

NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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ONLINE COUPONS



Residents wary Northville Downs site's future plans

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

"The Downs," a community-changing development planned for the current site of the Northville Downs race track, is one stride closer to acceptance — even though a steady stream of residents delivered a collective "Whoaaaa!" response toward the project during a mid-April planning commission meeting.

With a unanimous 9-0 vote, the Northville planning commissioners agreed that the developer — Hunter Pasteur Homes — has met the nine planned unit development (PUD) eligibility criteria, moving the project forward to the more-demanding preliminary site plan stage.

Northville Downs is scheduled to continue hosting racing at the site until at least 2020, its representatives emphasized when the property was sold in the spring of 2018.

Citing a projected increase in traffic, a general uptick in congestion and parking woes the development will bring to their historic town, Northvillians took advantage of the three-minute-per-person public-comment session to voice their displeasure — and in a few cases, acceptance — with the project.

"When did we become an urban area?" asked Northville resident Nancy Chiri. "The reason I ask this is because our city's master plan and our city's website say Northville is a small community with distinctive housing, tree-lined streets and a walkable community, yet all I've heard tonight is 'urban setting, urban setting!'"

Along with potential problems she envisions with the developer's commitment to day-lighting the Rouge River near the race track, Chiri expressed concerns about requiring the maintenance of two proposed linear parks on the property to a homeowners' association and the traffic nightmares the expected increase in population it will create.

"There are a lot of ifs, later and maybes ... in the developer's letter (to Northville residents)," she said. "This could be a dangerous thing if we agree to a proposal that has so many questions."

Resident Carl Giroux echoed the sentiments of other public commenters when he expressed concern that "The Downs" project may alter the city's

See RACE TRACK, Page 2A



Novi residents packed a Planning Commission meeting on April 17, many of them speaking against a movie theater project that the commissioners ultimately approved. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWN LIFE

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New Onyx Plaza movie theater coming

Neighbors unhappy city planning commission approved plans

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coming soon: Hollywood and Bollywood movies at a new theater in Novi.

The city planning commission unanimously approved a preliminary site plan for Onyx Plaza, which will feature a 9-screen theater, Indian restaurant, and retail shops on the west side of Novi Road, just north of 10 Mile Road.

About 50 people spoke at the packed meeting regarding the project, with the overwhelming majority opposed to the theater, citing concerns about traffic, crime and noise.

See THEATER, Page 2A



Novi Planning Commissioners approved at their April 17 meeting a preliminary site plan for a 9-screen movie theater and retail development at 10 Mile and Novi roads. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWN LIFE

Albino deer spotted at Kensington Metropark

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The warmer weather has brought out a familiar face. A rare albino deer born in Kensington Metropark several years ago was spotted Wednesday afternoon by Russell Rheaume a 74-year-old man Brighton Township man.

"She should get a ticket though, she was jaywalking," Rheaume joked. "Should have crossed at the sign down the road."

Rheaume said he regularly drives through the park to get to his house by the General Motors' Milford Proving Ground but hadn't seen the deer before.

"I'm always looking," Rheaume said.

Rheaume was trying to get his phone out to take a photograph when the deer started to run, but managed to capture an image.

There is no official number of albino deer recorded, according to Ashley Autenrieth, a biologist for the

Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"They are rare enough that we don't have a figure. That's how rare they are," she said.

Autenrieth said there are three types of albinism in animals — albino, all-white and piebald.

Albino is lack of pigmentation, she said, while all-white means the fur is all white. Piebald occurs when there are spots of brown on the animal.

"Michigan isn't the only state to have albino deer, it happens everywhere," Autenrieth said. "It's just a matter of the gene expressing."

The albino gene is recessive, she said, so there are animals that may carry the gene without it expressing.

She said animals with albinism often have other characteristics such as poor eyesight and shorter legs. They are more vulnerable to the predators as their white coats don't provide camouflage.

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



Russell Rheaume captured this photo of an albino deer Wednesday, April 17, 2019, in Kensington Metroparks. COURTESY OF RUSSELL RHEAUME

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Race track

Continued from Page 1A

small-town character.

"For the past 150 years, Northville has had a historic reputation as one of southeastern Michigan's most desirable places to live," Giroux said. "People love its Victorian architecture, small-town charm. It's our responsibility to preserve that heritage and not degrade it."

The significant uptick in population will create a difficult drain on city services, including the potential need to build a new school, Lenore Lewandowski said.

"One thing that makes Northville special to me is that when you call the police and say, there's a car parked outside my house, running, with its lights on, a few minutes later you'll get a call and they'll tell you everything is OK," she said. "Is this still going to be the case when our population grows by 15-20%."

"The increased traffic isn't harmonious with the welfare and safety of the city. You're talking about at least 1,000 more cars for the new residents as well as the cars that will be visiting the businesses. There will be a negative envi-

ronmental impact from the pollution the vehicles create."

'Change is coming'

Hunter Pasteur Homes attorney Robert Carson attempted to assure the development's skeptics that his client was doing everything in its power to make the transition from the race track to The Downs as smooth as possible.

"We understand this is important to everyone in this room," Carson said. "We want to respect the traditions and welcome the future. After tonight's approval of eligibility, we have a lot of work to do, a lot of detail hurdles to cross ... in each aspect of the development."

"We are trying to make this as painless as possible. We know change is difficult and change in the neighborhood of people's homes is particularly difficult. They're concerned and they should be concerned. But change is coming. That race track is not going to be there forever and this is an opportunity to develop it in a positive way."

The third and final hurdle the developer must clear in the thorough process is the final site plan requirement, which must be approved by the planning commission and the city commis-

"Once eligibility is determined, it does not set the process in stone," cautioned Northville City Planner Sally Elmiger. "There are still a lot of opportunities for the plans to be modified after the developer meets the eligibility criteria."

Elmiger explained that the PUD process gives the developer flexibility to deviate from the property's strict zoning ordinances in exchange for providing public benefits.

"If the developer decided to not go through the PUD process, there would be no public benefit required," Elmiger said. "So, by following through with this process, the City of Northville is gaining public benefit in exchange for some flexibility in the zoning requirements."

Positive public comments related to the potential development included one resident who said the value of her home, which borders the race track, would increase if her property bordered residential properties, and the developer's plan to move the farmer's market site to the north end of the property with assurances that its space would be more than sufficient with parking.

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

Theater

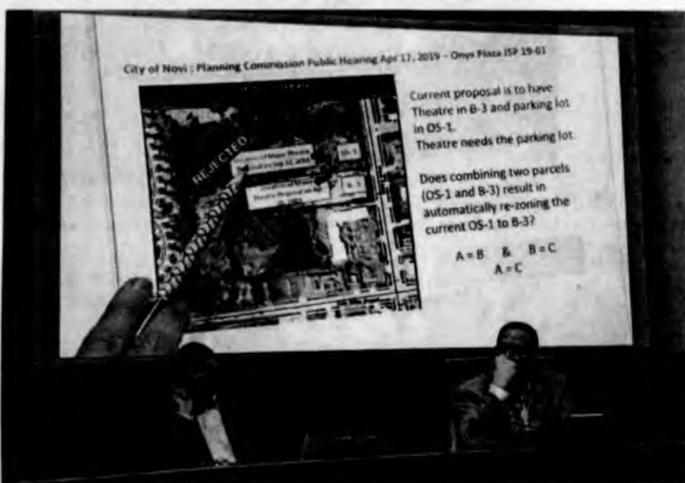
Continued from Page 1A

"Imagine traffic coming out of the movie theater and exacerbating long, terrible waits on Novi Road," said Jennifer Harvey, a city resident and recently retired Novi High School teacher, who added she had seen several students involved in accidents on that road. "We will definitely see an increase in crime and noise... I urge you to resist this, we don't need another theater, it is illogical and totally and absolutely wrong for Novi."

Some residents noted they had already objected to the project last September, when Potluri Estates and DICE Holdings initially sought approval but were rejected due to a request to rezone the entire development area, putting the movie theater and retail on the north side of the property, closer to residential areas including Churchill Crossing and Emerson Park.

"I object to the noise in late nights and lights during late nights," Supraja Morasa, a nearby resident, said. "For safety, an entertainment center belongs north of Grand River. South of Grand River is residential and not an appropriate place for a movie theater."

The property consists of two parcels zoned general business and office service, with a total development area of 14.29 acres. In seeking approval from the planning commission this time, the applicant submitted a site plan with a 34,173-square-foot theater with 709



A plan for the Onyx Plaza movie theater was rejected by the Novi Planning Commission in September, but on April 17, a new preliminary site plan was approved. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWN LIFE

seats, and attached 18,178-square-foot retail building, both within the B-3 zoned area of the property, which allows for such uses.

Parking for the development will be in the section of the parcel zoned office service, also permitted. The new plan effectively flip-flopped the prior one and commissioners noted that despite an estimated 200 letters they had received in opposition to the project, and the vocal objections at Wednesday's meeting, the plan could not be denied.

"We don't make a judgment based on anything other than facts and zoning," Planning Chairman Mark Pehrson said. "This petitioner came forward, did their homework and found that theaters are permissible."

Pehrson acknowledged that "no one likes it in their back yard," but added that the planning commission could assist in modifying plans to try to address concerns of citizens, including ones about traffic, crime, noise and lighting.

Commissioner John Avdoulos said only 8 of the 14 acres of the site were being developed under the plan, leaving the rest of the land a preserve and sensitive to the neighbors.

"The developer has followed the rules, this is not a place for us to make a decision," Commissioner Patrick Hornung said. "We have to move along here and this vote is going to break my heart." The commission then voted unani-

mously on several motions to move the project forward.

Matt Quinn, a Novi attorney representing Potluri Estates, LLC and Dice Holdings Corporation, said his clients began working together on the planned development well over a year ago.

After final permits are obtained, he expects construction and clearing of the land to begin, likely late this year. The project calls for demolition of the existing Detroit Indian Center currently on the site, a 50-year-old cultural building he called an eyesore.

He and his clients are excited for the Onyx Plaza, and he said the theater, which will be called Mirage Cinema, will be unique, with little interaction with the roughly 10 employees expected to be staffing the building. Tickets will be sold online or in a front kiosk on site, with bar codes to let moviegoers into their respective screening room. Concessions including popcorn, candy and beverages will be obtained from "grab and go" vending machines.

"It will be a very modernistic theater," Quinn said. "Walk in and get what you want and move to reserved seats, plush and cushiony."

Showing on the screen will be a mix of films, about 80% from Hollywood, and the remainder will be foreign language movies, primarily Indian.

He stressed that everyone is welcome.

Quinn doesn't believe traffic will be a problem and said the city will make improvements in the future to Novi Road, as well as the intersection at 10 Mile. Moviegoers aren't expected during rush hour traffic and added his clients wanted a movie theater in Novi that wasn't in "a large, congested mall area" and would be easier to get to.

He expects the \$6.5 million theater, restaurant and retail project to be completed by next summer.

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

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CITY OF NOVI
ORDINANCE NO. 19-97.04**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, AT CHAPTER 4, "AMUSEMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS," ARTICLE III, "PINBALL ARCADES AND MACHINES", IN ORDER TO REPEAL THE REGULATIONS AND PROVISIONS THEREIN IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, April 15, 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.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Publish: April 25, 2019 LO-00000002 3x3

**NOTICE OF ELECTION
CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN
MAY 7, 2019 ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the City of Novi:
Notice is hereby given that a special election will be held in the City of Novi on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Precinct 8 - Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29200 Meadowbrook Road
Precincts 9 & 11 - Crosspointe Meadows Church, 29000 Meadowbrook Road
Precinct 10 - Fox Run, 41000 Thirteen Mile Road
Precinct 12 - Hickory Woods Elementary School, 30655 Novi Road

For the purposes of voting on the School Improvement Bond Proposition for the Walled Lake Consolidated School District as follows:
WALLED LAKE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$316,000,000

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the City of Novi Clerk's Office located at 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375. Sample ballots can also be found at www.mi.gov/vote.
Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the City of Novi Clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the township clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Cortney Hanson, CMC, CMMC
City Clerk, City of Novi
(248) 347-0456
cityofnovi.org

Publish: April 25, 2019 LO-00000008 3x3

**CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2019-2020 BUDGET**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED CITY 2019-2020 BUDGET** at the Regular Meeting of Council to be held on **MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019**. Said hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Novi Civic Center Council Chamber, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan.

Interested citizens may appear and present written and/or verbal comments on the proposed budget.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will also be a subject of this hearing.

A copy of the proposed 2019-2020 budget is currently available at the Novi Civic Center, Office of the City Clerk for public inspection, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan and on the website www.cityofnovi.org.

Cortney Hanson, CMC, CMMC
City Clerk

Publish: April 25, 2019 LO-00000004 3x3

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 28, 2019 7:00 PM**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on May 28, 2019 at the Northville Township Municipal Offices, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan 48168. The Planning Commission will consider a conditional rezoning request from B-1 (Local Business) to B-3 (General Business) for property located on Haggerty, north of 5 Mile (PIN 77 052 99 0025 702) to develop an automated car wash facility.

The public is invited to attend this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. Plans will be available for viewing at the Township between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received by the Northville Township Planning Commission at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168.

Tim Zawodny, Chair
Planning Commission

Publish: April 25, 2019 LO-00000012 3x3

Smokey Bear gets upgrade for 75th

New voices, digital savvy added for icon's anniversary

Frank Witsil Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Smokey Bear — a pop culture icon better known by some baby boomers as Smokey the Bear — is going digital in a big way for his 75th birthday in an effort to reach younger Americans with messages that go beyond "only you can prevent forest fires."

Now, in addition to being a burly, shirtless upright bear in a ranger hat, Smokey is an animated emoji that celebrities — including Stephen Colbert, Jeff Foxworthy, and Al Roker — are speaking through.

In many ways, the months-long ad campaign is a Smokey Bear reboot as the public faces concerns about raging West Coast wildfires, the consequences of global climate change and how to best conserve public land.

"Ensuring an icon like Smokey remains fresh and relevant for today's audiences is no simple task," Lisa Sherman, CEO of the Ad Council, said earlier this month, adding that the new campaign honors Smokey's past and "celebrates his enduring legacy."

Smokey's message of personal responsibility, that "only you" can do something to protect the nation's natural resources has long resonated with Michiganders. After all, the state's Latin motto, *Tuebor*, means "I will defend."

Moreover, as every third-grader studying Michigan history knows, the state once produced more lumber than any other and even has its own tragic American Indian legend about bears that tried to swim to Michigan to try to escape a terrible forest fire.

The new public service ads turn old, concise Smokey — who, with 74-year-old actor Sam Elliott's voice, sounds like grandpa — into a not-quite-as-old, chatty, animated-emoji Smokey — one each by Colbert, 54; Foxworthy, 60; and Roker, 64 — who sounds more like dad.

If there's any doubt, the celebs in the spots tell some eye-rolling dad jokes.

"Hi, I'm your host Smokey Col-'bear,' filling in for Smokey," begins the Smokey emoji ad voiced by the late-night TV host. "Because after 75 years of 'Only you can prevent wildfires,' it turns out there's much more to say. ..."

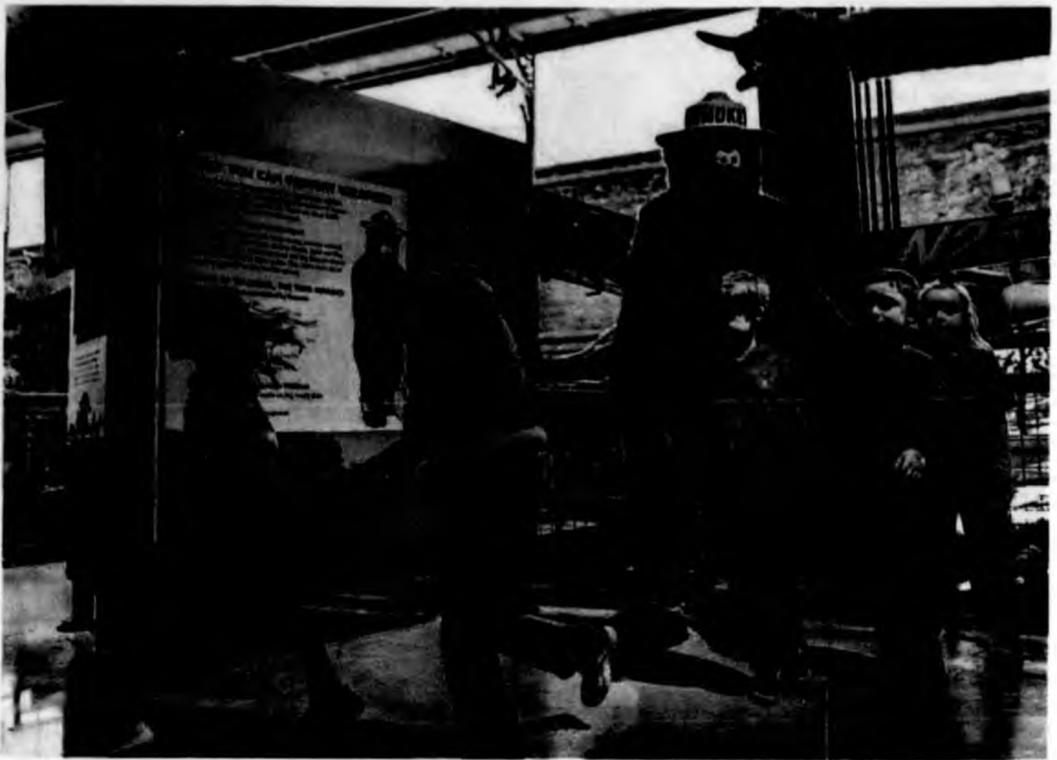
Smokey's catchphrase

Smokey Bear was created by artist Albert Staehle, who drew a bear pouring a bucket of water on a campfire in 1944. One account claims the bear was named after Joe (Smokey) Martin, a New York City Fire Department assistant chief.

