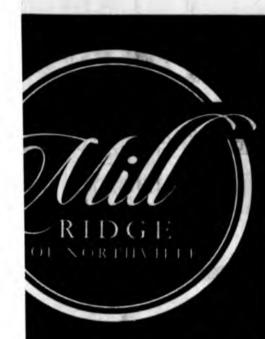
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speaks at Milford town hall

on Space, Science, & Techens spoke with particular the Rebuilding America's which would restore fundtion, and the Raise the Wage would raise the minimum lual steps to \$15 an hour by

stion we all ask in America u be working full-time but imum wage and living in tevens said "I have been a 21st-century labor moveneed to find a way to regrow also discussed the under-

IS, Page 6A



11th **District** U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens conducts a town hall meeting at Milford High School on Feb. 20. JOHN HEIDER HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

g, cuddly cats



Lyon Senior Care and Rehab on Feb.16. Volunteers from Feral Kitty Idle. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

eline therapy

ave a reputation for being what they want, when they new partnership between a rescue and senior facility is stereotype upside down. day, cats and kittens played the laps of residents at the

age 8A

"The first time we did this, one of the ladies cried the whole time, she was so happy to see and pet a cat."

Karen Frazer Founder, Feral Kitty Trappers

Weather pushing schools' snow days to the limit

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Several local school districts may have to go to Lansing to ask for some reprieve if Old Man Winter rears his ugly head once again.

The recent snap of cold, snow and ice days that have kept area students out of the classroom may lead to some creative scheduling for many school districts, or even keeping students into

Many districts have already used up all of their allotted cancellation days. Michigan districts have six days they are allowed to use to cancel school for weather. Livonia Public Schools, Farmington Public Schools, Birmingham Public Schools and the Wayne-Westland Community School District are all at the six-day mark for the year. State law requires 1,098 hours of instruction over 180 days per school year.

What happens once a seventh day is needed? It depends, but most districts can apply to the state superintendent for up to three additional days. Many districts are already applying for those days, said department spokesman Bill DiSessa — 175 districts have requested the state allow them extra days off.

"There's been a lot of requests now coming in for snow day waivers," he said. "A great bulk of those are for all three days.'

While the state doesn't track how many snow days each district takes those are all local decisions, DiSessa said - a district that doesn't get in all its instruction days can face financial penalties.

"If districts don't meet those, they'll have to add instruction time," he said. "If they don't meet the requirements, they risk losing the corresponding amount of state aid."

See SNOW DAYS, Page 7A

ath Notices; 2) Retail Advertising; 3) Billing, Subscription, m. Send press releases, calendar items to

Volume 149 | No. 30 Home delivery pricing inside







School staff makes a difference — and mistakes



Atul Gawande is a medical doctor who also writes about the practice of medicine. In his book "Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science," he writes:

"In surgery, as in anything else, skill and confidence are learned through experience — haltingly and humiliatingly. Like the tennis player and the oboist and the guy who fixes hard drives, we need let slip away. to practice to get good at what we do. There is one difference in medicine, though; it is people we practice on."

Education is like medicine. Teachers improve their skill by practicing their craft. But, as in medicine, teachers practice on people. And, even more critically, we work not just with people, but with children. More importantly, we work with your children.

We cannot afford to make mistakes or take a day off or "waste" instructional time. The time we have is too precious and the task we have is too important to

So every day our teachers, secretaries, support staff, administrators enter the doors of our schools knowing that what they do makes a difference. They also know that they will make mistakes.

Not because they like to make mistakes. Not because they are trying to make mistakes. These mistakes are not made intentionally. They are made because our staff is human.

Our staff recognizes that they may react too quickly, may not see that a student is confused, may miss an opportunity to help a student move forward.

When we fall short, I am confident that our staff will reflect on what went wrong and identify how they can improve their performance. As a district we provide a variety of supports to our teachers and staff. We provide professional development, mentors, opportunities to talk about and talk through how to improve our performance.

We try and balance the very real experience that people improve as they practice their craft with the recognition that our children deserve the very best every day.

steven.matthews@novik12.org.

hometownlife.com

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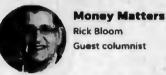
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Beware of tax scammers this time of year



It's tax time which means that the tax scammers are out in force. These scammers are good at what they do and use a variety of tactics and threats to either obtain your sensitive information, such as your Social Security number and credit card numbers, or they're just out to steal your money. Either way, the damage they can cause can be substantial and that is why it is important to protect yourself.

When it comes to taxes, you should always be cautious as to who you turn your tax information over to. Remember that there is a lot of sensitive information on your tax forms. That is why it is important that if someone other than yourself prepares your return, you use someone who is reputable and understands the importance of protecting your sensitive information. In fact, before you retain a preparer, I think one question you should ask is what they do to protect your sensitive information. If they don't give you an adequate answer, it probably means you should look for a new preparer.

Every year more and more people have their sensitive information compromised because of tax preparers. It may not be the tax preparer that is stealing your information, it may be their staff, but for you the results are the same. Therefore, make sure you discuss how your information will be protected with any potential preparer.

One tax scam that has continued to grow over the last number of years is where the scammers contact you by phone claiming they are from the IRS and that if you do not make an immediate payment you will be arrested. What makes this scam so effective is that when you look at the caller ID it says IRS. That being said, you should know that you are not going to get a call out of the blue from the IRS. That is not how the IRS operates.

Therefore, if you get a call and the caller ID says Internal Revenue Service or IRS, my advice: don't take the call. If the IRS has an issue with you, they will contact you through the U.S. mail. Your initial contact with the IRS is never going to be by phone. Therefore, don't fall for this scam and don't try to outfox the scammers; they are very good at what they do. Ignoring them is by far the best

course of action.

Another scam that has grown over the last few years is where the scammers actually file a tax return on your behalf. Typically, you only find out about this when you file your return seeking a refund, and it is rejected by the IRS. Unfortunately, there is very little that you can do to prevent this. One way you can reduce this risk is to file your return as soon as possible. Therefore, if you have all the information you need to file your return, the sooner you do it the better.

If you file your return and you find that it is rejected by the IRS, you need to immediately contact the IRS. They are very experienced with this issue, and as far as I'm concerned, they are the best ones to resolve it.

Every year I hear about new tax scams. Some of them sound very legitimate, while others have you scratching your head and saying, "Who would fall for this?" There is no 100 percent way to protect yourself, but by taking precautions, asking questions and checking things out independently, you can dramatically reduce your risk. The more speed bumps you can put in front of the scammers, the better it will be for you. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. Email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review shall convene for the Organizational Meeting at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 in the Mayor's Conference Room/Civic Center at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll. Appointments are not taken for this meeting.

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will mee for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Mayor's Conference Room at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 11, 12 and 13, 2019.

All appearances before the Board will be by appointment only.

If you or your representatives want to appear in person, the appointment must be made on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 8, 2019. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Offic www.citvofnovi.org

NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.

Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 12, 2019. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition along with any supporting

All agents protesting values on property other than their own, MUST HAVE written authorization from each property owner they are representing

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at www.citvofnovi.org

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE Monday, March 11, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room Tuesday, March 12, 2019 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room Wednesday, March 13, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room Located in the Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road Novi, MI 48375.

Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485. Cortney Hanson CITY CLERK

Published: February 21, 28 & March 7, 2019

City of Northville Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Map

At its regular meeting on March 18, 2019, City Council will introduce for first reading, proposed amendments to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance as follows:

> 1. Draft overlay zoning ordinance amendment for a portion of Seven Mile and South Main Street, called the Seven Mile - South Main Street Overlay (SM-O). The proposed modification will allow general commercial uses and mixed use developments (commercial and residential) in this part of the City. New regulations for building height, setbacks, landscaping and parking are also proposed. The boundaries of the new zoning overlay are described in the Zoning Map below and includes the following addresses and Parcel ID numbers:

48-004-02-0113-301 580 S Main, 48-004-02-0115-302 598 S Main, 48-004-02-0116-000 535 River, 48-004-02-0112-301 550 Seven Mile, 48-004-02-0112-005 557 Seven Mile, 48-004-02-0112-107 540 S Main, 48-004-02-0112-006 543 Seven Mile, 48-004-02-0112-010 480 Seven Mile, 48-004-02-0112-012 Seven Mile vacant, and 48-004-02-0112-014 560 S Main.



2. Revised ordinance language of Section 18.12 that regulates using "apparatus" such as flatbed trailers, campers, mobile homes and similar vehicles to store materials, equipment or other items while parked or stored on a property.

DIANNE MASSA, CITY CLERK

Public comments will be received at the City Council meeting scheduled for March 18, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building - Council Chambers, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-349-1300. Written comments may also be submitted to the above address. Complete text of the proposed ordinance amendment is available for review at the City Clerk's Office during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, local prevailing time or on the City's website www. ci.northville.mi.us.

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Holiday Inn Northwest Detroit owner Syed Abbas checks out the dining room of the Laurel Park hotel's Johnny's Italian Steakhouse. The hotel has been operating since mid-December of last year but recently had its grand opening. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Holiday Inn, steakhouse in Livonia formally open

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK -- MICHIGAN**

The grand opening of the new Holiday Inn in Livonia, along with its inhouse restaurant, was formally celebrated by staff and city officials last

The six-story full-service hotel at 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive is all new construction and features 141 rooms for guests, 5,800 square feet of banquet space and its own restaurant, Johnny's Italian Steak House.

Kenny Koza, president of Group 10 Management, said his company purchased the property four years ago with an eye on replacing an old Holiday Inn with a new development.

