

NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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ONLINE COUPONS



Plans for Seven Mile Road trails released

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A budding partnership between Northville Township government and the Motor City Mountain Biking Association appears to be leading to an ambitious and cost-efficient plan to turn vast acres of property south of Seven Mile

Road into hiking and biking trails.

A detailed Power Point presentation delivered at the township's Board of Trustees meeting March 21 explained the framework of the project that could see a pilot trail ready this year.

Barring any unforeseen hitches, full-fledged biking and hiking trails could be in place in 2020.

Longtime MCMBA member Scott Silvers first started working with the Seven Mile Trail committee in 2013, offering guidance as far as the construction of trails, necessary signage, cost breakdowns and potential usage.

"Metropolitan Detroit has become a major destination for people looking for hiking and mountain biking trails," he

said. "With trails at Maybury State Park, Rouge Park, Hines Park and Lakeshore Park in Novi, the addition of trails in Northville Township would become a sweet spot for people seeking local recreation."

"Before the trails were built in Novi,

See TRAILS, Page 2A

MDOT's M-5 project starting next week

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The Michigan Department of Transportation is preparing for an \$11.8 million rehabilitation project along M-5. Work will begin April 15 and last through late fall, according to a news release sent out by MDOT. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Get ready for construction season if you drive the M-5 freeway.

The Michigan Department of Transportation is preparing for an \$11.8 mil-

lion rehabilitation project along the freeway through Farmington and Farmington Hills, including the complete closure of the Grand River Bridge near Halsted Road.

Work will begin April 15 and last through late fall, according to a news

release sent out by MDOT. The work will take place along M-5 between Eight Mile and Interstate 275.

Some of the work taking place includes:

See M-5 PROJECT, Page 12A

Novi woman's death ruled a homicide

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The weekend death of 21-year-old Tia Jones of Novi has been ruled a homicide, Novi Police Chief David Molloy said Monday.

Her young boy remains in critical, but stable, condition as of Monday.

"We are not prepared to go into the details," Molloy said. "We believe this to be an isolated incident. It could potentially be a domestic type of situation. We are very early in the investigation."

Molloy said an autopsy report from the Oakland County Medical Examiner Office indicated a gunshot wound was the cause of death.

Novi police officers have not arrested anyone since the homicide happened along Rousseau Drive in the Oakland Glens mobile home community at 13 Mile and Novi roads.

On Monday morning, the crime scene tape was gone. A screen door was hanging open and black residue was on the door. Some spots had circles around them with the following written nearby: "pheno neg am".

Neighbors said they didn't really know the deceased 21-year-old woman when they heard screaming coming from her home early Sunday morning.

"I heard screaming, then 'Oh, my God!'" Deana Linegar said.

Neighbors said the screaming started around 3 a.m. One peeked outside but didn't see anything. Another was smoking on her porch but didn't think it was safe to check on the screaming and calls for help.

Novi police continue to investigate why they were dispatched to the home shortly before 4:30 a.m. Sunday morning. They arrived to find the dead woman and an injured child of about six months old.

Neighbors said they lived there with the woman's mother. Molloy said no one else resided there. A woman who refused to provide her name said she would occasionally see the 21-year-old woman sitting with a man in a car outside her residence.

Tom Abele has lived near the mother and daughter since June.

He said the mother and daughter liked to host barbecues and decorate

See HOMICIDE, Page 12A

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Trail

Continued from Page 1A

city leaders were concerned about the cost, suggesting that asphalt is \$80 per square foot, et cetera. But we explained to them that with the MCMBA being a non-profit, we have quite a bit of funds saved up to help communities build trail kiosks, maintain the trails once they're built and help coordinate the trails going forward. There isn't really a lot of cost for the community."

Northville Township Clerk Marjorie Banner, who orchestrated the presenta-

tion, emphasized that the Seven Mile Trail committee had "done its due diligence" leading up to last month's presentation.

"We think this is something that is pretty terrific," she said.

The process started in 2009 when Northville Township residents approved the purchase of more than 300 acres along Seven Mile in 2009 with stipulations that would ensure the property be groomed for hiking, running, mountain-biking and cross-country skiing trails.

Four segments of the property will be closed off until the remaining buildings of the former state psychiatric hospital

complex are demolished, but parcels on the extreme east and west ends of the property need only to be cleared of potentially dangerous objects like railroad ties or uncovered sewers.

A grant provided to the township by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources came with provisions that the property be utilized for recreational purposes. The township gave the MCMBA the green light to design and build a mountain bike trail loop system on the west portion of the property.

"The west side is generally hillier, thus harder to develop, than the eastern portion of the park where the ball fields and support building would be placed according to the township's initial site design for the property," said Silvers. "This is why the trustees were glad to have a willing partner like the MCMBA to provide and install a terrific recreational component to the park — as well as make it a regional draw, due to the popularity of mountain biking in general."

Silvers, who said most of the trails will be wide enough to allow walkers and bikers to share the paths, accessed the property with township officials in 2009 and 2010 to lay out two stacked loops and record the routes with a GPS, along with planting ground-marker flags.

One of the added bonuses of well-used trails, Silvers said, is hikers and bikers serve as a policing unit against trespassers and individuals who bring unlawful ATVs onto the property.

The board was presented with a com-

prehensive packet of information regarding the proposal that they will digest before making any decisions.

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

hometownlife.com

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Members of the Motor City Mountain Biking Association clear a path for a bike trail. SUBMITTED

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF OAKLAND CITY OF NOVI ORDINANCE NO. 19-160.03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 22, "OFFENSES," ARTICLE VI, "OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY," SECTION 22-112, "FIREWORKS," IN ORDER TO AMEND REGULATIONS OF THE TIMES DURING WHICH CONSUMER FIREWORKS MAY BE DISCHARGED, INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS, AND AMEND THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS SECTION.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, April 1, 2019 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its publication. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Courtney Hanson, City Clerk

Publish: April 11, 2019

LO-0000190303 3X3

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF OAKLAND CITY OF NOVI ORDINANCE NO. 19-194

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 32.5, "TELECOMMUNICATIONS", TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE III, WIRELESS FACILITIES IN RIGHT-OF-WAY, TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS, STANDARDS, AND REGULATIONS FOR ACCESS TO AND USE OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR WIRELESS FACILITIES THAT ARE NOT TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES UNDER ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 32.5.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, April 1, 2019 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its publication. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Courtney Hanson, City Clerk

Publish: April 11, 2019

LO-0000190304 3X3

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF OAKLAND CITY OF NOVI ORDINANCE NO. 19-157.06

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 31, "STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES", ARTICLE 1, IN GENERAL, TO AMEND AND ADD DEFINITIONS AND AMEND AND ADD REQUIREMENTS FOR PLACEMENT AND PERMITTING OF STRUCTURES, EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES, AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS IN STREETS.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, April 1, 2019 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its publication. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Courtney Hanson, City Clerk

Publish: April 11, 2019

LO-0000190307 3X3

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, April 17, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **ONYX PLAZA JSP 19-01 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT APPROVAL THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS COMPRISED OF TWO PARCELS CURRENTLY ZONED B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT) AND OS-1 (OFFICE SERVICE)**. The development area is approximately 14.29 acres and is located north of Ten Mile Road along the west side of Novi Road in Section 22. The applicant is proposing a 34,173 square foot, 9-screen theater with 709 seats and 18,178 square foot retail building within the B-3 zoned area with associated parking and site improvements on the adjacent parcel.



Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center.

Subject Property Parcel ID's: 50-22-22-400-008 & 50-22-22-400-010

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, April 17, 2019.

Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: April 11, 2019

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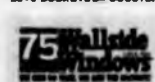


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A rendering shows what the North Old Woodward parking structure and related development site could look like. SUBMITTED

Birmingham project reshapes downtown

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

An ambitious multi-million dollar plan for Birmingham that would add hundreds of parking spaces, as well as new housing and businesses, is taking shape.

Walbridge/Woodward Bates Partners recently presented its proposed project, which Commissioner Rackeline Hoff called "one of the largest projects done in Birmingham," and Mayor Patty Bordman agreed it would "impact a lot of people in different ways."

In the proposal, the North Old Woodward parking structure would be demolished, a new one constructed in its place, and retail buildings added on the site, as well as mixed-use buildings on surrounding properties.

Bates Street would be extended, and a plaza would connect the street to Booth Park.

"In terms of addressing the parking needs, this does that while incorporating planning objectives for the downtown," City Manager Joe Valentine said. "From the city's perspective, (the proposal) achieves two key goals with one project — finalizing implementation of the downtown master plan and expanding parking in the downtown."

The project has an estimated cost of \$133 million between public and private investment.

Local voters would have to approve a bond to provide a funding mechanism, but Valentine said taxpayers would not see an increase as no public tax dollars would be used.

Residents at the meeting still expressed concerns about impacts to area homes and green spaces.

"If this was just about parking, OK, but this is a lot of changes," Cathy Frank said. "Four buildings is a dramatic impact — this will destroy my property values. I look at this design and find it sad. ...

"There is richness in parks and green areas, and this plan cuts it off."

The long-term vision to add parking and development in the area through an extension of Bates Street dates back more than two decades — to 1996 when the "Birmingham 2016 Plan" was adopted.

Daytime parking demands that dramatically increased around 2013 raised pressure to implement the plan.

City officials determined through a survey of business and property owners that there is a shortage of about 280 parking spaces north of Maple in the city, and a shortage of 427 spaces to the south.

They have prioritized the north end, which includes the 53-year-old five-level parking structure on North Old Woodward.

In the proposed plan, the parking structure will be demolished and replaced

with a seven-level structure, with three levels below ground.

That, along with another nearby surface parking lot, would increase overall parking by nearly 500 spots.

To disguise the parking structure and not make it the focus of the area, Valentine said the plan calls for it to be sandwiched between other buildings and hidden behind new retail buildings at the first-floor level.

Extending Bates Street

The landscape of the area would also change with plans to expand Bates Street by several hundred feet between North Old Woodward and Willits, "integral for ingress," Valentine said.

A plaza in the plan would provide a connection from Bates Street into Booth Park. These are public elements to the plan.

Private elements for the project include a new five-story mixed-use building that adjoins the new parking structure, a five-story mixed-use building at the corner of Bates and

Willits, and a five-story mostly residential building on the west side of Bates Street.

"More parking will result, there will be more connectivity from the downtown to the adjoining park, more

pedestrian amenities with public plaza, more retail, and more reasonably-priced housing in this central downtown area," Valentine said. "There would be apartments with a price point of \$3,000-\$4,500 per month for those rentals, something that is sorely lacking."

The city commission will have another update on negotiations with the developer during an April 15 meeting, and one week later, on April 22, staff will bring a recommendation to the city commission regarding the proposed project.

"The time frame for the project is 18 to 24 months, whenever approved for completion, to take down the old parking structure and put up a new one," Valentine said.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ENACTMENT — ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.727

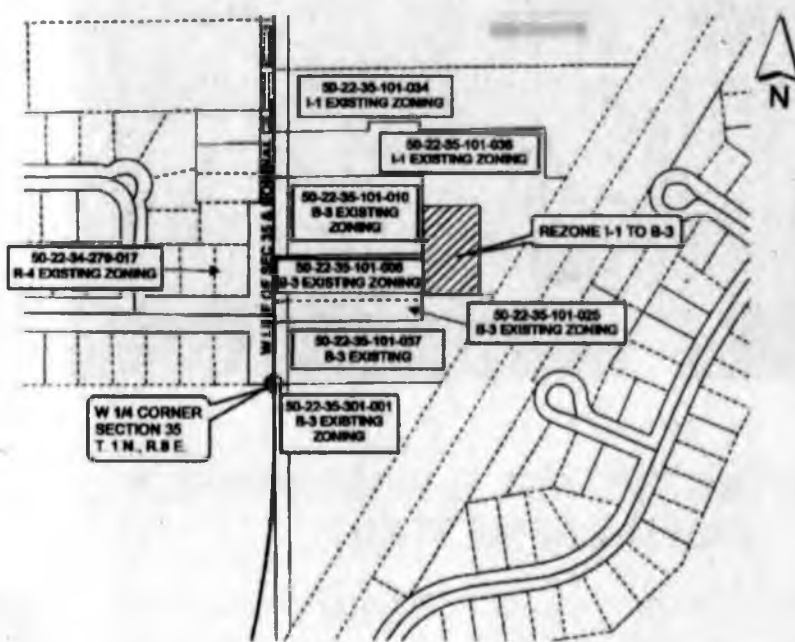
THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:

Part I. That Ordinance No. 97-18, known as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Novi is hereby amended as indicated on ZONING MAP NO. 18.727 attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance.

Part II. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS REPEALED. Any Ordinance or parts of any Ordinance in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Part III. WHEN EFFECTIVE. Part III. WHEN EFFECTIVE. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and is hereby ordered to take effect fifteen (15) days after final enactment. The effective date of this Ordinance is April 16, 2019.

MADE AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Novi, Michigan the 1st day of April, 2019. Copies of the Ordinance Amendment may be purchased or inspected at the Office of the City Clerk, Novi, Michigan, weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, local time.



To rezone a part of northwest 1/4 of Section 35, T. 1N., R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan being 0.68 acres of parcel 50-22-35-101-036.

AS SURVEYED OVERALL LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

DESCRIPTION OF A 0.68 ACRE PARCEL (TRANSFER PARCEL) OF LAND LOCATED IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 35, T1N, R8E, CITY OF NOVI, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 35, T1N, R8E, CITY OF NOVI, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THENCE 02°19'48"E (RECORDED AS S00°15'00"W) 2445.60 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION 35; THENCE N86°53'52"E 350.00 FEET; THENCE N02°19'48"W 10.00 FEET FOR A PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING N02°19'48"W 206.75 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST T 350 FEET OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 35; THENCE N86°53'52"E 143.00 FEET; THENCE S 02°19'48"E 206.75 FEET; THENCE S 86°53'52"W (RECORDED AS S 89°28'40"W) 143.00 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF PARCEL 22-35-101-036 IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 35, CONTAINING 0.68 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, BEING SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS OF RECORD, IF ANY.

FROM : LIGHT INDUSTRIAL T O : GENERAL BUSINESS

Approximately 0.68 acres of parcel 50-22-35-101-036 as described above to be rezoned. The area to be rezoned is indicated in hatch in the map above.

ORDINANCE NO. 18.727

ZONING MAP AMENDMENT NO. 727
CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

ROBERT J. GATT MAYOR

CORTNEY HANSON CLERK

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Publish April 11, 2019

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OFFICE CLOSING

The Charter Township of Northville Administrative Offices will be closed on Friday, April 19, 2019 in observance of Good Friday. The offices will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 22, 2019.

POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE.

Marjorie F. Banner, Clerk

Publish April 11, 2019

LD-00000000 3x3

RESOURCE RECOVERY AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY OF SOUTHWEST OAKLAND COUNTY (RRRASOC)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, a public authority and body corporate, shall hold a public hearing on its proposed budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2019 on Thursday, April 25th, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. at the offices of the Authority, 20000 W. 8 Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the office of the Authority located at 20000 W. 8 Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075.

This notice is given on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Authority pursuant to the provisions of Act 43, Public Acts of Michigan, 1963 (Second Extra Session).

MICHAEL J. CSAPO
General Manager

Publish April 11, 2019

LD-00000000 3x3

McCabe Road bridge closed indefinitely



The McCabe Road bridge in Green Oak Township was closed April 4 until further notice. LIVINGSTON DAILY FILE

Sean Bradley Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The McCabe Road bridge in Green Oak Township is closed to all vehicle traffic until further notice, officials said April 4.

The single-lane bridge over the Huron River was closed because it's no longer safe, the Livingston County Road Commission announced. The Road Commission said the bridge is old, its condition has deteriorated and it has required frequent inspections.

About 300 vehicles use the bridge every day. The detour will be Silver Lake

Road to Evergreen Road to McCabe Road.

"We'll investigate what temporary fixes may need to be done to get it at least opened again and see how much those fixes are," Steve Wasylyk, deputy director for the Livingston Road Commission, said.

An evaluation will occur to determine whether the bridge can be opened at any point with temporary repairs or if it will remain closed until funding to replace it can be identified.

It could cost up to \$2 million to replace the bridge that was built in the 1930s and had a major rehabilitation in

1953, according to a news release.

No other bridges in the county are slated to be closed at this point, Wasylyk said.

The Road Commission has requested funding from the state for the last several years to replace the bridge, which mainly has cars, school buses and garbage truck traffic, Wasylyk said.

Approximately 11 percent of the state's 11,156 bridges are structurally deficient, according to the 2018 report from the Michigan Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Nearly \$7 billion is needed to repair 1,918 bridges in the state.

Milford man arrested on 3rd drunken driving offense

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A 36-year-old Milford man faces yet another drunken driving charge after Milford police stopped him traveling about 65 miles per hour in a 50 mph zone.

A March 30 report indicated a police officer was conducting routine traffic patrol in the early morning hours when his radar detected the driver speeding on South Milford Road, near Lakefield

Parkway.

The driver stopped, and the police officer smelled intoxicants. He learned the driver, who had to perform field sobriety tests, had two prior drunken-driving convictions.

The police officer arrested him on a charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

Milford Police find woman passed out in car at stop sign

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A Milford police officer said he had to knock on a car's window before the female driver became alert and began answering his questions.

The officer was on Moore Road, near South Milford Road, around 6 a.m. March 24 when he saw the vehicle idling

near a stop sign, according to the report.