Originally, Smokey's catchphrase was "Smokey Says — Care Will Prevent 9 out of 10 Forest Fires." In 1947, the phrase became "Remember... Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires." In 2001, it was updated to "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires."

The concept for the original poster came out of concerns during World War II that enemy munitions might spark a forest fire on the West Coast and citizens needed to be on guard to prevent these potential disasters.

The campaign was so successful that to prevent Smokey's image from being exploited by commercial enterprises, it was protected by federal law. The bear's likeness is now administered by the USDA Forest Service, the National Association



Children stop to take a photo with Smokey Bear at the Michigan Outdoor Center in Detroit on Thursday. KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/DFP



For Smokey Bear's 75th birthday, a new digital ad campaign aims to reach younger Americans. AD COUNCIL

of State Foresters and the Ad Council.

There is a 17-page guidebook outlining what Smokey can — and can't — do.

For instance: Only state forestry agencies and the U.S. Forest Service can own Smokey Bear costumes. Costumes must be ordered from an authorized manufacturer and only Smokey may ever endorse products.

Smokey also must maintain the same look: His eyes are always dark brown, his jeans are always blue and his belt buckle is always gold. And, if there is any confusion, he uses a round-point shovel, not a flat shovel or scoop shovel.

When in costume, the guidebook says, the bear should "never force itself on anyone" and not "walk rapidly toward small children." The costume must be protected from vandalism, theft, and, be properly disposed of by — get this — burning it.

The real-life bear

Over the years, Smokey has appeared in a Walt Disney short film, as a balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and in a popular song, "The Ballad of Smokey the Bear," which is why some people still refer to him as Smokey the Bear.

But the most popular Smokey incarnation was as a real bear.

It was an American black bear cub that was rescued in 1950 from a 17,000-acre forest fire in Lincoln National Forest in south-central New Mexico. The bear climbed a tree to escape the flames, but his paws and legs got singed.

They first called him Hotfoot Teddy, but later renamed him Smokey Bear.

So many were curious about the cute bear that he was taken to the National Zoo in Washington D.C. to live. When he arrived, he was met by hundreds of spectators, including Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, according to Smithsonian Institution archives.

After that, came thousands of letters to the bear.

So many letters were sent that the post office gave Smokey Bear his own ZIP code, 20252.

Over time, Smokey got old. He died at the zoo in 1976. His death was memorialized in newspaper obituaries, and his remains were taken back to his home in New Mexico for burial.

In 1979, the area where he was buried was turned into Smokey Bear Historical Park.

What would Smokey say?

In Michigan, Smokey has been honored in a variety of ways, including grade-school poster contests, costumed visits to state campgrounds and years of Aug. 9 birthday celebrations. More than 500 Smokey events are planned this year.

"He's one of the favorites," said Paul

Rogers, a wildfire prevention specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in Lansing. "From the little ones to the ones in their 70s and 80s, they absolutely adore him."

Rogers has donned a Smokey costume hundreds of times for events and photos, adding that part of Smokey's appeal is that he is brawny and stern, yet, at the same time, he is a familiar, friendly figure who reminds folks of their teddy bear.

At the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit there's a 6-foot Smokey Bear on display, and young school children visiting the center daily love to give Smokey big bear hugs.

Smokey's message also is vital in a state with wildfire tragedies.

So far this year, there have been 24 reported wildfires in Michigan each year, according to the state DNR. Last year, there were 301. But, that's still far less than the 4,690 fires in 1930, one of the worst years in state history.

One heartbreaking American Indian legend says that long ago, three bears tried to escape a massive blaze in Wisconsin by swimming across Lake Michigan. But, the two cubs drowned a few miles from shore. Their mother, however, never gave up on them.

To honor the cubs, the Great Spirit created two islands, North and South Manitou, and buried the mama bear keeping watch for her babies under the sands of the northern Michigan dunes.

This legend gave the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore — now a popular vacation destination and protected national park in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula near Traverse City — its name.

Smokey, of course, would just add this to the sad story: "Only you can prevent wildfires."

Contact Frank Witsil: 313-222-5022 or fwitsil@freepress.com.

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HVS district seeks \$182M bond with no tax increase

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Huron Valley Schools officials plan to ask voters to approve a no-tax increase \$182 million bond and sinking fund renewal this November.

Informing voters about how fund will be used and a campaign to seek their input has begun.

On April 16, the Building Futures Committee hosted its first community engagement session, during which a presentation by district officials and representatives from TMP Architecture outlined how bond funds would be used if approved.

The district has a lengthy list of needs, but they fall under what Superintendent Paul Salah calls the three pillars: improvements to infrastructure; safety and security; and academics, arts and athletics.

"The last bond we passed for infrastructure and security was 2001," Salah said. "When you think about the work you do on a home, at the 20-year mark, things start to fail. As a school district, we have 1,694,000 square feet of school buildings, not including parking lots, athletic facilities, bleachers, and other outdoor facilities."

The district, which serves 9,000 students in five townships with an \$88.7 million operating budget, has 17 buildings and associated properties in need of repairs and updates, including roofs, plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning systems, and more. These infrastructure needs are expected to cost at least \$80 million.

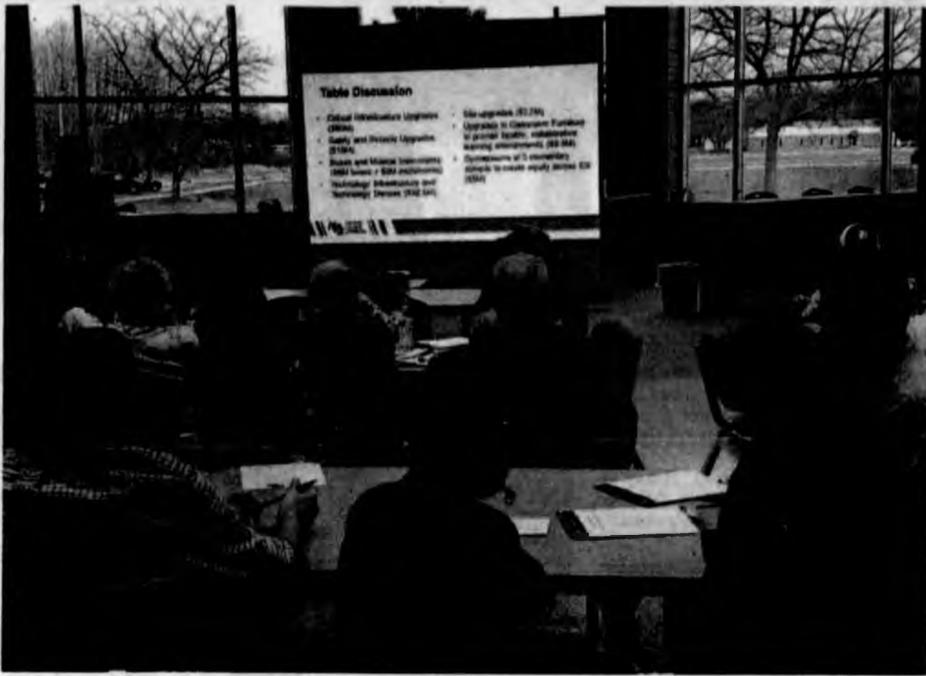
Safety and security of buildings is also a concern. Bond funds would be used to reconfigure entry points in buildings, moving a front office to a clearly marked front access to Milford High School, for example.

"Ideally, there will be a vestibule area large enough to have visitors come in, and from vestibule, they would immediately go to the office to present credentials, and then can gain access to buildings," John Castellana of TMP Architecture, said. "All the buildings now, they can come in and don't have to go to office area. That is how they were designed before the issues we have now... And the beauty is they can fund this without a tax increase."

The proposal's selling point is a zero tax increase, funded instead by the extension of the bond levy by seven years, to 2034, said Geoffrey VanGoethem, executive director of business and operations for the district. The \$182 million bond that the district seeks is less than the estimated \$300 million in needs that have been identified, but was agreed upon based on taxable property values in the district and not increasing taxes.

A sinking fund that has collected \$2.1 million for the district over the past decade will also expire this summer and the district hopes voters will also approve a 10-year renewal this fall.

"The goal is to develop a long range master plan and what we need for up to 20 years out," Salah said. "We



Huron Valley School District residents discuss a no-tax increase \$185M bond proposal for school improvements during a forum at Milford High School on April 16. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWN LIFE

want to get in the cycle of not asking for a tax increase, just maintaining."

Other needs that would be met for the district through the bond include providing technology upgrades, including grade-appropriate devices for all students and a yearly purchasing model for sustainability; upgrades to classroom furniture and spaces; media center, early childhood center, and STEAM improvements and/or additions. Art and music rooms would be added at multiple buildings, including theater improvements at both Milford and Lakeland high schools.

Athletic upgrades would include bleachers, concessions, and restrooms and the addition of shelter areas.

Jenni Cohen, a mother of two Lakeland High students, said she is excited about the bond proposal and will support it as she believes it is very much needed, particularly to improve school security so kids aren't worried about potential shooting threats. She also cited the need for improved water quality, saying the drinking fountains have been shut down at times.

"When you visit the schools, you can see ceiling tiles falling apart and the lack of good lighting," Cohen said. "My kids play sports and I like the idea of equity

at Lakeland and Milford. I supported (a previous bond proposal) last time and it was voted down. This one is not a tax increase."

Bill and Susan Anderson, Highland residents in the district who do not have children, also attended the forum. They said they were feeling positive about what had been presented.

"You have to realize the infrastructure and facilities are in need of upgrades that the operating fund doesn't cover," Bill Anderson said. "They did a better job this time than when they came for an increase several years ago... I can go along now."

Susan Anderson agreed.

"We never had kids, but we understand the value of education," she said. "We don't want our district to look like the poor relative just because we don't get the same (state per-pupil foundation allowance) as Bloomfield Hills."

Phone and online surveys will be conducted about the proposal over the next few weeks before the Building Futures Committee makes a final recommendation to the board of education at their May 20 meeting.

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

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Parkland father talks gun violence

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Author, attorney and reserve police officer Jeff Kasky was working at his home office when texts started coming over his phone.

It was Valentine's Day 2018, and his son, Cameron, wanted to know if his dad knew what was happening at his school, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Kasky would turn on his television and watch horrified as he saw an aerial view of the school where a gunman with an AR-15 semi-automatic weapon killed 17, committing one of the most tragic school shootings in U.S. history.

"There's no good reason ever to turn on the TV and see an aerial view of the school that your kids go to," Kasky lamented to about 60 people gathered Monday at the Farmington Community Library in Farmington Hills.

A social advocacy and grassroots volunteer organization — National Council of Jewish Women, Michigan — hosted the presentation on gun violence prevention.

Kasky and Linda Brundage, executive director of the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, led the discussion intended to promote awareness of red flag laws.

Already approved in other states, these laws call for extreme risk protection orders that would remove guns from people deemed at risk of endangering themselves and others.

State Rep. Robert Wittenberg, D-Huntington Woods, is backing a red flag bill in Michigan. He was among those in the audience.

Kasky, Brundage, and Wittenberg urged audience members to volunteer, donate money, write their legislators and do anything they can to get a red flag law enacted in Michigan.

To Kasky, a gun owner who likes to spend time at the shooting range, it's unrealistic to try to end gun violence in the face of the Second Amendment's right to keep and bear arms.

"As long as there are guns, there's going to be gun violence. That's how human beings are built," he said. "Mitigating gun violence is very doable. Keeping guns out of the wrong hands is a way to



Florida author, attorney and reserve police officer Jeff Kasky spoke about gun violence Monday, April 15, at the Farmington Community Library. Two of his sons survived the Parkland school shootings. By his side is Linda Brundage, executive director of the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. SUSAN VELA | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

mitigate gun violence. Why would the NRA (National Rifle Association) oppose laws that keep the guns out of the hands of the mentally ill or the convicted violent?"

Brundage called upon audience members to remember the toll of gun violence, which she called a public health issue, not a Second Amendment issue. Brundage said her research shows gun violence costs the American economy at least \$229 billion dollars every year, which is a steeper price tag than the one tied to obesity.

"If we want to put an end to this senseless tragedy, we must stand up to ignorance and hate," she said. "We also must stand up to the gun industry and the NRA. That means also standing up to our gun-pushing legislators.

"Your voices matter. Your votes matter. Let's disarm hate together."

The Michigan Coalition to Prevent

Gun Violence co-sponsored a survey that indicated most Michigan respondents would support extreme risk protection orders.

On Monday, audience members were able to ask questions. They were curious, wanting to know more about the orders that are synonymous with red flag laws.

"Every term, I've introduced this legislation," Wittenberg said. "If someone is a threat to themselves or somebody else, we need some kind of recourse ... to be able to temporarily seize their weapons. Currently, the way things work, until you commit a crime, they cannot take your weapons away from you."

Representatives from Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America were in the audience. Some distinguished themselves by wearing red T-shirts bearing the group's name.

Sydney Stearns, a Bloomfield Hills

High School senior, agreed that mitigating gun violence is important. She also agreed with Kasky that the Second Amendment keeps gun debates from being resolved.

"But there are so many steps that can be taken and aren't being (taken)," she said.

Mike and Janice Rolnick, of Farmington Hills, attended because they worry about their grandchildren.

"I have the right to have safe grandchildren," Mike Rolnick said. "This means a lot to me personally as well as for all the other children in the community. It's gone too far. Our legislature has to start to take action.

"That's the one thing I would like to see in the state of Michigan — that we all get behind the red flag laws."

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

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Four events worth checking out this weekend

David Veselenak
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Have you got your spring cleaning done yet? If not, it can wait another week, right?

That's because there's plenty to clean this weekend as we continuously look toward summertime. If you're looking for something to do this weekend, check out one of these three events happening across the Hometown Life communities.

VegFest in Novi

Come learn the ways of a healthy lifestyle at the Suburban Collection Showplace this Saturday.

VegFest, now in Novi after previously taking place at Madonna University in Livonia, takes place beginning at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the expo center, located at 46100 Grand River. Celebrating its 20th year, the event celebrates all things plant-based with plenty of samples to try.

Celebrity actress Alicia Silverstone will be attendance, presenting in one auditorium. There will also be more than 100 exhibitors to interact with during the festival, including activities for kids, virtual reality and a wide-ranging food court.

Tickets for the event are \$12.50 if purchased online before the event and \$17 at the door. Children five and under are free. More information can be found at vegmichigan.org.

Downtown cleanup event in Wayne

Make Michigan Avenue a cleaner place this weekend by pitching in in downtown Wayne.

Wayne Main Street will host its 4th annual clean-up of downtown Wayne from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. More than 200 volunteers came out last year to help beautify the downtown area, a similar number organizers hope to see this year.

Those interested in helping can register online at downtownwayne.org or



Families from all over Metro Detroit and Canada attended events at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak in this file photo. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Downtown Wayne. FILE PHOTO

can register the day of the event in the parking lot of the 29th District Court at 34808 Sims St. Those who pre-register will receive a free event T-shirt.

More information on the cleanup can be found at downtownwayne.org.

Greenfest at the Detroit Zoo

Celebrate all things green this weekend at the Detroit Zoo.

The zoo, located at 8450 W. 10 Mile in Royal Oak, will hold its annual observance of Arbor Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It'll consist of talks and demonstrations done by the zoo's Green Team, as well as showcase citizen science projects and exhibits by local conservation groups.

The event is free with zoo admission. For more information, visit the zoo's website at detroitzoo.org.