He is excited for what he will now be able to offer residents as well as visitors

"The city has been great to work with and helping us pursue what we are trying to accomplish," he said. "A lot of cities are not prone to new development. but we needed some oomph. You don't want to build a two-story. It's all about curb appeal and right off the highway, it's a gorgeous building, very visible. You get the whole package and experience."

The banquet space can be rented for weddings with up to 350 guests, as well as for rehearsal dinners, family reunions, birthday and anniversary parties and more. Businesses can also host 500-person classroom-style events in the room, or utilize two 600-square-foot meeting rooms.

Also open daily to guests and to the

general public is Johnny's Italian Steak House, with menu items ranging from the restaurant's famous "steak deburgo" and popular bread stuffed with sausage, peppers, onion, mozzarella and Colby cheeses and marinara sauce to pasta and chicken dishes. All desserts are made from scratch in-

Guests will find in their rooms a 49inch flat screen television, high-speed internet, quality mattresses and impeccable water pressure, Koza said, and they additionally have access to a

"We make you feel you're at a resort, even though you are at a hotel in Livonia," he said. "This is a multi-million dollar investment.

Livonia Mayor Dennis Wright said the city welcomes the new development and if officials had known it was going to look as great as it does, would have done it decades before.

and thinner. It's one more Livonia

The Holiday Inn Detroit Northwest-Livonia, as it is officially known, is within about a 20-minute drive to the airport, he added, and is a great place for family and friends of area residents

Koza said he is still planning the second phase of the project, with another five acres available on the property. He said he is looking for two businesses, perhaps restaurants, retail, or

fitness room and swimming pool.

"It's first class, very tastefully done," he said. "The (prior) hotel was shorter and fatter and this one is taller

to stay, with "a terrific restaurant."

a combination of the two.

City of Novi **Public Hearing Notice**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on March 12, 2019 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider:

PZ19-0001 (Great Oaks Landscaping) 47825 Casa Loma Ct, West of Beck Road and South of Nine Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-32-201-006. The applicant is requesting variance from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.1(A)ii for a fence and gate in the front yard. This

property is zoned Residential Acreage (R-A). PZ19-0002 (Allied Signs Inc/Bob's Discount Furniture) 43460 West Oaks Drive, West of Novi Road and South of Twelve Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-15-200-106. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Code of Ordinances Section 28-5,(a)(b)(1)a) and 28-5(a) to allow the installation of 247.16 square foot wall sign,)150 square feet allowed(based on previous variance). to allow a third sign wall sign at 40 square feet, 65 square feet max allowed. This property is zoned Regional Center (R-C).

PZ18-0003 (American Made Construction) 1185 South Lake Drive, East of West Park Drive and South of South Lake Drive, Parcel # 50-22-03-377-018. The applicant is requesting a variance from the Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.5 for a third story addition. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ18-0004 (J+W Properties, LTD) 25814 Beck Rd, East of Beck Road and South of Eleven Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-21-101-003. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Code of Ordinances Section 3.1.5 a 3 foot front yard variance for a proposed 42 foot setback, a 10 foot rear yard variance for a proposed 40 foot setback and a 5 foot side yard variance for a 15 foot proposed set back, for a proposed house and garage. This property is zoned Residential Acreage (R-A).

PZ18-0005 (Mark and Elizabeth Adams) 1811 East Lake Dr, East of East Lake Dr and North of Thirteen Mile Road, Parcel #50-22-02-356-004 and 50-22-02-356-005. The applicant is requesting variances from the City of Novi Code of Ordinances for the following A side yard variance of 5 feet for a proposed 10 left and 10 feet right setback, 25 feet total required, a front yard variance of 11 feet for proposed 19 foot setback, 30 feet required, a rear yard variance of 21 feet for a propose 14 feet setback, 35 feet required, a max lot variance of 3.6 percent for a proposed 29 percent coverage, 25 percent required and a foot front porch 13 foot variance for a proposed 12 foot setback. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4)

PZ19-0006 (Francis and Pamela Schneider) 20825 Meadowbrook Road, West of Meadowbrook Road and North of Eight Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-35-400-048. The applicant is requesting a variance from the Novi Code of Ordinance Section 3.1.2 D for an 2 foot variance for a proposed lot width of 118 feet, 120 feet minimum required. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-1).

PZ19-0007 (Singh Homes II, LLC) 43482 Ellesmere Circle, Lot 28 of Bolingbrooke West of Novi Road and North of Twelve 1/2 Mile Road, Parcel # 50-22-10-281-028. The applicant is requesting a variance from the Novi Code of Ordinances Section 3.5.1 for a 240 square foot variance for a proposed 1090 square foot garage, 850 square feet allowed. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

PZ19-0008 (Ronald Johnston Jr) 1502 Lebenta, West of West Lake Drive and South of West Pontiac Trail, Parcel # 50-22-03-129-007. The applicant is requesting variances from the Novi Code of Ordinances Section 4.19,1(B)(C)(E) v(I), for an exterior side yard variance of 24 foot for a proposed 6 foot setback, an accessory structure variance of 36% for a proposed rear yard lot coverage of 61%, 25% required, a variance for a proposed 20 foot max height, 14 max allowed. This property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-4).

Published: February 28, 2019

Milford man jailed for planning to rape neighbor

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A 21-year-old Milford man remains in Oakland County Jail on a \$500,000 cash bond after he allegedly attacked his neighbor in a planned rape.

Zachary William Brown was arraigned Jan. 30 in 52-1 District Court on charges of first degree home invasion and assault with intent to commit criminal sexual conduct.

According to a Milford Police report, officers responded at 9:16 p.m. Jan. 28 to W. Lafayette Street in the village on a report of a woman who had just been attacked in her own home.

Upon arrival, police found the 33year-old victim visibly shaken. She said she had just been attacked by her neighbor, Brown, who had knocked on the back door of her home and apologized for bothering her. She opened the main door, but left the storm door closed because he made her "uneasy."

The woman said Brown opened the storm door and grabbed her, wrapping his arms around her. She tried to get away, but he would not let her go. She punched and kicked him and at one point pulled a small silver hoop earring from Brown's left ear. She told police that during the attack, her dog ran to the door and hit Brown's leg, causing him to fall. He continued to hold on to her leg and wasn't letting her go, but she managed to get free and ran to the home of a neighbor, who called 9-1-1.

The victim said she was positive of her attacker's identity, having lived next door to him and his grandfather for years. Police interviewed the grandfather, who brought back the victim's dog, which had gotten out of the house after Brown left.

When police asked whether Brown had alcohol or substance abuse issues, the grandfather told them Brown had been partying for the last day and a half because he turned 21 the day before. They requested the grandfather go see if Brown was inside, and he exited a few moments later.

Police said Brown appeared under the influence. Asked what happened, he told police "I don't know, I was



Brown

sleeping." He then said he couldn't get in trouble again, that he had previously gone to prison for kidnapping. At that time, he refused a breathalyzer test. Police observed a pierced hole in his left ear

minus an earring. He had multiple scratches on his right wrist and red marks on the side of his face and neck.

Police found a dust mask and rubber latex gloves on the stairs next to the door of the victim's home. She did not know where they came from and they were placed into evidence.

During a search of Brown at the police station, a folding knife was found tucked in his front pants pocket. It was unclear if he had the knife at the time of the alleged attack.

The following day, police said Brown waived his Miranda rights and in an interview with detectives, referred to the victim as his "friend" and said he had shoveled her driveway during the previous day and returned a container in the evening in which he said she had given him food.

He admitted he went to her house with the intent to rape her, and grabbed her in an attempt to do so, something he had planned three times previously in the past few months, including making it to the back door twice, but had "chickened out."

During the interview, he told police he had never had sex and wanted to know what it felt like. He told police he had planned to use the dust mask to "snuff" the victim so she could not breathe until she was "knocked out" and he could rape her. The rubber gloves he said were so he would "not leave any prints at the scene."

He expressed remorse for his actions and provided a written apology. He said he did not intend to kill his victim, only knock her out. When police asked what he would do if he had killed her, he said that if that would have happened, he would have killed himself.

He chose her as his victim because he is attracted to her and she lives alone. He consented to a DNA swab, which was placed into evidence.



Detroit Autorama returns this weekend

The 67th annual Meguiar's Detroit 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit. Autorama returns to Detroit this weekend. Here's what you need to know:

When is it?

Autorama 2019 runs Friday, noon to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Where is it?

Autorama takes place at Cobo Center,

Anyone famous going to be there?

Legendary hot rod builder Carl Casper will attend with a showing of world famous cars, including the Batmobile from "Batman Returns", his Empress that won best of show at the first Cobo Hall Detroit Autorama in 1961, and the Young American Top Fuel Dragster.

Casper will be on hand throughout Autorama to meet and greet fans.

WWE Superstar Seth Rollins will meet and greet fans 6-8 p.m. Friday. NASCAR legend Tony Stewart will meet and greet fans noon to 2 p.m. Saturday. Dave Kindig from Kindig It Designs and Velocity TV's "Bitchin Rides" will meet and greet fans 4-8 p.m. Saturday. The Hanson Brothers from the movie "Slap Shot" will meet and greet fans 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Horny Mike and the Roadshow Rig from History Channel's "Counting Cars," featuring the "The Pik-Nekkin" table and Mini Mike Trike will

meet and greet fans all weekend. An additional big draw is the Low Rider Magazine Invitational, a special

exhibit of 17 of the most amazing low rider vehicles in the area.

How much does it cost?

