back, leaning forward, throwing with the proper rotation to stick it in. It really is an art form. It's fun."

Minimum age to throw is 16 at BATL. Look for another open house with free lessons next year.

Other local ax-throwing venues are Detroit Axe in Ferndale and HUB Stadium in Auburn Hills.




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Newsroom Contacts:

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

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

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4,500 Christmas cards sent to Brighton girl with leukemia

Susan Bromley
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Emma Roberts is giving Santa some competition on who receives the most mail in December.

More than 5,000 Christmas cards have been sent to the 13-year-old Brighton girl in the past few weeks, 1,500 over the past two days alone.

"I feel bad for the mail lady," Tom Roberts, Emma's dad, said. "Sometimes (the mail) comes twice a day."

Emma's mom, Janet Roberts, said their mail carrier leaves each day's cards, which are now averaging more than 200 per day, in a bin on their porch. Each night the family, which also includes older sister Ella and younger sister Maya, open the cards together and read to each other the messages to Emma.

From Japan to Mexico to Iceland

Emma was diagnosed with leukemia in April. She's spent 48 days in the hospital since and the Christmas card drive began the day after Thanksgiving. Brighton resident Michelle Stewart launched a social media campaign for the cards as a way to boost Emma's spirits.

Emma has received cards from near and far — from area schools, police officers, firefighters and the FBI, from well-wishers across the country and even from thousands of miles away. Cards have arrived from Iceland, South Korea, Sweden, Mexico and Australia.

She cherishes the card that came from a former Brighton resident now living in Japan. The card depicts a "Japanese-style" Virgin Mary and Jesus, with bamboo in the background and includes a bookmark with origami kimono. The message offers prayers and blessings for Emma and her family, a sentiment found throughout the many cards in the Roberts' home.



Tom and Janet Roberts and their daughter Emma, 2018 next to more than 3,000 Christmas cards Emma had received in support of the 13-year-old who is bouncing back after treatment for leukemia. As of Dec. 19 she had received more than 4,500 cards. GILLIS BENEDICT | LIVINGSTON DAILY

"Hope you get through it because you are a fighter for Brighton bulldogs," says one card, accompanied by a child's hand-drawn Santa with the words, "Ho-ho-ho, all fighters on the good list."

A giant handmade card from Stacy Kiefer's sixth grade class at Maltby Intermediate School, where Emma was a student last year, has multiple signa-

tures and a note that she is being kept in their thoughts as they hope she gets better soon.

Some of the cards came from childhood cancer survivors and families touched by the disease.

"It makes me feel better that it is not just me fighting," Emma said. "It's nice to know someone else fought hard and

survived it."

Emma's Christmas wishes

Emma looks forward to the mail every day and is often present for its arrival as she is tutored at home, unable to attend seventh grade classes at Scranton Middle School this year.

She sleeps with some cards under her pillow, including one she has from Santa in which he tells her how sorry he is that she has had to experience cancer treatment at such a young age.

"I know that you are very strong and you will come through this even stronger," the card reads. "You will do great things with your life and really make a difference, I can feel it. Hoping for you to have many good times with your family over the Holidays!"

What Emma said she really wants for Christmas is to feel better and to get back to school. She also hopes to hit a goal of 10,000 Christmas cards. The Roberts family will welcome the continuing avalanche of mail through Epiphany, Jan. 6, when they celebrate the day the three wise men, or kings, arrived at the manger in Bethlehem.

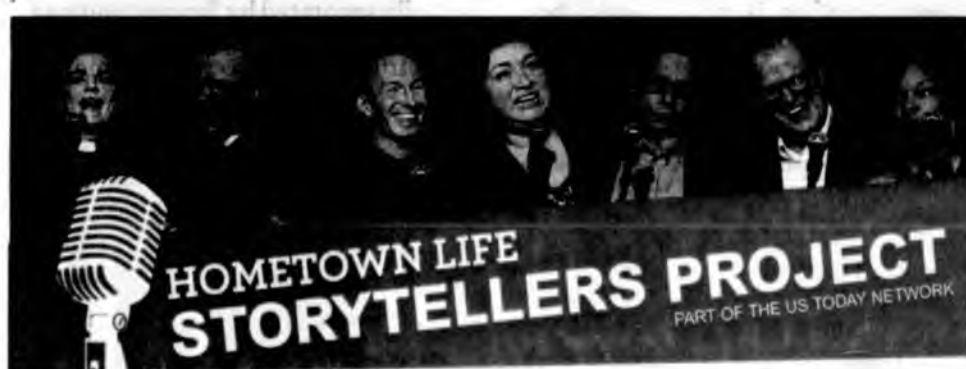
"I think it's just so overwhelming that so many people love her," Janet Roberts said. "It feels like the whole world is wrapping their arms around her."

Tom Roberts agreed. "To put a smile on her face was great," he said, adding the family is really looking forward to 2019. "We didn't think this kind of response would happen. Just to make her happy is all we hoped for."

He teases Emma that she will need to write 4,000 thank you letters.

While that might be difficult, Emma has one message straight from the heart for all who have sent kind, encouraging words to her:

"I want them to know I am so thankful for everything they have done for me, everyone in the whole wide world, and I'm so happy they are in my life."



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Bill Bresler's Instagram year in review



Saying goodbye. Lansing, Michigan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE



Mud Day, Hines Park, Westland, Michigan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE



Photographer Bill Bresler, Selfie Day, Livonia, Michigan. This is the last Instagram Year in Review for me. On Jan. 2, 2019, after 39 years at the Observer & Eccentric/Hometownlife.com I will be leaving to begin a new chapter in my life. Thank you. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Tight turn, Livonia, Michigan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE



Senator John McCain died on August 25, 2018. Running for President in 2000, McCain and wife Cindy McCain made a stop at Senate Coney Island on Plymouth Road in Livonia. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE

Photo at right: Vacation time, "up north," Michigan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE

Staff photographer Bill Bresler uses the Instagram social media app to share his photographs. The photos are posted to Instagram and sometimes shared to his Facebook account. While many of the photos are made on assignment for HometownLife.com and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, he's always looking for moments and scenes that will work with the app. Some of the photos are made with the iPhone. Others are made with Bresler's professional camera equipment and imported into Instagram.

This is the fourth year publishing Bresler's Instagram Year in Review. Find more photos at hometownlife.com.

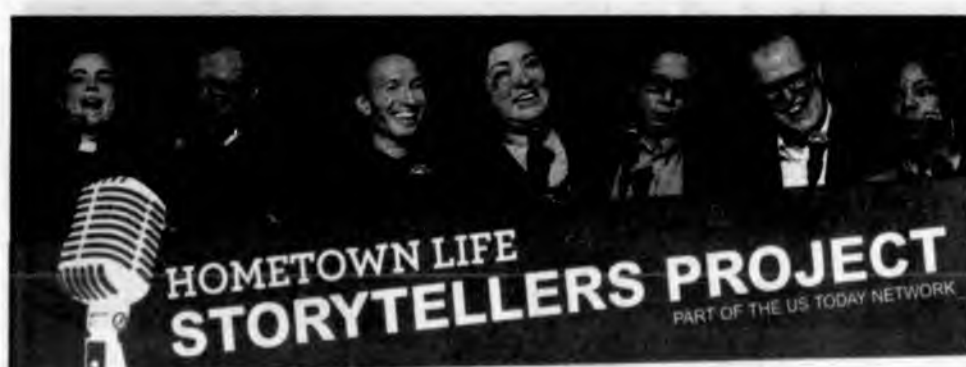
Bresler has photographed for 39 years for the O&E. He retired this week. To join his Instagram feed search for bbresler.



Ball carrier Jacob Robinson (9) almost loses his helmet when hit by Churchill defense. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE



Two beer dance. Jackson, Michigan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE



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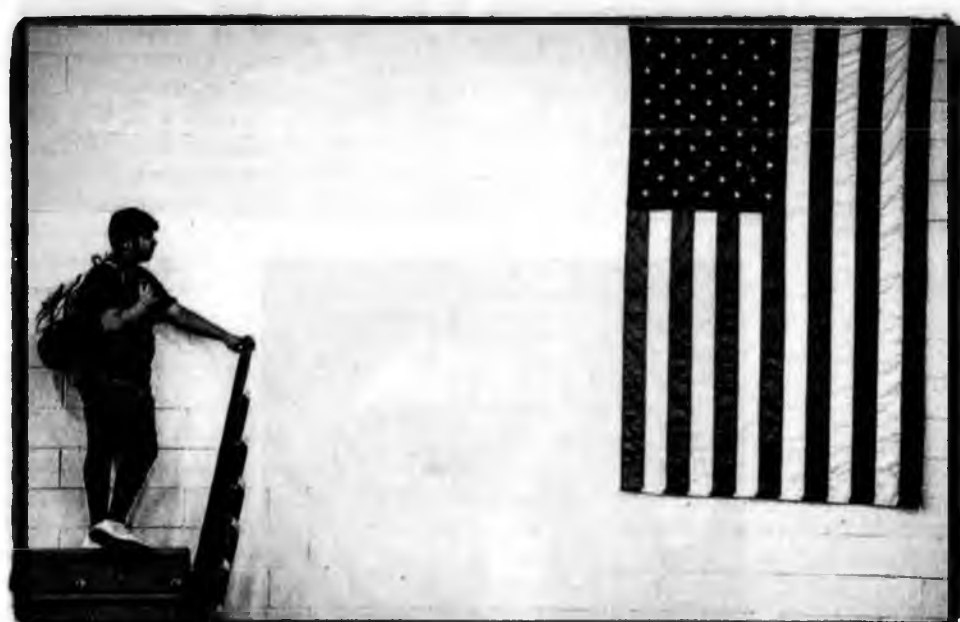
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Patriot. Northville, Michigan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE



One-year-old Eamon Kovacs touches a crucifix held by an Planned Parenthood clinic protester. Eamon is held by his mother, Elizabeth Kovacs. Livonia, Michigan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE



Eight-year-old Emily McIntyre lost her mother and future stepfather in a crash caused by a wrong-way driver on I-275. She leans on her grandmother Sheryl McIntyre, wearing a shirt with Emily's mother's, Shannon McIntyre likeness. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE



Country Day School construction project, Birmingham, Michigan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE



Excited teacher. Livonia, Michigan. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE

STORIES

Continued from Page 1A

vacy Pearl Sound offers while craving the high-tech recording genius owners Chuck Alkazian and Patrick Harwood use to electrify their clients' work," wrote West Communities Reporter Wright.