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



Actresses in the Into the Woods Cinderella musical - Kaitlyn Steele, Lucy Koukoudian and Jill Harrington - ham it up during a photo shoot for the upcoming production of Novi High. The school will put on the musical from April 25-27. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Cast and crew of Novi High's Into the Woods work on blocking their scenes on April 11.

Novi High set to perform musical 'Into the Woods'

John Heider
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi High School students are gearing up for their spring theater presentation "Into the Woods."

They'll be performing the four-plays-in-one musical at the school's Fuerst Auditorium from 7 p.m., April 25-27. The students have been working in recent weeks to learn lines, figure out stage blocking and create sets and backdrops for the play.

Overseen by Novi High teacher and theater director Heather McKaig, the musical features a student-led group of assistant directors and stage managers.

McKaig explains the musical's outline: "Into the Woods is rather like two shows in one. The first act follows the stories of Rapunzel, Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk and Little Red Riding Hood from beginning to the end of the Grimm Fairy Tales. In the second act, the authors take us on a trip of what might have happened after 'happily ever after.'"

McKaig continues: "The students involved in the production are working hard to create a world in which magic is real and anything can happen. The fun part of a musical is that there are so many disparate components and we, directors and students, get to work together to create a cohesive piece of art."

Novi High student-actors weigh in on what they musical has meant to them as they begin to form in on stage. Anthony Martin, the Baker, said: "This was a dream role for me and it is a lot of fun to portray a character that goes through such emotional strife and develops as a person throughout the story."



Stage Manager Hayden Gargullo watches her cast as they rehearse for Into the Woods.



Novi High student Lily Stroup works on coloring some scenery for the school's Into the Woods production.

Jill Vaishnav, playing the role of the Baker's Wife said: "It's been a really gratifying experience playing a role that I didn't think I would get initially and playing alongside one of my best friends. It's helped me grow as an actor and deepened my love for musical theatre."

So if you're interested in a tradition Grimm fairy tale with a twist, as they're performed as a series of interlocking musicals, check out the Novi High production of Into the Woods. Tickets for the performances can be purchased online at novihs.seatyourself.biz, or on the day of the performance at the high school auditorium.



Crew from Novi High's upcoming production of Into the Woods work on creating scenery on April 11.

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Northville man creates bourbon

Passion for distilling began in his garage

Ed Wright | HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

As he uncorked a bottle of the first batch of his Luca Mariano bourbon one afternoon last week, Northville's Francesco S. Viola was unwrapping a family treasure that was more than five years in the making.

From the distinctive, eye-catching label adorning the uniquely-shaped bottle to the down-to-the-smallest-detail ingredients in the spirits inside, the newest addition to the world's bourbon market had Viola's vision and signature written all over it.

"I take pride in everything I do," Viola said, sitting in a sun-soaked chair inside the bar section of Plymouth's Cantoro Italian Market. "I could have had this batch of bourbon distilled in a shorter time than I did, and I could have distilled it in Michigan.

"But I want it to be the best, so I took it down to Danville, Kentucky, which is the only place in the world where first-class bourbon can be distilled."

Modest beginnings

Viola's passion for distilling spirits started in, of all places, the garage of his Northville home.

In 2010, using an old-school still inherited from his grandfather, the son of Italian-born parents tweaked and tested recipes — unaware that his hobby was against the law.

"One afternoon I got my smoker out and we had some neighbors over for a meal," Viola recalled. "Well, I had them take some shots off the still. One of my neighbors tells me, 'You know this is illegal, right?'"

"Being a first-generation Italian-American, I had no idea I was doing anything wrong. Honestly, I didn't believe him.

"The next day, I called my lawyer and asked him to look it up. He said, 'I don't even have to look it up. What you're doing is illegal.' I said, 'What are you talking about? You can make beer and wine in your home, but not distilled spirits?'"

Hooked by his distilling hobby, Viola acted immediately to get on the right side of the law. He endured the tedious task of obtaining a distilling license and continued to experiment with bourbon recipes.

"My grandfather's still had two big pots, like ones used to cook tomato sauce, with a lid on it and a copper pipe coming out of it to let the steam out," he said. "It was dangerous because we had an open flame and we used flour and water to seal it so vapors from alcohol didn't escape, because if it did, it's highly flammable, and could blow up.

"We eventually bought a proper still that was totally safe.

"Back in 2010, believe it or not, there wasn't a lot of information out there on the internet on this. We didn't know how to handle it at first, but now the government actually offers a program on it. I finally got my license in 2013, and in 2014 we started using barrels to age our recipes for three months at first. We really started to get dialed in.

"We ended up doing a test launch in Nashville, Tennessee, and it did well. We sold 60 cases right away. It showed a lot of promise, but I wasn't happy with the product. It was still green and young, and I wanted to do something of quality that I could be proud of."

In 2014, Viola said his entire distillery program went "top shelf."

"Distiller friends we had met in Danville said, 'If you're going to go this route, you need to either build your own distillery (in Kentucky),' which would require spending money on land and equipment, or partnering up with an existing distiller, which is what we did. I'm still the supervisor and I'm coming up with the recipes. It's no different than me having my own employees."

Already an achiever

Viola was no stranger to entrepreneurial success at the time of his all-in dive into the bourbon-making industry.

While a sophomore at Michigan State University in the mid-1990s, he started a shirt-printing business for fraternities, sororities and other student organizations.

By the end of the semester, Viola had orders pouring in daily.

In 2003, with "just \$50 in my pocket," Viola took over a screen-printing business — Plymouth-based Versatrans — and said he has since built it into one of the most successful businesses of its kind in the world.

The attention to detail that fueled Versatrans' success was duplicated by Viola in his new venture.

"A couple of months after I received my license, I sought out some experts who helped me improve my recipes with science and technology," he said. "With inspiration provided from my grandfather and advanced distilling techniques offered by these guys, I was able to develop a unique product that resulted from a lot of hard work."



A bottle of Francesco S. Viola's Luca Mariano bourbon. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"It's kind of a risk because it may taste good right off the still, but you have to predict if will taste good four, five, six or seven years later."

Francesco S. Viola

It's all in the details

Viola is an encyclopedia of distillery knowledge.

He explained how the barrels that store the bourbon throughout the fermenting years — he has batches scheduled for release over the next four years — need to be made of aged American oak and that the Kentucky climate is essential for the bourbon to ferment properly.

"It's comparable to making wine in the Napa Valley or Tuscany, Italy," he said. "The distilleries are built in hilly areas so that the wind can blow through the rick houses.

"If the temperature drops below 50 degrees, it stops the aging process, which is why Michigan is too cold. It may snow a couple days a year in Kentucky, but by noon, the sun melts the snow. You can't recreate the climate anywhere else."

In the hottest months, the heated barrels sponge in the liquid they hold; when the milder weather arrives, the liquid is pushed back out, taking flavor from the barrel with it.

One of the tricky parts about the entire process, Viola explained, is tasting the bourbon before it is placed in the barrels for the minimum four-year stay.

"It's kind of a risk because it may taste good right off the still, but you have to predict if will taste good four, five, six or seven years later," he said. "You make the best calculations you can based on the information you have."

Viola revealed that getting the packaging right is just as important as what's inside the bottle.

"If someone goes into a store and isn't familiar with the bourbons, they'll probably look at the label and say, 'Hey, this looks good. Let's give it a chance, roll the dice,'" he said. "If they like the taste, they'll probably



Francesco S. Viola with a bottle of his Luca Mariano Old Americana Bourbon at Plymouth's Cantoro Italian Market on April 10. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

buy a second bottle, or a third.

"But you have to get them to buy the first one, which is why the packaging is so important."

Viola enlisted Northville-based Flowdesign to handle the label and bottle designs.

"The owner is Dan Metuche ... we call him the Leonardo of labels and the Picasso of glass — he's that good," Viola said.

The Luca Mariano bourbon was scheduled to start hitting store shelves this week.

Viola has orchestrated a lavish launch party planned for April 26 at Cantoro's that will include a band playing music written by Viola and his friend, Kenny Fuller.

"In June, we will be releasing Marcisona Rye, another bourbon, and yet another bourbon a year later ... my signature bourbon," Viola said. "They're all different recipes. The price point is \$44.95 a bottle.

"For most other distillers in our category, bottles go for \$60 to \$80. We're keeping the price down so that people don't just try it once. We want them to stay with it."

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

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Viewing zoo animals reduces stress levels

Aleanna Sicon Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Imagine a beautiful day checking out the animals at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, feeling a bit calmer and happier. There's actually some science to that.

The results of a recent wellness study conducted by the Detroit Zoological Society and Michigan State University researchers found that viewing animals reduces stress levels.

According to a news release, study participants were hooked up to electrodes in a lab, given a verbal math test and then asked to deliver a speech off-the-cuff.

Then the participants were separated into three groups and showed a video of either a plain white screen, Detroit traffic or animals at the Detroit Zoo.

MSU scientists measured stress indicators, like heart rate, skin conductance, and facial reaction. The results showed that stress levels were lowest in the group who were shown animals.

Afterward, participants were taken to see otters, giraffes, and butterflies at the Detroit Zoo in person, and scientists found their pulses slowed and heart rates decreased. The participants also reported lifted moods and said they felt less anxious in comparison to when the experiment started.

The study is the latest to show that connecting with nature reduces stress levels.

A study released earlier this month by University of Michigan researchers, MaryCarol Hunter, Brenda Gillespie and Sophie Yu-Pu Chen, found that an efficient "nature pill" — 20 to 30 minutes walking, sitting or completing a physical activity outside or interacting with nature — can reduce health issues such as chronic stress, blood pressure, cholesterol, heart disease, and weight.

Researchers believe feelings of relaxation and calm are connected to biophilia, a term coined by Erich Fromm in the 1970s, according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

"Biophilia refers to the natural tendency of humans to focus on and to affiliate with nature and animals," Ron Kagan, the executive director and CEO of the Detroit Zoological Society, said in a statement.

"These findings confirm what we at



Giraffe Encounter. JOSHUA HANFORD

the DZS have always known — the Detroit Zoo is a sanctuary not only for animals but for people as well, a place to relax and recalibrate." So Kagan said if you happen to be

feeling stressed, frazzled or sad, the Detroit Zoo may just be a good place to feel better.

More information can be found at <https://www.dzoo.org/wellness>.

Contact Aleanna Sicon: ASicon@freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter: [@AleannaSicon](https://twitter.com/AleannaSicon).

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Experts, MDOT clash on why state roads going bad

Paul Egan Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

LANSING — Michigan's highest-in-the-nation gross truck weights are responsible for significant damage to state roads and bridges, experts say, despite years of denials from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The issue is an important one as residents consider Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's plan to "fix the damn roads" by hiking the tax on both regular and diesel fuels by 45 cents per gallon but not changing Michigan's truck weight laws. The plan would raise an extra \$2.5 billion a year, of which \$1.9 billion would be spent on roads and bridges.

For years, MDOT has had a ready answer when motorists draw a link between roads that are ranked among the nation's worst and a truck weight limit of 164,000 pounds that is more than double the federal limit.

It's not the total weight of the truck that matters — it's the amount of weight carried by each truck axle, the department has insisted. And a 164,000-pound truck with the 11 axles that Michigan requires actually spreads the load more than a standard five-axle truck weighing 80,000 pounds, the federal limit.

That's not true for bridges, experts say, and only true for roads with respect to certain types of damage if the pavement the truck travels on is a smooth one. Send that same heavy truck bouncing down a road that is already rough — as so many Michigan roads are — and a different set of physics applies.

In interviews with civil and mechanical engineers and a review of academic literature, the Free Press found:

■ Even on a smooth road, studies show gross vehicle weight — not axle weight — is directly related to a type of damage called "rutting," which is a permanent depression in the pavement along the path the wheels follow, and which is related to road roughness. Conversely, for road fatigue and cracking, civil and mechanical engineers agree that axle weight, not the total truck weight, is the critical factor.

■ Trucks that bounce on rough surfaces create a "dynamic loading" effect that is significantly higher than what results from the weight of the truck when it is standing still or moving on a smooth surface. Engineers disagree over whether gross weight or axle weights take precedence when trucks start to bounce, but they agree both are part of the calculation.

■ When it comes to damage to bridges, it's all about the truck's total weight, not the axle weights, engineers agree. That's because a bridge bears the entire weight of a truck, regardless of how many axles the truck has. A 2016 U.S. Department of Transportation study estimated that raising the federal weight limit from 80,000 pounds to 97,000 pounds would necessitate \$2.2 billion in bridge improvements to handle the extra loads.

Larry Galehouse, founder and past director of the National Center for Pavement Preservation at MSU and a civil engineer who worked more than 20 years at MDOT, told the Free Press that Michigan's high gross weight limits contribute significantly to road damage.

Not just the axles, but the entire weight of the bouncing truck crashes onto the pavement, and "it has a tendency to really tear up the roads," Galehouse said.

Both the bouncing axles and the bouncing truck body can deliver hammer blows to a rough road, since doubling the load of an axle produces 16 times the damage, based on a rule of thumb used by civil engineers.

Galehouse, who believes axle weights become largely irrelevant when the body of a truck is bouncing, points to studies in which gross truck weight and dynamic loading are linked. But views on that point vary widely.

Experts say the road damage caused by a bouncing truck is almost impossible to calculate without a specific fact situation. That's because a huge number of variables come into play, including the roughness profile of the road, the speed of the truck, the spacing between the truck's axles, and the nature of the truck's suspension system and shock absorbers.

"There is no easy answer, and no one answer," said Steve Karamihas, a senior research associate at U-M's Transportation Research Institute who worked on a landmark 1992 study that examined the effects of heavy trucks on pavement performance.

The U-M study found that while truck axle weight is most important when it comes to cracking or fatigue, rutting, described as "the permanent deformation of the asphalt concrete layer caused by a vehicle," is "directly dependent on its gross vehicle weight."



As the road funding debate heats up, so has concern over Michigan's heavy trucks. DETROIT FREE PRESS



Officer Doug Dowdy inspects the rear axle on a truck after it was stopped for a safety belt violation at a weigh station on I-75 in 2013. JESSICA J. TREVINO/DETROIT FREE PRESS

The study also found that rough pavements experience damage at a rate approximately 50% higher than smooth pavements.

"On the roughest roads, fatigue damage may increase by 200% to 400%, depending on the type of road and truck properties," the report said.

Still, the study discounted the value of putting a cap on gross truck weight, saying that "to the extent that freight must be carried by trucks ... lower weight limits will only put more trucks on the road to meet commercial hauling needs," and the heavier truck with more axles will result in less rutting for each pound of cargo moved.

Karamihas, who has a master's degree in mechanical engineering, said he believes axle weights are more important than total truck weight when it comes to overall road damage, even on a rough surface. But he adds a qualifier, given the huge number of variables.

Despite considerable more research since his 1992 study, "I wouldn't say anyone has completely worked it out," he said.

Karamihas pointed to Karim Chatti, an MSU professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the University Transportation Center for Highway Pavement Preservation (which is distinct from Galehouse's organization), as one of the nation's leaders on the effects of dynamic loading.

Chatti's work was cited by the U.S. Department of Transportation in its 2016 "Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Limits Study," which rejected calls to increase the federal government's 80,000-pound gross weight limit for trucks, saying more study is needed.

Chatti told the Free Press he can't endorse the view that truck axle weights are more important than gross weight when a truck is bouncing on a rough surface, though he can't disprove it, either.

Since both the body of the truck and the axles are bouncing independently of each other, both the gross weight and the axle weights are important, said Chatti, who has a doctorate in civil engineering.

The issue is important because no matter how good the design and how skilled the construction, roadways built over many miles will always have varia-

bility and weaker areas, Chatti said. That weak area may be well below the surface of the road, but will eventually affect smoothness. Once a rough spot develops, trucks that bounce over that spot will deliver more punishing blows than they would otherwise. That, in turn, results in more damage, which causes more bouncing, and a vicious cycle of rapid deterioration on stretches of pavement known as "hot spots," he said.

Chatti conducted a 2009 study for MDOT that found that on both asphalt and cement pavements, trucks with more axles caused less cracking than trucks carrying the same load with fewer axles. But the study also found that the amount of rutting caused by truck traffic was roughly proportional to the gross weight of the truck, even when the truck carried that load on more axles. Still, Chatti said two 80,000-pound trucks should cause as much rutting as one 160,000-pound truck, so in that respect, reducing weight limits might not help the roads if the result is more trucks.

Chatti examined the impact of road roughness and dynamic loading in an earlier study, completed in 2001. That study, which focused on the standard 80,000-pound 18-wheeler, rather than the 164,000-pound truck also allowed in Michigan, identified thresholds at which roads are just beginning to turn rough and repairs could be made to significantly extend road life, before rapid deterioration resulting from the vicious damage cycle related to "hot spots" begins.