Tickets for Autorama are \$21 for

adults and \$8 for children ages 6-12. Adults can get a \$2 per ticket discount at O'Reilly Auto Parts stores. Children's tickets are \$1 off at the retailer.

Check out these three noteworthy local events

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Who's left standing after last weekend's "bomb cyclone" ripped through

If you've made it this far, time to celebrate the beginning of a new month. Head out and enjoy one of these three events happening across the Hometown Life area this weekend.

Outdoorama in Novi

Think warmer weather at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

The annual Outdoorama has returned to the convention center at 46100 Grand River through Sunday. Come enjoy everything hunting, fishing and the outdoors at the annual event, now utilizing the entire showplace after a recent expansion.

Come to the show Thursday night to see some of the largest bucks harvested during hunting season in Michigan last year, and try your luck at catching some fish in the virtual fishing simulator. Dealers selling boats, fishing gear, hunting gear and more will populate more than five acres across the show.

The show is open Thursday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., Friday II a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$12, and children 6-14 are \$5. Parking is \$5.

For more information, visit the



Outdoorama returns Feb. 28-March 3 to Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace.

show's website at outdoorama.com.

Beaumont Farmington Hills open house

Here's a sentence that's not been typed too often: Head to the hospital this weekend for a good time with the

Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills, formerly Botsford Hospital, will showcase its brand-new, \$150 million

expansion this weekend and is inviting the public to come check it out. The hospital, at 28050 Grand River in Farmington Hills, is opening its doors from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday for area residents to check out the new emergency center, trauma bays, surgery suites and more.

Several demonstrations, including hands-only CPR and a Stop the Bleed presentation, will also take place. On the lighter side, families can interact with Beau the Bear, the hospital system's mascot, tour fire trucks and other first responder vehicles and do crafts.

More information on the event can be found at beaumont.org/fh.

Groovy Fest fundraiser in Livonia

Head to Burton Manor on Saturday night to help raise money to bring a traveling Vietnam Wall to Livonia.

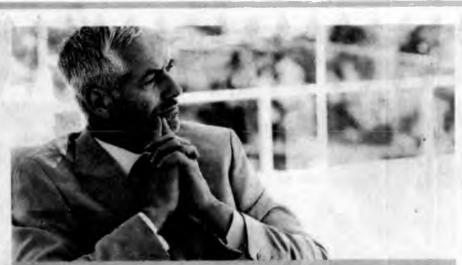
The fundraiser, dubbed "Groovy Fest," will take place from 7:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft in Livonia. There, hors-d'oeuvres will be served with a cash bar and the Magic Bus Band will entertain throughout the night.

A silent auction and raffle will also take place during the evening. Tickets are \$35.

The event serves as a fundraiser to bring The Moving Wall to Livonia this summer. The traveling wall, a smaller recreation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington, D.C., will stop at Ford Field in Livonia from Aug. 8-12. No admission will be charged and the wall will be open 24 hours for those looking to visit.

For more information, contact Brian Duggan at 734-956-0202 or brian@ bmdcharities.org.

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



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Double lung transplant recipient bringing his message to Autorama

David Veselenak Hometowniife.com USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Jamey Carey will never forget the moment he got the call that he was getting new lungs.

The Westland resident was working on cutting down a tree near his home to prevent branches from falling onto his 1967 Chevrolet Chevelle back in 2016. He then had to run to Sam's Club to pick up more yard waste bags. While he was there, his phone rang.

"I received a phone call from one of the nurses at U-M. One of the first questions was 'Hey, how are you feeling?' " he said. "She said, 'We have a set of lungs for you.' And I just lost it."

Carey will bring his message of organ donation with that Chevelle this weekend to the annual Autorama.

The vehicle, which he's owned for 19 years, recently got a new paint job. Instead of sporting a white finish with blue flames, the car now has a gray, blue and green look, reminiscent of the color scheme of Donate Life America.

Carey has had issues with his lungs for years. After developing pneumonia in the 1990s, he found he was short of breath more times than not. He saw a doctor and it was determined his lungs had been scarred enough from the pneumonia that they weren't delivering enough oxygen to his body to function.

He found himself on oxygen routinely. It was even present when he and his now-wife Angela went out for the first time

"Our first date we went on, we had a little two-seater truck and I had to share the front seat with his oxygen tank at the time because he had been sick right before," Angela Carey said. "We had reconnected again and decided to go off on a date. It's been what I've known of him pretty much from the beginning."

him pretty much from the beginning."
After dealing with illness and issues, he began talking about getting on the list for a double lung transplant in 2014. He didn't get the call until 2016 when a set of donor lungs were available from a donor on the west side of the state.



Jamey Carey stands with his 1967 Chevy at his Westland home. Carey will show the car, painted in the colors of Michigan's Donate Life campaign to commemorate his double lung transplant, at Autorama this weekend. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Overcome with emotion and struggling to head to the self checkout the day he found out he'd get a new set of lungs, Carey needed some assistance checking out at the store. He asked an employee to assist him.

"I was shaking so bad, I couldn't think," he said. "I even had to have the woman help me check out. I told her what was going on and she asked if she could give me a hug.

"I'll never forget it."

Although he has always been a car person, this Autorama will be Carey's first time showing. He's gone to many in the past and taken the vehicle to area cruises, including the Woodward Dream Cruise, Cruisin' Downriver and more.

"This is a childhood dream," he said.
"It's something I enjoy."

He decided to get a new paint job on the car last summer and took it to a friend's shop up north. Assuming there had been some delays, he and Angela went to Frankenmuth last fall to Auto-Fest. There, his friends and family had a surprise for him: his car with the new paint job on display at the show.

"As I was turning and looked, I saw a front fender of a car and I went, 'That's my paint colors,'" he said. "I turned back and looked and there was about 100 people standing around the car."

It attracted a local television crew who covered his surprise, a moment Carey said he'll never forget.

"It was unbelievable," he said.

These days, he doesn't go anywhere without his "Donate Life Recipient" pin on his hat. At Autorama, Carey will have information on how to sign up for organ donation.

Doing so can provide someone else the gift of seeing their children grow up, something Carey said he may not have had without that gift.

"I try to promote as much as I can. I want to give back," he said. "It's the greatest gift you give as you leave.

"It's a second chance at life."

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



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Stevens

Continued from Page 1A

funding of schools, as well as safety and the need to address gun violence just days after the 1-year anniversary of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting in which 17 people were killed and 17 more injured.

While she said she respects responsible gun owners and hunters, Stevens said assault rifles have had their day and it's time to do things differently, including jailing those who lie on background checks.

Healthcare a major crisis

Stevens called healthcare a major crisis in the U.S. and denounced 60 percent cuts to the National Institute of Health. Reductions should come in the cost of prescription drugs, she added, but she also advocated being economically responsible for advancing healthcare plans as the U.S. is trillions of dollars in debt and nears a \$1 trillion deficit.

For the first time, climate science was discussed during the house science committee on which Stevens is a member, including how climate change can be discussed without a backlash from voters.

Stevens expressed frustration with lack of enforcement of Environmental Protection Agency rules and lack of expertise and open positions from those who are supposed to be protecting the environment, some of which she attributes to the people put into those roles by President Donald Trump.

The environment is not the only area of disagreement Stevens has with Trump. While she acknowledged "20 years of extreme dysfunction" in immigration policies needs to be fixed, she wants a better visa process, not a border wall.

"If you are paying taxes, playing by the rules, we want to give you a path to citizenship," she said. "This is what this country is all about. Instead, we have a fake emergency for a wall that won't even solve the problem."



The audience applauds one of Rep. Haley Stevens' points during her town hall meeting at Milford High School on Feb. 20. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Hope for a new president in 2020

Stevens is hoping a Democrat will be elected president in 2020, replacing Trump. But asked who she would support as that candidate in an already crowded field, she dodged the question.

"We want to elect a new president," she said to applause. "I am listening for common sense, pragmatism, and who is talking about manufacturing, who is protecting the value of work, not talking down to the Midwest. For too long, people have taken us for granted."

"We can't elect anyone who doesn't believe in climate change," said Dennis Jones, a Waterford resident and Vietnam veteran who attended the town hall and praised Stevens for "being on the ball" regarding that issue. He also liked her focus on healthcare and support for the Affordable Care Act.

"I am 100% disabled and haven't had any problems with the VA, but I do care about other people," he said.

Brian Howell, 37, of White Lake, said he liked the consistency of Stevens' message, and said she balanced issues well, not focusing on just one. Environment is a concern for Howell, and he also noted Stevens is on a task force regarding gun violence. While he is a gun owner and supports the Second Amendment, he said gun violence is a problem and he is curious to see what solutions are presented from the task

force.

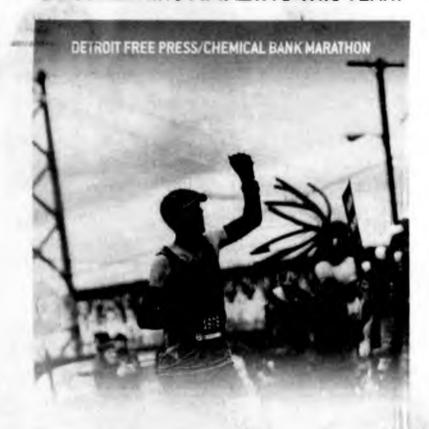
Jennifer Brenneman, 38, also of White Lake, said she felt an energy in the room as Stevens spoke.

"Everyone seemed geared toward the same goal — balance and compromise between the two parties instead of everyone at each other's throats," Brenneman, who identifies herself as an independent voter, said. "I would like to hear more specifics, less generalizations."