The Harper Woods woman seemed confused, and the officer smelled intoxicants. She gave him a credit card when he asked for a driver's license.

She said she was driving from Lansing. The police cited her for operating a vehicle while intoxicated after she failed a breathalyzer test.



Novi City Council has approved an expansion plan for the Novi Road Starbucks in the West Oaks II shopping center. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Starbucks by 12 Oaks Mall to expand, add drive-thru

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Coffee to go?

Yes, please.

Starbucks plans to expand their facility in the West Oaks II shopping center and add a drive-thru to boot for faster, more convenient java.

The Novi City Council gave its unanimous stamp of approval to the coffee company's expansion plans last week.

"I'm actually quite happy to see this plan," said Councilwoman Kelly Breen. "I've been in there and it's not big enough to handle what the community apparently wants."

"There's always a wait and not enough room."

The expansion to the existing 6,716-square-foot building adds 1,396 square feet and will include a new kitchen area, dining area and outdoor seating area for 10 customers.

The drive-thru will be located on the north side of the building, removing 130 parking spaces in the process.

Councilwoman Laura Marie Casey praised the plan for its creativity and using the parking lot in a productive way to eliminate spaces rarely used.

Sri Komaragiri, staff planner for the city, said the drive-thru is part of a



The Starbucks will add a drive-thru that allows for up to 12 vehicles in line.

Starbucks branding change. The drive-thru will have a queue that allows for up to 12 vehicles in line and if there is overflow, it would still be contained to the parking lot, not spilling over on to Novi Road.

She also noted the shopping center only requires about 1,500 parking spaces and currently has 1,900.

She was unsure when the construction would begin on the addition.

Starbucks officials did not immediately return a call for comment.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

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Novi plans ring road to help congestion along Novi Road

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Drivers hope a new road construction project approved this week will provide some long-sought traffic relief in Novi.

The city council unanimously approved a \$5 million expansion of Crescent Boulevard, aka the northwest quadrant Ring Road, during its April 1 meeting, awarding the \$4.7 million contract to Toebe Construction and engineering plans to AECOM in the amount of \$311,728.50.

"We have been talking about this for eight years," Assistant City Manager Victor Cardenas said. "You will be able to take the Ring Road around and bypass the Novi and Grand River intersection, which definitely can be a mess at rush hour."

A new traffic light will be planned for the Grand River and Ring Road area, he added.

Toebe Construction was the low bidder out of three companies seeking the contract for which the city advertised in February.

The project will feature a 1,050 foot long, four lane boulevard extension from where the current Crescent Boulevard meets Grand River to the intersection of the future Adell Center Drive, as well as construction of a 650-foot long industrial spur road to service the Co-mau Industrial Facility. That road would also improve access to the General Filters site.

Toebe will also replace deteriorated concrete west of Novi Road along Crescent Boulevard.

Councilman Andrew Mutch said while he knew Ring Road was a priority, he was concerned about a "piecemeal approach" to road improvements in Novi, as well as the funding for the \$5 million project, which will come from a municipal street fund and the city's Corridor Improvement Authority, but for which no outside funding was received from grants.



Novi is considering widening Crescent Boulevard, at left, as it exits Novi Town Center. At rush hour, it is often bottlenecked as commuters travel up and down Novi Road. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ceived from grants.

"We are spending \$5 million on one project and depleting a special assessment fund that we've been hanging on to for a rainy day and all these other projects and have had no discussion about prioritizing," he said. "We aren't going to fix this overnight, there are problems all over the city, but we have to be smarter about spending these dollars and be strategic. Traffic in the city is the number one complaint."

Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Staudt said that several years ago he had led the

fight to save the special assessment and not spend it on Ring Road because it wasn't the appropriate time, but said that time has now come.

"The special assessment dollars were for a project of our choice," he said. "This has been waiting too long... It's time to move forward and get this done. Additional development will pour millions of dollars over the years into the road authority."

Cardenas said road construction will begin as soon as possible and is expected to be completed by November.

"You will be able to take the Ring Road around and bypass the Novi and Grand River intersection, which definitely can be a mess at rush hour."

Victor Cardenas
Assistant city manager



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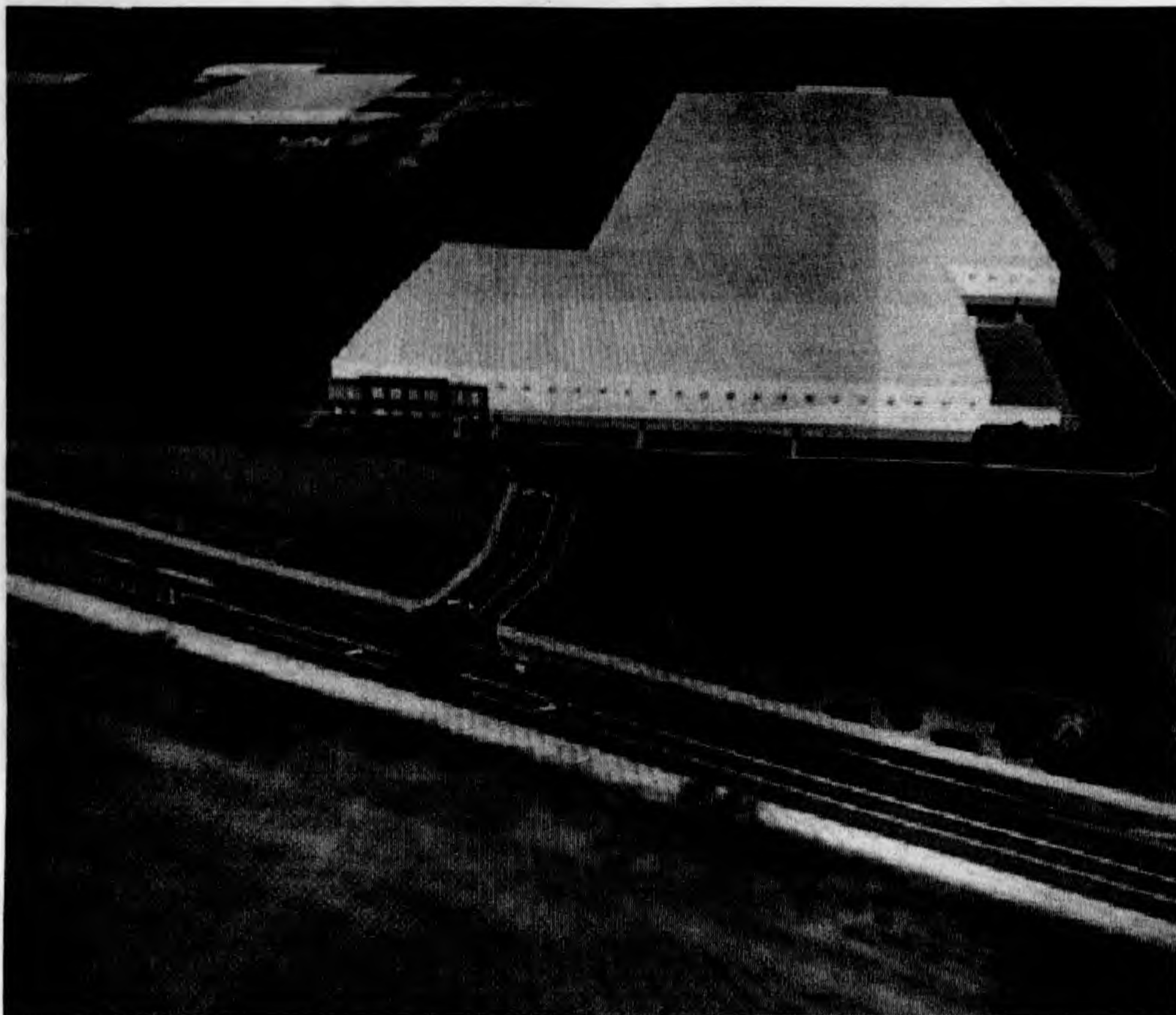
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A rendering of the HANS Water and Power assembly plant, a 500,000 square foot facility planned for a 30 acre parcel adjacent to Grand River Avenue in Lyon Township. SUBMITTED



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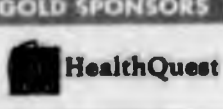
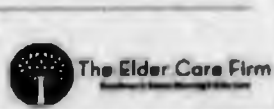
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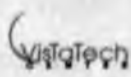
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HANS bringing plant, 200 jobs to Lyon Township

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A 500,000-square-foot plant at which water filtration devices will be assembled, employing at least 200 people to start, is coming to Lyon Township.

The township board unanimously approved at its April 1 meeting a special land use request by SI Capital, LLC, for the purpose of putting a HANS Water and Power assembly plant on a 30-acre parcel of land on the north side of Grand River Avenue between Clessie Court and S. Hill Road.

"It's a water filtration system you may not need here in the township, but others may," Conrad Schewe, representing SI Capital, said, making reference to the township's recent water improvements.

HANS Premium Water Appliances, the company's flagship product is a whole house water filter system that removes "virtually all" contaminants, including lead, chromium hexavalent, PFOS, arsenic, iron, nitrites and more, according to its website.

Bob Freeborn, head of technical operations for HANS, said the year-old company based in Farmington Hills, currently serves the Great Lakes region, but is ramping up production with plans to branch out and offer the device in other areas of the country.

Brian Keesey, township planner, told the board the company's plan for assembly of the devices is compatible with light industrial uses zoned for that area on the future land use map. The planning commission approved last

month a preliminary site plan for the 505,780-square-foot facility.

"There is a need for this type of use in the township and we see that in a lot of parcels developed in the last few years," Keesey said. "This will bring additional jobs and tax base for the township."

"It will make use of existing infrastructure and is not expected to make a negative impact."

Additional traffic considerations have been taken into account, he added, with acceleration and deceleration lanes to be installed on the approaches to the plant.

A parking lot on site will provide 430 spaces for employees. Schewe said the company plans to start with one shift of about 200 workers, but may increase to two or three shifts.

"We are excited to move forward with permitting and are looking at construction this summer or fall," he said.

Supervisor John Dolan welcomed HANS Water and Power to the township.

"With the jobs coming in, the Grand River corridor is second to none," Dolan said. "This is really a great thing, this is what we have been looking for. They will probably ask for a tax abatement, but when you bring that many jobs to the neighborhood, giving a tax abatement is a good thing and it only goes for a number of years. ...

"Commercial and industrial is amazing to bring to any township and any city. They make it livable for residents by lowering their taxes."

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

"There is a need for this type of use in the township and we see that in a lot of parcels developed in the last few years. This will bring additional jobs and tax base for the township. It will make use of existing infrastructure and is not expected to make a negative impact."

Brian Keesey Lyon Township planner

Jaguar Land Rover dealership moving to Novi

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Jaguar Land Rover, on the prowl to expand its territory, will relocate from Farmington Hills to Novi, building an entirely new dealership.

The Novi City Council unanimously approved on April 1 applicant Erhard Motor Sales' preliminary site plan and special development option, which calls for construction of a 58,663-square-foot facility on 9.5 acres of vacant land on the southwest corner of Grand River Avenue and Meadowbrook Road.

"That piece of property has been vacant forever," Mayor Bob Gatt said. "It is getting zero tax dollars, and all of a sudden a highly-acclaimed car dealership wants to locate there. It's a boon for the city in tax revenue and will bring prestige to the city, and kitty corner is largest selling Cadillac dealer in the entire country. It's good competition."

Ken Widerstedt, facilities manager for Erhard Motor Sales, said the company purchased the Jaguar franchise that was located in Novi at 10 Mile and Hagerty three years ago, agreeing to build a new facility for both the Jaguar and Land Rover brands. They began looking for a location along the Grand River corridor and found the Novi property, which they have been working on obtaining approval for all permits and plans for two years.

"It's a good neighborhood, good location, and part of what Novi calls the gateway east entry to the city," Widerstedt said. "It gives us more room to do everything."

He noted that the current Farmington Hills location, about 22,000 square feet on 2.5 acres, was only ever meant to hold Land Rovers. The new location, for which he hopes ground will be broken this fall, has a concept plan that proposes 287 parking spaces for vehicle inventory and 138 spots for employees and customers to park. The facility will triple the number of cars in the showroom, from the current 8 to 24, essential to Erhard Motor Sales' philosophy that people would always rather look at and purchase cars in the comfort of the showroom.

The company, which besides the Farmington Hills Jaguar Land Rover deal-



Jaguar and Land Rover of Farmington Hills salesman Eric Wilson opens the door of a 2019 Range Rover at the Grand River Avenue dealership. The automobile sales center will soon move to a new location in Novi. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ership, also owns a BMW dealership in that city, as well as a BMW dealership in Bloomfield Hills and two auto collision shops, is doing well in the luxury car business.

"Historically, high-end cars are recession proof," Widerstedt said. "Business is good. We don't expect to double sales. Sales will grow slowly year

after year."

Jaguar, which is in the midst of redesigns and updates, has a popular electric vehicle line, Widerstedt said, but it is currently Land Rover sport utility vehicles that are their best seller. New models range in price from about \$50,000 to \$150,000 on the dealership's website.

Pre-owned is also a popular option and Widerstedt is looking forward to increasing that inventory with the move. Three more approvals are needed from the city, he said. Widerstedt hopes construction will begin this fall on the facility and be completed in December 2020.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

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Bill Jacobs, from left, met his two half-brothers, Richard and Ralph, earlier this year after taking an ancestry test. Jacobs plans to meet his 97-year-old biological mother, Frances Revord, in June. COURTESY OF JANINE JACOBS

At 71, adopted man finds biological mom

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When Bill Jacobs got his ancestry test back he figured the biggest surprise would be finding out he's not as German as he thought.

Little did he know that by taking that test he would grow his family by 10 siblings.

Jacobs was adopted in Detroit in 1947 when he was 4 months old.

He said he's long known he was adopted, and felt privileged because he knew he was wanted.

"I wasn't a mistake, I wasn't an accident, I was wanted," he said.

The Howell man said he never thought much about his biological parents growing up and didn't look into his adoption records previously because he didn't want his adoptive parents to think he wasn't happy.

"They were phenomenal parents," Jacobs, 71, said of his adopted parents, who are now deceased.

He didn't expect the family he didn't know he had would reach out to him.

An unknown name discovered in family records

Carol Gaffaney and her husband Ralph were sitting at their son Alan's kitchen table in early January looking through Ralph's possible ancestry connections. They came across a name they didn't recognize.

"Who's William Jacobs?" Ralph asked.

Carol contacted Jacobs a week later and told him the couple thought he might be Ralph's cousin.

It took two weeks, but the families were able to determine Ralph and William, who goes by Bill, aren't cousins.

As it turns out the two men are half-brothers, sharing the same father.

It's never too late for brotherly love

Three weeks after their first contact with the Jacobs, Ralph Gaffaney and his brother Richard Gaffaney met Bill for the first time in Wisconsin.

"We've become a family with them," Jacobs said. "It was just a great weekend with them."

"It was just superb," Ralph said of the meeting. "Bill looks more like our dad than my older brother (Richard) and I do."

While the reunion was short Janine Jacobs, 71, said "there was more hugging in a 24 hours time period



Rivord



Gaffaney

than Bill had his entire life."

Ralph said he and his wife are planning a trip to Michigan after Memorial Day this year.

He said he and his other brother Richard "believe (their father) probably didn't know about Bill and if he did he would have fully embraced him."

Their father, William Gaffaney, died more than 40 years ago. Their paternal grandfather's name was William John Gaffaney, their father, William Gaffaney and it appears Bill's adoptive parent's unknowingly continued the tradition by naming him William as well.

Questions and unease after learning his mother's name

Bill Jacobs said he recently started looking into his adoption records and found the name of his biological mother at the urging of Janine and their daughters Angie and Jen.

"I know my mother was working in the Detroit area in World War II, that's why I was born in the Detroit area," Jacobs said. "I knew she moved back to Minnesota."

He said that when he found her name he didn't know what to do.

"I didn't know if anyone knew about me. I didn't want to open up a jar of worms," he said. "Suddenly someone is in her life that she gave birth to and no one knew about."

Janine said originally Bill didn't want to reach out, especially after hearing stories of birth parents reject-

ing communication when sought out by adopted children.

"My daughters and I had been encouraging him to look into it," she said. "He was rejected once, he didn't want to be rejected again."

Bill discovered his biological mother now lives in a retirement home in Nebraska. He and Janine decided to mail her a letter, thanking her.

"Just to let her know who I was and to thank her for having me and putting me up for adoption," he said.

"I wanted to let her know that what she did in 1947 was a great gift to me and my family."

Janine said she and Bill didn't know what to expect after mailing the letter. She said Bill didn't anticipate hearing anything back but the couple had included all their contact information, just in case.

"Four weeks went by and every time the phone rang we would jump up," Janine said.

Hearing his mother's voice for the first time in 71 years

Just over a month after sending the letter the Jacobs received two letters — one from Bill's biological mother, 97-year-old Frances Revord, and another from a woman named Carolyn, who said she was Bill's youngest half-sister.

Janine said they were both crying as they read the letters. Both women thanked Bill for reaching out and expressed how happy they were to find out about him.

Shortly after receiving the letters Bill and Frances Revord spoke for the first time in 71 years.

"She was very happy to talk to me," Bill said. "She couldn't say enough about how happy she was."

He said she told him she wondered what happened to him and if he made it through the Vietnam War.

Bill said his mother hadn't told anyone that she had given birth and put him up for adoption.