Ideally, maintenance should begin when a certain level of roughness can be measured, even if the road might appear fine to the naked eye, Chatti said. MDOT accepted the findings, but it's not clear the agency formally implemented them, possibly because of a lack of available maintenance funds, he said.

MDOT has long endorsed the value of early maintenance but has complained that in stretching its budget to fix badly crumbling roads it's often difficult to simultaneously keep good roads from turning bad.

In a departure from the view espoused by the former director Kirk Steudle, the agency isn't necessarily opposed to a lowering of Michigan's truck weight limits, Jeff Cranson, a spokesman for Director Paul Ajegba said

Wednesday.

But regardless of the debate over the effects of dynamic loading, MDOT remains hostile to the idea that Michigan's high gross truck weight limits is a significant contributor to the poor condition of the state's roads, saying the heaviest trucks make up only a small proportion of the total commercial fleet.

Of about 150,000 commercial trucks registered in Michigan, just under 19,000, or a little over 12%, exceed 80,000 pounds, according to the Secretary of State's Office. Just under 12,000, or about 8%, weigh 130,000 pounds or more, the office said.

Overweight trucks in Michigan are another issue, some on the roads legally through the purchase of inexpensive special permits, others with drivers illegally attempting to avoid detection by the Michigan State Police and local enforcement agencies.

In 2017, MDOT issued nearly 109,000 permits for vehicles that exceeded normal vehicle weight or size limits, including permits for 96 vehicles that weighed more than 450,000 pounds, according to a House Fiscal Agency report.

The permits cost only \$50 for a single trip and \$100 for one that allows multiple trips with super heavy loads.

In 1982, Congress passed the Surface Transportation Assistance Act, which imposed the 80,000-pound weight limit across the entire interstate system, prohibiting states from setting lower or higher limits but "grandfathering" a few states such as Michigan that had earlier set higher weight limits.

When it comes to catching illegally overweight trucks, motorists frequently complain about passing freeway weigh stations that are closed more often than they are open.

The Michigan State Police says it focuses most of its staffing at busy stations on the Ohio and Indiana borders and has increasingly moved to a more mobile enforcement strategy involving automated scales beneath the freeways and troopers who patrol for overweight trucks using portable scales.

Karamihas said that if Michigan is going to have the highest gross truck weights in the nation, it's important for the state to make sure it is enforcing that limit through effective use of weigh stations and other methods. He said it's also very important to police and enforce reduced weight limits that are imposed on many roads during the spring thaw, when roads are most vulnerable to damage from heavy trucks.

Maine allows up to 100,000 pounds on all interstates, while South Dakota, Arizona, Utah and Nevada allow up to 129,000 pounds on a variety of routes, according to the Federal Highway Administration. Some states allow higher loads only on certain roads, such as the Ohio and Florida turnpikes.

Just as there's been a push by industry to increase the federal weight limit, many states are facing pressure to increase allowable weight limits on state roads. Virginia, for example, has been considering plans to increase its gross weight limit from 80,000 pounds to 91,000 pounds.

An argument for higher weight limits is that it could result in fewer trucks carrying the same amount of cargo on more axles.

Opponents say bigger trucks pose not only a risk to road quality, but to safety.

Livonia man changing car repair

Jamie L. LaReau
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit resident Patrick Denny shimmies out from under his jacked-up 2006 black Ford Focus sedan. His hands are covered in grease. Rented tools are splayed out on the concrete floor around him.

Denny, 24, has replaced brakes before, but he now faces a new challenge: Replace the shocks and the trailing arm bushing in the suspension. He grins when acknowledging he's paying to fix his own car, knowing he'll end up saving a lot.

"It can be a pain do it yourself, but it's worth it to save \$1,500 to \$2,000," Denny said.

Denny is a regular customer at My Mechanics Place in Livonia, a massive garage on Plymouth Road with 22 service bays, a paint booth, a machine shop and U-Haul distribution. To rent a bay with a lift costs \$25 an hour; one without a lift is \$12. People can rent tools, too.

Denny's doctor told him about My Mechanics Place, so he started coming earlier this year, typically once a week, spending five to eight hours on each visit working on his car. He's learned the repairs by watching YouTube videos, he said.

"I live in an apartment in Detroit. I don't have the tools to do the repairs and apartments won't let you work in the building parking lots," said Denny. "And I'm saving thousands doing it myself."

'The other woman'

My Mechanics Place is the brainchild of Jay Rabaut, 55, a Livonia native who got the initial idea for the business in the mid-1980s while in the Navy and then envisioned the model for it nine years ago.

A plumber by trade and father to nine children, Rabaut was driving home in the fall of 2010 with a heavy heart.

Rabaut envisioned a compound where people can rent a service bay and tools to do their own car repairs. It took years to make it happen, and awhile for it to catch on and generate profits.

But go there any weekend now and the 18,000-square foot building buzzes with engines revving, metal tools clanking on concrete and impact wrenches humming. All 22 bays are usually filled, often forcing Rabaut to turn away customers. Each bay is occupied for an average of two to eight hours. If you want to get in, call ahead to reserve a bay, he said.

Rabaut said he gets 12 to 25 new customers each week. Many regular customers are there two to five days a week up to eight hours a visit.

"Some wives call us, 'the other woman,'" Rabaut joked, after a customer standing near him bemoaned that My Mechanics Place precipitated his divorce.

Big savings

Located across across from Ford Automatic Transmission Operations in Livonia, the bold letters across My Mechanics Place's roof line beckon: "Do it yourself."

Besides the lifts, the business has a "tool crib" containing thousands of tools to rent for \$5 an hour. The tools are checked in and out similar to books in a library. More complex tools such as torches or grinders cost \$10 an hour.

It's also a U-Haul distributor, a business Rabaut added in 2016 that brings in enough revenue to help when times are lean in the repair shop.

The savings to those who do their own car repairs is substantial, said Rabaut. For example, some tire stores charge as much as \$30 to mount and balance each tire — \$120 for all four tires. At My Mechanics Place, renting a flat stall for \$12 an hour plus \$10 an hour to use the tire machine brings the cost to mount and balance all four tires to \$22.

Unsure how to do it? No problem. Rabaut has two certified mechanics on staff to advise customers. The mechanics can't do the repairs for liability reasons and Rabaut is insured. All customers must sign waivers to work on their cars, he said.

But, on average, a person saves 60% to 80% on car repairs, he said.

Waterford shop

My Mechanics Place isn't the only game in town. Gearheads Rent-A-Bay in Waterford also rents service bays and tools to people to do their own car repairs. It sees about 15 customers a week and charges \$20 an hour to rent a bay with a hoist and \$12 an hour for a flat bay. It offers tool rental for \$10 a day, said Gearheads' co-owner Nathan



Under a lift, from left, Jerry Carson, his son Andrew, both of Canton, with their friend Dewie Smith of Northville, carefully drop the gas tank off Andrew's 2007 Ford Focus at My Mechanics Place in Livonia, Thursday, April 11, 2019. They have to remove the gas tank from the car in order to replace the fuel pump. JUNFU HAN, DETROIT FREE PRESS



Patrick Denny tries to remove a stuck bolt on his 2006 Ford Focus at My Mechanics Place in Livonia, Thursday, April 11, 2019. His car is supported by two jack stands. (not in the photo) Denny lives in an apartment in Detroit, does not have a garage to work on his car. JUNFU HAN, DETROIT FREE PRESS

Klein.

Gearheads, which popped up around the same time as My Mechanics Place, July 2015, is small with three bays with lifts and one without. It has a motorcycle lift too, said Klein. It has no certified mechanic on staff.

Klein said his partner got the idea for it in the 1970s because, "All the military bases have them and a gentleman in Oxford had a gas station and when his mechanics quit, he would rent it out to people," Klein said.

Some of the regulars at My Mechanics Place rent out bigger work spaces on a monthly basis for consistent repairs on a vehicles and even boats.

Of the 22 service bays, eight have car lifts, two of which can lift 43,000-pound trucks. The repair shop is a pit stop for the average Joe, but especially die-hard gearheads such as Jason Robertson.

Robertson, 39, works at Ford Motor Co. as a clay modeler by day, he said. But on his free time, he is considered one of the country's top restoration specialists of AC Cobra sports cars, collectors car from the 1960s.

AC Cobra owners hire Robertson to work on their expensive and rare cars. He first came to My Mechanics Place two years ago to use its paint booth, which costs \$100 an hour or \$400 a day. That might sound steep, but Robertson said he'd have to pay someone \$12,000 to do the work for him.

Robertson has restored about 40 AC Cobras over 14 years. He typically takes a week off from Ford to do each car. He pays about \$700 to use the paint booth and restores three to four AC Cobras a year, making about \$10,000 on each, he said.

Fix and flip

Another regular at My Mechanics Place is Robert Vanorden, whose residence there comes at a fortuitous time. After seven years at General Motors Detroit-Hamtramck plant assembling Cadillac sedans, Vanorden was laid off on Feb. 28.

GM is idling five plants in North America, including Detroit-Ham-

tramck, which is scheduled to end production in January 2020.

But Vanorden, 52, had a backup plan. He started coming to My Mechanics Place shortly after it opened in late 2015. He rented a work space for \$500 a month to start a side business. He bought a used Ford Escape SUV for \$600. He made multiple repairs to it and in early 2016, he sold it for \$3,200, making a profit, he said.

Since then, Vanorden and his 21-year-old son, Robert Vanorden Jr., have fixed and flipped about 35 used cars for a profit. They learn to do the repairs by watching TV shows and sharing tips with fellow amateur mechanics at the shop.

"I don't have a garage, I'm a dirt guy and I repaired on the grass, on the snow and on ice ... where the next day you have to dig the car out," said Vanorden. "So this place is a godsend. I get the knowledge of the other mechanics and the use of equipment. It's invaluable."

And until Vanorden can get a new job, it is also his income.

Early entrepreneurial idea

Rabaut first went to a "do it yourself" car repair in the mid-80s, while serving in the U.S. Navy. A buddy asked him to give him a hand changing his car's transmission at the base's "hobby shop," a garage where soldiers could work on their cars.

"I was just floored," Rabaut said. "You can come here and rent a garage for the day. I thought, 'Man, why don't we have these outside?' I thought if I ever get a chance, I'm going to do it."

But he became a plumbing contractor and "never really gave it another thought" for nearly 25 years. After he finally wrote a 23-page business plan for My Mechanics Place, Rabaut had a stroke in 2011. That sidelined his dream until he recovered and found a building for My Mechanics Place in 2014. But, he was short the start-up cash.

"I showed the business model to my father-in-law and he thought it was a stupid idea," said Rabaut. "I told my dad about it and he asked if I seriously thought people would pay me to fix their

own car? I said, 'Dad, there's a lot of people who would do that.'"

His dad helped him raise money for a down payment on the building My Mechanics Place occupies, which once housed the Hitch House, a truck-trailer hitch and trailer service business.

The miracle

My Mechanics Place opened in August 2015 and had three customers the whole month.

In March 2016, he'd fallen six months behind on his mortgage payment. One day, the owner came to collect the debt. A woman waiting in the lobby overheard the conversation, Rabaut said.

"She said, 'Did I hear that man right? Did he threaten to take this building away from you?'" Rabaut recalls, his voice cracking and tears welling in his eyes.

He explained to her the financial struggle. He said he was ready to give up. But she told him, "He's not going to get this from you. God did not bring you this far for you to fail. So don't you worry about a thing. Whatever I pray for, I get and I'm praying for you, honey, and you're not going to lose this building," he recalled.

It was the inspiration Rabaut needed. He secured financing and kept going.

"I did not lose the building," said Rabaut. "It was miraculous."

More trucks!

In the fall of 2016, Rabaut finally had his first break-even month. That year he also added a U-Haul business, quite by accident. He'd agreed to take a U-Haul dolly and car transport from the company, but was firm with U-Haul that he did not want to be a dealer, he said.

One day, a couple dropped off a 26-foot U-Haul truck because U-Haul told the couple to drop it there, he said. He told his staff to get rid of it by the time he returned from lunch.

When he returned, the truck was gone. He asked how they got rid of it. They told him, "We didn't get rid of the truck, we rented it."

"I said, 'You rented it?! You don't even know how to rent it.' They said they called U-Haul and, 'U-Haul told us how to do it and you made a \$250 on it.' I said, 'Tell them we want more trucks!'"

Today, his U-Haul business accounts for up to a quarter of his monthly revenue. The mechanic business peaks in October through May. The U-Haul business peaks May through September, so he has a steady revenue stream year round.

My Mechanics Place has been consistently profitable since the fall of 2018, said Rabaut. He plans to expand to other locations in 2020 and possibly offer courses on how to do various car repairs.

"It's the best thing I've ever done in my life because I'm helping people help themselves," said Rabaut. "As a plumber ... people treat you like a sub-servant. Whereas here, people are trying to get by and they need a break and we're helping."

Contact Jamie L. LaReau at 313-222-2149 or jlareau@freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter @jlareauan. Read more on General Motors and sign up for our autos newsletter.

Know your enemy: America's deadliest drug

Georgea Kovanis
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The nation's opioid crisis began with prescription pain killers — Vicodin, Oxycodone, norco and the like, that's what was killing people.

When doctors stopped writing so many prescriptions, when illegal pill supplies dried up or buying them off the street became too expensive, users turned to heroin and deaths from that shot up.

But now, there's fentanyl, a synthetic opioid and the deadliest drug in America. It's showing up everywhere, taking the lives of people rich and poor, old and young.

On Christmas Day, an 18-month-old girl from Macomb County died of a massive overdose of fentanyl. The county prosecutor told the Free Press she had more fentanyl in her system than the medical examiner's office had ever seen. Authorities believe the girl's parents were using their Clinton Township home to process and package fentanyl.

What makes fentanyl so deadly? So different? What makes it such a threat? Here are some answers.

1. What is fentanyl? Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid. Pharmaceutical fentanyl is used in hospitals as a pain reliever — often in the form of a patch — for patients with extreme cancer pain. Sometimes, it's diverted for street sales. But most often, what's sold on the street is illicit fentanyl, which is often mixed with heroin or other drugs.

2. How strong is fentanyl? Fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and up to 100 times more potent than morphine, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

3. Will it kill me? Well, there's a reason the CDC calls it the deadliest drug in America, responsible for more deaths than any other drug. Ingesting as little as .25 mg can be fatal.

Fentanyl comes in many varieties or analogs — for example, there's carfentanyl, which is intended for use as an elephant tranquilizer; it's 100 times stronger than fentanyl. Some fentanyl is so strong it doesn't respond easily to Narcan, the drug that reverses opioid overdoses. "I'm board certified in emergency medicine," said Dr. Christopher Blazes,



The fentanyl shown next to this penny is a lethal dose, according to federal agents. U.S. ATTORNEY

an emergency room physician and addiction psychiatrist at the University of Michigan. "We have documented cases where we have to give four, six, eight times a dose of (Narcan) to reverse somebody."

First responders aren't generally equipped with that many doses of Narcan.

4. How many people have died from fentanyl or its analogs? In 2017, more than 28,000 of the nation's overdose deaths involved synthetic opioids, according to the CDC. In most cases, the synthetic opioid involved was fentanyl

or one of its analogs.

5. What about in Michigan? Here, 2,033 of the overdose deaths in 2017 involved opioids, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Of those, 1,368 involved synthetic opioids, mainly fentanyl.

To put fentanyl's growth into perspective, Michigan had 72 synthetic opioid overdose deaths in 2012.

6. And in Wayne County, the state's largest county? "We had 300 homicides or so last year and we had almost 1,000 drug deaths," said Dr. Carl Schmidt, Wayne County medical examiner. "I think, to put it in perspective, in 2015 we had 350 cases that (involved) fentanyl and in 2018 we had 815."

7. Why do people use fentanyl if it's so deadly? There are a couple of reasons.

Fentanyl gets cut into drugs — often heroin — without users' knowledge. In 2016, nearly 70% of the nation's deaths involving fentanyl also involved one or more other drugs, such as heroin or cocaine, according to a recently released study.

Closer to home, a new study by a drug testing company showed that 75% of the Michigan drug tests it conducted that were positive for heroin were also positive for fentanyl. The report, done by Millennium Health, was based on data from January to May of 2018.

Sometimes fentanyl is pressed into pills and passed along in the place of real medication. In 2016, the musician Prince died from taking counterfeit Vicodin that was laced with fentanyl. Authorities said Prince likely thought he was taking Vicodin, an opioid pain reliever, not fentanyl.