String of thefts

No. 3 — LeAnne Rogers, May 3: Oakland County Public Safety Reporter Rogers wrote about a string of thefts at Brookedale Independent Living on Grand River in Farmington Hills and 27,000 viewers responded. Two residents filed separate police reports seven days apart in early May and, while taking the report, a third resident reported money missing as well during the same time period.

Body found

No. 4 — LeAnne Rogers, Dec. 3: Rogers reported about the body of a man found in a wooded area near Kurtz Elementary in Milford. Later reports suggested that the man died of an unintended drug overdose.

Stella's moving, or not

No. 5 — Darrell Clem, Nov. 15: Everybody who has eaten there loves the ever-present Bernese mountain dog of Stella's Black Dog Tavern in Plymouth. When Clem first reported that the popular restaurant was moving to take the location of another longtime Plymouth eatery, Station 885 in Old Town, that story was a huge hit. We recently reported that after reaching a new agreement for a five-year lease at its current location on Fralick Street, owner Bob Ostendorf has revised plans and will keep the current Stella's location while opening a second location at 885 Starkweather Street.

An empty birthday

No. 6 — Brad Kadrach, March 1: Danielle Stislicki's birthday passed in late February with her family and friends stuck in limbo, praying, waiting and hoping for some closure in the case of the missing Farmington Hills woman, who disappeared Dec. 2, 2016, and



Officers dismantle the marijuana-growing operation during a pre November election raid. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Ann and Rick Stislicki are still searching for answers in their daughter's disappearance. The "#Find Dani" hashtag is still a prevalent presence in their lives. BRAD KADRICH | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

hasn't been seen since. Kadrach, who has followed the case since her disappearance, wrote a follow up March 1.

"We are asking Facebook followers to do an act of kindness in recognition of (Danielle's) birthday and share that she continues to be missing," said her mother Ann Stislicki of Fowlerville. "Our family will always continue to recognize her birthday, as many do when their loved one is no longer with them."

Scorpions break in

No. 7 — LeAnne Rogers, Feb. 26: In

February, charges were brought against a man in connection with the break-in and fire at the Scorpions motorcycle club in Lyon Township.

Pot growing house

No. 8 — Matt Jachman, Oct. 2: A report on a police raid on a \$300,000 house in Livonia that had been transformed into a marijuana growing operation. The medical marijuana caretaker growing the crop was not charged. The homeowners agreed to pay back taxes and sell the home.

Milford restaurant violations

No. 9 — Sharon Dargay, Sept. 26: It takes exacting details to prepare food safely and the process is taken seriously by county health inspectors. We started reporting priority violations from Wayne and Oakland county inspectors and making the list were the violations reported in August for Milford.

That cable guy

No. 10 — LeAnne Rogers, March 22: Bring up the subject of cable TV and you are sure to hit a nerve. A story on a woman in Farmington Hills who called the police after her service was disconnected seven times proved to be a popular read.

Cockroach in my soup

No. 11 — LeAnne Rogers, Nov. 26: In November, a woman called police to report a cockroach in her soup at a restaurant in Novi. Enough said.

Chi-Chi's site

No. 12 — David Veselenak, March 8: Chi-Chi's in Livonia at the northeast corner of Schoolcraft and Middlebelt roads has been closed since 2004. The 3.5-acre site could be home to a new Aldi grocery store in 2019 bringing good news to Livonia residents.

RETIRE

Continued from Page 1A

er Tim Smith, and reporter LeAnne Rogers.

While the landscape of journalism and its delivery has been changing for years, what we do has not changed. As the newsroom leader at Hometown Life, I could not be prouder of the work of these dedicated professionals.

From an online perspective, our work over the past 24 months has been incredible. We are delivering more stories people want to read in a more timely fashion. We are leaving with Hometown Life on an upward trajectory that I believe will continue with Consumer Experience Director Phil Allmen, and reporters Ed Wright and David Veselenak anchoring what will be a new newsroom.

I know I speak for the majority of us that it has been an incredible journey. Some us will now get to do what we have always joked about — find a real job when we



Kadrach



Smith

grow up. It is hard to believe we got paid all these years to do what we truly loved and believed in.

Thank you to all who have contributed to our success with your advertising dollars, contributions, ideas, support and trust. Support for our future newsroom is as important as ever.

Dan Dean is content strategist for Hometown Life. His last day is Feb. 1. He can be reached until then at ddean@hometownlife.com. Newstips, letters and press releases should still be sent to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com.

Most of the retiring Hometown Life journalists pose with Consumer Experience Director Phil Allmen, who is not retiring. Pictured in front are: Dan Dean and Bill Bresler; standing behind them are LeAnne Rogers (left), Phil Allmen and Bill Emerick; in back are Darrell Clem, Marty Budner, Matt Jachman, Sharon Dargay and Brad Emons. Also retiring but not pictured are Brad Kadrach and Tim Smith. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM, BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Hometown Life sports top 2018 stories

Dan Dean
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coaching topped the list of most-read stories in 2018. From Northville's new coach hockey to remembering legends, five of the top six most-read stories had to do with locker room leaders. Here are the Top 12 most widely read Hometown Life sports stories of 2018.

Coach Brown to lead Northville hockey

No. 1 — May 3: When Gordie Brown was named the new hockey coach for the Mustangs it hit a nerve with readers making it the most read sports story on Hometown Life. Brown replaced Clint Robert when he stepped down after nine seasons. "Gordie is an outstanding coach who is well-respected throughout the area," Northville athletic director Bryan Masi said. "We believe his knowledge, character and his ability to get the best out of his players will help our program continue to achieve at a high level year after year."



Gordie Brown

Death of Novi legend Robert Smith

No. 2 — Aug. 8: Longtime Novi track coach Robert Smith died unexpectedly Aug. 7 at age 62. He guided the Wildcats to back-to-back MHSAA Class A boys cross country state championships in 1998 and 1999, along with Division I runner-up finishes in 2000 and 2006. (His '98 team captured the first MHSAA title of any sport at Novi.). It is no wonder his favorite quote when he coached came from Oprah Winfrey: "Running is the greatest metaphor for life, because you get out of it what you put into it."

Clarenceville cancels football games

No. 3 — Sept. 20: With mounting injuries and lack of players to fill in at the varsity level, the Trojans announced they would cancel two games in September. Ironically, Clarenceville's David B. McDowell Field at Tim Shaw Stadium was undergoing a \$3 million-plus renovation project scheduled at the time and was unveiled at Homecoming on Oct. 12 with a varsity soccer game as the football team was still unavailable.

Coach Bernie Holowicki dies

No. 4 — June 13: The Hall of Fame coach posted an impressive 612-216 overall record while coaching at Detroit Catholic Central (1971-1994) ranking him seventh all-time among boys basketball coaches in the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Holowicki died at the age of 86 in his Livonia home on June 13.



Bernie Holowicki

Coach Kelbert suspended

No. 5 — Oct. 5: When Livonia Franklin's head football coach Chris Kelbert was suspended for two games in October the school handled the situation with class and professionalism. The Patriots' coach was suspended and placed on an administrative leave. "Chris is our head coach, Chris is in good standing, Chris made a mistake, and it is what it is," said Franklin A.D. Ron Hammye at



Ed Belea is a valued team member, according to Spartans Coach Randy Micallef. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the time.

Jack Hughes viewed as top NHL pick

No. 6 — Oct. 2: Mesmerizing, quick, nimble and creative are just some of the words that aptly describe Jack Hughes, the 17-year-old forward playing for USA Hockey's National Team Development Program. The scoring machine is a definite draw at the rink in Plymouth and a possible No. 1 overall pick for the 2019 NHL draft in June.

Mourning Gregory Marx

No. 7 — Oct. 10: The Detroit Catholic Central community mourned the death of unanimous All-American defensive tackle at Notre Dame, Gregory Marx after he passed on Oct. 5 at the age of 68.

The ultimate in Ironman triathlon

No. 8 — Oct. 8: "It's the Super Bowl of triathlon, for sure," said veteran triathlete Jimi Young, 48. "It's Boston Marathon times a thousand. It's probably that difficult to get in as well." The feelings of just one of 20 Michigan triathletes that headed to Kona for the 2018 Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii.

Brady Shelton makes NFL dream

No. 9 — Jan. 26: Novi High School grad Brady Sheldon might only have two NFL games under his belt, but his journey to land a spot on the Oakland Raiders active 53-man roster is a lesson in perseverance. The undrafted free agent, an edge-rushing linebacker out of Novi and Ferris State University, made his debut on Christmas Day 2017.

KLAA East football preview

No. 10 — Aug. 2: The much anticipated KLAA East Division football season featured five teams that reached the MHSAA playoffs in 2017 including KLAA newcomers Belleville, Dearborn Fordson.



Jack Hughes skates with the USA Hockey team. RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY



Ryan Karr of Canton said that the time for the Ironman was now, before he marries and begins a family. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

KLAA West football preview

No. 11 — Aug. 2: The annual football media day, held at Northville High School, gave 13 returning KLAA teams and three squads new to the circuit — Belleville, Dearborn and Dearborn Fordson — an opportunity to talk about team expectations and hopes for the 2018 football season.

Ed Belea fights cancer

No. 12 — Aug. 21: Livonia Stevenson senior Ed Belea heard the words, "I'm sorry Ed, but you have cancer," on May 7, and while he could not take the field with his Spartan teammates he led them out of the tunnel at Michigan Stadium Aug. 24 to open the 2018 football season. A later story published Sept. 7 revealed that Belea was cancer free.

Ring in 2019 by attending one of these 3 area events

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

How are those New Year's resolutions holding up? It's only been a few days, but hopefully you're still hanging on to it. Whether it's hit the gym more or read a few more books, it's a great time of year to reevaluate and make adjustments.

Perhaps your resolution is to get out more and see the sights right here at home? Then you've come to the right place. It's still fairly quiet after the holidays, but there are a few events happening this weekend worth checking out. Here are three across the Hometown Life area happening this weekend.

100 Days to Health kickoff in Livonia

It has to be the most popular resolution: let's get healthier this year. Thanks to the good folks at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, you can do just that beginning Sunday.