"When I gave that baby up I asked the good Lord to give him a good family," Revord said in a phone interview.

Bill said the first thing Revord did was contact her youngest daughter, Carolyn Hollenbach. "Until that point none of her children knew about me."

Adoption was the 'right decision'

Hollenbach, 56, scheduled a family meeting after receiving his letter where she and Revord told the other seven children that they had an older sibling.

Hollenbach said this experience has been exciting because of the joy it has given her mother "to realize that she made the right decision all those years ago. It really tickled her to know that he was still around."

Bill and Janine are traveling with their daughters and their families in June to Nebraska to meet Revord.

Revord said she was very shocked to receive the letter from Janine and Bill. "Now I can know he is okay," she said.

Bill said he is excited to meet Revord and that the meeting will be "interesting" for sure.

"I went from having one sister to having 11 brothers and sisters," Bill said.

Janine said Bill's new family has been very gracious and she can't wait to meet them.

"This was destiny," she said. "God's hand played a role."

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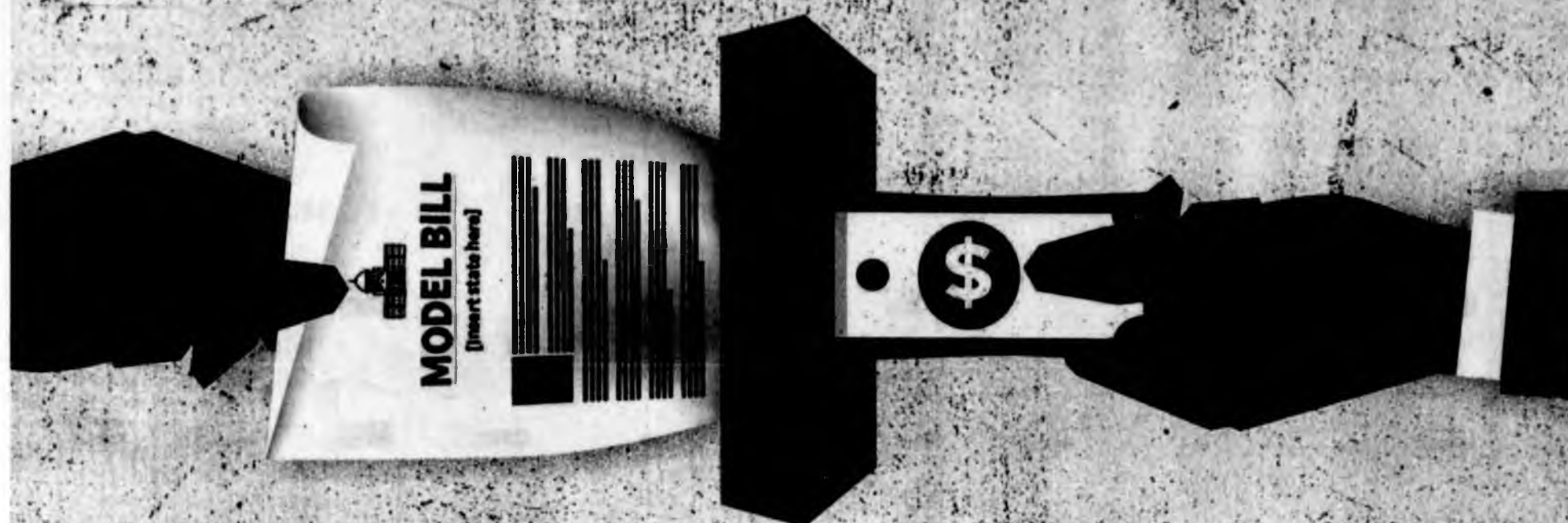
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Who's writing your laws?

Not the person you elected

ANDREA BRUNTY/USA TODAY NETWORK, AND GETTY IMAGES

Rob O'Dell and Nick Penzenstadler
USA TODAY

Each year, state lawmakers across the U.S. introduce bills to represent their constituents.

But in thousands of cases, the politicians didn't write those bills. Neither did their staffs or others close to them.

Instead, the bills were nearly exact copies of wording written by political advocacy groups, think tanks or corporations.

A two-year investigation by USA TODAY, The Arizona Republic and the Center for Public Integrity reveals for the first time just how far this copycat legis-

lation has gone in advancing those agendas.

Reporters across the country unearthed more than 2,000 different model bills from a variety of industry, conservative and liberal groups. The investigation then examined the real bills that had been introduced in all 50 states and Congress during an eight-year span.

Using a specialized computer algorithm, the investigative team found those models had been copied more than 10,000 times and introduced in all 50 states. Some 2,100 of them passed into law.

Because the investigation only com-

pared legislation to known, publicly available models, the real extent of the system is probably far larger.

Model bills, which amount to wish lists for special interests, have become intertwined with the lawmaking process. In Mississippi, more than 700 copies of model bills were introduced from 2010 to 2018. In New Jersey, more than 500. In interviews with more than 50 sponsors of model legislation nationwide, half of the legislators said they knew they had sponsored model legislation. But 20 legislators said they didn't know the source of their bill or claimed

About the story

This story was produced as part of a collaboration between USA TODAY, Arizona Republic and the Center for Public Integrity. More than 30 reporters across the country were involved in the two-year investigation, which identified copycat bills in every state.

The team used a unique data-analysis engine built on hundreds of cloud computers to compare millions of words of legislation provided by LegiScan.

See MODEL BILLS, Page 10A

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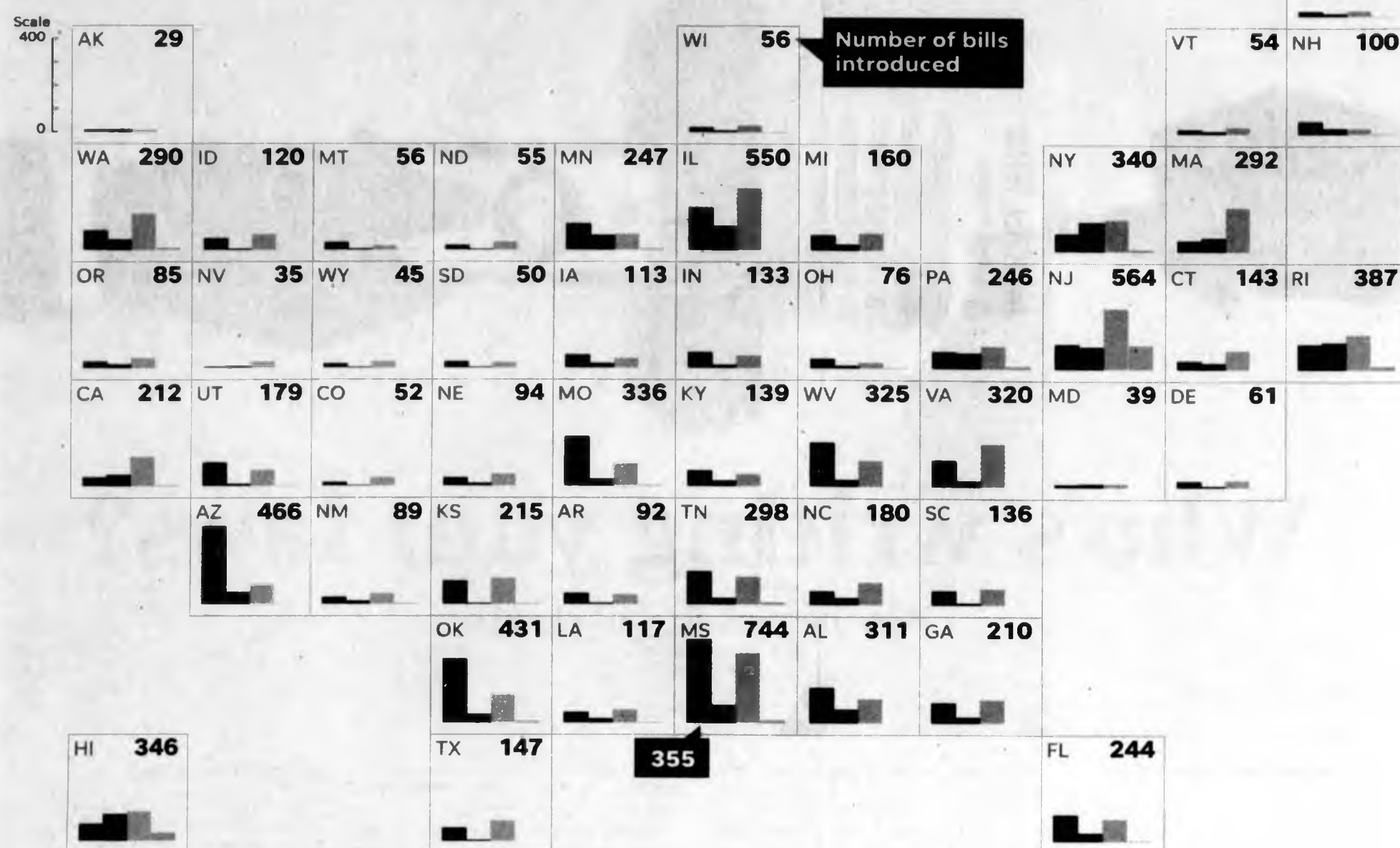
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The states that copy the most

Every state legislature copies model legislation, but the types of special interests they copy from and how frequently vary nationwide. Here's how the model bills we found break down based on the stated political leaning or purpose of the group that wrote each bill.

● Conservative ● Liberal ● Industry ● Other



SOURCE USA TODAY/Arizona Republic analysis of legislation from 2010 to 2018; LegiScan
VERONICA BRAVO, MITCHELL THORSON/USA TODAY

Model bills

Continued from Page 9A

they wrote at least part of the bill.
"This work proves what many people have suspected, which is just how much

of the democratic process has been outsourced to special interests," said Lisa Graves, co-director of Documented, which probes corporate manipulation of public policy. "It is both astonishing and disappointing to see how widespread ... it is. Good lord, it's an amazing thing to see."

Even those who promote model legislation acknowledge the process can be abused.

Charles Siler, a former external relations manager for the Goldwater Institute, which has pushed copycat bills nationwide, said it's a fast way to spread ideas because with little modification, lawmakers can adapt it to their state.

"It's not inherently bad, one way or the other," said Siler, who now works for a political action committee. "It depends on the idea and the people pushing it. Definitely people use model legislation to push bad ideas around."

The investigation, which required running the equivalent of 150 computers nonstop for months, found that a variety of ideas emerge from the copy-and-paste process:

Models are drafted with deceptive titles and descriptions to disguise their true intent

The "Asbestos Transparency Act" didn't help people exposed to asbestos. The model legislation was the work of corporations seeking to limit their exposure to billions of dollars in litigation associated with asbestos.

The investigation found the model, a product of the American Legislative Exchange Council, an industry-supported model bill factory, has been introduced in at least 17 states since 2012. It became law in 11 states.

Bill Meierling, chief marketing officer and executive vice president of ALEC, said supporters of the asbestos model believed it did create more transparency, "but it's up to each individual state to choose how they would name" the bill when they copy ALEC's model.

USA TODAY found more than 4,000 bills benefiting industry were introduced nationwide during the eight years it reviewed. More than 80 of those bills limit the public's ability to sue corporations, including limiting class-action lawsuits and a plaintiff's ability to offer expert testimony, and cap punitive damages for corporate wrongdoing.

Many of the bills USA TODAY found to be copied from models written by special interests were couched in similarly unremarkable or technical language that obscured their impact. Bans on raising the local minimum wage were dubbed "uniform minimum wage" laws. Changes to civil court rules to shield companies from lawsuits were described as "congruity" or reforms to make laws consistent.

Legislators get a shortcut to success while advancing special interests — sometimes unknowingly

Pennsylvania Rep. Thomas Murt,

See MODEL BILLS, Page 11A

Fingerprints in text

The model bill known as "American Laws for American Courts" was written by the American Public Policy Alliance. It has been introduced at least 53 times in statehouses nationwide during the past eight years. Compare it with an excerpt from a 2018 Idaho bill.

Model bill

Liberties rights and privileges granted under the us and state constitutions including but not limited to due process freedom of religion speech or press and any right of privacy or marriage as specifically defined by the constitution of this state a contract or contractual provision if severable which provides for the choice of a law legal code or system to govern some or all of the disputes between the parties adjudicated by a court of law or by an arbitration panel arising from the contract mutually agreed upon shall violate the public policy of this state and be void and unenforceable if the law legal code or system chosen includes or incorporates any substantive or procedural law as applied to the dispute at issue that would not grant the parties the same fundamental liberties

Idaho bill, 2018

■ Identical language
■ Similar language

embodied in the constitution Idaho shall not be deemed or construed to provide for the choice of a law legal code or system to govern some or all of the disputes between the parties adjudicated by a court of law or by an arbitration panel arising from the contract mutually agreed upon shall violate the public policy of this state and be void and unenforceable if the law legal code or system chosen includes or incorporates any substantive or procedural law as applied to the dispute at issue that would not grant the parties the same fundamental liberties

SOURCE USA TODAY/Arizona Republic analysis of legislation from 2010 to 2018; LegiScan
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Four events worth checking out this weekend

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Perhaps now spring has finally sprung? Maybe?

The weather is starting to get nicer, which means it's time to head on out and do something fun this weekend.

Here are four events happening across the Hometown Life area once you're done with work Friday.

Home and garden show in Novi

Looking to spruce up the old homestead this spring? Then the Suburban Collection Showplace will be your destination this weekend.

The Novi Home and Garden Show returns from Friday to Sunday to 46100 Grand River in Novi. Visitors can stop by booths of several types of vendors, including landscapers, builders and more. The Plant Michigan Green Theater will feature members from the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association doing presentations throughout the weekend.

Tickets for the show are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and free for children 12 and under. Those who attend after 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday will pay just \$5 for admission. For more information, including a full list of events over the weekend, visit the show's website at novihomeshow.com.

Bunny Brunch in Livonia

It's almost time for Easter and if you're planning on taking the kids to visit the Easter Bunny, this weekend is the perfect opportunity to do so.

The annual Bunny Brunch returns at 11 a.m. Saturday to the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington. The event will feature lunch, some crafts and a visit



Drew Phelan, 3, and brother William Phelan, 5, wear their bunny masks made at the bunny brunch craft workshop. The annual Bunny Brunch returns at 11 a.m. Saturday to the Livonia Senior Center. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

from the Easter Bunny.

Tickets are \$6 for Livonia residents

and \$9 for non-residents and can be purchased at the Jack E. Kirksey Recre-

ation Center, 15100 Hubbard. For more information, call 734-466-2900.

Egg hunt in Highland Township

If you can't wait until next weekend to hunt for eggs, than Highland Township is where you want to take the kids this Saturday.

The Huron Valley Egg Hunt takes place beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday at Duck Lake Pines Park, 999 Duck Lake Road. Goody bags will begin being distributed at 10 a.m. and the Easter Bunny will make an appearance at 10:15 a.m.

After that, children ages 2-10 will have the opportunity to snag some of the thousands of eggs up for grabs starting at 11 a.m.

After all the eggs have been found, face painting and more visits with the Easter Bunny will take place.

For more information, contact the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce at 248-685-7129.

Festival of the Arts in Farmington Hills

If you're looking for a little artistic inspiration this weekend, head to the Costick Center in Farmington Hills.

The free family day for the 2019 Festival of the Arts takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile. The event will feature art experiences such as pottery, artist demos and crafts the kids can make and take home. More than 500 pieces of artwork will be on sale for purchase and feature work done by members of the Farmington Art Foundation, Farmington Public Schools, the Farmington Area Art Commission Student Art Awards and more.

For more information on the event, call the city's cultural arts division at 248-473-1857.

Model bills

Continued from Page 10A

whose biggest campaign donors include the Pennsylvania Republican Party and labor unions, said he was stunned to learn that he was listed as a sponsor on 72 bills substantially copied from model legislation from 2010 to late 2018.

The relationship between groups writing model legislation and the lawmakers introducing them is a marriage of convenience, experts said.

Special interests give lawmakers fully conceived bills they can put their names on and take credit for. And those special interests can become dependable donors to their campaigns.



This arrangement is particularly appealing to new lawmakers, said Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, an assistant professor of international and public affairs at Columbia University who has studied the influence of ALEC and other conservative groups.

They "know they are conservative, they know they are pro-business, but ... they don't really know what it means to translate that into different bills," he said.

Some models actually overturn the will of voters

Model-bill factories have increasingly proposed what are known as "pre-emption" bills, which prevent counties, cities and towns from enacting certain laws favored by their constituents. Pre-emption bills, in effect, allow state legislators to dictate to city councils and county governing boards what they can and cannot do within their jurisdiction. USA TODAY's algorithm found more than 100 such bills had been introduced on an expanding array of topics.

Kansas stopped local efforts to require restaurants to list calories on their menus.

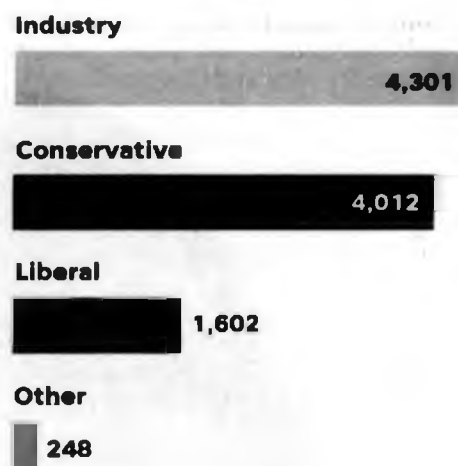
Arizona and New Hampshire prevented regulations on home rentals. Airbnb has lobbied against home-sharing restrictions, often with the Goldwater Institute's assistance.