All that said, experienced users of illicit drugs know that just about everything contains fentanyl. Some consider getting high worth the risk, the pull is that strong. Besides, few drug users ever think they're going to be the one to overdose. "Whatever you say about drug users, especially longtime drug users ... they have this sense of they are in control," said Schmidt.

And in some cases, users seek out fentanyl. "I have patients who specifically seek out the fentanyl (laced with) heroin because it feels different," said Blazes. "They describe it as a warmer high."

8. Why do drug suppliers mix heroin with fentanyl? To give heroin an extra — and inexpensive — boost in potency.

Heroin is made from the poppy plant, found in Asia. Poppy crops are impacted by environmental factors and other supply-related issues. Fentanyl is made exclusively in a lab so it's not dependent on weather or harvest. And that means it's a lot less expensive to produce. Much of the illicit fentanyl supply comes from Mexico and China.

"The reason (fentanyl is) becoming so popular amongst drug traffickers is it takes such a small amount to cause an effect equivalent to heroin," Blazes said.

A little fentanyl goes a long way and it makes a lot of money.

9. What about cocaine? It's unclear if fentanyl is being mixed into the cocaine supply on purpose or if it's the re-

sult of cross contamination in drug labs; opinions vary. But last year, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported that 15 people overdosed in Philadelphia on what is believed to be a combination of crack cocaine and fentanyl. No one died. They were revived with Narcan, which reverses opioid overdoses but has no impact on cocaine overdoses, which means they had consumed an opioid. Most of the patients told authorities they believed they were smoking crack, only.

The DEA says people are overdosing on cocaine and fentanyl because they are speedballing, mixing cocaine with heroin, which these days is most likely to be laced with fentanyl.

In some published reports, experts have suggested that dealers are mixing fentanyl with cocaine to create a new group of fentanyl addicts.

Other experts have suggested that sloppy lab work is causing cocaine and fentanyl to become accidentally cross contaminated.

10. Who is dying from fentanyl? "High school teachers, homeless guys, satellite TV salesmen, GM workers, girls in tanning beds, pizza delivery dudes, parents, frat boys and parolees — fentanyl is everywhere," said Dr. William Morrone, an addiction medicine specialist and deputy medical examiner for Bay County.

In the end, white people are most likely to die of a fentanyl overdose, though the rate of African American deaths is growing fastest. Between 2011 and 2016, the African American death rate increased 140% each year.

11. Why the spike in African American fentanyl deaths? Cocaine. Some suggest more African Americans are dying because the cocaine — an African American drug of choice — is now tainted with fentanyl.

"One of the biggest things is that African Americans are more likely to use cocaine or crack than maybe their white counterparts," said Scott Schadel, who is in charge of substance use disorder programs at Hegira, a Livonia-based nonprofit that provides mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment.

In addition, he said, African Americans may be less likely to seek help for overdoses. "The thought is through racial stereotypes in the community as well as racial conflict within law enforcement, they're less likely to seek treatment, less likely to seek help for overdoses."

12. What's next? It's unclear. Said Morrone: "The rolling problem flows from one state to another like rain or fog. There is no end in sight." What's needed, he added, is more access to treatment. "It's the only thing to stop deaths."

Sources: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Drug Enforcement Administration; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration; National Institute on Drug Abuse; Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; Free Press research.

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Churchill and Stevenson players share high-fives after the game. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

STEVENSON DOMINATES IN CHARITY GAME

Andrew Vaillencourt
 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Churchill softball teams played for the second time this week Wednesday night and it was all Stevenson.

The Spartans clobbered the Chargers 22-4 in five innings, sweeping the week's series.

However, the score wasn't the most important part of the night. This was the second half of the charity series the teams were playing to raise money

for Ann Arbor's Gift of Life, which supports and raises awareness for organ donation. The crowd at each game was fantastic, with over 200 fans showing up at Stevenson Monday, and packed stands again Wednesday at Churchill.

The charity games were especially important because Churchill coach Abe Vinitzki has stage four kidney disease and will need a kidney transplant.

"It was incredibly successful," Vinitzki said. "The community support was overwhelming. It's really what makes Livonia a special place to live. To have an event like this, certainly we wanted to do better

on the field, but I think we wanted to create awareness for a great cause and we did."

Over \$1,200 was raised on Monday, and both coaches believe the final tally will end up close to \$3,000.

"It was great for softball and the community of Livonia," Vinitzki said. "It shows you that the sport is strong. The high schools are working hard to have good programs, our travel clubs are working real hard and people are coming out to watch. I'm very

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 5B

Previewing area tennis teams in the KLAA

Andrew Vaillencourt
 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Kensington Lakes Activities Association is one of the strongest athletic conference's in the state of Michigan in most sports — and tennis is no exception. Several teams have the ability to make a run toward a state championship, led by Northville, which has dominated over the last several years and has won back-to-back state championships and three of the last four (2015, 2017, 2018). The Mustangs were runner-up in 2016.

The league features new divisions in

2019, simply called the East and West instead of the previously named Black and Gold divisions.

The new East Division includes Belleville, Livonia Churchill, Dearborn, Livonia Franklin, Fordson, John Glenn, Livonia Stevenson and Wayne Memorial.

The new West Division is made up of Brighton, Canton, Hartland, Howell, Northville, Novi, Plymouth and Salem.

Plymouth's Jessica Braun is considered the best individual player in the conference entering the season. She's ranked No. 3 in the state. However, Northville's new No. 1 singles player Tori Mady is sure to give her a fight.

KLAA West Division

Canton

Head coach: Tom Kimball (1st season)

Last year's overall record: 3-6 (4th in KLAA Black)

Player's to watch: Junior Ishani Vaisnav - No. 1 singles, senior Marquette Winston - No. 2 singles, senior Isabel Espinoza - No. 3 singles, junior Sreya Sista - No. 4 singles, sophomore Ally Cupp and sophomore Bella Volk-

See **TENNIS**, Page 2B

Canton's Sigmon makes college decision, leaves legacy

Andrew Vaillencourt
 Hometownlife.com
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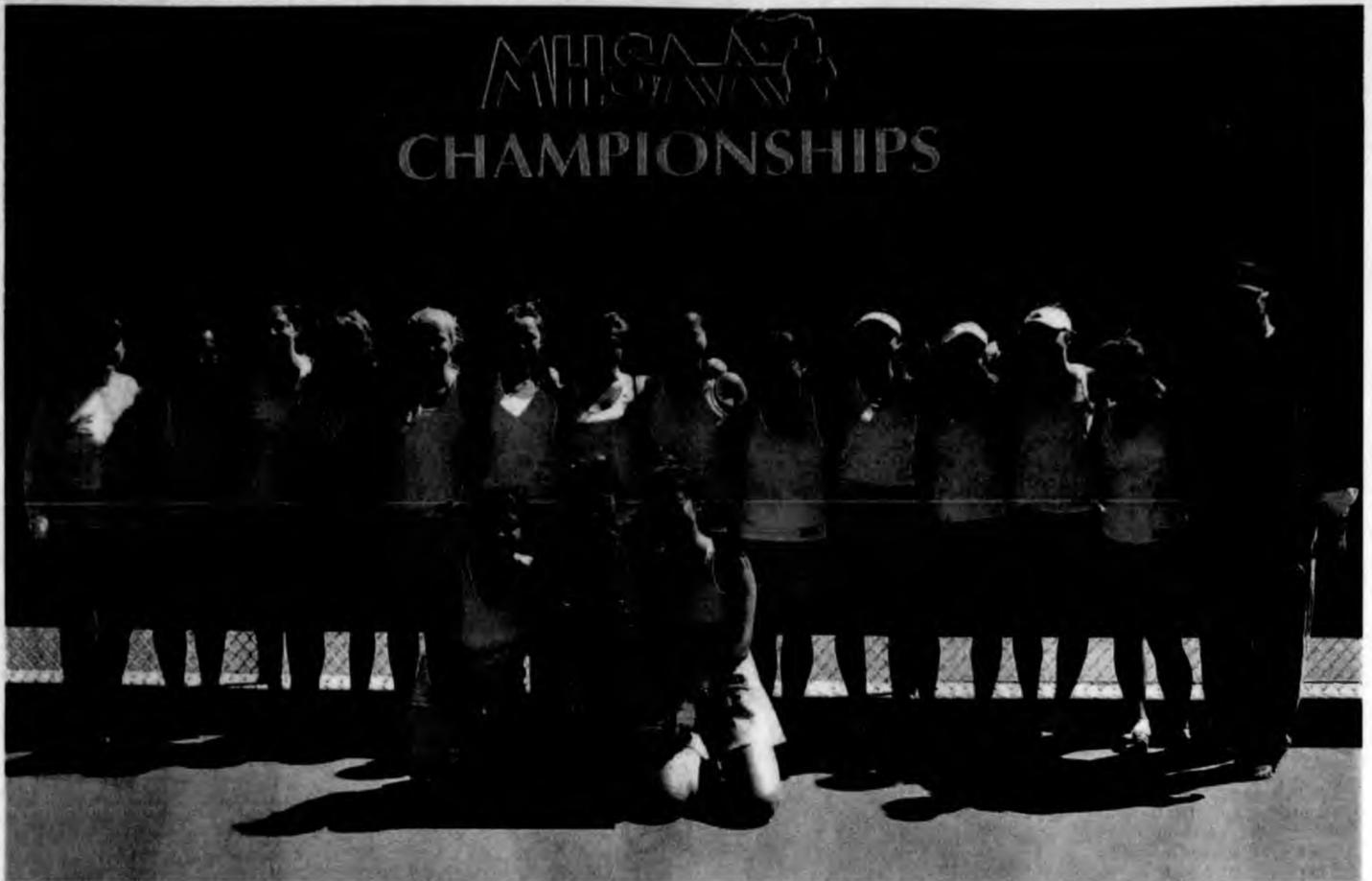
It was a remarkable basketball season for the Canton Chiefs, who won more than 20 games and coasted to a KLAA conference championship. Much of that success was sparked by the combination of senior guards B. Artis White, who signed with Western Michigan, and Vinson Sigmon, who made his college choice official Thursday afternoon by signing a national letter of intent with the University of

See **SIGNING**, Page 3B



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The Northville girls tennis team is the outright 2018 MHSAA Division 1 champion. MONICA MULCHANDANI

Tennis

Continued from Page 1B

ers - No. 1 doubles

Kimball's season outlook: "I'm excited to take over the tennis program at Canton this year. We have tournament level players in our top singles spots, and we have solid talent throughout the varsity lineup. More than 50 players came out for the team this Spring, and since we are a 'no-cut' program this will provide us with a solid base to grow talent. The team has been developing and improving quickly, and as a young team with only a few seniors, we expect to increase our standing in each of the next few years. We have an outstanding assistant coach (Rick Clack), strong team leaders, and very supportive parents who have helped us get off to a great start this season."

Northville

Head coach: Linda Jones (6th season)

Last year's overall record: Undeclared, won the Division 1 state championship (1st in KLAA Gold)

Player's to watch: Junior Tori Mady - No. 1 singles, senior Renee Torres - No. 2 singles

Jones' season outlook: "Northville graduated six seniors last year, leaving big gaps for the team to fill this year in No. 1 singles, No. 1 doubles and No. 2 doubles. However, Northville has been able to readjust with the remaining players this year, and we feel that our team will be in the top three again."

Novi

Head coach: Daniel Lowes (2nd season)

Last year's overall record: 9-3 (2nd in KLAA Gold)

Player's to watch: Senior Jamie Fu - No. 1 singles, junior Jordana Krstovski - No. 2 singles, sophomore Hikaru Ishibashi - No. 3 singles, junior Ashley Zhou and junior Scarlett Chen - No. 1 doubles, junior Elizabeth Yang and senior Catherine Xu - No. 2 doubles

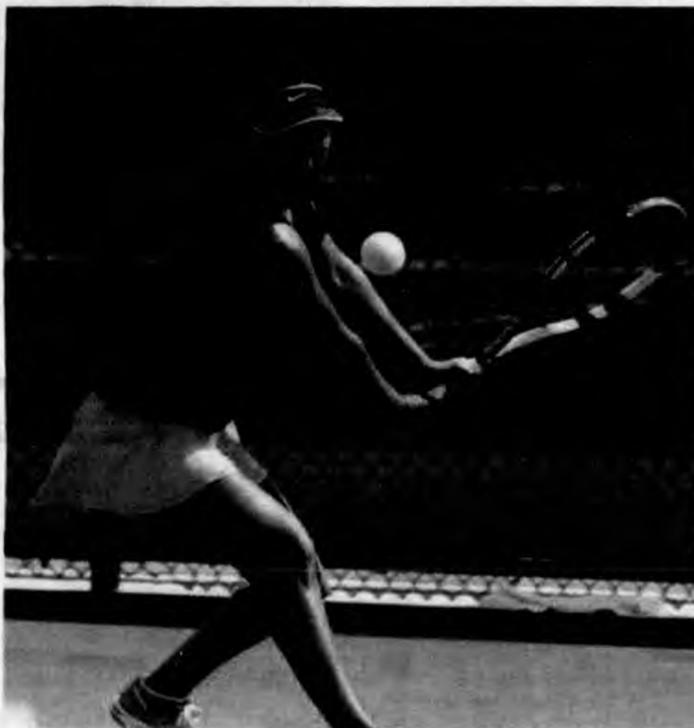
Lowes' season outlook: "We are a diverse team in the experience department, therefore we will be relying on our seniors for guidance and looking to gather experience for our youngsters as we progress through the season. Our schedule includes nine out of the top 10 schools in the state, therefore we are looking to improve on every match and to compete with the top programs in our division and the state. We look to be competitive in our division, and vie for an opportunity to compete our conference tournament and at the state level."

Plymouth

Head coach: Rob McLaren (10th season)

Last year's overall record: 8-3 (1st in KLAA Black)

Player's to watch: Senior Jessica Braun - No. 1 singles (3-time all state), senior Olivia Schafer and senior Alayna Stults - No. 1 doubles, senior Allie Baker



Northville's No. 1 singles player Shanoli Kumar was named Miss Tennis by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association. NAREN KUMAR

- No. 3 singles

McLaren's season outlook: "We expect to have a good season this year. We have a lot of senior leadership. Our singles lineup is very strong, lead by Jessica Braun. Our doubles flights are looking good as well. Olivia and Alayna have a ton of experience, which will go a long way as we progress through the season. We also had three talented freshmen (Samitha Yerrakalva, Praveena Mohanraj, and Cate Whelan) make the team this year, which is really going to help our team a ton."

Salem

Head coach: Deanna Henderson (2nd season)

Last year's division record: 4-2 (3rd in KLAA Black)

Player's to watch: Senior Lizzy Lu - No. 1 singles

Henderson's season outlook: "We are a very young team this year, with several freshman players. I am still very excited to see what this season brings. The girls are great and very coach-able. I just wish more of them played during the off-season. Practices are fun and they want to learn I just wish I had more time to teach them. We will have team bonding activities and a lot of fun. I hope the weather warms up soon so we can really get our season started."

KLAA East Division

Livonia Churchill

Head coach: Denise Berg-Grant (27th season)

Last year's conference record: 2-4 (5th in KLAA Black)

Player's to watch: Allison McConnell - No. 1 singles, Nora Curley and Natalie Romick - No. 1 doubles

Berg-Grant's season outlook: "We struggled quite a bit last year in our dual matches, while performing better in tournament play. We are focused this year on trying to have more depth on our team, hopefully allowing different flights to contribute points. This is a hardworking group of girls that are motivated. We have many multi-sport athletes on this team. They are not afraid to play anyone. I have made a difficult schedule for them this season. Our goal is to learn from playing these tougher teams and continue to improve each match as we move toward the important tournaments at the end when it really counts."

Livonia Franklin

Head coach: Tom Muller (2nd season)

Last year's overall record: 7-2 (2nd in KLAA Black)

Player's to watch: Senior Eva Muller - No. 1 Singles, junior Megan Anthony - No. 2 singles, junior Emily Kostielney - No. 3 singles, senior Sofia Cueva - No. 4 singles, junior Aly Brumm and junior Stephanie Cueva - No. 1 doubles

Muller's season outlook: "Coming off a successful 7-2 record last year we are looking to keep the momentum going into the 2019 season. With only two seniors in the lineup we will have a very young team this year. At one singles we have four year varsity player Eva Muller. At two singles will be third year singles

player Megan Anthony. Emily Kostielney and Sofia Cueva will compete in our third and fourth singles spots this year. With six new players in our doubles lineup we will lean on our returning one doubles team of Stephanie Cueva and Aly Brumm, and our freshman duo of Katie Callahan and Sandrea Cueva at the two doubles spot. Filling out our varsity lineup our sensational sophomores are Daphne Millross, Brittney Winn, Kelly Engler, Marissa Muller, Jade Fabian, Kate Montie, Halie Hart and Celina Li. All of our players have a lot of potential to help us make this another great year for Franklin."