The annual 100 Days to Health kickoff event takes place at 9 a.m. Sunday at the rec center, 15100 Hubbard

in Livonia. The kickoff event will feature speakers, raffle prizes, refreshments and free workouts for those who attend. Going forward, participants can sign up for the 100 Days to Health program, which includes classes, workout days on Fridays and more.

Participants can also sign up for the weight loss challenge, which takes place over the first 100 days of the year. Those who lose the most can win prizes and more. Last year, participants lost 264 pounds, with the winner losing 21 pounds.

For more information, contact the rec center by calling 734-466-2900 or by visiting livoniaparks.org.

Bridal show in Novi

If your significant other popped the question over the holidays, it's time to start planning for that dream wedding. Luckily, there's just the event happening this weekend in Novi.

The Novi Bridal Show returns Saturday and Sunday to the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River, for those looking to plan their ultimate dream nuptials. The show will include fashion shows, exhibits, prizes and plenty more.

The show runs from noon to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$15 at the door, which does not include parking. More information can be found at novibridalexpo.com.

Group workout party in Westland

If a big group workout is how you'd like to ring in the new year, Westland is the place to be this weekend.

Corey Sims, who owns D-SKO Fitness in Canton, will host a group workout party at Bodies By Wade, 34580 Ford Road, in Westland's Wildwood Plaza. The event, taking place at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, will feature underground music with group fitness, with plenty of hyped-up music.

The event is free, though Sims expects future events, also happening on Sunday evenings, to cost a small fee. Those interested and to register for the event at Bodies By Wade or for more on D-SKO Fitness, visit dskofitness.club or call 734-578-5084.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

Judge Brennan misconduct hearing set for March

Kayla Daugherty
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Judicial Tenure Commission has set a March hearing in its misconduct case against Livingston County District Court Judge Theresa Brennan.

On March 4, the Tenure Commission will hear objections to a report released last week that deemed Brennan guilty of numerous allegations, including lying, mistreating people who appeared in her courtroom and perjury.

That hearing is a key step before the commission provides a report to the Michigan Supreme Court with recommendations for discipline against Brennan. The court can accept or reject the commission's recommendation, and only the Supreme Court can discipline Brennan, up to and including removing her from office.

The Tenure Commission complaint is separate from the criminal case brought by the state Attorney General against

Brennan, in which she faces three felony charges, including perjury.

Both Lynn Helland, examiner for the Tenure Commission, and Brennan will have the chance to file briefs to the Supreme Court, which can hold oral arguments on the case if it chooses.

The report

Retired judge William Giovan, who the commission appointed to oversee its misconduct complaint against Brennan, released a 23-page report last week, detailing 17 charges related to Brennan's actions on the bench.

His report addressed her conduct, which he said violated both the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct and the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Brennan's failure to disqualify herself from a double-murder trial that involved a detective with whom she had a romantic relationship was "gross misconduct," Giovan wrote, and is the most serious charge he believes was proven

against her.

He found Brennan did not disqualify herself when assigned cases involving a close friend and committed perjury on numerous occasions.

"The scope of Judge Brennan's willingness to give false testimony under oath is breathtaking," Giovan wrote in his report.

He also addressed her treatment of staff, litigants and lawyers, writing, "Judge Brennan has been consistently abusive to attorneys, litigants and witnesses, and to her own court staff as well, as was the universal witness who testified about the judge's demeanor."

Giovan found Brennan lied during the nine-day Judicial Tenure Commission's evidentiary hearing about destroying evidence on her phone.

She was removed from her caseload June 13 amid the Judicial Tenure Commission complaint but continues to be paid while the complaint process plays out. She faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted on the perjury charge.



Judge Theresa Brennan listens to Genesee County Judge G. David Guinn during her arraignment Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Brennan is scheduled to be back in court for the criminal charges Jan. 16.

Contact Kayla Daugherty at 517-552-2848 or kdaugherty@gannett.com. Follow her on Twitter @KayDaugherty92.

Pharmacy company comes to Plymouth, looks to hire

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Remedi SeniorCare, a growing pharmacy provider for long-term care facilities, has opened its first Michigan location in Plymouth.

Already serving more than 70,000 residents in 30 states, Remedi serves long-term care facilities, such as skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities, with a patented Paxit medication dosage packaging system that officials say combines innovation and technology to improve services for patients and care providers.

Remedi has expanded its geographical reach by opening a facility at 14700 Helm Court. Based in Baltimore, Md., the company celebrated Dec. 4 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Plymouth. Jeffrey M. Stamps, Remedi SeniorCare president and CEO and a registered pharmacist, said the company has the ability to provide institutional pharmacy services to more than half the nation.

"Paxit is in high demand among our current and prospective customers and we continue to expand to support that demand," he said. "Remedi SeniorCare remains committed to our customer-focused approach and to expanding our geographic scope as an innovative and technology enabled pharmacy service provider."

Remedi is billed as an industry innovator that is transforming the long-term care service model. As the exclusive provider of the Paxit medication administration system, officials say the company is providing cost-effective and highly accurate pharmacy "med pass" medicine-dispensing services to long-term care facilities.

The Plymouth location brings services closer to home for Michigan patients, who previously were served by



Company and local officials gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Remedi SeniorCare in Plymouth. PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

other facilities, such as in Ohio. The Plymouth facility employs 45 people and is poised to hire more, such as certified pharmacy technicians.

"With the addition of brick and mortar in Plymouth, we are excited to expand our reach in that area," Amanda King, director of marketing, said during a telephone interview.

On the assisted living front, company officials say Paxit technology is improving quality and continuity of care — a critical element, they say, in electronic health record-enabled communities.

"Paxit's unique unit-dose packaging, organized by med pass time, increases accuracy, efficiency and safety in the

med pass process, while reducing waste and cost for our skilled nursing and assisted living customers, their residents and families," Stamps said.

Officials say Remedi Senior Care's local management team of registered pharmacists, including Dan Lohmeier, general manager, and Andrew Byrnes, pharmacist-in-charge, brings knowledge of the local market, having serviced the long-term care community in Michigan for decades.

"The combination of known pharmacy leaders and our state-of-the-art technology establishes the perfect platform for serving the Michigan assisted living and skilled nursing communi-

ties," Lohmeier said. "Our customers have been waiting for Paxit and we are delivering on our promise."

Through the Paxit dispensing system and proprietary MyRemedi web portal, the company serves more than 70,000 residents and, with its technology enabled pharmacy services, allows customers to achieve higher levels of accuracy and quality in medication delivery. Officials say it also reduces unnecessary waste and cost.

For more information on the company and open positions, go to www.remedirx.com.

Historic markers planned along Lakeland trail

Sean Bradley
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A new heritage project related to the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park is on track to begin next year.

"The project itself is identifying local communities and local stories, heritage and narratives and introducing a series of interpretive panels across the trail, maybe local art and artifacts," Joshua Kaminski, an Eastern Michigan University graduate student involved with the project, said. "Along the trail we're going to pick out certain interpretive points that highlight certain signature points in the community's history."

The trail is part of the ongoing Great Lake-to-Lake Trail project that will stretch from South Haven to Port Huron upon completion.

Currently, it is usable for 22 miles from Hamburg Township, south of Brighton, to Stockbridge. In 2019, a majority of an additional 12 miles heading west from Stockbridge is expected to be built, totaling 34 miles in Livingston, Ingham and Jackson counties, Dan Spiegel, heritage trail coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, said.

The goal of the project — headed up by the Michigan History Center — is to have interpretive signage installed by 2020



The Lakelands Trail State Park is a 13-mile-long linear trail designed for recreational use. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

along the trail.

"We're really early on in this process and there's much we need to identify yet," Dan Spiegel, heritage trail coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, said.

The cost of the project is to be determined but the state will not pay for it so

funding would come from a donation or a grant, Spiegel said.

Earlier this month, a meeting was held to gather information about what could be put along the trail.

There will be a second public meeting possibly in March in Stockbridge to further refine the important stories and identify a connecting theme or "big idea" for the trail, Spiegel said.

"Right now we're very early on in gathering what the stories are," Spiegel said.

A portion of the trail that runs through Stockbridge could focus on the area's use of migrant workers, Kaminski said.

"There's definite migrant labor history there," Spiegel said. "That's one of the stories that we'll highlight."

Another example is highlighting Native American pathways, such as the present-day location of the Village of Pinckney, at which the pathways intersected, Spiegel said.

Anyone interested in providing ideas or information for this project can email Kaminski at jkaminski9@emich.edu.

Meanwhile, expansion of part of the trail should start next year as well.

Plans call for expanding the trail about 1.6 miles east from the Hamburg Township-Green Oak Township border to stop at Whitmore Lake Road in the township, Mark St. Charles, Green Oak

Township Supervisor, said.

A few years ago, the township received a \$580,000 grant to expand and create a new trail to connect to the Lakeland Trail, he said.

"One at a time, we've cleared each obstacle. Now we're at the point of bidding the project," St. Charles said Thursday.

The project will be bid through the Livingston County Road Commission, St. Charles said.

In September 2016, Levine, a Pinckney resident, inventor and philanthropist, pledged \$5 million for a variety of Michigan trail projects, including design, development and construction of the Lakelands Trail and the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail. The Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park starts at Hall Road in Livingston County and extends to Hawkins Road in Henrietta Township in Jackson County.

In January 2017, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources renamed the Lakelands Trail State Park as the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park. The sign was officially changed in June this year.

Built on an old rail line, the Lakelands Trail opened for public use in 1994.

Contact Sean Bradley at 517-552-2860 or at sbradley@livingstondaily.com. Follow him on Twitter @SbradleyLD.



Samaritas Family Center director Tamiaka Andrews gives a tour of the facility. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Samaritas homeless shelter gets UAW makeover

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The leadership of UAW Local 163 wanted to find a good cause in the community this past year. Members didn't have to look far to find that cause.

The membership, based at their hall at 450 Merriman in Westland, visited the Samaritas Family Center at 30600 Michigan Avenue in Westland earlier this year as a potential partner for the homeless shelter. There, they found the common room at the shelter needed some attention and decided it was the perfect cause to take up.

"We came in here and this particular

room, at the time, we found out this was their ... meeting location for everyone in here," said Alfredda Wallace, UAW Local 163 vice president and a Detroit resident. "We were overwhelmed and so we made up in our minds at that time that this room needed a lot of work and this would be a good project for our local."

So members of the union jumped into action and got to work in the room. It's now got new carpet, paint and other amenities for the Samaritas clients, who number hundreds every year.