Others prevented local governments from raising the minimum wage, banning plastic grocery bags and destroying guns.

"There's real ... hypocrisy in many of these so-called conservative legislators trying to rip away local control when they preached for years that a government that's closest to you ... is most responsive to you," said Dawn Penich-Thacker, who campaigned to overturn a school voucher expansion in Arizona. Voters overwhelmingly rejected the ex-

Which bills get copied, and which copies become law

Of the 10,000 bills state lawmakers introduced that were copies of model legislation, most were written by industry and conservative groups.



Those groups also most often see their ideas become law.



pansion. But in short order, five bills to modify Arizona's school voucher program were soon introduced, three of them aiming to expand it.

For special interests seeking to stay under the radar, model legislation offers distinct advantages. Copycat bills don't appear on expense reports or campaign finance forms. They don't require someone to register as a lobbyist or sign in at committee hearings. But once injected into the lawmaking process, they can go viral, spreading state to state, executing an agenda to the letter.

Allison Anderman, managing attorney at the pro-gun-control Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said model bills are simply how the system works now.

"This is how all laws are written," she said. "You'd be hard-pressed to find a law where a legislator sits in a chamber until a light bulb goes off with a new policy."

"You'd be hard-pressed to find a law where a legislator sits in a chamber until a light bulb goes off with a new policy."

Allison Anderman

Managing attorney at the pro-gun-control Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

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Novi police were dispatched to this Rousseau Drive home early Sunday morning, where they found a woman's body. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Homicide

Continued from Page 1A

the home for Halloween. They kept to themselves, leaving him surprised Sunday morning.

"I woke up and the whole place was a crime scene," Abele said.

Neighbors say the mobile home park can seem safer than others.

Yet it has its problems, such as drinking, pedestrians and parking outside homes at night.

On Jan. 4, 2018, Heather Dixon, 32, was found dead at her home in the mobile home park. Her husband, Derrick

"We believe this to be an isolated incident. It could potentially be a domestic type of situation. We are very early in the investigation."

Novi Police Chief David Molloy

Dixon, was sentenced to 35-80 years in prison after entering a no-contest plea to a second-degree murder charge.

Anyone with information should call the Novi Police Department at 248-348-7100.

Those who wish to remain anonymous can call CrimeStoppers of Michigan, 1-800-773 2587.

FBI recognizes Novi detective for catching members of gang

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The female driver was wearing a wig, and the man who ran from her car had been talking to someone in a countersurveillance vehicle.

Novi police took them into custody near the Chase Bank on Grand River Avenue late last year because the out-of-state rental car had a stolen Michigan license plate.

During a search, police found apparently stolen checks, debit cards and driver's licenses in the lining along the roof.

But it took Detective Jeremy Stempien's decision to reach out to a south-east Michigan task force led by the FBI to get two alleged members of the Felony Lane Gang federally indicted.

Stempien, 41, will tell you he was just doing his job when he reached out to the FBI. The FBI begs to differ.

"The FBI extends its appreciation for your outstanding assistance in a joint investigative effort," a certificate reads. "Your contributions were immeasurable and you have the gratitude of the FBI for all you did to help accomplish the objectives of the investigation."

FBI Director Christopher Wray signed last month the document that concluded with this compliment: "You can be proud of the role you played, and I join my associates with whom you worked in congratulating you on a job well done."



Stempien

The Felony Lane Gang is the tag for criminals who travel the country breaking into people's homes and cars, looking for purses so they can nab checks, credit cards and identification to

withdraw money from personal bank accounts by pulling into drive-thru lanes farthest from tellers.

Stempien has spent the last several years assigned to a multi-agency financial crimes task force. Because of his special training, he was able to do forensic work on the arrested woman's two cellphones.

The FBI was able to identify additional players, including a Toledo pimp who was working with a Florida gang.

It was the pimp, Stempien said, who sent a prostitute to cash checks Dec. 3 at Chase Bank.

Getting federal indictments and threatening criminal organizers on a broader level motivates Stempien.

Stempien said he has worked bigger cases. He's still appreciative of the FBI's recognition.

"To be modest, there's nothing heroic or outstanding that I did," he said. "I'm just doing my job."

"It's what I love doing." Stempien is a Quincy High School graduate who played football at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

M-5 project

Continued from Page 1A

- Concrete repair and replacement;
- Pavement conditioning;
- Asphalt replacement, curb and gutter repair;
- Replacing half of the Drake Road bridge due to damage from high-load hits;
- Drainage structure repairs; and
- Sign replacement and adding a

westbound sidewalk to the Grand River Avenue bridge to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

During the closure of the bridge, westbound Grand River traffic will be detoured to northbound Halsted Road, then westbound Hills Tech Drive to southbound Haggerty Road. Intermittent lane closures can be expected throughout the project.

Eastbound Grand River traffic will be detoured to southbound Halsted Road, then eastbound Nine Mile Road to northbound Farmington Road.

In addition to the bridge work, the freeway will see several complete closures between Middlebelt and Grand River this year for work. Eastbound M-5 will be closed during six weekends and westbound M-5 will be closed five weekends. Detours for those weekends, which have not yet been announced, will see westbound M-5 traffic detoured to westbound Eight Mile to northbound I-275. Eastbound M-5 traffic will detour to east I-696, then southbound Telegraph Road to Eight Mile.

Work is also expected to take place

along M-5 from Haggerty to 13 Mile in Novi as well.

Access to both residential and commercial areas will be maintained throughout the project. About 36,000 vehicles travel the freeway on a daily basis.

Much of the work was presented to the community at a public meeting last fall in the Farmington city offices.

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

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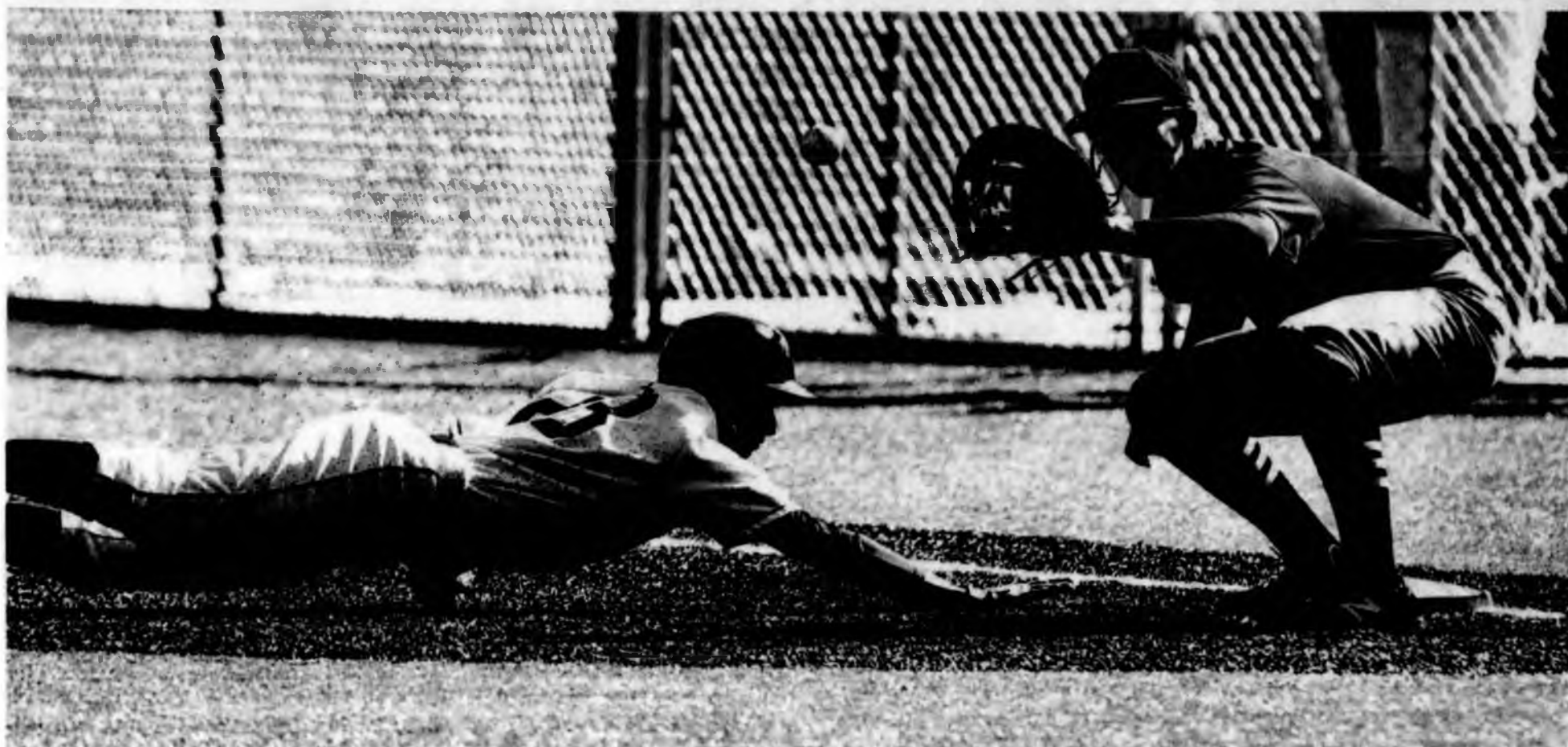
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PREP BASEBALL



Catholic Central player Adam Falinski safely slides back to first base ahead of a tag by Brother Rice's Sterling Hallman. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Detroit Catholic Central baseball sweeps Birmingham Brother Rice

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After a disastrous performance the previous weekend against Orchard Lake St. Mary's, the Detroit Catholic Central baseball team roared back with convincing wins over the state's preseason No. 1 team, Birmingham Brother Rice.

Despite falling behind early in game one, the Shamrocks came back to mercy the Warriors, 12-2, in six innings. In game two, things were much closer, but went the Shamrocks way again by a score of 4-3. The doubleheader was

played at CC's new turf stadium at Shamrock Park.

Catholic Central improves to 3-2-1, while Brother Rice falls to 2-4.

"I'm glad we don't have to play them again for a month," Catholic Central coach Dan Michaels said. "I hope they forget about it but I know they won't. They're a great team and we're just happy to get out of here with two wins."

The Shamrocks blew a late lead before being blown out twice by St. Mary's last weekend and this was exactly the type of rebound Michaels hoped for.

"We had a devastating loss on Saturday and just got hammered in game

two," Michaels said. "For our team to bounce back and beat the best team in the state, I tip my hat to our players. I'm so proud of them."

Here are takeaways from each game:

Shamrocks pound Warriors in game one

Catholic Central started slow, but finished strong.

Brother Rice got the first two runs of the game, one each in the first and second innings, but could not muster anything else the rest of the contest.

The Warriors managed just three hits

in the game and only two off Shamrocks starting pitcher Cooper Donlin. Donlin pitched five innings, struck out eight and walked seven hitters.

"I have to give it to Cooper Donlin on the mound," Michaels said. "He struggled a little bit with his command but he fought through it. Way too many walks, but he fought through it. To keep that team to two runs in five innings, that's phenomenal."

He admitted his control was not as great as he would have liked, but it was enough to get it done, especially with

See CENTRAL, Page 6B

CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK

Livonia Franklin runners sign to compete in college

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

April is a busy month typically full of excitement for high school seniors, since by this time, most have decided which college they will attend in the fall.

Athletes are no different, and three members of the Livonia Franklin cross country and track program have signed to run at the next level.

Andrew Ulaszek will attend Lawrence Tech. He's been running at Franklin since he was a freshman.

"He has become one of our top 800 runners and was one of our top three

cross country runners this past season," Franklin coach Pat Koelzer said. "His cross country personal record is under 17:00 and he is working toward a 2:00 800. Andrew is a 4.0 student who embraces a leadership role, especially when assisting newer, younger team members."

Ulaszek had maintained interest in Lawrence Tech due to the school's academics, and meeting the coaches there sealed the deal.

"Originally, I was looking at Lawrence Tech because I want to be a biomedical engineer and I had been recommended Lawrence Tech by my en-

See RUNNERS, Page 3B

END OF AN ERA

Help celebrate longtime sports editor's retirement



Catholic Central's Director of Athletics Aaron Babicz, right, honors Hometownlife.com sports reporter Brad Emons with a plaque honoring his 35 years covering high school sports.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Philip Allman
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Longevity in the workplace isn't too common nowadays.

In an industry facing struggles for more than a decade, Brad Emons' run as a Hometown Life sports editor is all the more impressive.

Emons was among the 11 Hometown Life staffers who accepted an early retirement offer from Gannett, the parent company of the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers.

Emons retired Feb. 1 after 41 years with the company.

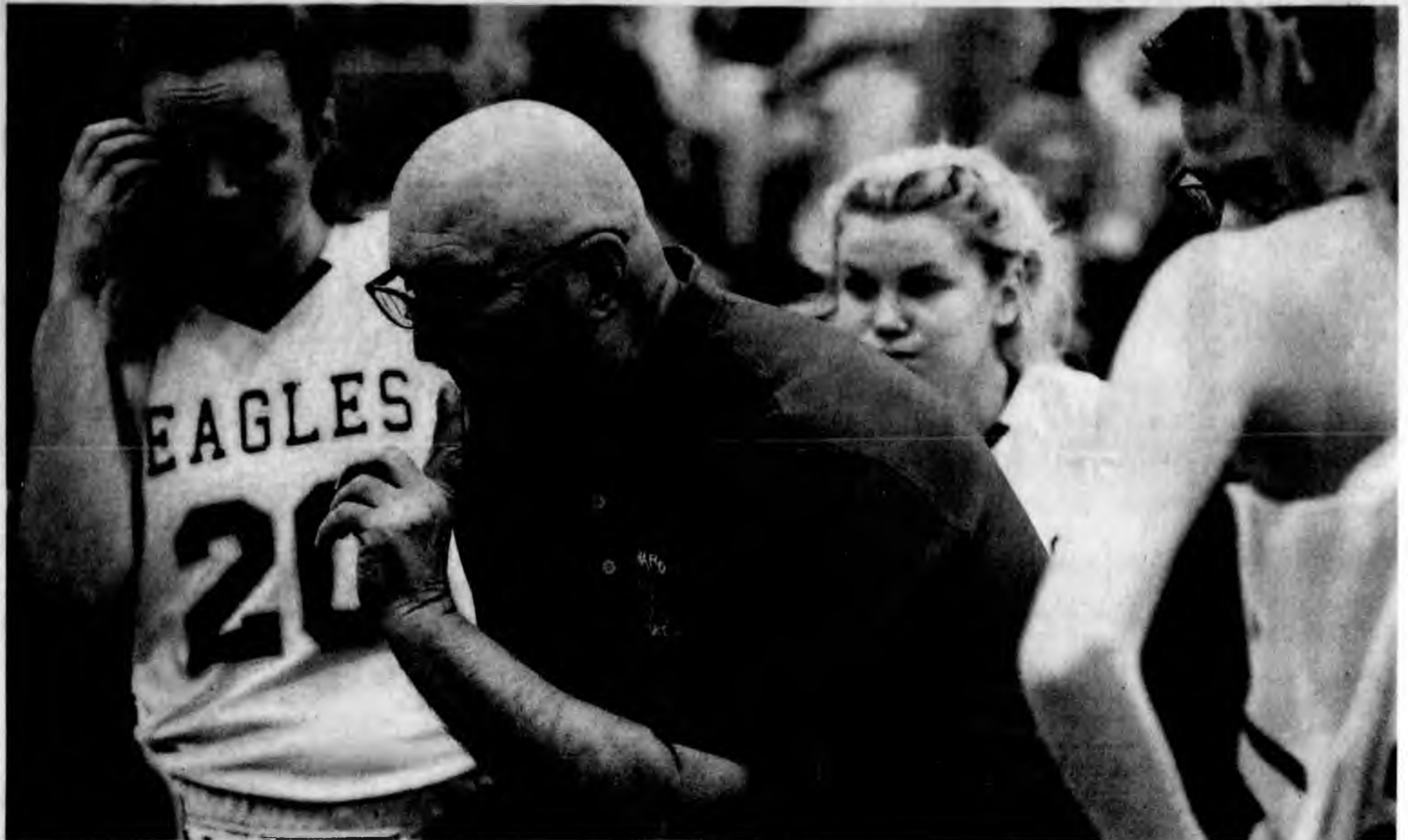
Forty-one years!

He's covered gold medal Olympians and future athletes in the four major professional sports leagues:

See EDITOR, Page 5B



GIRLS PREP HOOPS



Don Palmer led Hartland (22-4) to the state quarterfinals and its third straight 20-win season. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Hartland's Palmer named Division 1 girls basketball Coach of the Year

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Don Palmer is as old school as they get when it comes to basketball coaches.

The leader of the Hartland girls hoops program is not a fan of specialization, preferring his players compete in other sports rather than spend 12 months on the basketball court.

He said it's harder to create a group of selfless players, saying "that's not society anymore."

Palmer — and he's certainly not on an island here — bemoans the increasing problem of parental meddling that undermines what a coach is trying to accomplish.

But just when you expect Palmer to shake his fist and demand you get off his lawn, he shows the ability to change how he's coached basketball for years.

"I kind of went away from what I do," Palmer said. "I like that delay and methodical stuff. We went up and down and we just shot the ball."