Westland John Glenn

Head coach: Matt Smorch

Last year's conference record: 0-6 (7th in KLAA Black)

Player's to watch: Coach could not be reached for comment.

Smorch's season outlook: Coach could not be reached for comment.

Livonia Stevenson

Head coach: Robin Parker (1st season)

Last year's division record: 1-5 (6th in KLAA Gold)

Player's to watch: Senior Shannon Ward - No. 1 singles, senior Mackenzie Wilson - No. 2 singles, senior Alyssa Engle and senior Jessica Hinkle - No. 2 doubles

Parker's season outlook: "I have been with the team for four years, first as a parent/volunteer coach and last year as the Junior Varsity coach. I am excited for my first season as head coach. I am happy with how our team is coming together and impressed with how our players are dealing with the tough weather conditions that come with spring in Michigan. We are looking forward to some great matches, especially against the other two Livonia schools who are always tough. Our goal is to keep improving throughout the season so we come into regionals playing our best. Last year we missed going to the state finals by one point, so we are focused on getting back to States this year."

Wayne Memorial

Head coach: Gwen Frettenborough (3rd season)

Last year's division record: 1-5 (6th in KLAA Black)

Player's to watch: Sophomore Judy Ward - No. 4 singles, sophomore Laney Blair - No. 1 singles, sophomore Leera Garrett - No. 3 singles, sophomore Madison Tate-Rankin and sophomore Victoria Ceci - No. 1 doubles

Frettenborough's season outlook: "The outlook is great this year. We have a really young team and a lot of drive. Girls are excited to come to practice and even more excited when we get to matches. Even if the girls lose, they are ready to learn at the next practice to get better. I am excited for the season."

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

Signing

Continued from Page 1B

Wisconsin-Parkside.

Wisconsin-Parkside is a division two school in the GLIAC conference.

"The coaching staff was really supportive," Sigmon said. "I got a chance to go on campus and see a live practice. I really like their coaching staff, they have a lot of amenities as far as the things I'd need to become a better player. I feel like it's the right place, it felt like a second home to me. I felt like I could belong there and fit in real well with the team."

The Rangers run an up-tempo offense similar to what Canton runs. Sigmon said he feels he can have a significant role early on in his career, especially if he puts in the work this summer to get stronger.

He chose Wisconsin-Parkside over Lake Superior State and Montana State Northern.

"It was a hard decision," Sigmon said. "I want to thank those coaches for recruiting me, they did a really good job."

Canton coach Jimmy Reddy said he happy he was able to coach Sigmon, who started each of the last three years for the Chiefs.

"He's one of the best leaders we've had here at Canton," Reddy said. "I just finished my 10th year here, and he's one of my all-time favorite players. He's a great two-way player. He was the best defender for us for three years. He always guarded the other team's best perimeter player, who sometimes was a bigger kid. He worked his tail off."

This season, Sigmon averaged around 17 points, four rebounds and four assists per game.

"Offensively, he has one of the best pull-ups that I've ever seen as a coach," Reddy said. "He could score in a variety of ways, willing passer, got it to the open player on time and then he was just a bulldog for us defensively."

Sigmon gave plenty of credit to Reddy for working with him over the years, saying he showed him how to work hard and grow as a player.

He added that he feels he a scrappy player that can score, saying he models his game after NBA stars Jayson Tatum and Lou Williams.

"I think Wisconsin-Parkside is a good fit," Reddy said. "They have a very good program, good coach, they've had



Canton's Vinson Sigmon is surrounded by teammates after signing his LOI to play basketball at Wisconsin Parkside. ANDREW VAILLIENCOURT | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

a lot of success. ... They were the first team to offer him. There's something to be said that the first team that offers you, they probably want you the most. They really liked him early. I think he has the opportunity to succeed there."

The Sigmon and White duo provided a huge boost to the Canton basketball

program over the last several years. The two guards are friends and spent considerable time doing whatever they could to help the team while improving as players.

"I've been telling those guys for a while now, I could coach another 20 years and not have two guys that are as

good of players and people as they are," Reddy said. "Outstanding student-athletes and we were super lucky to have them. They made their mark here."

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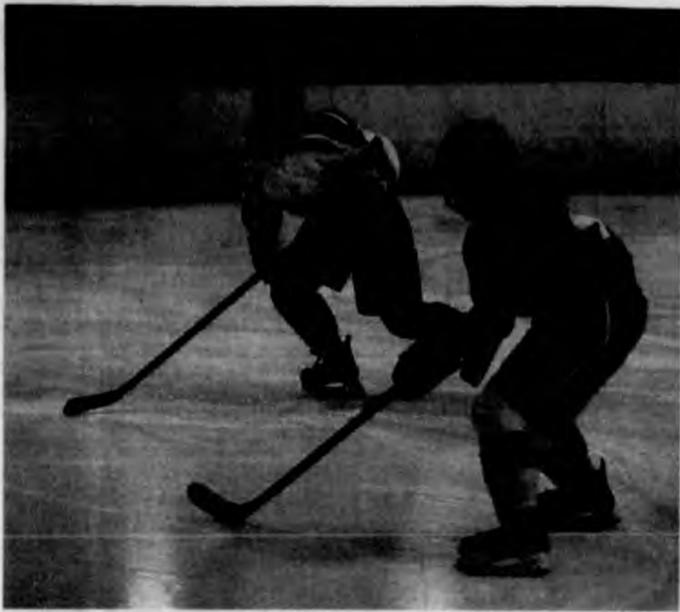
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The Livonia United girls hockey team is entering its third season. LIVONIA UNITED GIRLS HOCKEY

Livonia girls hockey team announces clinic

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia United girls high school hockey team is holding a clinic 6-8 p.m., May 23, at the Eddie Edgar Ice Arena in Livonia.

The clinic costs \$15 and is for girls in grades 6-11 that live in the Livonia Public Schools area.

The team is entering its third season and has steady growth, winning one game in its first season and 12 last year. This clinic will serve as an opportunity for girls to learn about the team and sport, especially with the team looking to add players to its roster.

Participants should bring their own helmet, skates, glove and stick, but full equipment is preferred.

There are three different tiers for the teams, so players of all skill levels are welcome.

Players will be on the ice from 6-7:30 p.m. (registration begins at 5:15 p.m.), and there will be an information session about the team and program afterwards.

For more information, you can contact coach Janine Martinez at j99ref-martinez@gmail.com.

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

Stevenson's Olschanski voted Athlete of the Week

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Stevenson softball team is off to a blazing start. The Spartans are 10-3 and are a perfect 6-0 in the division, good for first place. Senior Catherine Olschanski has played a large part in the squad's success — especially with her dynamite performance last week, which has earned her Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week honors.

She went 12-for-13 at the plate, good for a .923 batting average, with two home runs, four doubles and a whopping 12 RBI in four games last week.

She received 13,625 votes (32.41%), edging out Livonia Churchill baseball player Jake Rudd, who received 11,157 votes (26.54%). More than 54,000 votes were cast.

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

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

"The biggest team goals for the rest of the season is first become City Champs, win the division and win our districts. A personal goal I have overall is being able to end my high school career knowing I made an impact in this organization."

Who is your favorite sports role

model or athlete and why?

"My favorite sports athlete is Anthony Rizzo of the Chicago Cubs. As an athlete who has been in her own slumps, he has taught me that patience is key because hits will come."

Who is your favorite musical artist/band and why?

"My favorite musical artist is Kenny Chesney. I saw him in concert last year and the energy he had on stage as well as his connection with the audience was amazing. I can always relate one of his songs to a memory of my life."

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

"My all-time favorite movie is Major League. The story behind an underdog team who surprises the world is awesome because competition in softball/baseball is about never taking a team too lightly. In the movie the team becomes a family and in softball your teammates become your sisters."

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

"I am a senior in high school and my plans after high school are to attend Michigan State University to study veterinarian medicine. As of right now my focus is on my studies but who knows what the future holds for me and softball."

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



Livonia Stevenson's Catherine Olschanski has been named the Hometown Life Athlete of the Week. COURTESY OF CATHERINE OLSHANSKI

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A good number of softball fans turned up for the April 17 charity softball game.

Softball

Continued from Page 1B

excited we had so many people out here both today and Monday.

"(Stevenson coach) Kevin (Hannigan) was awesome to put the time in, his kids showed tons of class. Our Churchill family showed up and supported. You really couldn't ask for more. It's a great opportunity for the kids to learn a little more than just softball."

On the field, it was Churchill that had the edge after the first inning, taking a 3-2 lead after three consecutive RBI singles. However, that lead didn't last long.

Stevenson had two big innings, the second and the fifth. In the second, the Spartans pushed across five runs before exploding for 14 runs in the fifth.

"We got it to 8-4 and I felt like we had some pressure going, and then we just had that one inning where we couldn't get an out," Vinitski said. "We kicked the ball around a little too much, we weren't very aggressive on defense and when you give up four and five outs an inning, it's a fun game to play if you're hitting and a tough game to play if you're on defense."

Churchill falls to 5-6 overall, while Stevenson goes to 10-3 and a perfect 6-0 in the KLAA.

"For us to settle down a bit and get our bats and see (the pitcher's) tendencies was big, we hit a lot of line drives which is great," Hannigan said. "We kept that momentum going through the next few innings."

"We jumped on them. I think we got the first six or seven runners on in (the fifth) inning before they got an out."

Stevenson was led by junior Autumn Reed, who hit three doubles and recorded six RBIs. Junior Maddie Schornack added two triples and three RBIs, junior Natalie Conn picked up two hits and three RBIs and every player in the starting lineup reached base.

"We have a great lineup," Reed said. "It's always smooth, everyone's hitting. It's a perfect lineup."

She added that it felt great to be a part of the charity games and was happy to come out with two wins.



Livonia Churchill softball players stand for the National Anthem on April 17 as they host Livonia Churchill in a game that also raised funds for the Gift of Life Michigan charity. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"(Reed) is great," Hannigan said. "She's a junior, she's a captain. We're trying to make her become one of the leaders. She's getting recruited and her bat is hot right now. She just has a hot bat and it's great to see, she put a lot of work in during the off-season, and now she's starting to explode."

The two teams hope to hold a pair of charity games again next season, as they have the past several sea-

sons. It's become a special tradition between the schools.

"All the girls have known each other since they were in grade school, so it's great to see our community come together," Hannigan said.

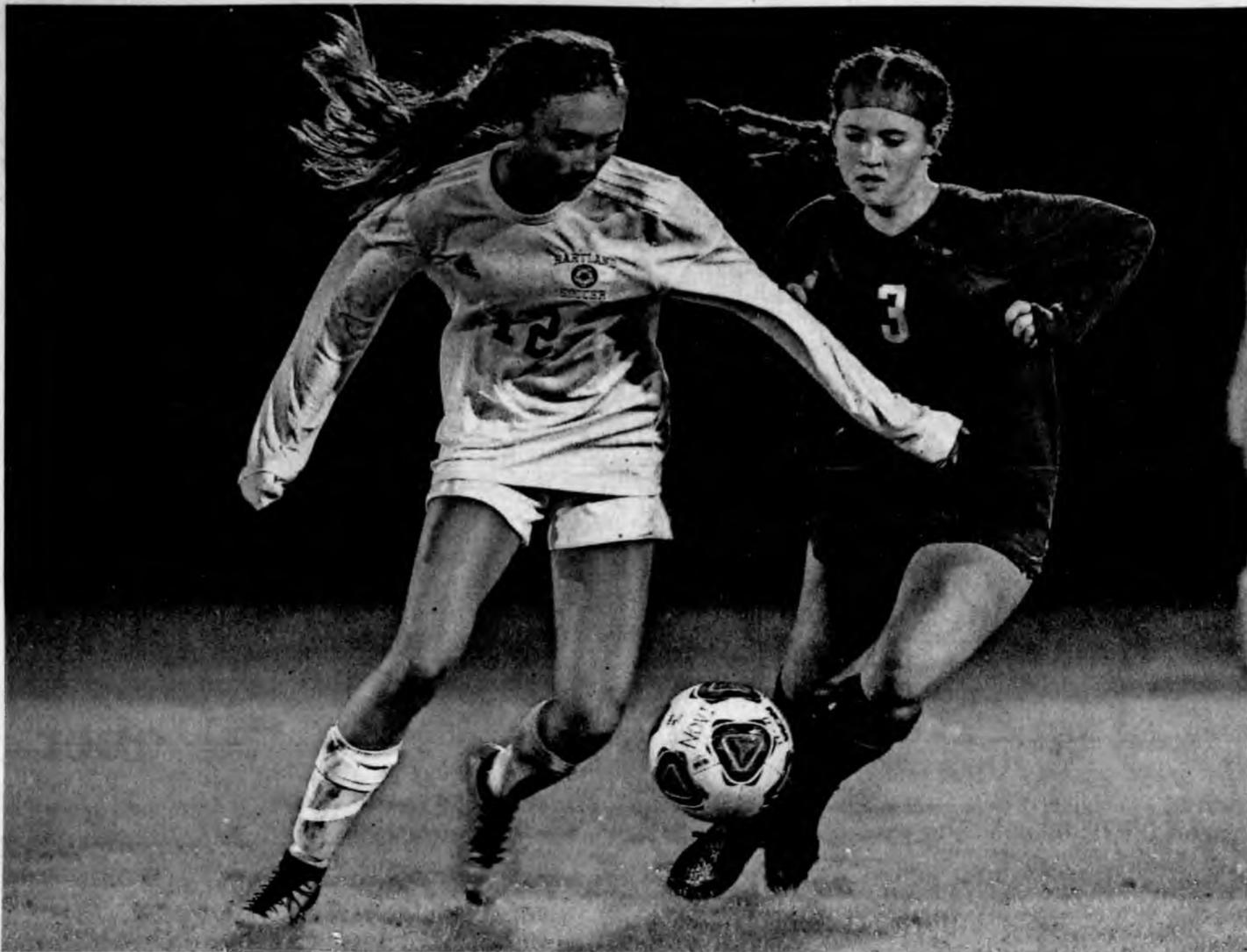
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Livonia Stevenson's Autumn Reed had a big game with some big hits.



There were a lot of Stevenson players rounding third base in their lopsided victory over Churchill.



Hartland's Grace Sargeant, left, and Novi's Jenna Daschke battle for the soccer ball on Thursday.

Novi ends Hartland's win streak

Bill Khan
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

NOVI — It's not supposed to be easy in KLAA West girls soccer, a concept Hartland had reinforced Thursday night and that Novi seems to be defying.

Hartland was riding high with a seven-game winning streak and a rivalry victory over Brighton two nights earlier, but needs to regroup following its first loss, a 4-0 decision to the defending state Division 1 champion Wildcats.

The sixth-ranked Eagles (7-1-1) will host top-ranked Novi (6-0) on May 14 and could see the Wildcats 15 days later in a district semifinal.

"We had a great start (to the season)," Hartland coach Andrew Kartsounes said. "It's probably the best start we've ever had, especially considering the competition we've played. We knew tonight was going to be tough."

"After that big Brighton win, that was a big emotional high. We just didn't start this one with our head in the right place. That's a lesson to be learned, especially for when we get to the end of the season

at tournament time when you have to play every single one."

The Eagles knew they weren't going to emerge unblemished in a league as tough as the KLAA West. The league has four teams ranked in the top 10 in Division 1, three returning first-team all-starters, two second-team all-starters and four players who received honorable mention.

At the very least, Hartland hoped for a more competitive effort against a Novi team that looks primed to repeat as state champion.

Kartsounes can only hope that the Eagles respond to a tough loss like they did last year after falling 1-0 to Brighton and 5-1 to Grand Blanc during the regular season. In the state tournament, Hartland beat Brighton in the first game and lost to Grand Blanc, 1-0, on a goal with 5:32 left in the regional semifinals.

"We've got to keep working, and we'll be fine," Kartsounes said.

Meanwhile, Novi may very well cruise through what's arguably the state's toughest league. All six of the Wildcats' victories have come in division games, the last three against Brigh-

ton, Plymouth and Hartland teams ranked in the top 10. The Wildcats have posted five straight shutouts, outscoring their opponents 20-1.

"We graduated 12 seniors from last year's team," Novi coach Todd Pfeiffer said. "We're a different team this year. Our goal is to win a state championship for our school again. But every time we come in, all we hear is, 'We're going to take on the defending state champion.' We're a good team and we're going to be competing for that state championship."

"In our district, we've got Hartland, Brighton, Northville and us. Not only do we play each other two times during the season, we most likely are going to see each other in the state tournament, as well."