Maureen Cirocco, 51, of Livonia, said her big concerns are healthcare, education and gun control, all things Stevens is passionate about.

"She believes in a path to a high wage job," she said. "I also have healthcare concerns and that is huge."





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Dozens of people tackle Farmington's Sled Hill off Shiawasee on Feb. 18 after about 5 inches of snow fell the previous day. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

though they haven't canceled school more than six times. That happened for the Clarenceville school district, which includes parts of Livonia, Farmington Hills and Redford.

Clarenceville Superintendent Paul Shepich said school was in session Feb. 1, but the minimum number The cancellations also have some superintendents of students did not attend class that day. The district is concerned over state testing. Shelley Holt, superintenrequired to have 75 percent attendance; it had 73.9 dent of the Wayne-Westland school district, said she's considering asking the state to push back some of the percent that day.

He plans on asking the state for three waiver days, "The situation could be worse. It's great that we but said he doesn't believe they can be used to replace have as many days as we have, but it could be worse," Feb. 1. He said he's started the process of seeing where she said. "You have to be at school a certain amount of the district can add another day to the end of the year or attend school on a previously-scheduled day off.

> This year's long string of bad weather days off is nothing like Shepich has seen before.

> "I have not experienced this in my 15 years of being in the Clarenceville School District and five as superintendent," he said. "I don't think we were expecting to have this many in a row."

Legislative relief coming?

Many of the requests for extensions could be moot, depending on what happens inside the Michigan Capi-

Several state legislators have discussed introducing legislation that would not count any days toward a district's total if they happen during a state of emergency,

By the numbers

Snow day tallies as of Feb. 20:

- I Livonia Public Schools: Six days used
- I Wayne-Westland Community School District: Six days used
- I Farmington Community Schools: Six days districtwide, and seven at Beechview and Farmington STEAM Academy. The district expects to ask for a waiver.
- Clarenceville School District: Six snow days and one additional day of not having enough students.
- Birmingham Public Schools: Six days used
- I Novi Community School District: Six days used
- I Huron Valley Schools: 10 days used

three days."

- I South Lyon Schools: Seven days used
- I Northville Schools: Seven days used I Plymouth-Canton Schools: Six days used
- "There's been a lot of requests now coming in for snow day waivers. A great bulk of those are for all

Bill DiSessa Michigan Department of Education spokesman

Even though school may have been canceled, districts encouraged students to continue advancing their academic careers. Holt said she encouraged students to work on scholarship applications, FAFSA forms and more.

"It really truly is unpredictable. It kind of puts us as humans in our place. You may not always be in charge of your circumstances," she said. "There are things you can maybe get to. Get to your scholarship applications. Makes use of this time."

Staff writer Susan Bromley contributed to this repor. Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@ hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



our decision making regarding snow days. We want our students in school. At the same time, we have an obligation to keep them safe." Other districts will also need to make up time even or possibly forgiving all missed days this year.

Some districts will need to find ways to make up

Huron Valley Schools Superintendent Paul Salah said in a letter sent to families before the most recent

time. Those districts include Huron Valley Schools,

ice day that "No decisions have yet been made regarding extending the school year since we do not know

how many more inclement weather days we may have.

"Please know that we continue to be purposeful in

Snow days

Continued from Page 1A

testing to later this year.

Making up the time

time to have your assessments."

which has canceled school for 10 days.



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Cats

Continued from Page 1A

South Lyon Senior Care and Rehabilitation Center. The animals were brought by volunteers from Feral Kitty Trappers TNR, but the felines were mellow, not wild.

"It was nice, they were very well-behaved and they were all pretty and cute," Hazel Jo'Ann Hostetler said. "I tell you what, animals are a good prescription for your health."

Hostetler, 84, has had animals all her life, but when she moved into the care center, she had to leave her dog with her daughter.

Colleen Gesler, life enrichment director at the senior care and rehab center, said that is the case with many of the residents, who miss their animals and the joy they give. She was excited when Feral Kitty Trappers offered cat therapy.

"We have been able to do dogs all along, the residents love that, but cats well, mine would hide, but hers are wonderful and a good mix to come in and visit," Gesler said. "We have people who are cat lovers. They can lay on their laps for a little bit and snuggle."

Karen Frazer founded Feral Kitty Trappers in 2012 as a non-profit organization in which volunteers trap, neuter and return cats, as well as foster felines in their homes until they are adopted. The group decided to offer cat therapy to the senior care and rehab center residents last month and were welcomed in with two adult cats and a juvenile. On the latest visit, they brought six felines, including kittens, choosing animals carefully for their personalities.

"The first time we did this, one of the ladies cried the whole time, she was so happy to see and pet a cat," Frazer recalled. "This time there were also three or four guys and a couple who couldn't wait to hold the kittens. One kitten plopped in his lap and stayed there, it's like they know. Cats can sense the feelings of people. They know when they hurt, when they are happy."

The rescue volunteers put harnesses and leashes on the cats to ensure there are no escapes and control is maintained. Toys are also brought for the cats to play with, providing entertainment for the residents, too. The interaction with humans is also good socialization for the kittens in particular.





At left, volunteer Jill Scapelliti holds a cat for South Lyon Senior Care and Rehab resident Yvette Menard to pet Feb. 16. At right, resident John Finkbiner pets the same cat during its visit to the center. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



A kitten sits in the lap of Dorothy Swan at South Lyon Senior Care and Rehab during a visit to the center.

Karen Smith, a life enrichment staff member at the care center, said she noticed a significant change in some of the center's residents who are often unresponsive or don't often leave their rooms.

"Some you don't think they are paying attention, their cognitive level is low petting and talking to the cats," she said.

"It made me cry, it's something you don't see. I thought, 'Cats? Really?' when they told me they would bring them for therapy. But when (the residents) have an animal, they really come alive. They are more charmed by the animals and baby talk to them."

The first two visits were so successand diminished, and then you see them ful that the center and rescue plan to continue the cat therapy sessions,

about one hour per month.

Dorothy Swan, 96, is looking forward

"I love them," she said. "If I love anything, I love a cat. They told me I can't keep them, but it was a treat to have

them come visit." Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.



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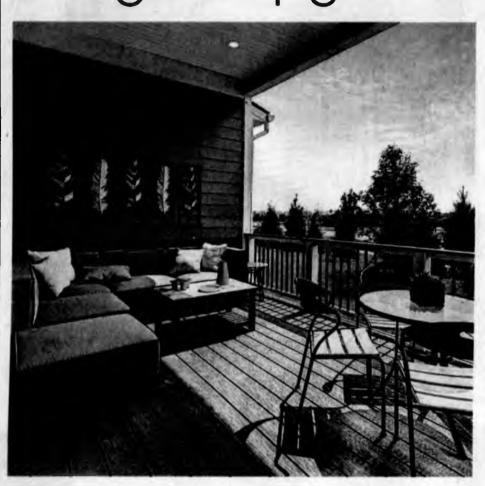
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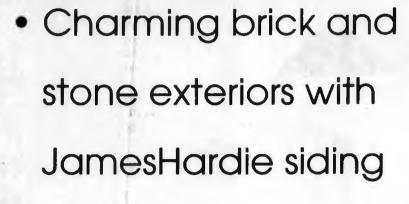
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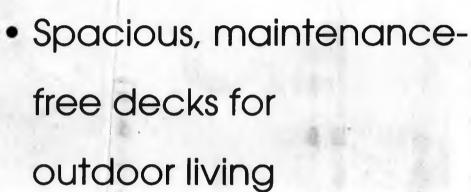
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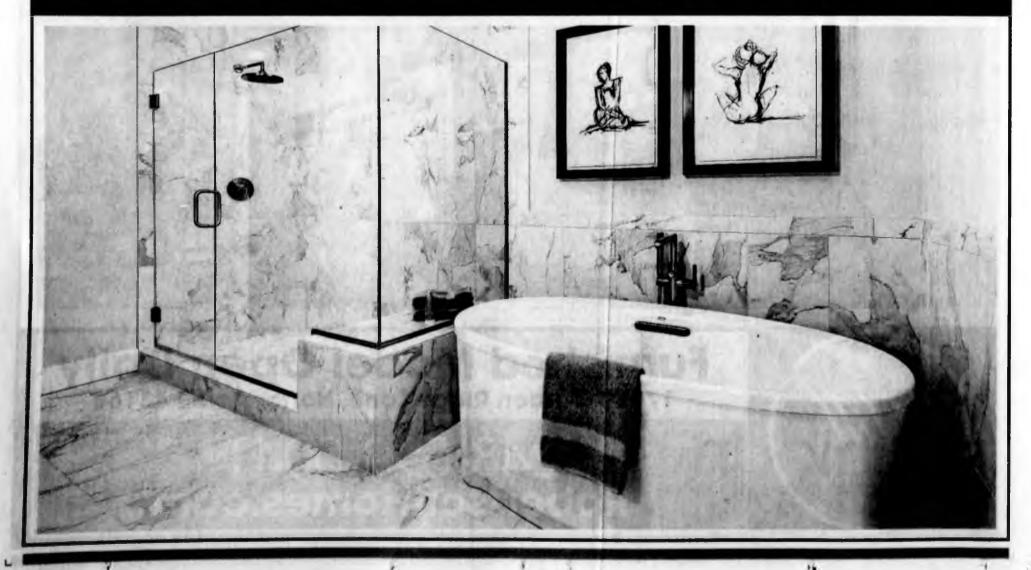
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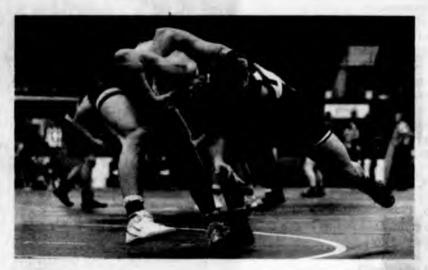
ldn't get much argument. io is going to question his f the sport?

the case, where does that rent Detroit Catholic Ceng team?

nrocks won their seventh ionship in the last 10 years ne caliber of the opponent, was the most impressive

came in with an unbeaten state qualifiers and high venging a lopsided state om last year, but Catholic

ING, Page 2B



Catholic Central's Easton Turner defeated **Brighton's** Greyson Stevens in 189-pound weight class in the state team finals. SCOTT

CONFER

Milford boys snowboarding wins state championship Girls team takes 2nd place at Alpine Valley Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

The Milford boys snowboard cross

team won the 2019 state championship earlier this month, while the girls team took home second place.