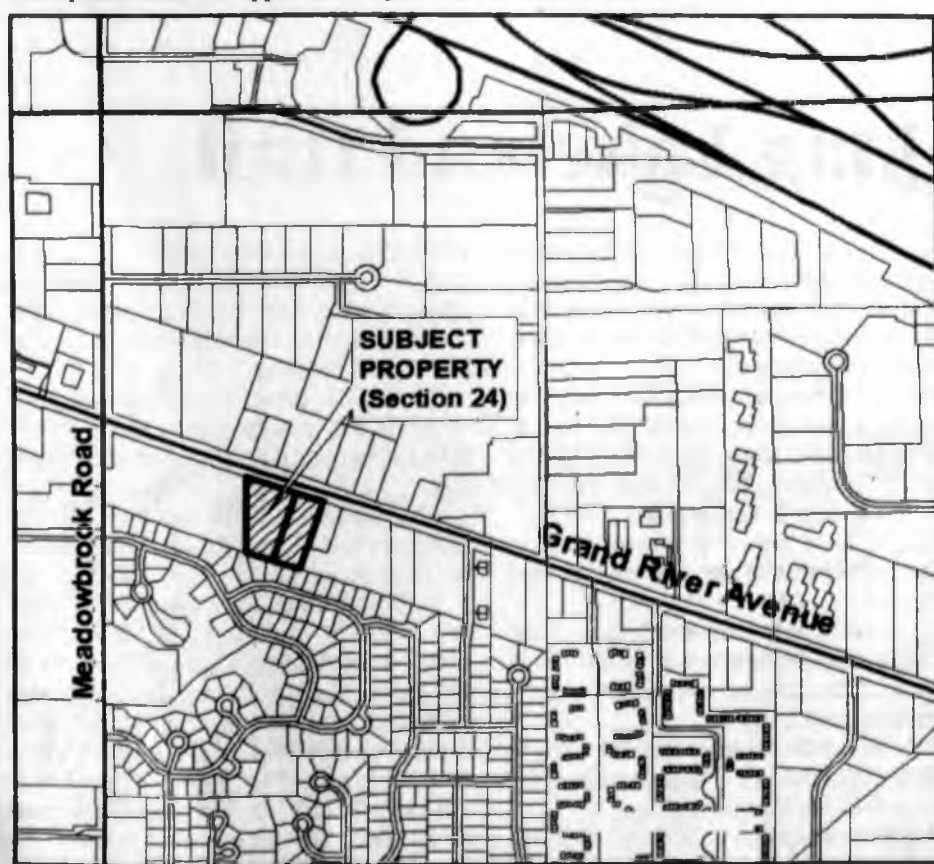
The decision has led to a lasting relationship between the two organizations. The UAW hosted the center's clients and staff at its annual summer picnic earlier this year, plus a Christmas



The bedrooms have fresh paint and art. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **SUPERIOR AMBULANCE, JSP 18-72 FOR PLANNING COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT AND PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN.** The subject property is approximately 4.37 acres. It is located in Section 24, east of Meadowbrook Road and south side of Grand River Avenue. The applicant is proposing to use a part of the existing building for a 24-hour private emergency medical service use that includes a garage for emergency vehicles and living quarters for the staff. Special Land Use approval is required for an unlisted use.



Full-size Plans are available for review at the Civic Center.

Subject Parcel ID's: 50-22-24-151-001 and 50-22-24-151-002

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be made to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, **January 23, 2019.**

Published on **January 03, 2019**
Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Published January 3, 2019

party earlier this month as well.

It's an impact that's clearly left a positive mark on those who need to utilize the center's services.

"To be able to see them just have a regular good time outside of the crisis ... everybody was kind of moved by it," said Tamiaka Andrews, family center director at the shelter.

More than 3,000 members are a part of UAW Local 163, working at places such as the GM Powertrain plant in Romulus, Detroit Diesel in Redford Township, the Oakwood Group in Taylor and some at Lakeland Rehabilitation Center in Southfield.

All the work has been noticed by the staff and clients at the center, located adjacent to the vacant Eloise property.

The common room hadn't seen work in "many years" before the UAW membership came and donated their time and money for the space, Andrews said.

The center has enough space to host

up to 24 families in separate rooms, complete with the common area, the dining room, a library and an in-house clinic. It provides temporary housing for those who need it from all over.

The work done earlier this year isn't the final work the UAW hopes to do at the center. New furniture is also planned for the room, plus work on window treatments, as well as the inclusion of a foosball table and video game system for the children who stay at the center.

"We wanted to make it fun for the kids," said Ralph Morris, UAW Local 163 president. "They're in a situation they didn't choose. We wanted to have some things they can enjoy."

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

Bid proposals for Musical Instruments 2019 will be received by the Novi Community School District, located at 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374, by mail or hand delivered by 1:00 p.m. local time on Monday, January 28, 2019, when the bids will be opened and read publicly. Bids received after the specified date and time will not be considered or accepted. Faxed or e-mailed responses will not be accepted. All bids must be submitted on the official form provided. All submissions should include one (1) original and two (2) printed copies and shall be delivered in a sealed package, addressed as follows:

Novi Community School District
BID: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 2019
Attn: Jill Minnick, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations
25345 Taft Road
Novi, MI 48374

Bid documents will be available for examination and distribution beginning December 21, 2018. Specifications and bid documents may be obtained and/or examined at Novi Community School District, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48374, and are also available on the district web site at <http://www.novi.k12.mi.us>.

Your bid proposal form shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board or the Superintendent of the school district, along with the Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit form.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, either in whole or in part. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding and to accept bid alternates. The Owner also reserves the right to award a contract in any manner deemed by the Owner, in the Owner's sole discretion, to be in the Owner's best interests.

Published January 3, 2019

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BOYS SWIMMING

These twins are double trouble

Mustangs' dynamic duo have lofty state meet goals

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When opposing teams hit the pool deck to face the Northville boys swim team, they're usually doing a double take.

It's tough trying pick out one Nitkiewicz brother when there's also another.

Seniors Travis and Jason Nitkiewicz, who happen to be twins, are a big reason Northville continues to be a top 10 program in Division 1.

Not only are the Nitkiewicz twins top-notch swimmers with lofty expectations in the pool, they're also both Eagle Scouts who carry a 4.0 grade-point average.

"They've just been a joy to coach,"

Northville's Rich Bennetts said. "This is their senior year here, they're captains this year leading our team ... they just work hard. They have no issues at all with the work that they're given. Travis is a really hard worker. Jason is the same way. They've got no ego, no attitude, and they just get in the pool and work, so they've been fun to work with."

At birth, Travis was born 45 minutes before Jason. Travis is slightly taller and their personalities are a little bit different. Their mother Peggy is a paralegal and former school teacher, while their dad Patrick is an accountant.

"Jason is a little more shy. I'm a little more outgoing than he is, I'm a little more vocal than he is," Travis said. "We're both genuine people, but we also

See TWINS, Page 2B



Northville twins Jason (left) and Travis Nitkiewicz enter their senior seasons as two of the team's stalwarts. BRAD EMONS | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

REDFORD TOWNSHIP



Emil Majeski holds up the 1984 MHSAA Class B state championship trophy after a 2-1 victory in the finals over Wyoming Park. MAJESKI FAMILY PHOTO

Thurston baseball coach Emil Majeski remembered



Emil Majeski, who recently passed away at age 83, guided Redford Thurston to the 1984 Class B state baseball championship. MAJESKI FAMILY PHOTO

Guided Thurston to the Class B state championship in 1984

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Redford Thurston High School lost one of its coaching icons earlier this month when Emil Majeski passed away at the age of 83.

A funeral mass was held for Majeski, a longtime Livonia resident, on Dec. 22 at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia. Majeski died on Dec. 14.

During his 34 years of coaching baseball from 1965-1999 at Thurston, Majeski compiled an overall record of 477-291 capturing 12 league, six MHSAA district and four regional championships.

But he is best remembered for the

1984 baseball season when he took a .500 Thurston team to the coveted Class B state championship with a 2-1 victory over Wyoming Park in the finals at Eastern Michigan University's Oestrike Stadium, his alma mater.

"We still had multiple state championship signs were still in that house," said Majeski's son Matt. "My kids still wear the T-shirts that says, 'State champs, 1984.' He had almost every newspaper clipping for almost 40 years. It was pretty crazy."

During his final baseball season at Thurston in 1999, Majeski guided the Eagles to the Division 2 state semi-

See THURSTON, Page 3B

PREP FOOTBALL

Chiesa cherishes brief time at North Farmington

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Bob Chiesa spent only two years as North Farmington's football head coach. But, it's a stint he'll always remember.

Jon Herstein, a teacher in the Farmington Public Schools since 2007, was announced as North's new head coach Dec. 17. Herstein was a line coach at the district's soon to be shuttered Harrison High School.

"I will always look very fondly at my experience at North Farmington," said Chiesa. "I thought we were able to get it turned around in a short period of time."

"You know, it was a tough decision for all of them. Some people said 'Why

See RAIDERS, Page 5B



Bob Chiesa is out as North Farmington's head coach, but leaves with fond memories of the Raiders football program. MARTY BUDNER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Observer & Eccentric
hometownlife.com

COLLEGE SIGNING

Stevenson catcher Cavin signs letter with OU

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Bobby Cavin, who has been named Livonia Stevenson's baseball captain for 2019, recently signed an NCAA Division I letter of intent to play at Oakland University.

On hand for Cavin's signing ceremony Nov. 30 were Stevenson head coach Rick Berryman and assistants Glenn Scala and Mike Macek, along with athletic director Lori Hyman and his Spartans teammates.

Cavin plans to major in business at OU.

In baseball, he earned all-Kensington Lakes Activities Association and MHSBCA all-district honors the past two seasons. He is a three-year varsity baseball and two-year varsity football player at Stevenson.

During his junior year, Cavin batted .500 with 29 walks and 38 RBIs. The



Stevenson senior catcher Bobby Cavin (seated) recently signed an NCAA Division I letter to play baseball at Oakland University. On hand for the signing ceremony were (top row, from left) head coach Rick Berryman, athletic director Lori Hyman and assistant coaches Mike Macek and Glenn Scala.

catcher threw out 75 percent of base stealers and his pop times range from 1.90-to-1.95.

In addition to playing for Stevenson, Cavin also is a member of the Motor City Hit Dogs, a summer travel team coached by Matt Petry.