Novi controlled the game in the first half, outshooting Hartland 8-1 and taking a 2-0 lead on goals by Jenna Daschke with 21:17 left and Lexi Whalen with 3:50 remaining.

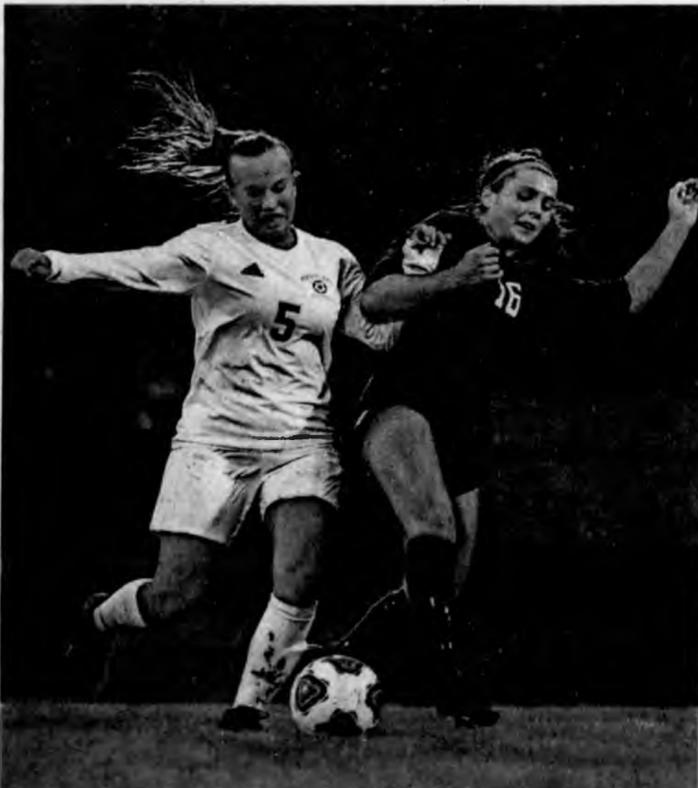
Despite being outplayed, Hartland had two great opportunities to get back in the game in the second half on a free kick by Josie Huber and a penalty kick by Justina L'Esperance.

Huber nailed a shot targeted for the lower right corner of the net with 19:30 left, but Novi goalie Abbey Pfeiffer made a diving stop for one of her four saves. L'Esperance, who has seven goals, fired a shot over the crossbar on a penalty kick with 10:21 remaining.

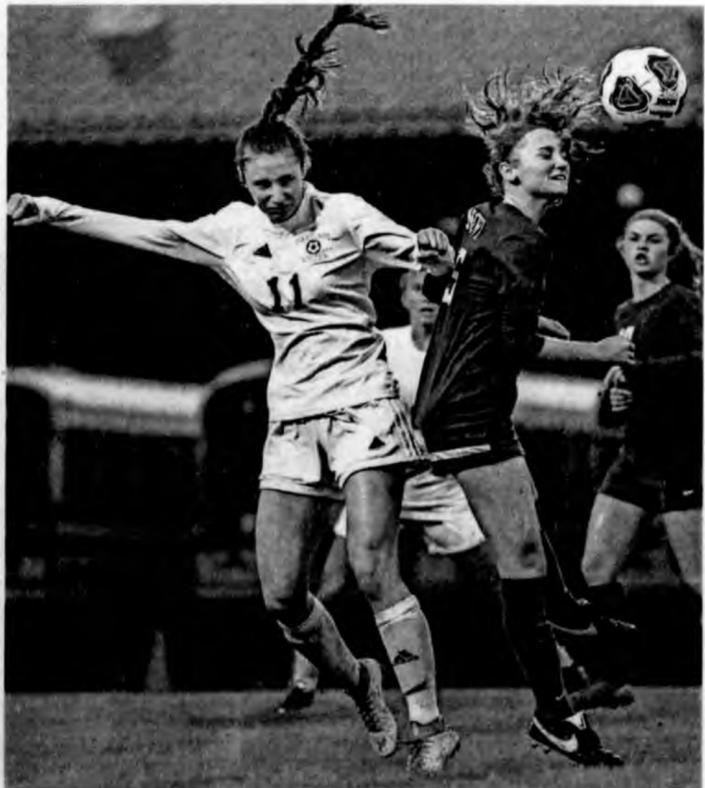
"It could have been a different game with either one of those," Kartsounes said. "It would have been a more interesting finish. We've got to take some lessons from this. We'll see them again in a couple weeks and we'll see what we can do to improve on it."

The Eagles did a good job of limiting Novi's scoring chances in the second half, but the Wildcats got goals from all-stater Avery Fenchel and Whalen in the final 3:14.

"Hartland is a great team," said Fenchel, who had a goal and two assists. "All the KLAA teams we play are really tough competition, so it's great for our team to pull out a win. All the credit to them; they played really hard today. It was a great game."



Hartland's Maria Storm, left, and Novi's Jessica Bandyk battle for the soccer ball on Thursday. PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY ARRICK/ FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY



Novi's Avery Fenchel, who had a goal and two assists, gets a header in front of Hartland's Michelle Keranen (11) on Thursday, April 18.

Milford's Smith signs with UDM

Andrew Vaillencourt
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Milford senior Allison Smith has signed to play softball next year at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Smith is a four-year starter and three-year captain of the Milford softball team as the team's shortstop.

"I picked UDM because it felt like the right fit for me," Smith said. "It gives me the opportunity to continue to play the game I love at a high level and also has the Pre PA program that will allow me to focus my studies on what I plan to do with my life after college. When I visited the campus all of the people there were welcoming to me and I got to talk to many of the professors and staff members who emphasized that since UDM is a smaller school they can really build relationships with the students and provide more personal instruction."

The all-conference Smith also lettered in basketball and volleyball. She carries a 4.21 GPA.

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



Milford softball's Allison Smith will be playing at Detroit Mercy next year. COURTESY OF DANE SMITH

Fundraiser will help restore B-25J bomber

April 27 fundraiser will support the restoration
Glory Museum

Sean Bradley Livingston Daily | USA TODAY
NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Someday the North American B-25J bomber will fly again.

The plane — which was manufactured in 1944 and served as a training plane until 1959 — has been in the restoration process since it was discovered in 2012 in the Alaskan wilderness, where it had crashed.

"The glass nose has been completely restored," Patrick Mihalek, director of the Warbirds of Glory Museum and leader of the plane restoration project, said recently. "Now we're into the going-back-together phase of the wing center section."

In 2015, Kittyhawk Academy Program Director Todd Trainor estimated it could cost about \$1 million and take 10 years to restore the plane to the point it can fly again.

But this goal depends on funding. "Progress is really determined by the amount of support we have," Mihalek said.

To this end, a fundraising event will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. April 27 in hangar 639 at the Livingston County Airport at 3500 W. Grand River Avenue in Howell.

It will raise money toward finishing the plane's restoration and to build a permanent museum — which will cost approximately \$2 million — as well as for scholarships for the Kittyhawk Academy youth program.

Demonstrations will be given by students in the Kittyhawk Academy, where adult volunteers mentor youngsters in trade skills and more.

The Kittyhawk Academy plans to expand this fall to a building in either Howell or Brighton. That move could



Patrick Mihalek, left, and Todd Trainor, shown on April 12, are working to restore a B-25J bomber at the Warbirds of Glory Museum.

quadruple the number of students participating and make partnerships with area schools possible, Mihalek said.

Of nearly 10,000 B-25s built during the war, only about 100 survived.

Mihalek discovered the plane during a 2012 trip to Alaska, where it had been used for firefighting.

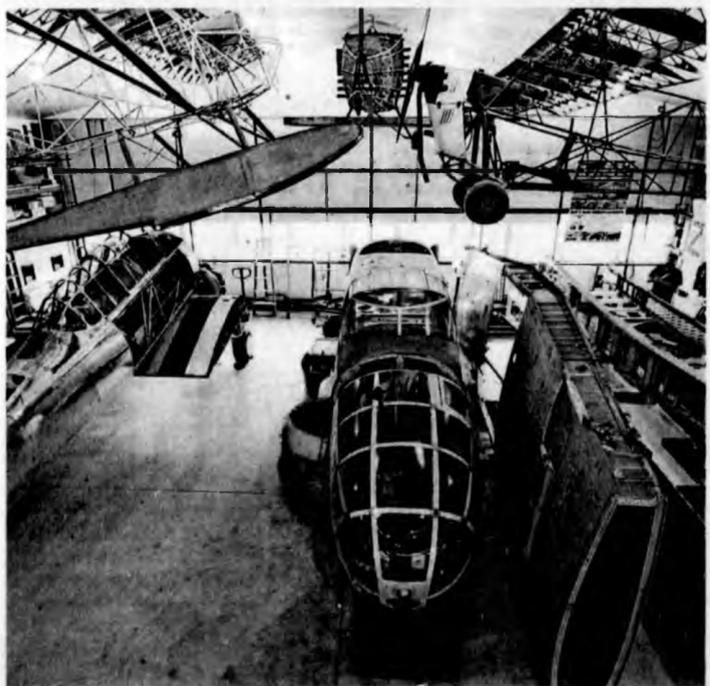
Best identified by the vertical tips of their rear wings, B-25s are also known

as Mitchell bombers in honor of military aviation pioneer Billy Mitchell. The Brighton B-25 is called the Sandbar Mitchell because it was recovered from a sandbar.

Primarily used in the Pacific Theater during WWII, a number of planes were also purchased or leased by wartime allies, including Canada, the U.K. and the USSR.

After the war, they were used for a variety of non-military activities. The last great collection of B-25s, 18 in all, was assembled for the 1970 film "Catch-22."

Contact Livingston Daily reporter Sean Bradley at 517-552-2860 or at spbradley@livingstondaily.com. Follow him on Twitter @SbradleyLD.



Warbirds of Glory Museum workers in Brighton Township are restoring a B-25J bomber plane known as Sandbar Mitchell. PHOTOS BY GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY



Authentic parts such as these shown Friday, April 12, 2019, are critical to the historical accuracy of the restoration of a B-25J.



Cast of South Lyon East High's production of *Newsies* rehearses on April 18. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

South Lyon East presents 'Newsies' on stage

Staff reports

SoThe South Lyon East High School Department of Theater presents Disney's "Newsies."

Set in turn-of-the century New York City, "Newsies" is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of teenage newspaper sellers. When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack rallies newsies from across

the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what's right.

Based on the 1992 motion picture and inspired by a true story, "Newsies" features a Tony Award-winning score by Alan Menken ("Little Shop of Horrors," "Sister Act") and Jack Feldman and a book by Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein ("Kinky Boots").

The musical features now classic songs "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," and "Santa Fe."

"Newsies" is packed with non-stop thrills and a timeless message, perfect for the whole family and every audience.

Performance dates are 7 p.m., April 25-27, and one matinee performances 2 p.m., April 28.

Tickets purchased in advance are: \$10 for adults, senior citizens (62 and over), and students; and children (under 12) may purchase a ticket for \$5. At the door ticket prices are: \$12 for adults;

\$10 for students and senior citizens (62 and over); and \$6 for children (under 12). All ticket are performance-specific and general seating.

Tickets are available at Java House Café, The South Lyon Center for Active Adults, or online at www.southlyoneastdrama.com.



Cast members of *Newsies*, including Crutchy (Grant Kruger), rehearse on April 18.



South Lyon East High will present *Newsies* on April 25-28. Here they rehearse a scene on April 18.

Police continue to investigate killing of mom, 21

Susan Vela
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi police continue to investigate the April 7 fatal shooting of a 21-year-old mother, Tia Joe.

Police Sgt. Kevin Gilmore said Monday no arrests have been made. He declined to comment on what may have happened before Joe was killed and her infant son was critically injured.

Authorities have ruled Joe's death a homicide. Police were dispatched to the Oakland Glens mobile home community at 13 Mile and Novi roads shortly before 4:30 a.m. Sunday, April 7.

Joe was pronounced dead at the scene. Her son was critically injured.

Neighbors have said they heard screaming and calls for help before the police arrived.

Joe lived in a mobile home with her

mother and son. According to neighbors, the family kept to themselves. Joe sometimes sat outside in a vehicle outside with a man.

A \$15,000 GoFundMe campaign is underway to help family pay for Joe's burial and her son Braxton's medical expenses. Police said last week the child was in stable condition.

"Thank you for anyone who can and will help," the GoFundMe page reads.

Another suspicious death happened at the mobile home park in January 2018. Derrick Dixon was sentenced to a 35-80 year prison sentence after entering a no-contest plea to a second-degree murder charge. His wife Heather, 32, was found fatally strangled in their home.

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



Novi police were dispatched to this Rousseau Drive home early Sunday morning and found a deceased woman. PHOTO: SUSAN VELA | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

3 pets may have been dumped at landfill

From Staff Reports
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Animal cruelty investigators are looking for information in two cases of pets being dumped in Washtenaw County this week.

According to a news release from Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clay-

ton's office, the incidents involve an abandoned bulldog and two domestic rabbits.

In the first case, authorities said, deputies responded to the landfill in Salem Township on Monday for report of an abandoned black and white English dog.

Deputies picked up the dog and transported it to the Huron Valley Hu-

mane Society. They also found a soaking wet dog bed and two plastic containers with food and water — indicating the dog was deliberately dumped at the landfill.

The next day, deputies were called to Waterworks Park in Ypsilanti for report of two domestic rabbits abandoned in a pet carrier.

The pet carrier is a bright blue/white

animal duffel bag. One of the rabbits was emaciated. Both were taken to Huron Valley Humane Society.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office at 734-994-2911 or submit a tip anonymously to 734-973-7711.

'Wheel of Fortune' coming to Detroit in May

Maryann Struman
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

"Wheel of Fortune" is rolling into town looking for contestants.

The popular game show's Wheelmobile will be scouting for candidates from noon to 4 p.m. May 18-19 at the Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre (formerly Chene Park), 2600 Atwater, on Detroit's riverfront.

Here's how it works, according to the game show's website:

■ A professional host and hostess present a live show with a traveling version of the wheel and puzzleboard that offers fans a chance to win prizes and qualify for a contestant audition to be on the show.

■ Fans fill out and submit applications upon entry. During the show, the traveling host and co-host draw applications at random and call individuals on stage in groups of five to participate in a brief interview, play a version of the Wheel of Fortune "Speed-Up Round" and win special show-themed prizes.

■ The most promising candidates are invited back to participate in final auditions. Even if an applicant was not selected on stage, their name might be drawn at random at a later date for an audition.

■ At the final auditions, the "Wheel of Fortune" contestant coordinators select the individuals who will appear on the broadcast version of the show.

■ Showing up to a Wheelmobile event doesn't guarantee you an audition for the live show. Last year, more than a million people applied and only 600 were selected.

There are a number of restrictions: Contestants must be 18 or older, not be affiliated with "Wheel of Fortune" or related companies, not have appeared on another game show in the last year, among others. In addition, applicants are responsible for paying their own travel expenses to get to the show if selected to appear on the broadcast.

"Wheel of Fortune" airs at 7 p.m. on weeknights on WDIV-TV (Channel 4)

MSP nabs 12 sex offenders in tri-county area

Susan Vela
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Twelve sex offenders were arrested recently in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties, according to Michigan State Police troopers.

The state agency reported in a news statement the 12 had outstanding felony warrants and weren't in compliance with the Michigan Sex Offenders Registration Act.

Dubbed Operation Final Countdown, the two-day sweep during the week of April 15 also involved the U.S. Marshals Service.

Law enforcers had identified 26 registered sex offender violators. They arrested one offender in an out-of-state treatment facility.

Troopers are not releasing names or information about those arrested. They have said all offenders have been arraigned on their charges.

Violations pertained to proper address verification to law enforcement agencies.

For more information on Michigan's Sex Offender Registry, visit www.michigan.gov/msp/.

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

Field trips enrich the lives of our students

Steve Matthews
Novi Community School District superintendent

The historic and iconic Notre Dame church in Paris, France, caught fire and burned last week. It was stunning to see.

Just two weeks before that Novi High School students, under the guidance of teacher Nic LeTarte, were in Paris on a spring break educational tour. This trip has typically occurred every two years. As part of their tour and visit this year, our students saw this magnificent building.

The trip to Paris this year was not unique. Each year, students from the Novi Community School District take a variety of trips.

Our middle school students visit Washington, D.C., annually. The Novi Meadows choir competes at Cedar Point. Our HOSA and DECA students compete annually at national and international sites around the United States. This year DECA and HOSA will travel to Orlando, Fla.

We have had our Novi High School

dance students travel to New York. We have had our Novi High School journalism students travel to Chicago.