The event took place at Alpine Val-

Evan Hughes won the individual state championship on the girls side for the second straight year and finished the season undefeated.

In addition to the first- and secondplace team finishes in the state championship, both teams claimed the 2019 "King of the Hill" championship for the second consecutive year.

The teams' coaches are Steven Jesionowski, Brian Saunders and Andie Dawson.

The members of the boys team are: Jacob Bowyer, Josh Burr, Hunter Castle, Joey Puz, Erik Kramar, Nick Briggs, Andrew Byndas, Aiden Wilson, Liam Kocur, Sam Colone, Nick Olsin, Ryan Wyskiel, Henry Ginsbach, Jett Edson, Jagger Edson, Nolan Carlsen, Will Colone, Carter Ryska, Isaac Richards and

The members of the girls team are: Evan Hughes, Harper Overall, Eve McKeough, Danielle Ryan, Natalie Deland, Julia Garris, Chloe Wyborski, Isabel Ryska, Veronica D'Aloisio and Lauren Wood.



near the hoop as he is guarded by Howell's Jake Sargeant.

s simply had too much star ne Highlanders, who strugn answer for Canton's highense. The victory gives Can-KLAA championship since t beat Walled Lake Western

With the win, Canton improved to 19-1 overall, while Howell dropped to

"It's great, winning championships is what we're trying to do," Canton

See BASKETBALL, Page 3B



Milford snowboard cross coach Andie Dawson stands with back-to-back state individual champion Evan **Hughes.** COURTESY OF MILFORD ATHLETICS



PREP WRESTLING

Local wrestlers to compete in state tournament

Andrew Valiliencourt Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With the state team wrestling tournament all wrapped up, local wrestlers can now turn their focus to the state individual tournament, which takes place Saturday and Sunday at Ford Field in Detroit.

A large number of area wrestlers have qualified for the event, led by Detroit Catholic Central, which won the state team championship this past weekend out in Kalamazoo.

To qualify for states, wrestlers had to finish in the top four of their regional.

Last year, the Shamrocks boasted five individual state champions, a pair of second-place finishers and placed in 13 out of its 14 state qualifiers.

Here's a list of every high school wrestler who qualified for the upcoming tournament from the Hometown Life coverage area:

Division 1, Region 2

■ South Lyon sophomore Maxwell Honiss, who finished fourth in the 125-pound weight class.

Division 1, Region 3

- Catholic Central freshman Anthony Walker, who finished first in the 103-pound weight class.
- Westland John Glenn freshman Josh Mars, who finished second in the 103-pound weight class.
- Livonia Franklin junior Christian Gerber, who finished second in the 112-pound weight class.
- John Glenn sophomore Ty Cowen, who finished third in the 112-pound weight class.
- Catholic Central junior Caleb White, who finished fourth in the 112-pound weight class.
- Salem senior DaQuan Baker, who finished second in the II9-pound weight class.
- Franklin sophomore Jager Kwiatkowski, who finished third in the 119pound weight class.
 - John Glenn senior Caleb Meekins,



Detroit Catholic Central's Derek Gilcher defeats Brighton's Rhett Newton in the 145-pound weight class during the team state championship. SCOTT CONFER

who finished second in the 125-pound weight class.

- Catholic Central sophomore Camden Trupp, who finished first in the 130-pound weight class.
- Catholic Central junior Joshua Edmond, who finished first in the 135-pound weight class.
- John Glenn senior Kyle Borthwell, who finished second in the 135-pound weight class.
- Catholic Central junior Derek Gilcher, who finished first in the 140-
- pound weight class.

 Catholic Central junior Marc
 Shaeffer, who finished third in the 140-
- pound weight class.

 Catholic Central senior Kevon Davenport, who finished first in the 145-

pound weight class.

- Catholic Central junior Logan Sanom, who finished second in the 145-pound weight class.
- John Glenn senior Brenten Polk, who finished third in the 145-pound weight class.
- Catholic Central senior Cameron Amine, who finished first in the 152pound weight class.
- Catholic Central senior Joseph Urso, who finished second in the 152-
- pound weight class.

 Catholic Central freshman Manuel
 Rojas, who finished first in the 160-
- pound weight class.

 John Glenn senior Graden Bowen, who finished fourth in the 160-pound weight class.

- Salem senior JaQuan Baker, who finished second in the 171-pound weight
- Franklin junior Erick Reaves, who finished fourth in the 171-pound weight class.
- Catholic Central senior Easton Turner, who finished first in the 189-pound weight class.
- Plymouth senior Andrew Atallah, who finished third in the 189-pound
- weight class.

 Catholic Central junior Brendin Yatooma, who finished first in the 215-
- pound weight class.

 Catholic Central junior Steven Kolcheff, who finished first in the 285-
- pound weight class.

 Franklin senior Jake Swirple, who finished second in the 285-pound weight class.

Division 1, Region 4

- Birmingham Seaholm sophomore Jackson Vance, Seaholm, who finished first in the 140-pound weight class.
- Birmingham Groves sophomore
 Damon Dunbar, who finished first in the
- 145-pound weight class.

 Seaholm senior Chase Mentag, who finished third in the 171-pound
- weight class.

 Bloomfield Hills sophomore Josh
 Wilson, who finished second in the 285pound weight class.

Division 2, Region 5

■ Farmington senior Donovan King, who finished first in the 285-pound weight class.

Divison 2, Region 8

- Redford Union sophomore Cian Abion, who finished fourth in the 112pound weight class.
- Redford Union junior Shakaleb Nicholson, who finished fourth in the 130-pound weight class.
- Redford Union junior Amir Rasheed, who finished third in the 152-pound weight class.

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

Central never looked back after winning eight of the first nine matches in a 34-19 victory over the Bulldogs.

"They might be the best team in the state of Michigan ever," Brighton coach Tony Greathouse said. "They're a really good team. There's a reason they're ranked top 10 in the country. We knew coming in we were going to have to do some things that were probably improbable, win some matches most people didn't think we could win.

"We competed hard. We were in a couple of those matches. We didn't get it

done."

In breaking Davison's record of six state championships in a decade, the Shamrocks outscored their seven post-season opponents by a combined score of 480-34.

Brighton scored more points against Catholic Central than the Shamrocks' first six opponents mustered combined.

"We did win a lot of matches, scored a lot of points," Greathouse said. "We lost by 58 last year, we lost by 15 this year. I'm not a math teacher, but I think it's a 43-point improvement from a year ago. There's a lot to be proud of. We beat the Division 2 champs, we beat the Division 3 champs.

"We beat Davison twice this year. It was a pretty darn good season. It definitely was the most talented team I've ever coached. We just happened to be up against the best team I've ever coached against."

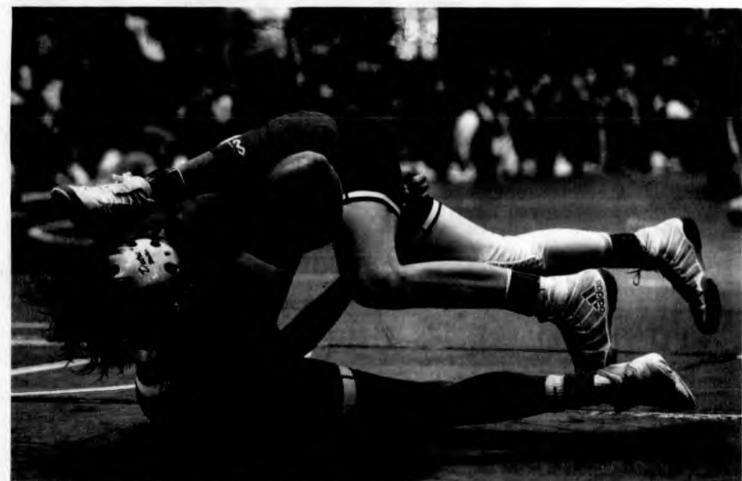
It was a dual that could serve as a preview of the individual state finals. The first eight matches featured state-ranked wrestlers from both teams.

Catholic Central won the first four matches, three by major decisions, as it was able to send three top-ranked wrestlers onto the mat.

Brighton finally ended a losing streak of 33 matches to the Shamrocks when its own No. 1-ranked wrestler, River Shettler, scored a 5-2 decision over Manny Rojas at 171.

But Catholic Central then went through two of Brighton's big guns, sending a signal that this would not be the Bulldogs' day.

Easton Turner edged Greyson Stevens, 3-1, in a battle of top-three



Detroit Catholic Central's Anthony Walker defeated Brighton's Quaylon Newton in the 103-pound weight class.
PHOTOS BY SCOTT CONFER

189-pounders before No. 1-ranked Brendin Yatoom scored a 10-2 major decision over No. 5 Luke Stanton at 215.