Baseball has been an intricate part of Cavin's life and his love for the game began when he was a toddler.

Cavin has played twice in Cooperstown, N.Y., site of the Baseball Hall of Fame. His first experience was at age 10 with the Michigan Wild Cats. His 12-U Warriors Baseball Club of Michigan captured the Cooperstown championship.

With the 14-U Warriors, Cavin was a part of two Perfect Game National Championship runs. He also represented Team Michigan at the PBR-sponsored Futures Game in Indiana, coached by Aaron Wilson.

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

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Franklin grappler Swirple voted Athlete of the Week



Franklin junior heavyweight Jake Swirple was the Upper Weights MVP at the Wayne County Championship. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A state placer from a year ago, Livonia Franklin wrestler Jake Swirple is picking up right where he's left off from a year ago when he took eighth in the MHSAA Division 1 finals at Detroit's Ford Field.

On Dec. 15, the junior earned the 285-pound title and was selected Upper MVP weights after winning the Wayne County Championship in Wyandotte with a 4-1 victory over Dearborn Fordson's Mahdi Hazime.

Swirple also recorded two pins and his victory clinched the title as the Patriots captured their fourth straight Livonia City Championship on Dec. 12 at Stevenson.

Swirple was also a standout on the Patriots' football team as a two-way lineman earning first-team All-Detroit Free Press West honors after helping the Patriots to a Division 2 district title and an 7-5 record.

For his efforts on the mat, Swirple was voted Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week as he garnered a total of 17,673 votes (54.56 percent).

Swirple finished ahead of Salem swimmer Eugene Li, who had 10,359 votes (31.98 percent), along with Birmingham Groves basketball player John Garrett, who had 4,029 votes (12.99 percent).

Here is a closer look at Swirple, who recently responded to a brief Q&A.

Who is your favorite sports role model? "J.J. Watt, because he has a never quit motor and is one of the hardest working guys in the NFL. The way he plays is so energetic. He demonstrates true leadership on and off the field."

What made your performance last week so special? "What made my performance last week so special is that I placed fourth last season at Wayne County and one of my goals this year was to win the Wayne County tournament. Also, I loved coming up big for my team with a pin in the city meet to clinch our 13th City championship out of the

last 14 years."

What is your favorite all-time movie? Gran Torino, because Clint Eastwood is my all-time favorite actor. Also, I like the character Clint Eastwood plays in the movie Walt Kowalski."

What is your favorite subject in school? "History, because I have always been a history buff ever since I was a little kid. My Grandpa taught me a lot about history from a young age and I have always had a passion for learning about it ever since."

What are your plans beyond high school? "My plans after high school include wanting to go to college on a football scholarship or wrestling scholarship. I want to go to school for Criminal Justice and become a Federal Officer, either become a U.S. Marshall, Border Patrol Agent, DEA, FBI, or Homeland Security."

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

TWINS

Continued from Page 1B

approach problems very differently. But we both like to work hard. What makes us different in swimming the most is that I like breaststroke and I don't like butterfly. And Jason likes butterfly and doesn't like breaststroke."

They aren't quite inseparable, but the two definitely have each other's back.

"We do a lot of things together, but in those individual items, we're very different," Jason said. "So when we both swim together, we're swimming completely different strokes. We usually swam different things our entire swimming careers, so there's never been any sibling rivalry or anything like that."

Travis, who will swim next year at Michigan State, will go down as one of the most accomplished swimmers to come out of Northville.

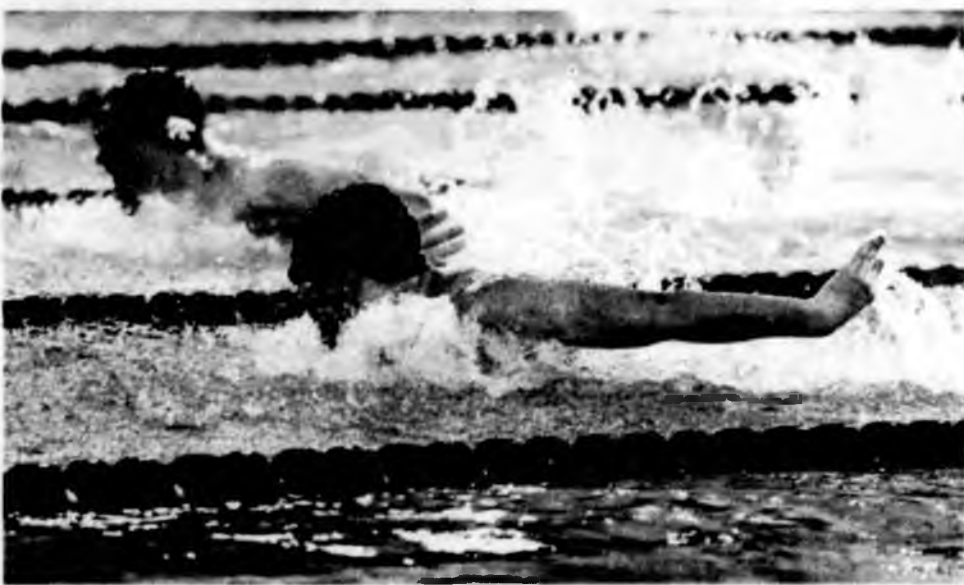
He owns two school records after placing fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke (56.35) and sixth in the 200 individual medley (1:52.48) at last year's MHSAA Division 1 state finals. Travis also was a part of Northville's fourth-place 200 medley relay state meet team that also broke the school record (1:33.92).

"He's very analytical. He'll watch his races, ask for advice," Jason said. "He's very thorough looking through everything he can improve, where he can be better and all of that."

Prior to the start of the high school season, Travis traveled to Greensboro, N.C., for the 2018 Speedo Winter Junior Nationals, a short course meet, where he posted a personal best 2:00.54 en route to a 10th-place finish in the 200-yard breaststroke, a drop of 2.51 seconds.

"I really trained for that event the most in the off-season and it was really nice to see that big time drop and that nice finish," said Travis, who was representing the Novi Sturgeons Swim Club.

Meanwhile, in early season dual meet Dec. 11 against state power Birmingham Brother Rice, Travis broke the Northville pool record in the 100 breaststroke (57.90).



Northville's Jason Nitkiewicz (bottom) excels in the 100-yard butterfly. WILLIAM GREENLEE

"This year, I'd like to drop time in all of my events," Travis said. "And as a team, we're hoping to win the conference meet. Last year we were pretty close, but we came up a little short. My goals at the state meet are to drop some time and, hopefully, some All-American times and see how I do."

Not to be outdone is Jason, coming off a ninth-place finish in last year's Division 1 state finals with a time of 51.60 (second fastest in school history) in the 100 butterfly. He was also 22nd overall in the 200 IM and posted a season-best 1:58.20.

"I'm hoping I can break our school 100 butterfly record. It will be a little bit of a stretch, but I think be able to pull it off," Jason said.

Both Jason and Travis were also part of the Mustangs' 11th-place 400 freestyle relay team (3:10.68) at the state finals.

"As far as we're concerned, anything short of a state championship (for Travis) in the breaststroke would be a disappointment," Bennetts said. "And that's him, that's not me. We expect an All-American swim in that 200 IM as well. And I know Jason is focused on going all-state in both his events, so they're looking to have a big senior year."

The Nitkiewicz twins played multiple sports growing up, including soccer, baseball and flag football, but by age 10 they decided to concentrate on swimming. They had two uncles who also swam in high school at Detroit Catholic Central who eventually got back into swimming later in years with a masters-age team.

The twins gravitated toward competitive club swimming, where they continue to thrive under the coaching of Bob Jenrow and Mark Winter with the Sturgeons.

"A lot of twins have trouble doing the same activities and they often branch totally apart," Travis said. "But we've managed to stay with swimming. We've both been swimming at least through middle school, so that's been a long time to be competing against each other and have everyone else compare us. But we are really close with each other and it helps us that, when one person isn't doing well, we stick with each other and we really care about each other."

Jason said following his senior season he'll continue to swim for the Sturgeons. He hopes to attend Purdue University and study bio-engineering and join the school's club team.

Travis, meanwhile, is leaning toward a curriculum in the STEM field at MSU.



Northville senior Travis Nitkiewicz holds individual school records in the 100-yard breaststroke and 200 IM. WILLIAM GREENLEE

"They don't make you declare a major right away. That's one of the things I liked about Michigan State, because I'm not quite sure what I'd like to study yet," Travis said. "I'm either leaning toward statistics or a combination of engineering and business."

As much as they are alike, the two can be different.

"Travis is a little more outgoing," Bennetts said. "Jason is a little more reserved, a little more laid-back. But when they dive in the pool, you can't tell the difference the way they work. They both work really hard."

"You see more of a team with them. They don't do the same events, which kind of helps a little bit in that regard. I think a lot of times they just pour their energy and competitiveness into the team to make sure everybody is coming along for the ride."

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

Ex-NHL star goalie champions USA Hockey's growth

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Hockeytown knows all about John Vanbiesbrouck, a Detroit native who played 20 seasons as a goalie in the National Hockey League.

Vanbiesbrouck mostly starred between the pipes with the New York Rangers and Florida Panthers, but now he is in a different kind of key position — with USA Hockey as assistant executive director of hockey operations. He was named to the position following the January 2018 death of Jim Johannson.

The hockey player known as "Beezer"

is based out of western Michigan, but is constantly on the move to stay on top of his many responsibilities. One of those is to keep tabs on how things are going at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

He recently answered some questions for Hometown Life about USA Hockey, the arena, the state of modern goaltending and other issues:

Q: What is your current title and job duties with USA Hockey and how are those duties evolving in the after-



John Vanbiesbrouck

math of the death of Jim Johannson?

A: My title is assistant executive director of hockey operations and ... my role is centered around managing our international hockey program, meaning the teams we put on the ice for international competition in women's, men's and sled hockey. I'm also responsible for oversight of our junior hockey program and working, along with Marc Boxer from our staff, particularly with the USHL and NAHL. I've really enjoyed the job so far and continue to learn and feel more comfortable as every day passes.

Q: Are you based out of USA Hockey's corporate offices in Colorado

Springs? How often do you get to USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth and what are your thoughts on the upgrades since USA Hockey took the building over from Peter Karmanos?