Playing a more up-tempo game suited the talent on the Hartland roster this season. It helped the Eagles reach the state quarterfinals for the third time in five seasons, an accomplishment that earned Palmer the Associated Press Division 1 Coach of the Year award.

Using a nine-player rotation comprised of four freshmen, two sophomores and three juniors, Hartland went 22-4 for its third straight 20-win season. Three of the losses were to two teams that reached the final four and another was to a 20-win Brighton team.

Over a career that began in 1974 at Milford High School, Palmer has won a state-record 954 games coaching boys and girls basketball, 607 as a girls coach.

When he came to Hartland in 2009-10, the Eagles had only three district championships in the first 36 years of the Michigan High School Athletic Association tournament. In Palmer's 10 seasons, the Eagles have won eight districts and their only three regional championships.

"Coaches are subjected to undue praise and undue criticism," said Palmer, who is 188-51 at Hartland. "I'm not taking praise for all these wins, because if you don't have people like Whitney (Sollom) and Lexey Tobel, you don't win. Coaching gets harder every year. There's just a lot of factors that factor in. I enjoy it. I go year by year. I'll be 69 in August."

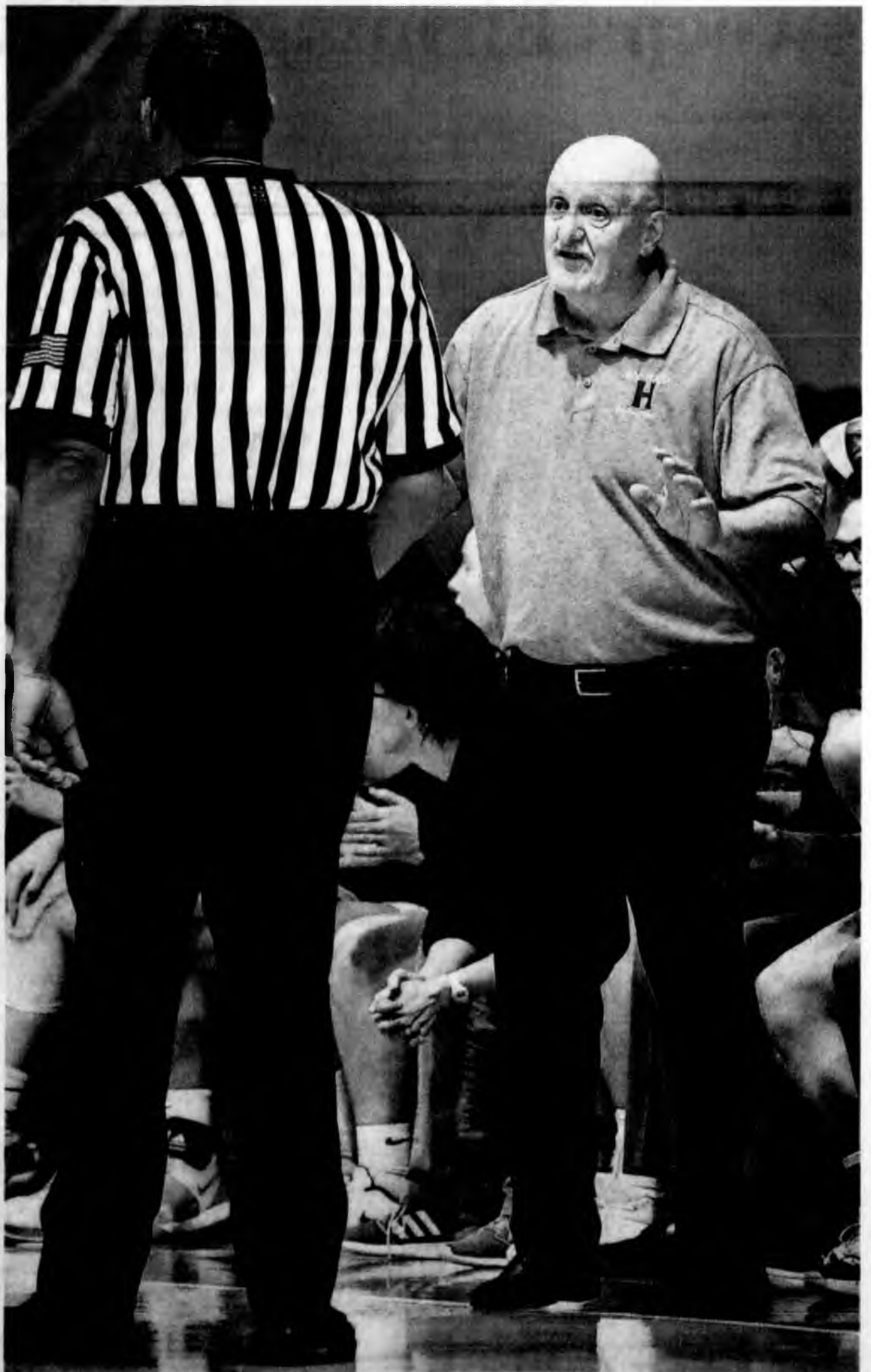
Jarvis Mitchell, who has coached Wayne Memorial to two straight state semifinals, joked after playing the Eagles that he wants Palmer to retire.

"Don is such a great coach," Mitchell said. "I don't care how many kids he has, he works with what he has and he gives you his best shot. Those kids are so disciplined. I absolutely hate playing against Hartland; I hate it. Because you don't know what to scout for. He's a chameleon. You're going to get something new. ... C'mon, man. Don, if you're listening, just retire. I don't want to play you no more."

While Hartland should be a factor on the state scene for at least three more seasons with its freshman core, the potential of winning his first state championship isn't what motivates Palmer to continue coaching.

"Everybody likes to win," he said. "Coaches don't play favorites, but I do believe they have favorites. There's always a kid who, for whatever reason, whether it's their personality or effort, pulls at your heart strings a little bit. You say to yourself you want to finish with this kid. ..."

"You get to know them, help them be a better player and maybe be a better person, because you're a little bit older, a little bit wiser. I was in Las Vegas this past weekend at a player's wedding. It's an honor that they remember you and want you around for special times."



Don Palmer has coached Hartland to three girls basketball state quarterfinals in five years. TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY



Franklin's Andrew Ulaszek will run cross country and track at Lawrence Tech next year. LAURA ULASZEK



Franklin's Erin Seibert will compete at Madonna next year. LIVONIA FRANKLIN ATHLETICS

Runners

Continued from Page 1B

gineering teacher," Ulaszek said. "I started to check out Lawrence Tech along with some other schools, but I was already leaning towards Lawrence Tech because of the curriculum and everything else I had seen/heard about the university. When I went for a college visit, I met the cross coach, talked to him for a while and from then on I was set on Lawrence Tech. I'm excited to run in college because I know I will meet some great people, form some good relationships, stay in shape, and do something I love."

Erin Seibert has signed with Madonna University. She battled back from a bad ankle sprain to make her fourth appearance at the state meet.

"Erin is a special runner," Franklin girls cross country coach Dave Bjorklund said. "She is highly competitive and an extremely hard worker. In ninth grade she got to run on the team with senior All-Stater Natalie Douglas, and for the next three years she carried the cross country team on her shoulders."

She was our leader in workouts and in races, always ready to take on the best runners other teams put out there. She has certainly left her mark on the program at Franklin and will be missed next year."

Logan Evanchuk also will run at Madonna next year.

"I've been lucky enough to coach Logan since eighth grade cross country," Koelzer said. "He has made one of the biggest improvements on the team each year. He is one of the hardest workers and a great leader by example. Logan is a 4-year letter winner, a sub 17:00 cross country runner and a sub 4:50 miller who still has his eyes on a few more goals this season. His leadership and work ethic will be missed."

He said he chose Madonna because it's close to home, has a small campus and has a great criminal justice program.

"I am excited to run in college because mainly it's what I love to do," Evanchuk said. "I can't wait to meet new people and travel different places to run in big meets."

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avallenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



Franklin's Logan Evanchuk signed to run at Madonna next year. LIVONIA FRANKLIN ATHLETICS

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Livonia's Maddy Champagne voted Athlete of the Week



Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week STOCK PHOTO

Athlete of the Week is an unscientific online poll running online Monday afternoon until noon Thursday. Visit hometownlife.com to vote.

Andrew Vaillencourt

Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If you've attended any Livonia United girls lacrosse games this season, you've probably noticed No. 11.

That's Livonia Stevenson junior Maddy Champagne, who has been on fire to start the season, scoring 28 goals in five games (includes one scrimmage). She also had 29 groundballs and 36 draw controls.

Champagne won this week's Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week honors for her outstanding performance, gathering a whopping 28,084 votes, which was good for 47.86 percent of the 58,684 total votes cast. She topped Wayne Memorial baseball player Brenden Souva, who had a fantastic base of support as well, receiving 20,716 votes (35.3 percent).

We caught up with Champagne to get to know this week's winner:

You received more than 28,000 votes, how were you able to get so much support? Who led the charge?

"The voting spread like wildfire as many of my friends and family are subscribers to the Livonia Observer. I had a lot of support which gained momentum as the message was spread over social media and text messaging. Thanks to my large family, extended family and friend base, they showed their support beyond my imagination and I am thankful beyond words. The voting was fun watching the numbers come in and, I would like to congratulate the other players who were also considered as athletes of the week with me."

What are your biggest team goals and personal goals for the rest of this season/what do you hope to accomplish?

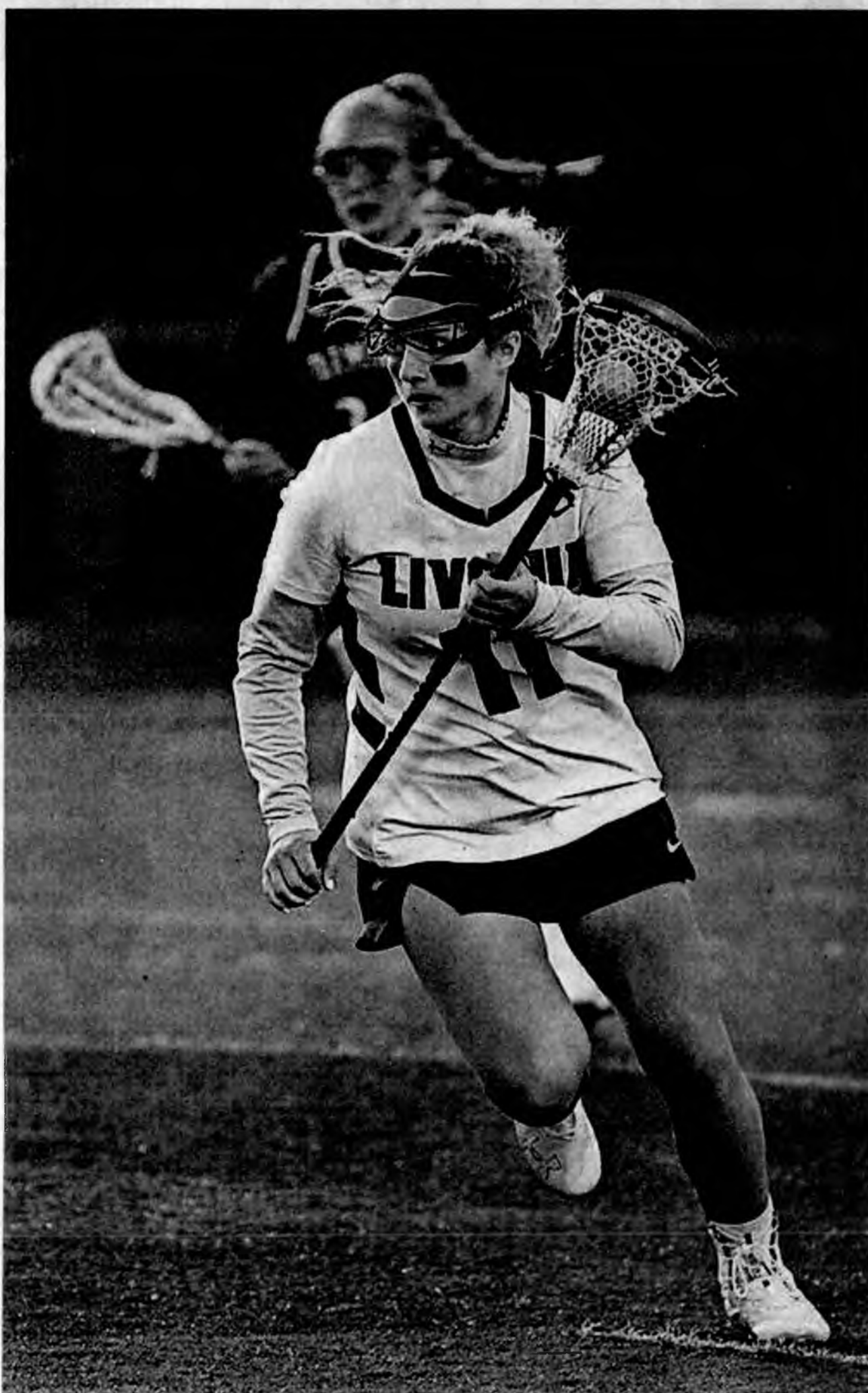
"This is the first year for the Livonia school district women's lacrosse team and I would like to play a role in help growing the sport. I would like to thank my Athletic Director Lori Hyman for her support and for helping to provide this amazing opportunity. I feel Livonia United will be a force to recon with as we continue to build and grow our team."

"As the season progresses, I hope to remain healthy and continue to learn from my coach, Chris Merucci, who has taught me the importance of education first while trying to balance being a student athlete. I would like to think that after leaving each game on the field, the opposing team is left with the thought of how we respected their team, the game and played with class while representing the Livonia school district."

Who is your favorite sports role model or athlete and why?

"I'd have to say my ultimate role model is my older brother Dillon Champagne, who is a baseball player in college and soon to hopefully be pro. He's always been there to push me to be the best athlete I can be. I admire all the hard work and dedication he puts in to achieve his set goals, and he is constantly putting in the extra reps when no one is around, which sets him apart from all the other athletes. He's my big role model and has always been so supportive. I strive to be just as great of an athlete as him! Dillon and I always follow this quote titled, 'I WILL BE'."

"I will be, better than I was last year



Livonia United's Maddy Champagne won this week's Athlete of the Week. MADDY CHAMPAGNE

I will be, better than I was yesterday
I will be, more of a leader than a follower
I will be, a champion on the field and off the field
- By CJ Beatty

Who is your favorite musical artist/band and why?

"My favorite music band would have to be Florida Georgia Line. I love country, it always has a good beat and positive vibes which allows me to fall in love with this band every time I hear them singing on the radio or off my playlist. It instantly brings a smile to my face."

What is your all-time favorite movie (or series) and why?

"My all time favorite movie would have to be

"Grease!" I love old-timer movies and it allows me to grow from the history in the '50s to today and how much has changed throughout the years. This movie always brings me joy and excitement whenever I get the opportunity to watch it."

What are your future plans after high school and do they include lacrosse?

"As for the future, I am uncertain with my studies, however, I have verbally committed to Coach Mackenzie to play for the Grand Valley State University Women's Lacrosse team, Anchors Up!"

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



Recently-retired O&E sports editor Brad Emons, right, is honored by the Livonia Chamber for its Livonia Legacy Award. Livonia Chamber of Commerce President Dan West stands at left. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Editor

Continued from Page 1B

NHL, NFL, MLB and NBA.

Former managing editor Dan Dean (he accepted an early retirement offer this year, as well) realized that few journalists in the company were as widely known or made a bigger impact in community journalism than Emons.

As a way for those wanting to help celebrate his retire, reminisce on the good old day or just share a drink, Dean organized an informal get-together for 6:30-9:30 p.m. this Saturday at George Murphy's at the Creek, 36000 Seven Mile Road in Livonia.

"He covered high school sports in western Wayne County for more than 40 years for the Observer Newspapers and Hometown Life. Current and former coaches and A.D.s, parents, players and those that love sports journalism are encouraged to celebrate his retirement and reminisce with sports editor Brad Emons during this open-house style event at George Murphy's. Cash bar, food available, please no gifts."



Brad Emons (left) with former Clarenceville All-Stater, Penn State grad and NFL player Tim Shaw. SUBMITTED PHOTO

COLLEGE GOLF



Novi's Alexa Hatz picked up her first career college win.
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY ATHLETICS

Novi's Alexa Hatz wins college golf tournament

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi native Alexa Hatz had a big moment in her college golf career earlier this week, picking up her first tournament win.

Now a sophomore at the University of Detroit Mercy, she posted a 5-over 76 for the second-straight round for her career-best 152 at the Mastodon Spring Invitational in Fort Wayne, Ind. She won by four shots over two Green Bay golf-

ers. She also led the event with 25 pars and was consistent in all facets finishing second in the field in par 3 (+1, 3.13), par 4 (+8, 4.36) and par 5 (+1, 5.17) scoring average.

UDM overall came in second place at the tournament, which was played at the Pine Valley Country Club.

Hatz's win is the first for a UDM golfer since 2016 and 25th in program history.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avallenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



As he slides and throws up a cloud of rubber pellets from the artificial turf - Brother Rice's Sterling Hallman is met at second base by Detroit Catholic Central's Regan Paulina - and a tag. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Central

Continued from Page 1B

the strikeouts piling up and his team pouring on runs behind him.

"It wasn't my best, but I thought it was exceptional, Brother Rice is a great team," Donlin said. "I just had to keep pushing through, adversity is good. I need to keep working on my mechanics every day and keep getting better."