It was only the second loss for Stan-

After losing four straight matches, the Bulldogs got on the scoreboard again when Mason Shrader scored a 10-0 major decision over Caleb White at

Sam Freeman of Brighton got the only pin of the match at 119 in 3:44 over Matt Anderson.

That pin kept the Bulldogs mathematically alive, but Catholic Central clinched the match when Brighton's Ben Manly won a 6-3 decision over Kamron Davenport at 125. Down 29-13 going into the match, the Bulldogs needed two pins and a technical fall to pull out the victory.

Eddie Homrock made it four straight victories for the Bulldogs with a 7-2 decision at 130 before Catholic Central's Josh Edmond ended the match with a technical fall.



Detroit Catholic Central's Cam Amine defeated Brighton's Dane Donabedian in the 160-pound weight class during the state team finals.

Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

coach Jimmy Reddy said. "We're competing every day in practice, trying to get better every day, trying to put numbers on the banner. Guys want to be remembered and you have to win championships for your team to be remembered."

It was a close first quarter, but things quickly got out of hand in the second quarter, leading to a 20-point Canton lead at the half.

It got worse for the Highlanders, falling behind by as many as 30 in the third quarter, before finally succumbing to defeat.

Here are three takeaways from the game:

Stars too much for Howell

Canton was led by its pair of collegebound stars, senior guard Vinson Sigmon, who scored 23 points, and senior guard B. Artis White, who added

Both players were all over the court, making plays on offense and defense. White knocked down three triples, and Sigmon terrorized Howell in the lane.

White didn't play in the fourth quarter, as he entered the contest slightly limited with an injury.

"Those guys are the best," Reddy said. "Two great people and two great guards. They're tough to cover, they're great defenders. Vinson was really, really good tonight with B. trying to get healthy again.

"He didn't play as many minutes tonight, but when he did, he was very effective."

White is signed to play basketball at Western Michigan, while Sigmon is considering offers from two Division 2 schools: Lake Superior State and University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

"I saw two Division I basketball players that were having a really good night," Howell coach Nick Simon said. "I thought Sigmon did a great job stepping up with White dinged up. He really carried them."

ried them. ...
"They're both great kids, I always wish them the best. They do everything the right way, they played great and we



Canton guard B. Artis White during game action against Howell in January. White had 13 points against Howell in the KLAA championship game Feb. 21.

DAN DEAN/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

struggled to stop them."

It wasn't just Sigmon and White that contributed, both senior forwards Liam Radomski and Kendall Perkins reached double figures, Radomski scored 13 points and Perkins notched

Physical showdown

It was a heavyweight fight from the

That type of game favored Canton, as Howell continued to be frustrated throughout the night. The Highlanders had 19 fouls called on them, compared to the Chiefs' 13.

"I think our toughness was pretty good," Reddy said. "As a group, we're a pretty tough team both mentally and physically. It's tough to get to us. We handled it well. In the first half we were firing on all cylinders. The reason we got that lead was because we were defending and rebounding very well."

Despite the large deficit, Howell did its best to make things interesting in the fourth quarter. Senior forward Luke Russo, who hit the game-winning shot against Wayne Memorial earlier in the week, scored 14 points — including a highlight reel three-pointer that came from NBA distance.

"The physicality was awesome, that's a playoff style game, it's what you're going to get. A couple teams, busting butt trying to win a champion-ship. They shot the ball really well early and played a great game, all the credit goes out to them. They shoot the ball that well, they're going to be tough for anybody to beat. I'm proud of our kids for fighting until the end."

State Championship a real possibility

Canton entered last week ranked No. 3 in the state in Division 1 by the Associated Press and No. 7 in the state in division one by Max Preps. Its destruction of Howell only furthers the notion that this team is a real state championship contender.

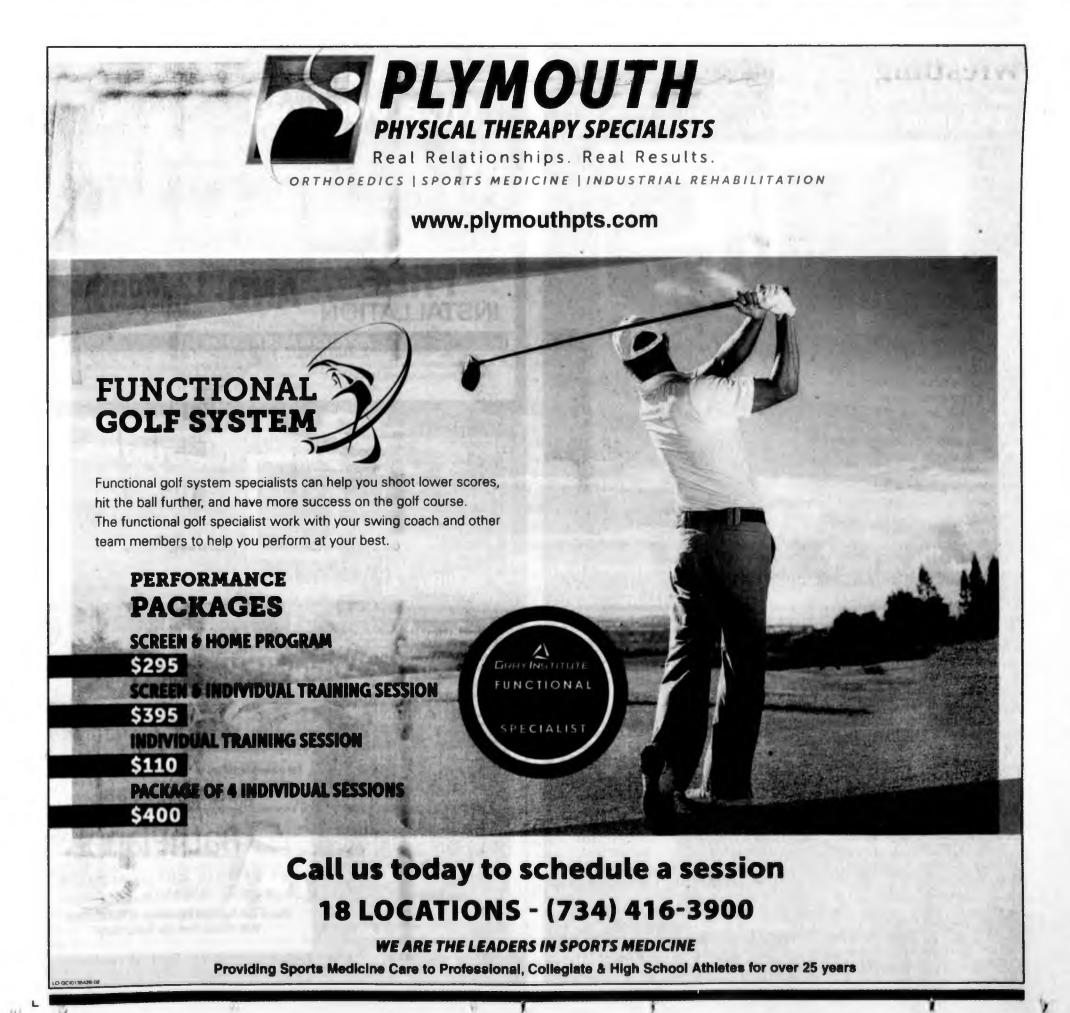
It will begin that journey next week, when the districts start.

District post-season action started Monday. Canton was scheduled to play Salem on Monday, and the winner was to play John Glenn on Wednesday.

"Our goal all year has been to get to the Breslin Center, obviously that's still on the table," Simon said. "This is a cool, teachable moment that you usually don't get, where you can play for a championship, understand what losing feels like and come back and compete for a championship. Usually, you have to wait eight months for that to happen and the sting of it wears off.

"I assure the sting of this will not have worn off by the time Monday comes around."

Reach Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659. Twitter: @AndrewVcourt.



'No problem' – except when respect goes out window



On Travel
Christopher Elliott
USA TODAY

When it comes to respect, sometimes little things make a big difference for travelers. For Don Brauninger, it's travel industry employees who replace the words "you're welcome" with "no problem".

Brauninger, a manager for an emergency services company in Haymarket, Virginia, has heard it from airline agents, hotel clerks and car rental employees.

"No problem" – as if his patronage and his presence might be a hardship. "It's my customer service bugaboo,"

It also raises a question or two about modern-day travel: Has respect between the travel industry and the people it serves deteriorated to such a point that we, the customers, are a problem? And if so, what can we do about it?

Where's the respect?

Respect is a hot topic in travel again. First Uber and then Frontier Airlines started soliciting tips from passengers. A tip is a gesture of respect – an acknowledgment that the customer is happy with the service.

But for travel experts, soliciting a tip is a mile marker in the race to the bottom. Airlines and other travel companies have cut services to such an extent that customers no longer feel respected. They say it's insulting for companies to ask for a gratuity when they've reduced service to the point where it's almost unrecognizable from a few years ago.

"Will I be courteous?" asked etiquette expert Lisa Grotts. "You bet. Will I say please and thank you? Always. Will I be tipping? No."

Do travel companies respect us?

Travelers accuse travel companies of starting this tailspin, and say they no longer respect their customers.



Passengers sometimes take their frustrations out on flight attendants, even though they aren't directly responsible for poor airline service. GETTY IMAGES

"Airlines have continued to create new reasons to charge fees and they have begun charging for what was once free," says Kryss Shane, a frequent traveler and social worker. "It feels like a racket and the flyer is getting taken advantage of."