A: I'm currently living in Michigan on the west side and do a lot of traveling. I've been at USA Hockey Arena a couple of times a week on average, but that frequency changes all the time, depending upon what we have going on. As for the arena itself, the upgrades that have been made are fabulous. Through the branding efforts of the facility, USA Hockey has done a terrific job in show-

See HOCKEY, Page 5B

THURSTON

Continued from Page 1B

nals where he was named Detroit News Metro Baseball Coach of the Year.

In 1991, Majeski was inducted into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Four times he was awarded with Regional Coach of the Year.

Majeski not only enjoyed success on the baseball diamond, but he also touched many lives along the way.

Deno Syrios, who pitched four years at the University of Detroit, played for Majeski during the late 1960s and has fond memories.

"I wasn't the most coachable kid in the world, but he really always really stuck by me and didn't give up on me," Syrios said. "I produced on the field pretty well, too, but my judgment at other times was a little bit questionable back in those days. One of the things that he kind of taught me was really to give people a shot, stay with them and give them another chance ... that kind of thing."

Majeski, one of nine children, grew up on a farm in Kinde, Michigan and was a three-sport athlete at North Huron H.S. during the early 1950s before joining the Army for a three-year stint. He was stationed in Fort Devens, Mass. where he spent a lot of his time playing baseball and football.

Majeski then headed to EMU as a freshman where he excelled as an undersized defensive back in football. He was also president of the Kappa Phi Alpha fraternity and later earned both a B.A. and M.A. degrees from EMU.

He began his 41-year teaching career at Willow Run H.S. before moving to Thurston where he started out coaching football, but he became a quick study in baseball.

"He was learning on the fly," Syrios said. "As a coach he was one of those guys who would look at the talent and then adapt to the talent, manage it and do a great job with that."

Majeski also enjoyed success as a golf coach for 18 seasons at Thurston going 173-60 overall.

"His class, his temperament and his style was always 'A' plus," Syrios said. "He went the extra mile for all of us, simple things like opening the gym, let us play basketball in the off season. He used to invite us back regularly to play on Friday afternoons, football and baseball players, for years. He did much more than coach baseball."

In 2010, the South Redford School District honored his impact and legacy by naming its Thurston baseball facility Majeski Field.

"Going to high school not too far from Thurston, I would often run into kids who he taught or coached," Matt Majeski said. "It was consistent, they all loved him, athletes or not. In fact, the non-athletes maybe more. More than once,

kids told me that they loved being in his class."

Well beyond his retirement from teaching and coaching, Majeski remained connected with his former players and students, as well as their families.

"He would see in the local papers, like yours, where one of our kids might be playing in a game and he would come out and watch them, just by seeing their last name," said Steve Kreager, who played baseball for Majeski and graduated from Thurston in 1971. "One of my kids was a quarterback at Northville and a captain of the hockey team, and I'd see him there. That's the kind of guy he was, which is pretty rare."

And it was a joy to play for Majeski, who proved to be a father figure for Kreager, who lost his own father and grandfather at an early age as a result of a car accident.

"He created a culture that was pretty top-notch in athletics, especially for younger people," Kreager said. "A lot of the lessons I think, whether they were intended to land in the short term, or eventually they might have been indirect lessons. He created a competitive culture where you could excel, but you respected each other, you respected him, you respected the opponent, you were well prepared ..."

Kreager said Majeski gave much more than he received. He proved to be a selfless coach on many different fronts.

"I played for some good guys, guys

with names, their names in lights, and all that stuff, but as far as not looking for any recognition and creating an incredible atmosphere, this guy is about as good as it gets," Kreager said.

Emil Majeski is survived by his daughter Emily (Mark) Whitney and son Matthew (Melissa) Majeski; sisters Genevieve Galka and Delores Kretz; brothers Kenneth and Alfred Majeski; and grandchildren Cameron Whitney, Tyler Whitney, Hannah Whitney, Griffin Majeski, Macie Majeski and Marley Majeski; along with former wife Nancy Majeski.

Emil was preceded in death by four brothers including Eugene, Ralph, Albin and Donald Majeski, along with parents Felix and Agnes Majeski.

"He was just a great father, a great grandfather, he would drop anything for my sister and I, and the grand kids," Matt Majeski said. "I have a boy and two girls. He was out in the backyard teaching them how to properly swing a baseball bat at 2 years-old ... that was just in him. My son grew a love for baseball as a result. It was nice to see that relationship. He would just do anything for his family."

Contributions in Emil's memory can be made to: Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, P.O. Box 414238, Boston, Mass. 022-41.

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

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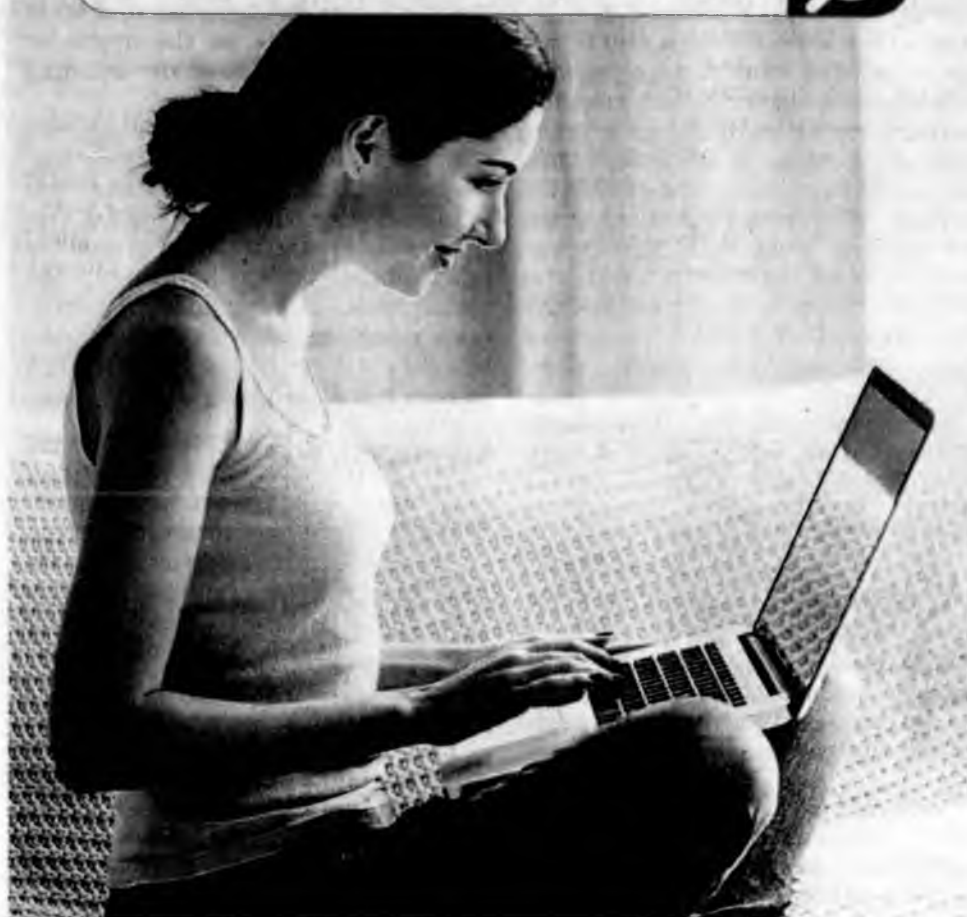
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HOCKEY

Continued from Page 3B

casing the organization as a whole and the overall look and feel of the building is great.

Q: With a current roster of players virtually guaranteed to play in the NHL, the spotlight is shining brightly on the NTDP (and on USA Hockey). What are your thoughts about that and can it be sustained?

A: As someone who loves hockey and believes in the values it brings to families across our country, it is wonderful to see the sport continue to grow at all levels

of the game. The American Development Model has had a positive impact on providing a fun and age-appropriate environment for our players the past decade and that has contributed to both growth and player retention. As for the NTDP, it has had a significant impact on our success on the international stage and certainly in preparing some of our top players for professional hockey and beyond. It is a signature program of our organization, which has also impacted the betterment of junior hockey.

Q: I have to sneak a couple of goaltending questions in there. Do you still get the itch to put the pads back on and get back out there? The position has changed so much in the past 20 years, do you think it is for better or worse? Are there any NTDP

goalies that you really are high on for future NHL stardom?

A: The itch to play is gone. But I do love watching the position develop. Goaltending has evolved — from the equipment to the size of the players to the style of play. It's really fun to watch. In the end, the game is better and so is the goaltending. We're working hard at USA Hockey to help take goaltending to another level and encourage more kids to try the position. In the end, our goal is to see 51 percent of goaltenders in the NHL and NWHL be American-born by 2030. It's a lofty goal and it's great to have so many passionate people working on our goaltending program. As for NTDP goalies, they're all terrific young players and it's fun to watch them develop.

RAIDERS

Continued from Page 1B

aren't you more upset.' Well, I am upset. But, on the flip side, I got to be a man of logic. It was a hard decision. The district had to close a school and the powers that be got together and decided this would be the best move.

"I can yell and scream about it, but that's not going to change reality," he said. "I'd rather go out on a high note, and with class and hopefully land of my feet somewhere else again."

Contractual obligations

Chiesa fell victim to the Farmington Education Association's replacement policies due to the closing of Farmington Harrison High School following the current academic year.

Fall coaching positions were posted internally, allowing current and retired FEA members first rights to those spots. Since Chiesa was not a FPS employee, his duties as head coach were in jeopardy based on the FEA guidelines.

As a result, Herstein, an Adapted Physical Education teacher for six different district schools, was afforded the opportunity to apply for the job. He had his first meeting with his new team on Dec. 19.

"The FEA contract states that if we have qualified bargaining members available to fill vacant positions, they have the first opportunities to fill those positions," said North Farmington Athletic Director Todd Schultz. "Jon is a teacher in the district and had the opportunity to fill that spot over Bob who is a non-FEA member."

"We just had to fulfill our obligation towards the contract and that's what we did," said Schultz. "It's hard. Bob put a lot of time and effort into running the program and we truly appreciate everything he's done."

Chiesa took over as North Farmington's head coach in 2017 after a winless (0-9) Raiders campaign in 2016.



Bob Chiesa oversees a workout session last fall by Raider Andre Ballard in the team's new weight facility which he helped put together. MARTY BUDNER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

A 1980 University of Michigan graduate, Chiesa's plan from the start was to rebuild the program. He elected to play a majority of underclassmen his first year with the hope that the experience would pay off with future success.