After struggling at the plate through two innings, Catholic Central caught fire in the third, scoring six runs to take the lead. The Shamrocks added three more in the fourth, one more in the fifth and two more in the sixth inning to end the game with a mercy.

Senior Ryan Marra led the way for the Shamrocks. He went 3-for-4 with two doubles and three RBIs. Senior Dante Merucci added two hits and two RBIs, junior Tyler Harris reached base four times with three singles and Donlin helped himself out with a big two-run triple.

"Those guys are going to carry us," Michaels said. "Confidence breeds confidence."

Harris leads CC to sweep

Both teams settled down after the blowout in game one.

Each team was able to take advantage of mistakes by the other team, but CC's pitching held on in the late innings to hold off a Brother Rice comeback.

Marra once again was an offensive force for CC, driving in a run on a double.

Senior Joe Hardenbergh and junior Regan Paulina also each doubled.

Harris, who hit leadoff, was the team's most consistent player at the plate — reaching in all seven of his at-bats Wednesday (four times in game one and three times in game two). He collected an RBI on two hits in the night-cap.

"It was great, we've just been working on our two-strike approach and that's what I was trying to implement today," Harris said. "Rice is always good, so it feels great to get that first win in like seven tries."

Not only that, but Harris also started on the mound for Catholic Central in the second game. He pitched five innings, striking out three, walking three and allowing three runs before senior Thomas Sylvester came in for the save.

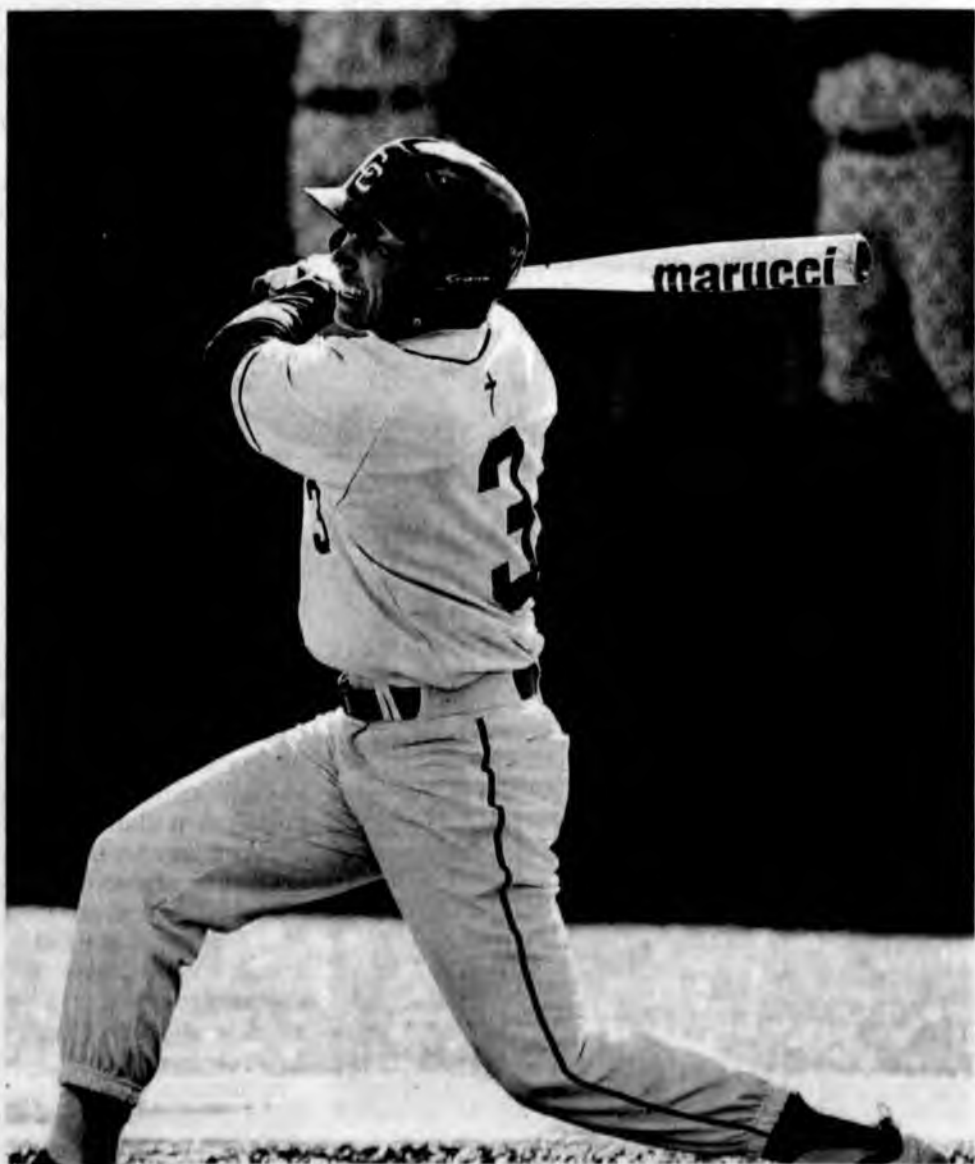
"Tyler pitched a hell of a game today," Michaels said. "He threw strikes. He's not overpowering, but he was getting all three of his pitches over. He was moving the ball in and out which he has to do. I'll take that any day of the week."

Sophomore John Locker led the way for Brother Rice, going 3-for-3 with a double and an RBI. Senior Sterling Hallmann added two hits and an RBI for the Warriors.

The rivalry in the last few seasons has certainly favored Brother Rice, but after the sweep, Catholic Central feels confident that it will stay more competitive going forward.

"We're coming back," Harris said. "We're going to get on top."

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avallenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



CC pitcher Cooper Donlin also helped his team with a run-scoring hit from the plate on April 3.

Uncover the hidden gems of the Italian Riviera

Picturesque beach towns offer charm and relaxation

Rick Steves
Special to USA TODAY

When it comes to basking in the beauty of the Italian Riviera, the Cinque Terre is tops for me. But there's much more to this region on the Mediterranean coast than those famous five villages.

A handful of charming towns lie within an hour of the Cinque Terre, with posh ports set against rugged mountain backdrops that have drawn poets, authors and romantics over the years from Lord Byron to Elizabeth Taylor.

To the north of the Cinque Terre is a trio of beach towns: Levanto, the northern gateway to the Cinque Terre; Sestri Levante, stunningly situated on a narrow peninsula flanked by two beaches; and Santa Margherita Ligure, a thriving city with an active waterfront and easy connections to yacht-happy Portofino. At the south end of the Cinque Terre is the pretty resort of Porto Venere.

When most people imagine the "Italian Riviera," they're thinking of the shimmering resort towns north of the Cinque Terre, with their big, stately, Old World hotels looming over crowded pebble beaches. Here, fastidiously landscaped parks and promenades are jammed with more Italian visitors than American tourists.

These towns can be user-friendly home bases for day trips along the Riviera coast, but they're also worth visiting in their own right. After exploring the villages and trails of the Cinque Terre, they can feel like a return to civilization — for reasons both good and bad (modern amenities, urban scene, traffic).

Levanto, just minutes north by train of the Cinque Terre resort town Monterosso, is the handiest. Graced with a long, sandy beach, it's packed in summer with surfers and families. The rest

of the year, it's just a small, sleepy town with kids playing in the square and locals whizzing around on bicycles. Levanto also offers an easy, level hike (or bike ride) to the sleepy village of Bonassola. Serious hikers can do the no-wimps-allowed hike to Monterosso.

A bit farther away, and with a little less train service, is Sestri Levante, a charming town on a peninsula squeezed as skinny as a hot dog between two crescent beaches. One of the bays — Baia delle Favole — is named in honor of Hans Christian Andersen, who visited in the mid-1800s (favole means "fairy tale").

The most appealing town north of the Cinque Terre — but also the most distant (one hour by train) — is Santa Margherita Ligure. This easygoing, old-school resort town has an enjoyable urban bustle and a handful of sights (including the Baroque Basilica of Santa Margherita), along with easy access to posh Portofino. While Portofino's velour allure is tarnished by a nonstop traffic jam in peak season, Santa Margherita Ligure has a breezy harborfront with a beach promenade, and its aristocratic architecture hints at old money.

From Santa Margherita Ligure, you can take a bus to Portofino, but a boat makes the 15-minute trip with more class and scenery, and without the traffic jams. You also can hike between the towns, either following the sidewalk along the sea (2.5 miles), or you can take a quieter two-hour hike into the hills.

Portofino is the movie star's Italian Riviera. The yacht-harbor resort with grand scenery — and its sleek jewelry shops, art galleries and haute couture boutiques filling a humble village shell — has the sheen of new money. It's the kind of place where the sailing masts are taller than the houses and church steeples. But the harbor, classic Italian architecture and wooded peninsula



A bike ride between Levanto and the sleepy village of Bonassola offers up views of the Italian Riviera's stunning coastline. CAMERON HEWITT



Porto Venere is the perfect jumping-off point for scenic boat rides along the Italian Riviera. DOMINIC ARIZONA BONUCELLI

make Portofino an appealing destination.

More out of the way (and better as a day trip) is Porto Venere, south of the Cinque Terre. This seafaring village is perfect for a boat or bus ride. An antidote to the gritty transportation hub of La Spezia just around the bay, this resort is as scenic as the Cinque Terre towns — but with a bit of glitz. The village clings to a fortress-crowned promontory. A rainbow of pastel facades rises up from an inviting harborfront promenade.

Porto Venere is fun to explore, especially if you climb for increasingly better

views. Porto Venere faces the beautiful Gulf of La Spezia — known as the Gulf of Poets — where Lord Byron was said to have gone for a hardy swim despite rough seas. Scanning the bay, you'll see the outskirts of La Spezia, the peaks of the Apuan Alps, the resort town of Lerici and the rugged island of Palmaria.

Whether it's glitz and glamour, beach relaxation, or hiking that inspires you, choose one or more of these gems for a classic Italian Riviera experience.

Rick Steves writes *European travel guidebooks* and *hosts travel shows* on public television and public radio.

Costa Rica shares its wildlife riches

Mark Rogers
Special to USA TODAY

There are a handful of destinations around the world where the prospect of animal interaction is central to a visit. Costa Rica is one of them. Each time I've visited Costa Rica, I've taken home memories of animal encounters, from coming upon a sloth dangling from a limb in Manuel Antonio National Park, to peering eye-to-eye with a howler monkey in the rainforest canopy. Travelers visiting the Latin American country will find lots of opportunities for animal interaction, whether they encounter the creatures in their natural habitat or at wildlife sanctuaries.

Note: Before a visit to Costa Rica, it's best to research whether a wildlife zoo, refuge or sanctuary is following best practices.

Sloth Sanctuary

Sloths are off the charts when it comes to the cute factor. As slow-moving animals, they also are vulnerable to the travails of civilization, from fast-moving traffic to crunching construction. The Sloth Sanctuary on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast does a great job rescuing and rehabilitating injured sloths. The sanctuary offers two tours: the Buttercup Tour (named for a 26-year-old resident sloth) and the more comprehensive and expensive Insider's Tour, which gives an up-close look at infant and baby sloths. While it's only natural that visitors may want to reach out and pet these cute creatures, touching the sloths is strictly prohibited.

Jaguar Rescue Center

The Jaguar Rescue Center is located near Puerto Viejo de Talamanca in the Limon Province of Costa Rica.

Before setting off to visit the center, it's important to note that it's unlikely you will see a jaguar there. What you will see is a variety of animals both healthy and on the mend — monkeys, sloths, anteaters, snakes and ocelots. All proceeds from admission go to caring for the animals, including the fee for the JRC Private Tour. Those who want a



Slow-moving sloths are off the charts when it comes to the cute factor. SLOTH SANCTUARY

more immersive experience can rent one of the two houses on the property, or book space in the rescue center's hostel.

Arenal Observatory Lodge & Spa

Costa Rica is famous for its active Arenal Volcano. Dramatic overnights can be had at the Arenal Observatory Lodge & Spa, which lies in close proximity to the volcano and the shores of the 33-square-mile Lake Arenal. Guests can enjoy activities on the lake, as well as nature hikes through forests and grasslands. There's an abundance of wild animals living free on the 870-acre property. A high point during my hike through the forest was coming upon a herd of peccary, coarse-haired wild pigs, which trotted off as I approached. Wildlife at Arenal includes monkeys — howler, spider and white-faced capuchin — as well as 500 species of birds, making the region ideal for the dedicated birder. While a 7-mile network of five well-marked nature trails makes it easy to ex-

plore on your own, visitors also can take a daily guided walk with the property's naturalist, free of charge.

Monteverde Wildlife Refuge

Animal lovers will want to seek out the Monteverde Wildlife Refuge, located in Monteverde Cloud Forest in north-west central Costa Rica. There are a variety of activities at the refuge, but the must-do is the rainforest canopy experience. Visitors can travel along walkways high in the trees. While the experience may sound daunting, it's an effortless stroll high above the ground. This is where I first heard the barking roar of howler monkeys and then saw them appear in the canopy's distance, moving from tree to tree to approach and inspect the visitors to their habitat. The refuge also has a butterfly garden open to visitors. For something different, sign up for one of the nighttime hikes. Given the unpredictability of the wild, there's little guarantee what a hiker will see, although the guide will point out the noc-

turnal haunts of sloths, monkeys, tarantulas, night birds, kinkajous and tree frogs.

Territorio de Zaguates

This is one of those enterprises that make the world a better place. Imagine a 378-acre sanctuary for 1,300 stray dogs, where man's best friend can be fed, cared for and allowed to go on daily walks until they are adopted. The Territorio de Zaguates (Land of the Strays) is a nonprofit, no-kill shelter tucked away in the mountains of Santa Barbara de Heredia. The shelter raised its profile when it was featured in Episode Five of the Netflix series "Dogs." The shelter once welcomed visitors and volunteers, who could accompany streams of dogs on their daily walks. Currently, Territorio de Zaguates is closed to visitors as it works to accommodate infrastructure regulations imposed by the Costa Rican government. Meanwhile, enthusiasts can choose to "adopt" a dog by making a donation.



As the options pile up, companies are getting more inventive with how they show their value to consumers. APPLE

Apple TV+: Welcome to the age of the 'unbundle'

A la carte programming will add up for viewers

Ell Blumenthal
USA TODAY

Apple's new streaming service is finally no longer simply rumored or expected. The name: Apple TV+.

While some details — including how much the new service will cost — were scarce, the event was overflowing with famous faces.

Sure, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, Jason Momoa, Steven Spielberg and J.J. Abrams were among the many headliners brought on stage by the iPhone-maker, but honestly, the trend toward streaming and cord cutting has been more about dead presidents on dollars and how much you save than ce-

lebrities on stage and how many you see. Now consumers are looking at yet another new subscription service when it launches this fall, something that will likely add even more costs to consumers' media budgets.

To paraphrase Gwyneth Paltrow, one of the stars of Apple's first produced shows, the ill-fated "Planet of the Apps," welcome to the new era of conscious "unbundling."

Consumers have long hoped for a time when they could pick and choose which channels they wanted to pay for from a cable plan.

In 2016, TV tracker Nielsen revealed that the average cable subscriber had more than 200 channels in their bundle, yet only watched roughly 20.

While that era hasn't yet materialized, with the rise of streaming services like Netflix, HBO Now, Hulu, Amazon

and now Apple TV+, it may be coming close. And it won't be cheap.

Want to watch the new season of "Stranger Things"? That starts at \$8.99 per month, or \$12.99 monthly if you want HD. "The Handmaid's Tale" on Hulu? That starts at \$5.99 per month. How about "Game of Thrones"? Please send your \$14.99 per month to AT&T for HBO Now.

Total so far? You're looking at roughly \$33.97 for these three services in HD, and this isn't including live sports, live television or the upcoming services from Disney and AT&T that are due to begin arriving later this year.

Throw in a live streaming option such as Sling TV, which normally starts at \$25 per month, and you reach a total of nearly \$60 per month that rivals the cost of a traditional cable package.

And that price doesn't include Ap-

ple's new TV+ service, which the company did not reveal a price for at Monday's event.

Without showing off any trailers of the new shows it will be offering, the company is setting a high bar for itself to build excitement that might lure potential subscribers.

"People generally don't sign up for subscription TV services unless there's something that they explicitly want to watch," says Avi Greengart, lead analyst at research and consulting firm Tech-sponential.

"Netflix, Amazon and even HBO all have compelling shows available now along with a rich library. Apple will have to prove itself."

Fighting streaming fatigue

As the options pile up, companies are getting more inventive with how they show their respective value to consumers.

Some have followed Amazon's path, which bundles in a host of services to make the \$119 yearly subscription more than just Prime Video for watching "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." The company throws in a host of other perks, including Prime Music, free two-day shipping and early shopping deals.

Hulu and Spotify announced this month that they would be partnering up, with a \$9.99 per month subscription to Spotify also netting you Hulu's \$5.99 plan at no additional cost.

Patrick Moorhead, founder and principal analyst of Moor Insights and Strategy, expects more companies to partner in the future, and also expects some consumers to bounce around between the services to get the best deals.

"Different kinds of consumers exhibit different behavior," Moorhead says. "There are savers who will switch many times to save money, convenience buyers who switch to save time and those who need a huge motivation to switch anything. Most users fall into the latter category."

And it is not just streaming companies that are teaming with one another. They have also bundled their services with broadband and wireless providers.