Shane sees the effects whenever she travels. It's the tense moments when passengers take their frustrations out on flight attendants. Crew members have to deal with the backlash, even though they aren't directly responsible for reductions in service.

It isn't just the cuts, but also the constant upselling that bothers travelers and underscores the lack of respect.

It's all the extra charges on the plane – a fee for a carry-on bag, a fee for a seat assignment, a fee for early boarding. But it's also the prices at hotels: the \$7 bottle of water and the mandatory \$25-a-night "resort" fee.

"When a consumer feels nickel and dimed, when the travel experience takes a back seat to profit, then respect suffers," says Ted Scofield, an attorney and author based in New York who travels frequently. "When you are measured and promoted and possibly compensated based on your ability to drive profits, customers become cash machines."

Scofield says it shouldn't be about maximizing return on investment, but about maximizing the customer's travel experience

Maybe we're the ones who have lost respect

Talk to folks on the other side of the counter, and it's clear there's another perspective.

"The lack of respect that I have seen is firmly with the customer," says Patricia Hajifotiou, who owns Olive Odysseys, which offers tours of European destinations. "People are harried, out of time and so much more often feel entitled. And that adds up to a real lack of respect towards the person on the other side of the desk."

Hajifotiou says a little patience and politeness would easily restore the lost respect. "Say 'hello' or wish them a good morning and then ask in a calm voice, clearly what it is you need. You will find so many better outcomes for yourself," she says.

It's clear that asking for a tip won't bring back the respect between flight attendants, hotel workers and car rental companies and their customers. Nor, probably, will platitudes from experts.

"Respect breeds respect," explains Beverly Randolph, founder of the Protocol School of Indianapolis.

"Companies must foster a culture of respecting one another from the top down. In respectful workplaces, employees are more engaged and productive; they'll also be less stressed and genuinely happier – translating into happier travelers"

Shamila Nduriri, a frequent traveler who founded Dalasini, an African jewelry company, agrees. For her, it comes down to observing the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," she says.

"Unfortunately, until people view others as equals, and act accordingly, this will be extremely difficult to achieve. Nevertheless, it starts with you and a hope that your good attitude will be contagious and others pay it forward."

Then again, maybe we'll know that we respect each other when people like Brauninger stop hearing "no problem" when they're at the ticket counter – and get a "you're welcome" instead.

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









At left, Bigalora employee Heather Burleson walks past the Plymouth restaurant's bar. At right, Bigalora co-owner and chef Luciano Del Signore slices up a pizza. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Bigalora opens Obituaries in Plymouth

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

Following a 16-month hibernation, one of downtown Plymouth's most iconic (and spacious) buildings is vibrant again.

Emphasizing their brand's pledge to serve nothing but preservative-free food, partners Luciano Del Signore, Mike Collins, and Michael Chetcuti celebrated the arrival of their fifth metro-Detroit Bigalora Cucina eatery Jan. 28 when they swung open the doors to the structure that housed the Box Bar for 75 years.

The trio of born-and-raised suburban Detroiters feels strongly that the potential for their newest Bigalora is as high as the two-story, exposed-beam ceilings in their restaurant at 777 Ann Arbor Trail.

"We all grew up in metro Detroit, so we're familiar with all of the really strong, older communities that are centered around a strong downtown," said Collins, who, like Chetcuti, is a native of Southfield. "We've always felt that none of these downtowns are stronger than Plymouth."

Bigalora's owners negotiated the purchase of the 10,000-square-foot structure in December 2017.

In addition to the 120-seat restaurant, they will open an Arbor Brewing Company site in the space still available at the location.

Right from the start, we wanted to make sure we did this right, so we didn't rush into the renovation," Collins said. "I'm not sure we wanted it to take quite as long as it did, but large projects like this generally take longer than you initially expect them to.

Judging by the brisk business the Plymouth Bigalora has experienced during its two-week infancy, the opening has been worth the wait for diners looking for a unique eating experience.

"We've been packed every day so far — and that's been with little or no marketing," said co-owner and chef Luciano Del Signore, a native of Livonia and graduate of Churchill High School. "Our opening was the worst-kept secret in town. Hats off to our staff for getting everything ready like they did.

The feedback we've received so far has been great. People tell us they've been looking for something fresh, new and interesting. Our food is clean and made from scratch, which appeals to people."

Preparing world-class food is in Del Signore's DNA. His parents - mid-20th-century immigrants from Abruzzo, Italy - owned and operated longtime Livonia eatery Italian Cucina Fonte d'Amore where, as a teenager, he developed a passion for cooking.

Del Signore's first restaurant venture unfolded in 2002 with the opening of Bacco Ristorante in Southfield.

The first Bigalora Wood Fired Cucina debuted in Southfield in 2010.

What can first-time diners to Bigalora expect from their experience?

"Other than great food, we pay pretty close attention to top-notch hospitality and offering a wide range of beverage offerings, especially beer," Del Signore said. "Anyone who comes to Bigalora needs to find a way to get one of our fabulous oven-cooked pizzas on their table. The dough is prepared Neopolitan style we use just three ingredients: flour, water and a little salt - and cooked in a 900-degree oven for 90 seconds. Once you try it, you'll be hooked."

Collins said the atmosphere in each of the Bigalora

locations reflects the culture in each community. 'The ambiance of each restaurant is different," he explained. "Royal Oak is different than Southfield, and the ambiance of our Plymouth site will be developed by the people who frequent our restaurant.

"It's cool to see how each restaurant takes on the

character of the communities they're in.' The Plymouth Bigalora offers eat-in and take-out, with a delivery option being prepped for the near future. The brand also has a food truck that can be reserved for parties, festivals and any kind of celebration imaginable.

Among the eatery's specials are a five-pizzas-for-\$50 offer, seven-days-a-week happy hour from 2-6 p.m. and a Tuesday wine special.

Bigalora's menu includes small plates that range in price from \$6 (wood-roasted sweet potato) to \$12 (wood-roasted wings); long lists of red and white pizzas and pasta; and four entrees: branzino livornese, tuscan steak frites, wood-roasted salmon, and chicken parmigiana.

Sally A. Stuart

NORTHVILLE - Sally A. Stuart, age 83, longtime resident of Northville, passed away February 20, 2019. She was born on December 6, 1935 in Ecorse, Michigan; daughter of Richard Perry and Hollis (nee Sage) Flavin. She attended Our Lady of Lords in River Rouge and continued her education at Schoolcraft College where she earned an associate degree in accounting. Sally was united in marriage to John R. Stuart on August 17, 1957; they spent 61 years devoted to one another.

Sally began working at the Zayti landfill and then as the office manager for the Marquis Theatre where

she worked for many years. She loved being and working in downtown Northville; she liked the quaint small town feel and was well known in the area. Sally was a member of the Northville Garden Club. She enjoyed gardening and sitting on her back porch overlooking her beautiful flower gardens. She was a theater buff and liked attending shows at Tipping Point and taking her grandchildren to Marquis Theatre. Sally was very creative and made beaded jewelry that she shared with family and friends; she also made soap. She was an avid reader and shopper. Sally travelled extensively, often to visit family and friends scattered around the U.S. Sally adored her grandchildren and cherished the time she spent with family.

Sally is survived by her beloved husband John R. Stuart; her children, Todd Stuart, Stacy (John) Callahan, Craig (Jackie) Stuart, and Adam (Joe Turner) Stuart; her siblings, Joan (Per) Ifverson, Marty (Robin) Flavin, Michael (Janet) Flavin, and Robert (Agnes) Flavin; and her grandchildren, Katherine, Cassandra, Mariah, Sage, Emma, Treman, and Abigail. She was preceded in death by her son Scot Stuart, her father Richard Perry, her step-mother Mabel Perry, her mother Hollis Flavin, and her step-father Roy Flavin.

The visitation will be held Monday, March 4, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with a service at 7:00 p.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville.

In lieu of flowers contributions to Michigan Humane Society, 30300 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025 would be appreciated. Share condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com.



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

Betsy C. Van Ee

NORTHVILLE - Betsy C. Van Ee, age 97, longtime resident of Northville, passed away February 18, 2019. She was born on July 21, 1921 in Detroit, Michigan; daughter of Harold and Bessie (nee Bell) Stein. She graduated from St. Martin's High School in Detroit; Class of 1939. Later in life she continued her education and earned an associate degree from Schoolcraft College. Betsy was united in marriage to Rene M. Van Ee on November 11, 1944; they spent 52 loving years together as husband and wife until his death in 1996.

Betsy was a member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church where she attended daily mass for many years. She was also a member of Questers and the Baseline Button Club. Betsy had an extensive collection of buttons which numbered well over 100,000, including some very rare pieces. A history buff, especially local history, Betsy volunteered as a docent with Mill Race Village in Northville. A wonderful cook and baker, she enjoyed entertaining and a good conversation with friends. She was an avid traveler and logged more than 100,000 miles with the travel club NOMADS. She loved to read romance novels. Betsy was a devoted homemaker; her family was very important to her. She was very active with her daughter Heidi, including bible study, Kiwanis bowling, dances, and Girl Scouts. Betsy was very supportive of all her children and loved each of them dearly.