The Raiders won two of nine games in his inaugural season and registered three victories this past fall, including a 3-3 mark in the OAA Blue Division. They scored 48 more points and allowed 112 less points in 2018 than they did in 2017.

Chiesa's only disappointment

Chiesa felt the program was making progress. Chiesa was looking forward to his third season at the helm, and his lone disappointment is that he will not be able to see the rewards of what he believes will be a good team in 2019. He said 19 players — nine who will be three-year starters — are slated to return to next year's squad.

"It's unfortunate that we aren't going to be able to finish the job we've done the past two years," said Chiesa. "We only had four seniors on our first team and that was all gearing up for the upcoming seasons."

"People don't realize we were only losing four play-

ers. They will be loaded next year," he said. "I really think they can be a playoff team next year. If there's one frustration, I would have liked to have shared in the benefits of the sacrifices the team and the program took, coaches as well as players, the past two years."

Chiesa, who grew up in Redford and moved to Livonia, got his start in football with the Lakes Area Hawks youth football program. His first high school job was as an assistant at the old Southfield-Lathrup High School under then head coach Rich Popp.

He also spent time as an assistant at the three Walled Lake schools — Central, Western and Northern — Hartland and Waterford Mott.

NF was first head coaching job

North Farmington was his first job as a head coach. During his time at North Farmington, Chiesa built the program in terms of numbers (45 his first year to 75 last year), redesigned the Raiders helmets and uniforms, brought the program among the state's top 25 academically and built a new weight room area, among other things.

Chiesa is proud of what he was able to accomplish in 20 months at North Farmington.

"Looking back, I will take great pride in knowing that I helped to start the turnaround process of that school," said Chiesa. "We got the new fields. I was able to redesign the new football helmets. We did a lot."

In the meantime, Chiesa, who calls himself a 'Raider for Life,' will be watching North Farmington's fortunes under the new coaching regime.

"There's no doubt that Jon and the Harrison boys will do a great job," said Chiesa. "I gotta tell you, the North Farmington community is special. I really do consider myself blessed and a better man for having coached there."

"I would have liked to have carried it through to fruition, but when you have a school closing (Harrison), it presents awkward challenges," he said. "But, I really appreciated the opportunity to coach (at North Farmington). I think this year (2019) will be a special year and I'll share it with them."

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Here's where group fitness meets underground music

Darrell Ciem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Corey Sims of Canton has turned his skills as a personal trainer, boot camp instructor, rapper, kick-boxer and DJ into a growing business aimed at getting metro Detroit in shape.

For his next big gig, Sims is promising an "unforgettable" evening where underground music meets group fitness — all in a darkened room with club lighting, hyped-up bumping beats and repeat dance moves intended to transform what could be a boring workout into an exciting, motivating experience.

Sims, owner of Canton-based D-SKO Fitness, is ready to pump up the volume and fitness moves for as many as 200 people when he brings his group workout party to Bodies By Wade, 34580 Ford Road, in Westland's Wildwood Plaza. He's rolling out a free session starting at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6, for a crowd ages 12 and older.

"It's a little bit of a game-changer for us," Sims said, adding that most previous fitness concerts have catered to adults.

Back to that name, though. What is D-SKO?

Sims is from Detroit, hence the "D" and a version of the hometown sports Old English "D" he has altered for his own version. The business name is a play on the word "disco" — it's a dance moves-based exercise, after all — but it's pronounced "Dee-scoe" to put he



Participants get a workout with underground music and club-style lighting with D-SKO Fitness. SUBMITTED

emphasis on "D."

Sims said D-SKO is an acronym for "Detroit Style Kept Original," though his wife Erika, who lends her talents to the company's artistry and promotion, encourages everyone to "Do Some Kind Of Fitness."

Rolling his past fitness club jobs into a new concept, Sims taught himself to mix and pre-record his own DJ set. He combines what he calls underground music with group fitness in a unique setting. He uses hip-hop music with flourishes of Detroit's electronic sounds, songs "you don't hear on the radio." He mixes it ahead of shows so he can better interact with the crowd.

"It combines a concert-type feel with

group fitness," he said.

Sims has orchestrated dozens of similar gigs — including "pop-up" classes — for organizations such as Healthy Moves/Opportunity Detroit, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority's suicide-prevention program at Ford Field and Wayne County Department of Health's Fun Fest, among others.

His D-SKO Fitness approach has caught on as a franchise. He has taught others who took his concept to places in Connecticut, Iowa, Ohio, Illinois — even England.

Sims' event at Bodies By Wade is billed as a kickoff that is expected to continue for several other weeks on Sundays. Though the first event is free,



D-SKO founder Corey Sims performs at one of his fitness events. SUBMITTED

subsequent ones are \$8 each.

Sims hopes the right music, the right moves and the right atmosphere can become a catalyst for bringing families together to have fun, be active and get healthier.

To register for the event at Bodies By Wade or for more on D-SKO Fitness, go to dskofitness.club or call 734-578-5084.

AREA EVENTS

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

New exhibit at HVCA

Color + Thread = Art, the work of fiber artist Katie McGrath, is on display at Huron Valley Council for the Arts, 205 W. Livingston Road, in Highland. A gallery reception for the exhibit will take place 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4; those attending will have an opportunity to meet McGrath and view her art quilts while enjoying light refreshments.

Exhibit hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, in January. For more information, go to www.huronvalleyarts.org or call 248-889-8660.

A quilt-making workshop using free cut piecing/drawing with a rotary cutter, led by McGrath and Mary Bajcz, another art quilter and member of HVCA's The Art Shop artist collective, will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, with a "snow date" of Saturday, Feb. 2. The cost is \$50. For more information about the class, go to www.huronvalleyarts.org/1/257/classes.asp.

American Square Dance

The South Lyon VFW Hall, 125 E. McHattie Street, will host a pair of traditional American Square Dances 7-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4 and Feb. 1. The dances are open to the public, no experience necessary. Couples, singles or families (ages 9 and up with parents).

All dances will be taught first. Dress is casual. Entry is \$5 per person donation to VFW. For more information, go to squaredancemichigan.tripod.com/southlyon.html.

Northville Art House exhibit

The Northville Art House, 215 W. Cadz Street, will present Textile Geometry: Compositions by Katie McGrath and Kathryn Schmidt, scheduled for Jan. 4-26. This exhibition features textiles that emphasize the use of geometric shapes, colorful fabrics and thread embellishments.

The exhibit opens with a free public reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4. The exhibit runs is open during Art House hours, noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 248-344-0497 or go to www.northvillearthouse.org.

Novi Choralaires rehearsals

The Novi Choralaires choir is seeking new members for all voice parts. Those interested in joining for the 2019 winter/spring season are invited to attend the open, non-audition rehearsals held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8 and 15, in the Novi Middle School's choir rehearsal room, 49000 W. 11 Mile Road.

The group was founded in 1975 and operates under the umbrella of Novi Parks Performing Arts. It performs a Christmas concert series each December, a spring concert in May and at a

number of venues throughout the season, which runs from September through May.

Rehearsals are 7:30-9:30 p.m. each Tuesday at Novi Middle School. The cost is \$60 per season. For more information, email novi.choralaires@gmail.com.

PFAS health seminar

The Wellhead Protection Program under the city of South Lyon Water Department will present a public health seminar titled PFAS and the Huron River: What We Know and What We Need To Know 1:30-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the South Lyon City Hall auditorium, 335 S. Warren Street.

Speaker will be Laura Rubin, executive director of the Huron River Watershed Council based in Ann Arbor. The Huron River watershed includes waterways in the areas of Oakland, Livingston and Washtenaw counties.

For more information, call 248-437-4006 or go to www.southlyonmi.org.

Ultimate Fishing Show

The annual Ultimate Fishing Show is scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, Jan. 10-13, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue, in Novi. Hours are 1-9 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The show will feature hundreds of the newest fishing boats and more than 200 booths of fishing gear, outfitters, guides and lodges. An all-star lineup of professional anglers will also be at the show, with salmon, bass and walleye clinics.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-14 and free for children age 5 and under. For more information, go to www.ultimatefishingshow.com or call 800-328-6550.

'Tinkerbell' at Marquis Theatre

The Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main Street, in Northville will present "Tinkerbell Visits Storyland" throughout the months of November, December and January. Showtimes are 2:30 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday through Jan. 27, with weekday special performances scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, Dec. 26-28.

Tickets for all performances are \$9. No children under age 3. Group rates and reserved seating are available for groups of 20 or more. For more information, call 248-349-8110, email marquistheatre@sbcglobal.net or go to www.northvillemarquistheatre.com.

VFAA exhibit at library

The Village Fine Arts Association, in partnership with the Milford Public Library, 330 Family Drive, exhibits its member artwork in the library Community Room. Through mid-January, it will feature the artwork of Renee Hoag.

This free exhibit will be displayed during regular library hours (9:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and

9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday) unless the room is hosting another event. For more information, go to www.milfordvfaa.org.

Area Agency on Aging class

Aging Matters, an educational service of AAA 1-B, is kicking off 2019 with a free six-week class titled Powerful Tools for Caregivers, scheduled for 1-3:30 p.m. each Monday beginning Feb. 4 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Road.

To register or to get more information, call 833-262-2200 or email wellnessprograms@aaa1b.com.

Barn dance at Kensington

The Kensington Metropark Farm Center, 4570 Huron River Parkway, will host a pair of barn dances Saturday, Feb. 18. There are two sessions to choose from: 6-8 p.m. (daddy-daughter, mother-son, parent-child) and 8-10 p.m. (adult couples, singles and families with older children).

Light refreshments will be provided. Advance tickets (\$8) are required. Call the park office at 810-227-8910 to order.

Adopt-A-Reader

Adopt-A-Reader links volunteers like you with children in kindergarten through second grade in the South Lyon Community Schools district who need extra support with reading and/or writing. This is an opportunity to create a learning bond by working individually with two children. You could make a real difference in their lives. All it takes is a

commitment of about an hour a week.

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

Friday and Saturday Night Hangouts

The Living and Learning Center, 315 Griswold, in Northville is a center that specializes in helping teens and adults that are on the autism spectrum learn job and social skills. This center provides a program 6-9 p.m. each Friday and Saturday night that allows their clients to partake in games, art and creating friendships with their fellow peers and mentors.

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

To learn more about this program or to reserve your spot in the program, call 248-308-3592 or go to www.livingandlearningcenter.org.