AT&T offers HBO, Showtime, Starz and Cinemax as options for those who pay for its priciest unlimited plan, T-Mobile offers free Netflix with some of its unlimited plans while Sprint offers its unlimited users free Hulu.

Let's do brunch

Get ready to serve in style

USA TODAY NETWORK

Thanks to Easter and Mother's Day, spring is the season for brunch. Here are some tools to help you make it everyone's favorite meal.

Why make boring waffles when you can serve them with puffy bubbles with the Waffle Puff Pan. \$65 at pamperedchef.com. USA TODAY NETWORK PHOTOS



Put some spring flair on the table with the Happy Florals coaster set from Jules + Kate. \$16 for a set of six at julesandkate.com.



"Brunch Life," by Matt Basile and Kyla Zanardi, has familiar recipes that will please the whole family. \$17.39 for the paperback at walmart.com.



Above: The Hilltop Garden collection includes stoneware salad plates with spring appeal. \$49.50 for four at potterybarn.com.

Left: Warm croissants and buns on the warming rack; then remove to make toast with this retro-style Russell Hobbs toaster. \$79.99 at amazon.com.



This Libbey Modern Bar Brunch seven-piece serving set is perfect for juices or libations. \$28.99 at wayfair.com.



OFFICE-BASED

STUDIES FIND IT INCREASES PRODUCTIVITY AND REDUCES STRESS

Angie Ferguson
Guest Columnist
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

It's never ending. Clients are referred to exercise physiologists because they either have several risk factors predisposing them to chronic disease and/or conditions (i.e. high blood pressure, high cholesterol), or they have developed a chronic disease and/or condition and their health care provider wants exercise to be a component of their treatment. Simple, or at least you'd think so right?

Many of these referred patients have very busy lives with work and family (kids and often grandchildren, too). So a big part of successful planning is to find 'potential exercise/physical activity' time in their day, which is often no easy task.

If the average person sleeps 7.5 hours per night, that leaves potentially 16.5 hours to complete 30 minutes of exercise (minimum recommended daily amount by the American College of Sports Medicine). So technically, we're asking for a mere 3 percent commitment of their awake time to be focused on physical activity – not a big ask by any means.

However, when you consider a typical day – up at 6 a.m., get the kids ready for school, off to work, then home to shuttle the kids to music lessons, gymnastics, after school tutoring, all of which require a high degree of chauffeur work (aka sedentary time), then home for dinner, school work with the kids, bath time – that 30 minutes of exercise time I'm requesting is looking like a big ask.

However, there is one time during most people's weekdays when, if all else fails, they can complete some exercise, and that is at work. Enter the concept of office-based exercise.

Office-based exercise is not a new idea, in fact, cycling and treadmill desks have been around for decades. In the Journal of Applied Ergonomics, researcher found that even low intensity cycling while pedaling significantly increased caloric expenditure.

Additionally, the International Journal of Obesity concluded that not only did work place exercise stations increase metabolic cost (burn more calories), but workers were more productive and long term results showed a decrease in absentee days and health care costs.

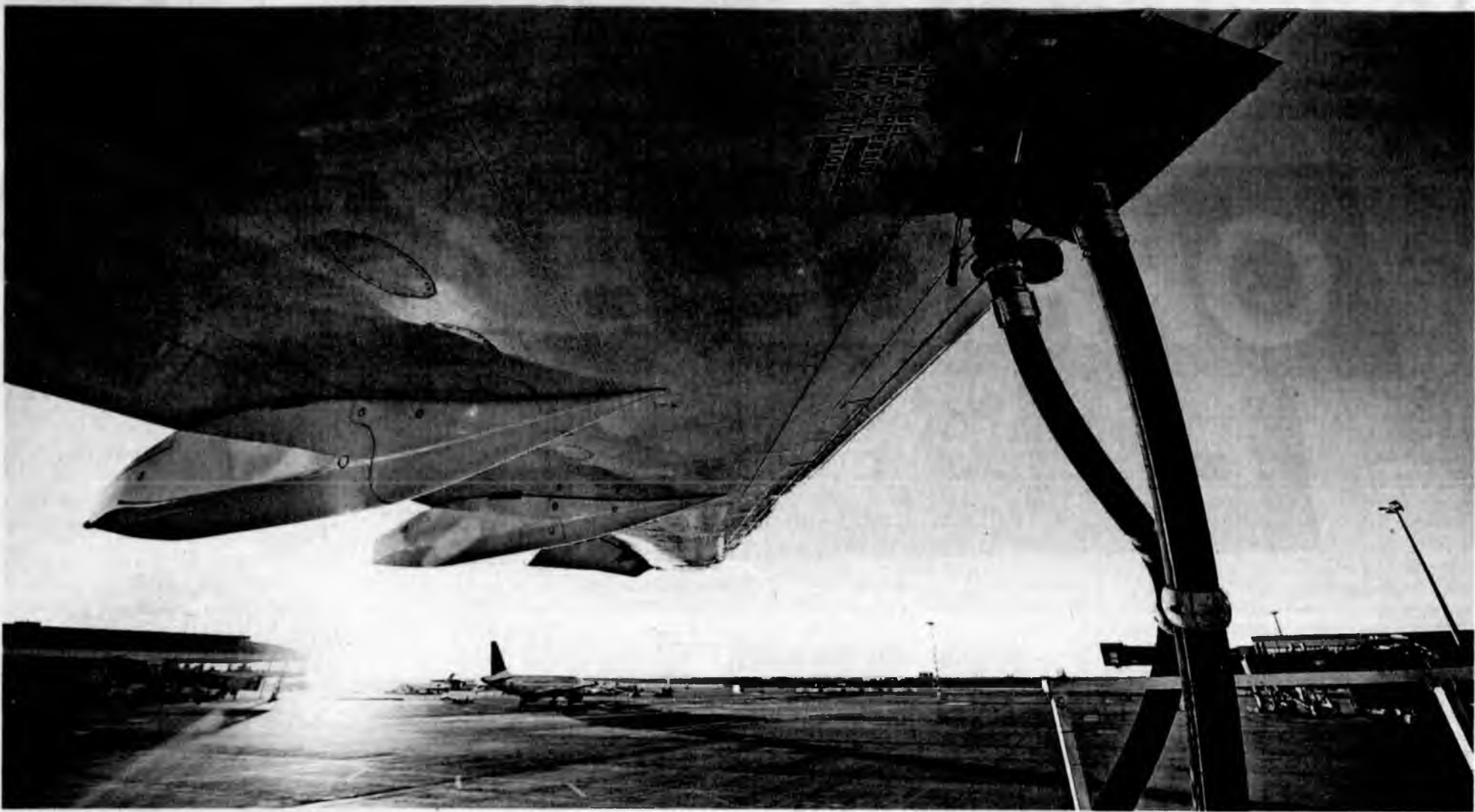
If a person were to use a treadmill desk for just 30 minutes a day, each working day, they would burn roughly 460 calories per week, which would equate to over 22,000 calories per year. One pound of fat equals approximately 3,500 calories, then a person could potentially lose 6.2 pounds of fat a year.

The BEST news is that these stations will not break the bank. I checked prices on Google and found several bike desks ranging in price from \$100 to \$400. Treadmill desks that include the actual treadmill are understandably more expensive at up to \$1,200. However, when you consider the cumulative effect of a small daily change in energy expenditure at work over a yearly period, these devices can have a significant impact. Given the poor health outcomes associated with sedentary behavior and sitting time, how can you afford NOT to exercise?

Angie Ferguson is an exercise physiologist from Fort Myers, Florida. She is a USA Triathlon Advanced Level 2 coach, USA Cycling coach, has a Specialty in Sports Nutrition certification and a PhD in results! For more training tips, contact her at www.gearedup.biz.



ASK THE CAPTAIN



If the wind is right, some jet fuel (kerosene) fumes can be ingested when the engine starts. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Winds have a hand in fuel fumes, takeoffs, landings

John Cox
Special to USA TODAY

Question: I have noticed a slight smell of kerosene at engine startup. Is that a sign of a seal going bad in the engine?

— Dan F., Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania

Answer: Not necessarily. If the wind is right, some jet fuel (kerosene) fumes can be ingested when the engine starts.

Q: I was in downtown Phoenix near Sky Harbor Airport on several days recently. I noticed that sometime in the afternoon, planes switched from landing and taking off from west to east to east to west. Why do they do this switch? Is it difficult?

— Jim, Arizona

A: Usually a change in the active runway is caused

by the wind. Airplanes usually land and take off into the wind because they perform better with a head wind than a tail wind. There are some cases where flights over noise-sensitive areas are avoided at night.

The coordination required by air-traffic control can be extensive if there are numerous airplanes approaching the airport to land. Departing aircraft are directed to taxi to the new runway, making the departures easier to coordinate.

Q: I sometimes fly between Orlando and New Orleans. Sometimes the flight is a straight shot over the Gulf of Mexico, while sometimes it stays over land. What determines the route in a situation like this?

— Tom Holt, Orlando, Florida

A: Some airplanes are equipped with life jackets and rafts while others are not. That could be one rea-

son.

Q: Is there anything like speeding in air travel?

— Deo, Rwanda

A: There are speed limits below 10,000 feet and near airports.

Q: How and when is it determined if it is the captain or first officer who handles takeoff and landing?

— Dan Teach, Somerset, New Jersey

A: The captain has total authority overall, so he or she decides who will fly the leg. Usually they swap legs unless there is something special such as landing at a "captain only" airport.

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

Agents can help with travel insurance

2019 looks to be a big year for traveler's policies



On Travel
Christopher Elliott
USA TODAY

It's going to be a big year for travel insurance. *Really* big.

A survey by the travel insurance comparison site Squaresmouth predicts 24% more travelers will insure their international trips in 2019 than last year. Generali, the travel insurance company, says travelers spent an average of \$139 per trip on insurance in 2018, unchanged from the previous year.

So do you have your travel insurance picked out already?

"The right insurance policy will protect you from unexpected issues that may arise," says Justin Tysdal, travel insurance expert and CEO of Seven Corners. "Something as simple as twisting an ankle in a foreign country may not be covered by your medical insurance and could result in expensive medical bills."

To find the right policy, you have to know what kind of travel insurance is out there.

The rest — knowing where to shop and buy the policy — is easier. But whatever you do, don't skip the insurance. Not this year.

What kind is available?

Stand-alone travel insurance falls into two broad categories: the more common but restrictive "named perils" policies, and the less common but less restrictive "cancel for any reason" policies. Your credit card, auto insurance or medical insurance also may cover part of your trip, though not as comprehensively as travel insurance.

If you're considering travel insurance, you're probably looking at a named perils policy offered through an online comparison site such as Squaresmouth or TravelInsurance.com, or directly through an insurance company such as Generali or Allianz Travel Insurance.

But you also should consider the sec-



This is the year to consider a travel insurance policy, given all the global insecurities and the restrictive policies of travel companies. GETTY IMAGES

ond variety, "cancel for any reason." It costs more — about 40% more than a named perils policy. It could be money well spent, according to Rajeev Shrivastava, CEO of VisitorsCoverage.com, a travel insurance site. The policy will cover you no matter what happens, including circumstances that regular insurance won't cover, such as a civil disturbance or a mental health claim.

"Travelers who purchase 'cancel for any reason' coverage can cancel their upcoming plans and recoup from 50% to 75% of their prepaid expenses," he adds.

What travel insurance to buy

The next step is matching your coverage to your needs. For example, I'm on the road so often that I have an annual policy that covers my family and me. To be safe, I also have an annual MedjetHorizon membership for the whole gang, which covers medical evacuations. You

might not need as much coverage if you travel less.

Quincy Smith, a former English teacher who worked abroad, reads the travel insurance policy terms carefully.

"The main thing I consider, in addition to overall company reviews, is the medical coverage in relation to the average prices in the country where I am going," he says. "For example, \$15,000 worth of coverage might be adequate for Thailand, but I'd likely up it to \$50,000 or \$100,000 if I were going to Europe. The price difference of the policy isn't significant and it gives me peace of mind that I'll be fully covered in more expensive countries."

Then again, if you need to insure only one aspect of your trip, you might want to go a little smaller. Take your rental car: Your auto insurance or credit card might already cover you, or you can buy a stand-alone car rental policy through a site such as InsureMyRentalCar.com.

Where to buy it

Smith prefers to shop for his policies at InsureMyTrip.com, one of several travel insurance sites. You also can easily find and compare policies at VisitorsCoverage.com or GIG.com. A comparison site is a great place to start, but it's not the only place you can buy a policy.

Many travel companies, especially airlines and online travel agencies, will offer a policy when you book a trip. Experts say you should read that policy carefully before buying; some of them are "lite" versions of the policies sold through a travel insurance company, with significant restrictions. You might also consult your travel agent or insurance agent on which policies you should consider. That's particularly helpful when you're not sure what you need to cover. A qualified agent will help you sort through all of that.

Above all, make sure you consider insurance well before you leave. If you're considering a "cancel for any reason" policy, for example, you have 20 days from the time of your trip purchase to buy a policy.

After that, you may be stuck with a less comprehensive policy.

This is the year to consider a travel insurance policy, given all the global insecurities and the increasingly restrictive policies of travel companies.

"If you can't afford travel insurance," says Sheryl Hill, the founder of the travel nonprofit Depart Smart, "you can't afford to travel."

Do you need insurance?

Here's how to tell:

■ If you're spending a significant amount of money — more than \$5,000 — on the trip.

■ If you're taking a cruise or package tour. These companies are typically reluctant to offer refunds for components of the trip because of an illness.

■ If you're on Medicare and are traveling internationally. Medicare doesn't typically cover events outside of the country.

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

Digital hacks make your life easier



Tech Talk
Kim Komando

Remember shortcuts you could enact with a computer keyboard? Using a particular combination of CNTL, ALT and FN, you could quickly scroll through documents, open and close programs, and move elements around.

They still exist, of course. But nowadays, with so many tricks, niches and shortcuts, those special operations look downright quaint. Many operations are well-known, and most of them are tiny and frivolous.

Don't get me wrong. It's a lot of fun to find a treasure trove of classic arcade games on your Android device.

Some tricks remain obscure, and they can change your life. You might find yourself using one of these operations every day, but only if you realize it exists. To bring you up to speed, here are a few of my favorite tech tricks – what they're for, how to use them and the ways they'll change your experience.

1. Use your voice instead of typing

Since the dawn of computers, typing was the only way to get business done. Now, you give your fingers a break and dictate notes while you're walking, reply to messages while you're cooking, compose a literary masterpiece while you're in bed – the possibilities are endless.

You don't even have to download a separate app. Your iPhone or Android keyboard has a built-in voice-to-text feature. Just pull up your phone's keyboard, tap the mic icon and dictate away.

If your phone's built-in transcriber is too basic, you can get more features with such apps as Dragon Anywhere for iOS and Android, or TranscribeMe, also available for iOS and Android.

You can use Google's transcriber to dictate documents into Google Docs. Open a new document in Google Docs and enable Voice Typing from the Tools menu. Then start dictating. Voice Typ-

ing recognizes commands like "comma," "period" and "new paragraph."

2. Make routines using Amazon Alexa or Google Assistant

Ever wanted to automate a string of tasks with a single command? That's why Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa are equipped with "Routines."

For instance, you can say "Alexa, I'm home!" and Alexa can greet you, turn on your living room smart lights, read the daily news then play a specific music playlist.

Or you can say "Alexa, good night" and have her reply with "sweet dreams," then lock your doors, set your thermostat to a certain temperature, turn off all your lights and play white noise to lull you to sleep. You can configure scheduled routines and have your virtual assistant perform sets of actions throughout each day.

To create a routine in the Alexa app, go to the menu then tap Routines. Tap the + sign to start a new sequence. Select "When this happens" then choose your trigger. The trigger can be a phrase, a schedule or a motion sensor event. Next, select "Add action" to start building the routine. To wrap it up, select the device you want to trigger the routine from, then tap Create.

For Google Home Routines, tap "Menu" on the upper left corner of your Google Home app. Tap More Settings->>Routines.

Under "When," tap "Add commands," enter your trigger phrase then click OK. To add an action, tap "Add action" under "My Assistant should..." If you want to schedule a routine, tap "Set a time and day" under "When" instead.

3. Post on Instagram from a computer

Instagram has come a long way. The app originally was designed for casual snapshots, always cropped square, that mimicked the Instamatic cameras of decades past. They have long shed those strict parameters, but one thing



You easily can post on Instagram through your computer. FACEBOOK

remains challenging: posting to Instagram from a desktop or laptop.

One way is to first post a photo to another form of social media (such as Facebook or Twitter), then download the photo onto your phone or tablet and then post to Instagram.

But you can also do it directly, using Google Chrome. The process is a little convoluted, but it's the easiest way to get your high-quality DSLR or mirrorless images onto the platform.

1. Open Chrome.
2. Go to the Instagram website
3. Right-click anywhere on the page
4. Hit Inspect
5. When the new screen appears, hit the little "squares" in the upper-middle, just above all the coding

This should show you the same display you would see on your phone. You can pick which kind of display you'd prefer, including a range of iPhone, Galaxy, Nexus and other devices. You should see the same functions at the bottom, including the "Plus" sign, which will enable you to upload .jpg files from your desktop, or even take a photo.

4. Speed up podcasts

You can speed-read an ebook, and you can scrub through a video. But many podcast listeners don't realize they can speed up their listening – and because the recording is digital, you

don't lose much fidelity. You'll have to pay closer attention, but you can zip through a slow episode, or consume a long conversation, without missing a word.