Betsy is survived by her loving sons, Richard (Katie) van Ee, William (Bonnie) van Ee, J. Christopher (Sue) van Ee, and Rene (Pam) van Ee; 11 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren. She is also survived by many special friends from Addington Place. Betsy was preceded in death by her husband, her daughter Heidi Van Ee, her parents, her brothers Charles Stein and Harold Stein, and her sister Mary Jean Cornillie.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial contributions to Our Lady of Victory

Catholic Church, 133 Orchard Dr., Northville, MI 48167. Share condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com





Edward A. Erwin

- - Edward A. Erwin (born March 26, 1923), one of the original founders of Erwin Orchards, passed away peacefully February 21, 2019. Visitation at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 West Lake St (10 Mile), South Lyon, Friday, March 8, 2-8pm. Funeral service Saturday, March 9, 11am, with final visitation 10:15-11am at the New Hudson Methodist Church, 56730 Grand River Ave, New Hudson. Interment at 2:30 pm in Rural Hill Cemetery, 101 Rural Hill Rd, Northville. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to New Hudson United Methodist Church. www. phillipsfuneral.com





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the job network

These are the top stressful jobs one can have in 2019

Michael Hoon

Stress at work happens to everyone - it comes and goes, no matter how much you love what you do. Its causes can range from something fleeting, like an unusually heavy workload one week, to something more serious, like a toxic managerial environment.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 40% of American workers say their job is very or extremely stressful.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics defines occupational stress by days missed from work caused by a reaction to stress (as opposed to illness or injury), and finds it is often highest in white collar industries and service industries.

So, working on an Alaskan oil rig can be physically dangerous and cause one kind of stress, while teaching first graders causes quite another.

The most stressful jobs of 2019 are defined by their high stakes (life and death), public accountability, financial cost or the need for quick decision-mak-

Surgeon

As nerve-wracking it is for someone to go under the knife, it takes a steady and well-trained hand to perform the work.

With a median pay of around \$250,000 per year, surgeons are well compensated for their high-stakes joband must be highly prepared to deal with its pressures

The actual act of surgery often must be performed under intense scrutiny, can have life-altering effects for the patient, and can lead to potential litigation if something goes wrong.



Politician/Political aide

If you're in the political business in 2019 at the federal or state level, the spotlight can be hectic, and the choices you make can have severe consequences for the public. Political division between parties, as well as protests, and contentious town hall meetings, have been on the rise. So while people in politics help shape policies that affect the lives of people in their communities, they may also face confrontation and criticism from an ever-divided public.

Whether it's a newscaster who has to be on point for the camera or a writer facing a deadline, the fast pace, need for utmost accuracy, and highly public nature of the job makes this job anything but boring. From research, scooping the competition, to the continual need to create content amid the 24-hour news cycles, reporters can deal with a lot of stress, heavy workloads, and lots of traveling and long hours. On top of all that, this is a job of passion-not huge paychecks. While newspaper reporters' median salary is around \$43,000, the broadcast news analyst's median salary is closer to around \$62,000.

Military personnel

The physical demands and lifethreatening situations faced by soldiers are some of the highest stressors faced by workers the world over, with longlasting repercussions from PTSD to physical injuries. In addition, no matter what department you are in, a military career has the potential to affect entire regions—a level of responsibility that is a burden to deal with on a daily basis. Other factors can also make the job stressful: constant travel, time away from family and a support network, and having to uproot family to move depending on assignments.

Firefighter

Wildfires in California have recently created public health and ecological disasters—and firefighters are the ones at the scene, controlling the action and dealing with its after effects. Firefighters can work at different levels. They can be employed to help evacuate buildings on fire locally, but also entire regions under threat. They're the ones running into danger whose main goal is to keep others safe, which requires a level-head and bravery in emergency situations, and can no doubt lead to stress.

PR director

Did someone mention putting out fires? The PR executive is often considered someone who handles public relations disasters-when an oil company spills billions of gallons into the ocean, for example. Fixing an organization's public image can take many stressful months (sometimes years). Cultivating media relations, monitoring PR campaigns, coordinating interviews, and being a spokesperson for a particular brand, may not seem as high-stakes as fixing an environmental disaster, but these tasks still come with a heavy workload.

Police officer

Police officers assess danger and threat, and often deal with the public in emergency situations. The fact that almost everyone now carries a small video camera around with them in their phone means the level of scrutiny and criticism the average police officer may face has also heightened over the past few years. This job responsible for public safety has high stakes and high importance - and high stress.

Teacher

Teaching comes with lots of hidden stressors. Teachers can make a lifelong impact on their students, which is a huge responsibility. Lesson planning and grading can have teachers working late nights. Teachers in low-income communities in particular, who have less support in technology or school supplies in the classroom, have an added stress in helping students reach learning goals.

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

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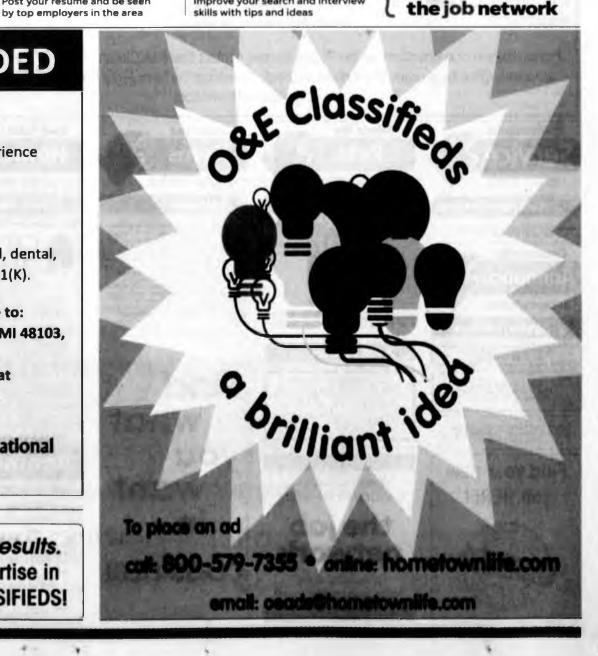
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ACROSS 1 Stallion, e.g. 6 Saudi, e.g. 10 Floats gently 15 Livens (up) 19 Optic layers 20 Female adult 21 Accustom 22 Roman 951 23 Sweet capsicum variety 25 Bacon piece

26 Give kudos 27 Queen, in Spanish 28 Mickey & Sylvia hit of 1957 31 Don -

32 Suddenly become alert 35 Tetley pouch 36 Extremely scarce 41 President

43 Brainy bunch 44 Bit of Vail gear 45 The "sum" of "Cogito, ergo

sum" 46 Bona -47 Christmas poem opener 49 Sinister

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54 | 55 | 56

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58 Comic blows 105 "Guys and 59 Fragrant **60 Best Actress** nominee for "Breaking the

Waves" 63 Turn aside 64 Category 66 Place

67 Lure for fish 71 Deodorant target 74 Song from "Oklahoma!" 77 How fast

a plane is flying 80 Govt. agent 81 Comic Gilda 82 Deep pessimism

84 Installed, as brick 86 Actor Ladd 87 Soft throw 88 Chum 89 I hasa -

(small dogs) 94 Visibly angry 95 Highly venomous cephalopod

101 Filled the fuel tank, with "up" 103 User of four-letter words

104 "- Smile Be Your Umbrella'

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Dolls" guy 109 Rockers Clapton and Burdon

111 Fitzgerald of azz 112 Cliffside nest 65 Hit, as a gnat 113 What you do when you

is "T"

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4 City near

Monterey

5 Fox Sports

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peak

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113

119

123

103

Average time of solution: 62 minutes

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

6 High, rugged

2 Make

12 Animal coats look at the 13 French for ends of nine "sad" long answers 14 Days of the in this puzzle week, e.g. 117 Regal Norse 15 Campus name workstation

118 Adom fussily locale 16 Tending 119 Morales in movies to radiate 120 Haggard of something 17 Provided country 121 Where AT&T juice for?

18 Pro or con 122 Squiggly 24 Give relief to letters 29 Composer 123 Breeding Carl Maria -Weber 1-Across 30 Cheer shout 124 Came — (Baja dish) 31 Printer clog

33 Org. in "The Martian" 34 With 53-Down, requests 37 Broken-down 38 Knights, e.g.

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39 Tic-toe link **40** Retired professors 42 Defrost 46 Was achy or regretful

35

48 "Holy cow!" 49 Hoof or paw 50 Totally dominate

51 Good craps roll 52 Keats work 53 See 34-Down

54 Place 55 Novelist Tan 56 Small bite 57 Comedic actor Jackie 58 H.S. junior's

exam 61 It has fluttery leaves 62 Twirl, as

> **63** Naturalist Fossey 66 Con game 68 "Anthem" writer Rand

one's thumbs

69 Suffix with hero 70 The Raptors, on NBA

schedules 72 Engine stat 73 "- culpa" 74 "I think," in texts

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80 Desert in Mongolia

83 Palme — 84 Sonny boys 85 Balm plant 88 Most cheeky

90 Maintains order over 91 Prisms' color bands 92 Was a better

peddler than 93 Org. issuing nine-digit IDs 95 Youth org.

with troops 96 Delaware Valley tribe 97 Cows' milk deliverers

98 Pvt.'s superior 99 False

appearances 100 Street -(urban acceptance)

102 Cut off stubble 105 An inert gas 106 Certain dwarf

planet 107 Clock info 108 Gym lifter's

units 110 Tomato variety 114 Water, in

Nantes 115 Give relief to 116 Irish actor Stephen

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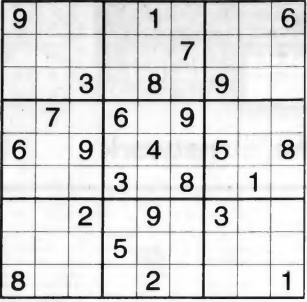
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WORDS

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