Youth Alpha film series

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

Obituaries

Mike Jackson

MILFORD - Mike Jackson, a resident of Milford and a native of Flint, died at home on December 25, 2018 at the age of 43. He leaves his beloved wife, Kim; his dear children, Lauren, Sophie and Calvin; his parents, Charlie and Sandy Jackson; his sister, Lynn (Bob) Leschuk; in-laws, Dick and Nancy MacDonald; brother-in-law, Dan (Jenny) MacDonald; nephews, Tyler Leschuk, Jake MacDonald; nieces, Emily Leschuk and Cameron MacDonald; best friend, Brian (Mike Monzon) Irving, as well as extended family members, many many friends and his canine companion, Harper. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Mary's Church, Milford on December 29, 2018. Memorial contributions may be made to a scholarship set up for the children. For further information phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchandSonsMilford.com



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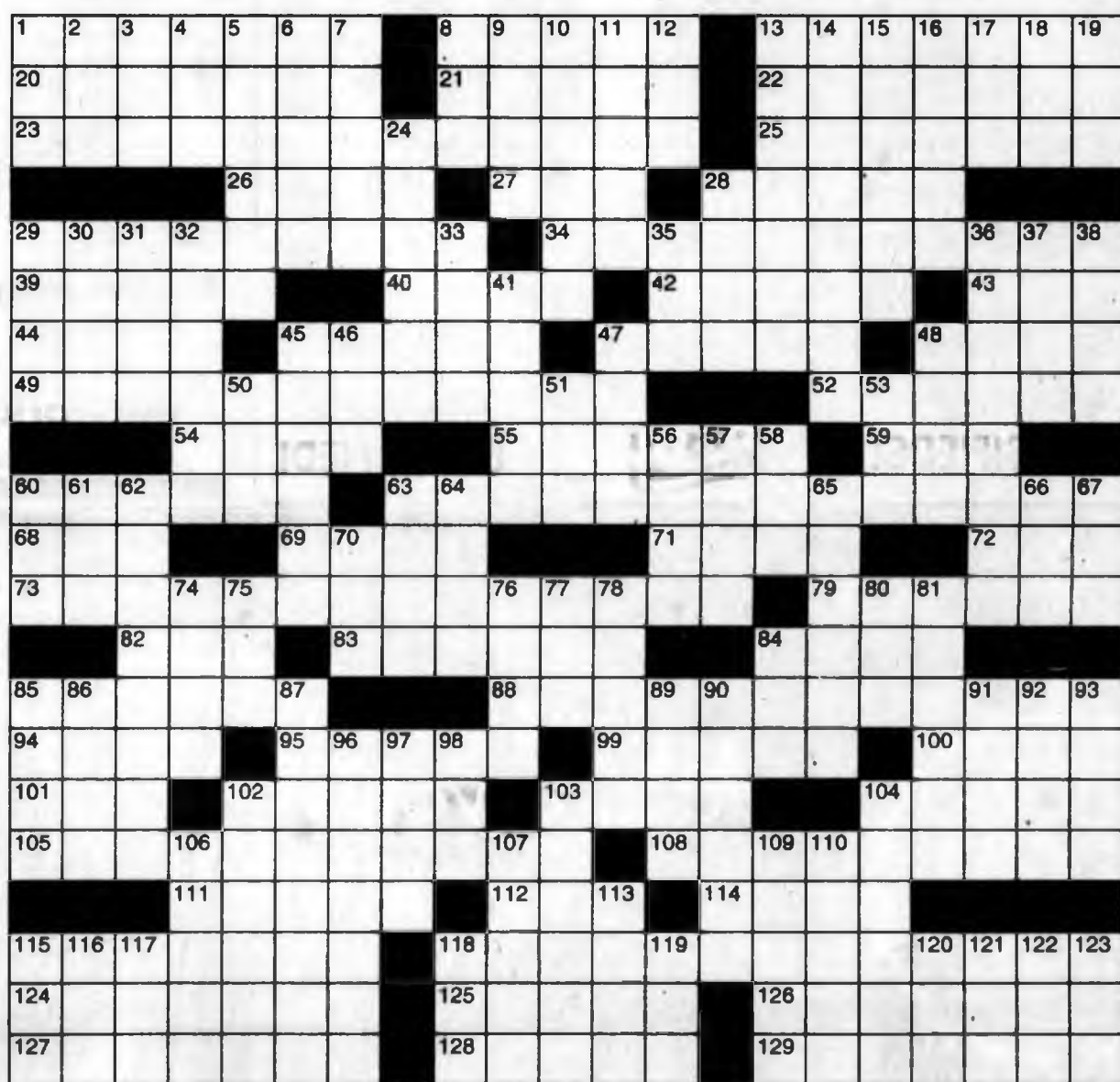
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Not meant to be heard by the audience, in a way
8 Blend in
13 Maker of stringed instruments
20 Author of Huffington
21 Nary a soul
22 In a group
23 Give a nonnative a smooch?
25 Causes of sudden fear
26 Env. alerter
27 Small drink
28 Make up for
29 Defeat Dorothy's dog decisively?
34 Trip to an underworld river?
39 Singer Buddy
40 Egg
42 Stools, say
43 Actress Mendes
44 Certain Siouan
45 "The Jerk" actor M. — Walsh
- 47 "Well well!"
48 Use a pool
49 Specialty of Windy City bakeries?
52 Uses Dixie diction
54 Door turner
55 Expire, as a subscription
59 Ballpark fig.
60 New princess of '81
63 One who doesn't succumb to a potent toxin?
68 Clean energy org.
69 Bombard with e-junk
71 "Zip- — Doo-Dah"
72 Hard wood
73 Glorious state of bliss?
79 Military units
82 Prefix with hazard
83 Achieve
84 Obi-Wan Kenobi, e.g.
85 Rob
88 Desert haven mentioned in the first book of the Bible?
- 94 Guitars' kin, for short
95 Actor Rob
99 Bits of matter
100 Car for a VIP
101 Mr., in India
102 Have a cow, with "out"
103 Ltr. insert
104 Arrangement
105 Ruler of the Sunflower State?
108 Palpitation?
111 Menu fish
112 Audiotapes' successors
114 Cato's 1,052
115 Main female character
118 Stuff hauled by Beantown trash collectors?
124 Not ceasing
125 Homer work
126 St. — (capital of Loire)
127 Mice and whales, e.g.
128 "The Rose" singer Midler
129 Plunder
- 4 Moms
5 Notoriety
6 Noted berry farm founder
7 Turn a deaf — (ignore)
8 Musical artist DiFranco
9 Barking pets
10 Doctrine that reality is one organic whole
11 Ham-handed
12 Gen —
13 Certain boxing punch
14 Not firmly implanted
15 Pre-lift-off term
16 Jenna Bush —
17 "Kinda" suffix
18 Ballpark fig.
19 Scale notes
24 Lay to rest
28 Skating leap
29 Ice cream flavor, briefly
30 Writer Philip
31 H.G. Wells race
32 Smart — (cocky)
33 At an end
35 Fashion inits.
36 Synthpop artist, say
- 37 Sinister
38 They may be candied
41 Wombs
45 Self-conceit
46 Unruly crowd
47 Social Security fig., e.g.
48 Delhi dress
50 Not only that
51 Vienna loc.
53 Crank (up)
56 — upswing
57 Meat stamp letters
58 Wk. day
60 The, in Paris
61 "The Simpsons" store clerk
62 Work at as a dilettante
63 Breathe hard
64 Leave out
65 Intermission
66 Bullfight cry
67 Apt. units
70 Stew veggie
74 Eye covers
75 Bettor's note
76 Tatty clothes
77 Strive (for)
78 U.N.'s Kofi
80 Hubbub
81 Call placar
84 Actor Parsons
85 Corn cover
- 86 Stew veggie
87 Part of PIN
89 Carve
90 Sombre
91 In — (as found)
92 Don of radio
93 Last year's frosh
96 "Part II" films
97 Tightly strung
98 Squeak (out)
102 Cereal meal
103 Breaks up
104 Add to the batter, say
106 Charge at
107 School, in Nice
109 Writer Horatio
110 Calf catcher
113 ESPN datum
115 — and haw
116 Greek vowel
117 Dream-time acronym
118 Baby's wear
119 Lyric tribute
120 Wanna- — (aspirants)
121 Santa — (hot wind)
122 Big health supplement chain, familiarly
123 "I see mice!"



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

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CULINARY CREATIONS WORD SEARCH

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

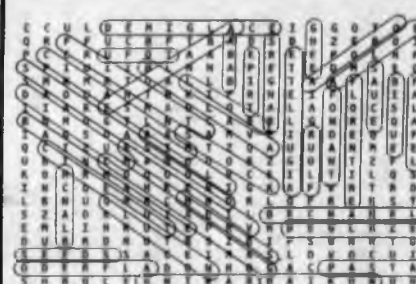
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

WORDS

ABALONE
ADOBO
AIGUILLETTE
AIOLI
ALFREDO
BABA
BAIN-MARIE
BAKING
BAKLAVA
BALSAMIC
BANGERS
BECHAMEL
BISQUE
BLANCH
BOIL
DAIKON
DEGLAZE
DEMI-GLACE
DIM SUM
DOLMA
FALAFEL
FLORENTINE
FLOUR
FONDANT
FRITTATA
GAZPACHO
GHEE
GLUTEN
HERBS
PASTA
SAUCE
SEEDS
SMORGASBORD
STOCK
TOFU
TRIPE
TURMERIC
VINEGAR

ANSWER KEY

OFFMIKE ADMIX LUTHIER
ARIANNA NOONE ENMASSE
KISSFOREIGNER FRIGHTS
ATTN SIP ATONE
CREAMTOTO STYXJOURNEY
HOLLY OVUM SEATS EVA
OTOE EMMET ILLEG SWIM
CHICAGOBBREAD DRAWL
KNOB RUNOUT ERA
LADYDI POISON SURVIVOR
EPA SPAM ADEE ELM
SUBLIMENIRVANA GADRES
BIO ATTAIN JSDI
HOLDUP GENESIS OASIS
KISS ESTES ATONE LIME
BRI FREAK ENCL STUP
KANSASQUEEN HEARTRUSH
TROUT COS WII
HEROINE BOSTON GARBAGE
ETERNAL ILIAD ETIENNE
MAMMALS BETTE RANSACK



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

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