When you listen to a podcast, there is a player at the bottom of the screen. You might have to swipe up to see it. On Apple's Podcast app, for example, there is a number in the lower-left corner. The default is 1x and this option lets you hear the podcast at normal speed.

Speed listeners can tap this button and change the playback speed to 1.1/2x or 2x. There's also the option for 1/2x playback speed.

5. Crop a screenshot on a Mac

Savvy Mac users have been pressing CMD+Shift+3 for years, which is the shortcut for a full screenshot. But if you want to cut out large sections of that image, either to hide certain parts of your desktop screen or because it's distracting from what you want to focus on, you can either edit it in an app like Photos or PicMonkey, or you can use this trick.

Hit CMD+Shift+4 and your cursor becomes a +. Click and drag to draw the portion of your screen that you want to capture. Voila! You can skip all the extra editing.

6. Share a YouTube video at a precise point

If you see something in a YouTube video that you want to share at a particular location, you can get a link that takes people directly to that moment.

Click the "Share" button below the video. Look for a checkbox below the link. It will automatically display the time at which you currently have the video stopped.

You can stick with this time or even choose a different time. Next, just copy the link and share it over your preferred social media service or email it to a friend. When someone views the link, the YouTube video will automatically skip right to the point you chose. Handy, huh?

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It's OK to break these rules when writing your resume

 Eric Titner
thejobnetwork.com

Those of us who have spent any amount of time in the job market have undoubtedly devoted a great deal of blood, sweat, and tears to getting our resumes just right. We know the prize that's at stake and the level of competition we're likely facing in pursuit of our dream job, so putting in the extra time and effort to getting things just right is time well spent, and a worthwhile investment in our professional futures. And nothing sinks your chances of getting hired quite so quickly and absolutely as a poorly crafted resume.

Every job seeker carries the weight of their resume as they mold and shape it in pursuit of perfection—and although the perfect resume may never be an attainable goal, that certainly doesn't stop us from trying. This includes carefully following all the well-worn rules of resume writing that we've convinced ourselves are set in unmovable stone. But the truth is, they aren't, at least not anymore. The rules for job hunting have certainly changed over the past several years, so doesn't it stand to reason that the rules for resume writing have changed as well?

Let's be honest—the merging of technology and culture have changed nearly every aspect of how we live our lives and continues to tear down all the old rules and ways of doing things, and job hunting and resume writing are no exceptions. Those who are best at keeping up with the breakneck pace of change, and resisting getting mired down in stodgy old rules, are best positioned for success. On top of this, a little strategic rule breaking—when applied effectively—can really help you stand out from the crowd and grab the attention of the



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gatekeepers who stand between you and your next job.

Hopefully by now we've convinced you that it's sometimes okay to occasionally break the old resume rules in pursuit of your next job. Let's take a closer look at some specific rules that are now ok to break.

1. No storytelling

We've all heard before that a resume isn't a venue for you to tell your life's story. Rather, it should primarily be a tool to tell potential employers what value you offer. Not anymore! Today's employers are interested in learning more about your personal brand—what makes you a unique individual as well as your specific value proposition. They want employees who'll fit well in their culture and support their mission to promote their unique brand, and they want to know what makes you tick and what motivates you.

Your resume could—and should—be a holistic document that chronicles your passions, pursuits, and key professional decisions as well as your work achievements. When writing your resume, don't shy away from telling your story—when weaved effectively into your professional journey, it'll help you stand out from other potential candidates and make you seem like much more than a boring, bulleted list of job responsibilities.

2. Quantify everything

The old rules of resume writing often dictated that if an achievement can't be mapped back to the bottom line numerically—we're talking about things like revenue, percentage growth, and numbers of new customers here—then it isn't something worth including on your resume. This is simply not true! Today's savvy employers can appreciate and recognize the value of contributions

that don't always translate immediately to a company's bottom line. Perhaps you came up with a helpful or intriguing new idea or work policy at your old job that you can't tie specific numbers to. That's okay. As long as it supports your personal brand and message and demonstrates your value as a potential employee, include it!

3. Keywords everywhere

Nothing puts hiring personnel to sleep faster than an endless pile of resumes that are all laden with the same overused keywords in an attempt to convince them that you're "in the know" when it comes to the industry. A resume that's nothing but keywords runs the risk of making you seem robotic and less like a human they'd like to work with. Sure, keywords are important and should be used strategically, but forcing them awkwardly into everything on your resume can make your document come off as boring and artificial. Don't be afraid to have a resume that shows that you're an actual person—and preferably one that they'd likely enjoy working with!

There you have it—a few of the old rules that you may want to consider leaving behind when crafting your resume. In the end, don't forget that at some point in the job-searching process an actual person is going to be tasked with reading and evaluating your resume, and they'll likely want to know what makes you—you as much as what you potentially offer their company's bottom line.

Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics. He currently lives in New York City.

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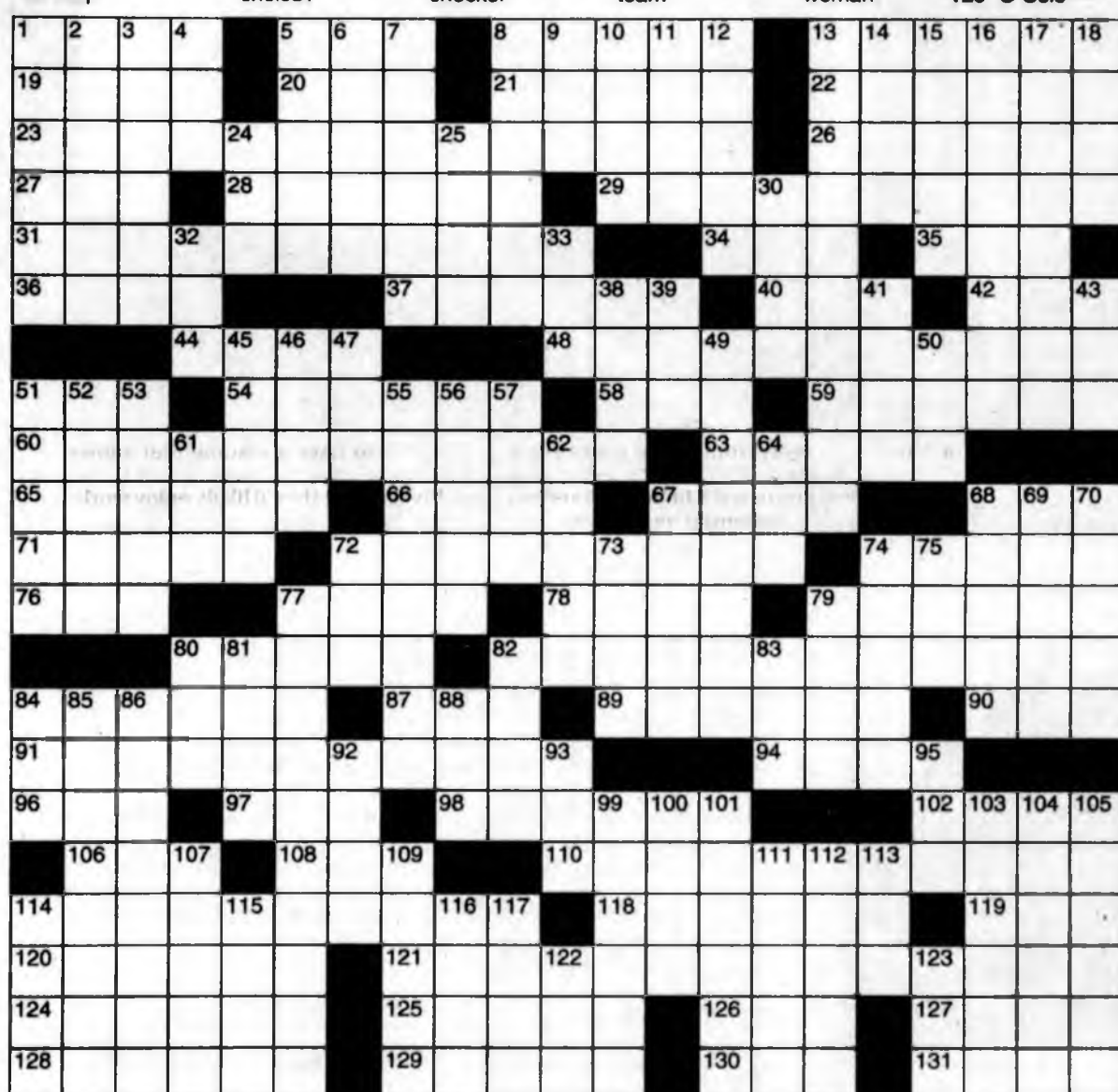
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2 Spa sponge
3 Infant sock
4 Shaker Lee
5 Loop of
lace
6 Smell
7 Obtained
8 Sci-fi zapper
9 Long time
10 Infant bed
11 Smell
12 French
legislature
13 Drivers'
places
14 Endangered
15 A little off
16 Declare
17 Makeup of a
frozen Arctic
cap
18 Early utopia
24 Before, to
Kipling
25 Warsaw
native
30 Involved with
32 Water spigot
33 Sea plea
38 Salt Lake City
team

ACROSS

39 "Tape" hour
41 Devilish
43 Forest home
45 List units
46 Luau favors
47 Mushroom
ends?
49 Made a
new outline
of
50 Miner's haul
51 Pined
52 Frothy
53 Singer Mel
55 Diamond
official at
home
56 Fife player's
drum
57 Blizzard
stuff
61 Crucial
62 Because of
64 Suffix with
absurd
67 See 114-
Down
68 The press,
TV, etc.
69 Serving
perfectly
70 Pie serving
72 Total
73 Brow curves
74 Established
the tempo
for
75 Pen filler
77 Product rep
79 Mention
80 Haloed Fr.
woman
81 Cards
dealt
82 Tulip's kin
83 Foot with
fur
84 "2001" studio
85 Not a copy
86 Sent a new
invoice to
88 Photo —
92 Baseball's
Matty
93 Top-row PC
key
95 Actor Elliott
99 Demands
100 Verse creator
101 Zig or zag
103 Cooing bird
104 Oodles
105 Sentence
structure
107 Stop on —
109 Cartoon
skunk Pepé
111 Duel swords
112 Notable acts
113 Bug in "A
Bug's Life"
114 With
67-Down, up
and no longer
sleepy
115 Baseballer
Slaughter
116 Not crazy
117 Location
122 Toon
Flanders
123 "O Sole —"



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

SUDOKU



Here's How It Works:

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

FUN NIGHT OUT WORD SEARCH

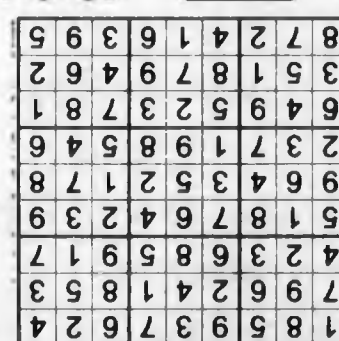
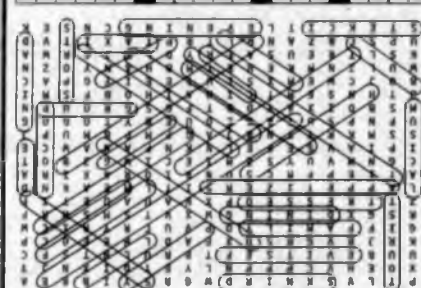
P T L V S K N I R D W G R S Y I B R E A
X O E H V C P P P N L Y E T D I X N J T
U U R E V I T S E F T P R U L N T S F C
K R J R V G R S D X F A D L H E E O C P
G I F F A M I L Y O P V U C R Y R I C W
R S G X D I N I N G W X V T S H S H R F
Z T T R E S S E D P X N A U A U E T I F
L A P P E T I Z E R S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

ANSWER KEY



WORDS

APPETIZERS
BABYSITTER
BILL
CHEERING
CITY
CLUB
DANCING
DATE
DESSERT
DINING
DOWNTOWN
DRINKS
ENJOYMENT
ENTERTAINMENT
EVENING
FAMILY
FESTIVE
FORMAL
FRIENDS
GAME
GROUP
HOSTESS
LAUGHING
MEAL
MUSIC
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GARAGE SALE & BERRKSHIRE
14 Mile between Lusher & Evergreen
SAT APR 13, 9AM-2PM. SUN entry \$2
SUN APR 14, 10AM-1PM
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FINDING WORK
SHOULDN'T BE WORK.

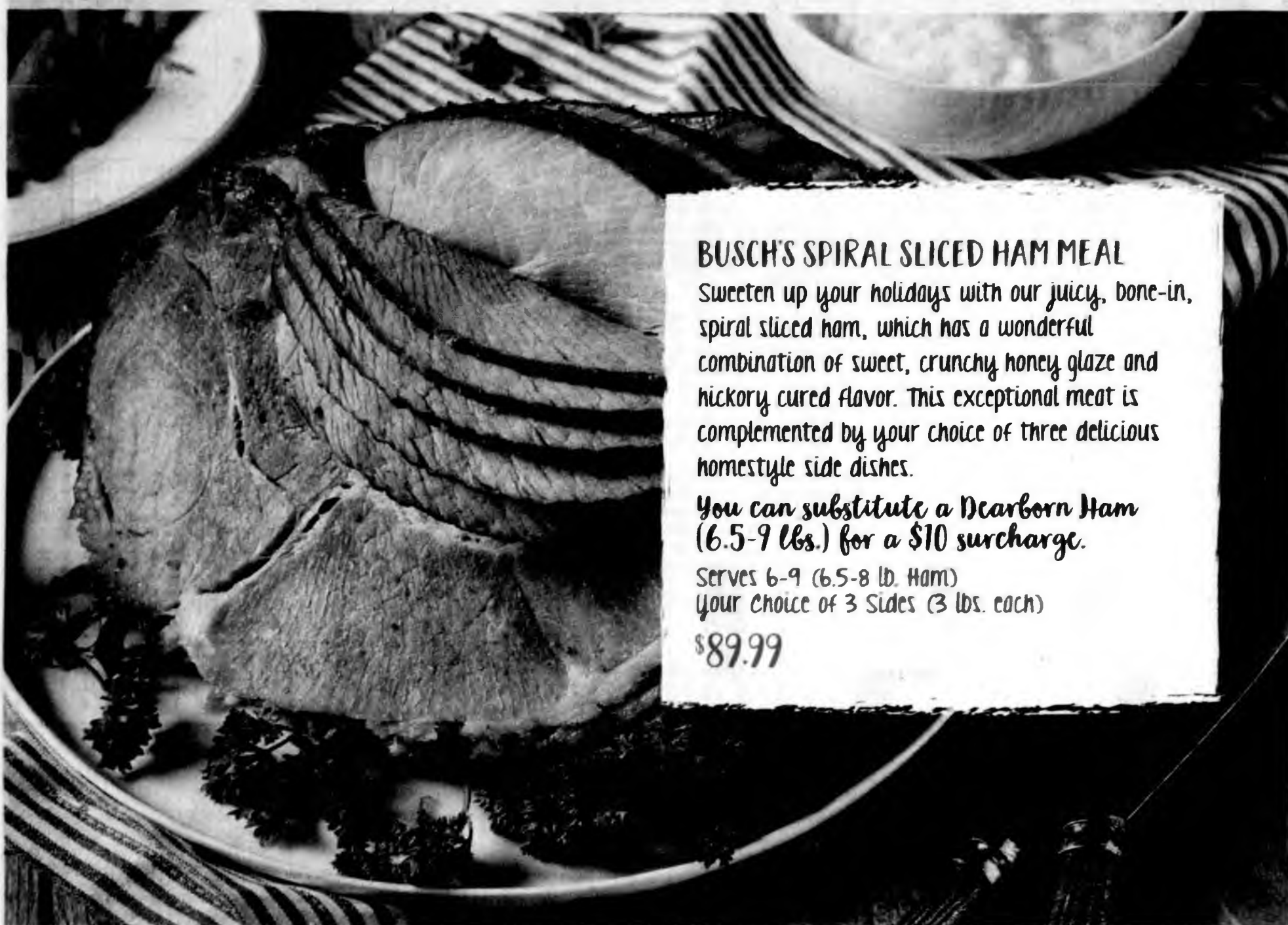
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HANDMADE

Easter Meals



BUSCH'S SPIRAL SLICED HAM MEAL

Sweeten up your holidays with our juicy, bone-in, spiral sliced ham, which has a wonderful combination of sweet, crunchy honey glaze and hickory cured flavor. This exceptional meat is complemented by your choice of three delicious homestyle side dishes.

You can substitute a Dearborn Ham (6.5-9 lbs.) for a \$10 surcharge.

Serves 6-9 (6.5-8 lb. Ham)
Your choice of 3 Sides (3 lbs. each)

\$89.99

Turkey + Ham meals come cooked and ready to heat, in oven-safe containers, with instructions provided.

HOMESTYLE SIDES:

- Mashed Potatoes
- Glazed Sweet Potatoes
- Cheesy Potatoes
- Roasted Red Skin Potatoes
- Baked Beans
- Seasoned Green Beans
- Red Skin Potato Salad
- Yukon Gold Potato Salad
- Creamy Macaroni Salad
- Rotini Delight Pasta Salad
- Apple Almond Stuffing
- Cranberry Orange Relish



BUSCH'S CLASSIC TURKEY MEAL

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Your choice of 3 Sides (3 lbs. each)

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Your choice of 3 Sides (1 lb. each)

\$34.99



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