Matthews

teachers have taken our students to Spain, England and Peru.

There are other examples of our teachers taking the time to organize and chaperone our students as they experience

the world.

Why are we willing to approve trips like these each year?

Because trips like these enrich the lives of our students. Trips like these help our students experience and appreciate the world in which they live.

Educational trips like this expose our students to new sights and sounds, new perspectives.

The world in which our students live is larger than Novi. The world in which our students live has more people and more perspectives than just what our students can see and experience in Novi.

Helping our students see beyond their back yard and helping our students gain an appreciation of how they fit into this larger world is part of our school district's responsibility.

We successfully integrate the world into our classrooms every day. For example, in our elementary classrooms our elementary students have virtual field trips to learn about the world. Our teachers routinely connect the larger world to our students' classroom experience.

But, at times, it is important to travel into the world. From these trips, our students then get to see and feel and hear the world and then begin to see and experience how they fit into this world. Our hope in providing these experiences is to broaden our students' experiences and prepare them to take an active role in the world now and when they graduate.

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

How to keep teens safe when they use ride shares alone

Micah Walker
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft seem like the ideal transportation solution for teenagers too young to drive.

Teens can Uber home from school if their parents are unavailable. Or if a group of friends want to take a trip to the mall, a Lyft can safely take them there.

However, a new study suggests that parents are concerned about the lack of safety ride-sharing services can bring.

Conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs, the study was administered in February to a randomly selected group of parents 18 and older nationwide. The study consisted of responses from 877 parents who had at least one child between the ages of 14-18. The margin of error is plus or minus 2-4 percentage points and is higher among subgroups.

Parents' top concern was unsafe drivers, with three in four parents worried about issues such as being distracted by a phone or speeding. In addition, more than half of parents were worried about a driver being impaired from alcohol or drugs, while half were concerned that their teen would not be

wearing a seat belt.

Two-thirds of parents were also concerned about their teen being sexually assaulted, with parents more worried about their daughters (79%) than their sons (55%). Age was also a factor, with 69% of parents more concerned about their children between the ages of 14-17 compared with 58% of parents with 18-year-olds.

One in three parents say their 18-year-old has used a ride-sharing service, either alone or with another teen, said the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health at the University of Michigan.

"Ride-sharing services are increasingly used as a convenient way to get around for adults and may potentially also be an attractive option for teens with busy schedules and social lives," said poll co-director and Mott pediatrician Gary Freed.

According to terms of service on Uber and Lyft's websites, teens under the age of 18 are not allowed to use the ride sharing services unless someone age 18 or older accompanies them.

But Freed said these services can find it hard to verify a passenger's age, and parents may need someone to pick up their child on short notice.

An investigation by WMAQ-TV in Chicago revealed that several Uber and

Lyft drivers pick up children passengers in the city and suburbs, with some of them being as young as 12 years old. Only one Lyft driver obeyed the guidelines, refusing to accept minors.

Freed said parents should go over safety rules with their children when they need to use a ride-sharing service. Teens should match the driver's description, car and license plate, avoid riding alone, be aware of their surroundings and pay attention to whether the driver is being safe and going to the correct destination. If teens feel like they are in danger, they should ask the driver to stop the car or call 911.

"Teens may feel awkward or inhibited to speak up if they notice a driver is not driving safely or if something does 'not feel right' about the car or the driver," said Freed. "Parents should empower their teens to feel comfortable to speak out or refuse a ride. They should be reminded that they are getting into a vehicle with someone they do not know, and that it is essential for them to be especially attentive to anything that may risk their safety."

The increase in safety with ride sharing services comes after University of South Carolina student Samantha Josephson was kidnapped and murdered after mistakenly entering a car she believed was an Uber.

Police stop one car, take two into custody

Susan Vela
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon police stopped an apparently speeding vehicle recently and ended up arresting both the driver and passenger because of outstanding warrants.

According to an April 13 report, a police officer was eastbound on Nine

Mile Road, near Dean Drive, when he noticed their oncoming vehicle around 10:30 p.m.

The officer asked the driver to pull over and reviewed license and identification information for a 20-year-old driver and her 21-year-old passenger, both of South Lyon.

The police discovered the driver was wanted for domestic assault in Davison. The passenger had warrants from Novi

and South Lyon.

Both were taken into custody. The driver was released after posting bond. South Lyon authorities transported the passenger to Novi.

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

Someone may be trying to cash phony library checks

Susan Vela
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Someone may be checking out the Milford Public Library's checkbook activity for their own illicit purposes.

Police said in a report they were called to Milford Township offices April 11 to talk to Township Treasurer Cynthia Dagenhardt and Library Director Tina Hatch about suspicious checks apparently tied to the library's bank account.

Owned by the township, the library just west of downtown Milford works with more than 100 vendors. Both officials told police someone allegedly was trying to cash fraudulent checks.

The women had recently heard from the library's bank there was a suspicious check. A Texan, Raheed Richardson, was supposed to be the payee.

It looked like a library check but its

number was beyond the library's current sequence of checks. Plus, it was dated March 29, 2018.

Then the library learned two additional suspicious checks were presented.

The three checks had different payees and different dates. But they all were for \$1,950 and bore the signatures of Hatch and, representing the township, Terrell Tucker.

An accountant reviewed checks going back to January 2018. The accountant found a matching \$1,950 check for Brien's Services from June. That check had the signatures from Hatch and Dagenhardt.

An investigation is ongoing. Library and township officials could not be reached for comment.

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

Obituaries

Evelyn D. Cohea

MILFORD - Evelyn D. (nee. Harhold) Cohea, a longtime resident of Milford, a native of Dearborn and a beloved and respected Milford area teacher, died peacefully on

April 20, 2019. She was 85 years old. She was preceded in death by her husband, C. Lawrence Cohea in 2004, her son, Larry F. Cohea in 1967 and daughter, Julia P. Cohea in 2018. She is survived by her granddaughters, Evelyn-Rose and Lauren; her sister, Phyllis (the late Robert) Glentz and their children, Karin (Rick) Guinan, Kathie Maifert, Lynda (Lee) Howder, Lisa (Chris) Schmidt and Laura Bergeron; her sister, Dorothy (the late Dario) Tomei and their children, Dino (Patrice) Tomei and Christopher (Denise) Tomei; her cousin, Pat (Ken) Loy and their daughter, Karen (Lance) Rossetto, as well as many extended family members and dear friends. Visitation will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St, Milford on Friday, April 26, 2019 from 2-8 PM. A Funeral Service will be held at the Milford United Methodist Church, 1200 Atlantic Street, Milford on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 11 AM, with a lunch following. The Rev. Doug McMunn to officiate. Burial Roseland Park Cemetery, Berkley. For further information, phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchandSonsMilford.com



Deloy Daniel Dotson

MILFORD - Deloy Daniel Dotson, a long time resident of Milford and founder of Great Lakes Press Repair in Belleville, died on April 17, 2019 at the age of 80.

He is survived by by his companion, Vicki Medlock; his sons, Derek (Sandi) Dotson, Dean Dotson (Kelly Burd), and Dennis (the late Debbie) Dotson; his daughter, Deborah (Dave) Fairchild and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held on April 23, 2019 with interment in Milford Memorial Cemetery. Memorials may be made in his name to Milford American Legion Post 216. For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchandSonsMilford.com

LYNCH & SONS
Funeral Directors
Milford

Ashley Marie (Brabant) Wolfe

- - Born in Detroit Michigan 8-13-87 - 4-13-19

Ashley had a passion for life including family, friends, animals, crocheting, fishing, hiking, and growing roses.

Ashley was a beautiful, kind, loving soul, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, niece, cousin, wife and mother. Gone too soon from her precious babies: Oakley Marie Wolfe 2 months and Axl James Wolfe 20 months. She is survived by her husband Daniel Wolfe.

She is also survived by her parents Dawn and Richard Brabant, brother and sister-in-law James and Stephanie Brabant, niece Aubrey Brabant. Aunts: Sandy Trominski, Kathy Oleksy, and Michelle Drury. Cousins: Alan, Brittany, Allyson, Alyssa, Alex, and Lauren. As well as Father-in-law Roger Wolfe (Denise). Mother-in-law Beth Pierce (Mark). Brother-in-law Jason Wolfe. Forever in our hearts. Memorial to be announced. Donations in lieu of flowers can go to the American Cancer Society or the Humane Society.



BOOKS

'Woman' and her mission rival any spy thriller

David Holahan
Special to USA TODAY

Virginia Hall was considerably more than simply an American spy. She was, to be sure, a crackerjack infiltrator, first for the British and later for her own country.

But she also was a guerrilla leader fighting the good fight against Nazi Germany four years before the allies landed at Normandy in 1944. She had been fighting Hitler for nearly two years when her country backed into the war in Europe after Pearl Harbor.

Her status, if long overlooked in the history of World War II for her contribution to the liberation of France, was well understood at the time by Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo leader known as the "Butcher of Lyon." She was atop his most-wanted list, and, if captured, a horrific death awaited her.

In "A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II," Sonia Purnell resurrects the saga of a remarkable woman whose persistence was honed early on by her battles against low gender expectations and later by her disability: She had a wooden leg. The book (Viking, 368 pp.) is out now.

The author, a British journalist and biographer, brings into focus the dramatic struggles behind enemy lines that hastened the liberation of France and saved thousands of lives. Her subject had to worry not simply about the Nazis, but also their many French collaborators and condescending - and sometimes incompetent - male colleagues.

Purnell's research is thorough, and she ably places Hall in the context of her times: Women risking their lives in battle would remain controversial for more than a half century after her

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II



exploits. There is much high drama, and the book has been optioned for Paramount Pictures, with Daisy Ridley slated for the starring role.

Nothing seemed to get in the way of Hall's desire to make more of her life than "marrying well," as her mother expected her to do. Twice rejected by the American Foreign Service despite speaking multiple languages, she was an ambulance driver at the front in France in 1940 when the British recruited her for the

newly formed Special Operations Executive, a group whose mission was to "set Europe ablaze" by a variety of means - some of them gleaned from tactics used against the empire by the Irish Republican Army.

James Bond had nothing on Hall. Licensed to kill, she sported pens that shot poison ink, cyanide pills, dangerous loaves of bread (when sliced) and exploding horse dung set out ahead of German convoys.

There was, however, a decided lack of glamour to the real deal. Before being deployed on a second tour in occupied France, this time by her own country's Office of Strategic Services, Hall needed a new look to avoid capture. As part of her extreme makeover - from an attractive 38-year-old journalist to an aged peasant - "she has her fine, white American teeth ground down by a much-feared female London dentist to resemble those of a French countrywoman," according to the author.

Clearly, here was a woman on a mission.

That she was so successful was something of an embarrassment to her less-accomplished male colleagues. That she had not until now received her due may be attributed to a corollary to the maxim that history is written by the victors: It most often has been written by men.

BOOK REVIEW

Power, status, desire meet in 'Normal People'

Barbara VanDenburgh
USA TODAY

Everything feels so important when you're a teenager, every misstep and mistake catastrophic and world-ending. The world, of course, rarely ends in high school, even when you desperately wish it to. And two young people from different social and economic castes desperately wish it to in "Normal People" (Hogarth, 273 pp., \$14.99), after an intense sexual affair comes to an ignominious end.

The fallout that follows long after the schoolyard gossip dies makes for a keen psychological study of two specific, powerfully drawn characters that fix its gaze inward. But in her microscopic specificity, Irish author Sally Rooney, 28 (this is only her second novel, after 2017's "Conversations With Friends"), has accomplished a literary magic trick, writing a novel of universal profundity that explores the way power dynamics in sex shape our sense of self.

Marianne is an object of disgust at school, a rich girl who wears no makeup and spends her lunchtimes alone reading novels. She's met with derision and scorn, is gossiped about prolifically in spite of her exile. Perhaps it's because of her family's wealth, which is enough of an instigation to provoke retaliation in an area of Ireland hit hard by the late-aughts economic recession.

No one has cause to feel more belittled by her wealth than Connell, whose mother is hired to clean Marianne's house. He's the only son of a single, working-class mom from a rough family, but Connell nevertheless enjoys a social wealth Marianne can only dream of. A strapping football star, Connell can have his pick of sexual conquests (including, it's rumored, his seemingly besotted economics teacher).

He's disgusted by his attraction to Marianne, inflamed by afternoons spent at her house with his mother. But their intellectual rapport proves undeniable. When they finally have sex, they

find it impossible to stop. They agree to keep their liaisons a secret for the sake of Connell's social standing. But even though the secretiveness is consensual, a mismatched power dynamic takes root in this dysfunctional foundation.

"He could do or say anything he wanted with her and no one would ever find out," Connell thinks. "It gave him a vertiginous, lightheaded feeling to think about it." The feeling intensifies, warps, as his power over Marianne grows: "He had a terrible sense all of a sudden that he could just hit her face, very hard even, and she would just sit there and let him."

Tragedy strikes, as of course it must. Life doesn't end, though their relationship does. When Marianne and Connell cross paths again, this time at Trinity College in Dublin, their stations are reversed - it's the cosmopolitan Marianne who fits in and Connell who can't seem to make friends.

Every line of "Normal People" is written in the service of character. The eating of a lemon pastry, the preparations of cups of coffee or tea, the brief pause of porcelain poised at lips - every action goes back to character. That sensuousness of physical detail includes depictions of sex, unflinching and plentiful but never gratuitous. If there's a complaint to be made, it's that such relentlessly purposeful writing can feel like affectation.

Mostly, though, it's bracingly assured. There's one memorably meta moment when Connell, right before he again becomes entangled with Marianne in college, finds himself emotionally swept up in a Jane Austen novel: "He's amused at himself, getting wrapped up in the drama of novels like that. It feels intellectually unserious to concern himself with fictional people marrying one another. But there it is: literature moves him."

It's a cheeky passage, the sort that could prove embarrassing if the story at hand didn't live up to the challenge it posed itself. Fortunately, there's nothing intellectually unserious about getting swept away by "Normal People."

TRAVEL

Vegas Neon Museum is a smart bet

Dawn Gilbertson
USA TODAY

LAS VEGAS - You could breeze through the outdoor Neon Museum in less than 30 minutes, snapping a few photos of vintage Vegas signs for Instagram and Facebook before returning to the gambling action on nearby Fremont Street or the Las Vegas Strip.

But you wouldn't learn about Libera's dry cleaner (Steiner Cleaners), the city's first racially integrated hotel casino (the short-lived Moulin Rouge) or why the Golden Nugget casino featured the year 1905 on its glittery facade instead of 1946, the year it opened (to appear more established to gamblers).

The Las Vegas history lesson comes only with a guided tour of the downtown museum, a boneyard filled with 250 neon signs from Vegas' past, 17 of them restored and still glowing.

Along with the can't-miss bright-blue happy-shirt sign from Steiner, the hot-pink Libera sign from the defunct Libera Museum and giant nugget from the Golden Nugget hotel casino, visitors will find signs from defunct or renovated casino hotels. The giant skull from Treasure Island's family-friendly pirate show days is there, and so is the genie's lamp from Aladdin hotel and casino. There are signs from roadside motels and a mini-mart that beckoned hungover travelers headed back to California with free aspirin and "tender sympathy."

The vintage signs are scattered on both sides of a circular dirt path, stacked against each other like items at a yard sale. Visit more than once and you'll see signs you missed on your first trip, especially if you dip into the boneyard's nooks and crannies.

The newest addition: the giant guitar from the Hard Rock Cafe, which closed in 2016 after a nearly 30-year run. The sign owner, Young Electric Sign Company, donated the guitar to the museum, which launched a \$350,000 fundraising campaign in 2017 to transport, restore and maintain it. The sign made its debut



The sign that formerly graced the La Concha motel. The La Concha's lobby now is the main entry point for Las Vegas' Neon Museum.



The Red Barn bar sign is featured at the Sin City museum.

in March.

In addition to Las Vegas trivia, the guide on our one-hour night tour taught us the chemistry of neon and about the notorious gambler, casino owner and criminal Benny Binion of Binion's Horseshoe, whom Vegas visitors have to thank for replacing sawdust with carpeting on casino floors.

And she gave us a tip for dating the signs: Those built before 1970 have spikes or ladders, which workers used to climb eight to 10 stories to change the bulbs on signs. The practice went away with the advent of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in 1971.

The guided tour was an hour — and \$28 — well spent. Guided tours for families with kids, led by youth volunteers,

are \$5 per person (kids 6 and under are free) and available on select dates, but they are not offered in the summer. The last one for the season, in late May, is sold out.

Other ways to see the Neon Museum

Self-guided tour: Visitors are free to stroll the grounds daily with a general admission ticket. I did a self-guided tour and a guided tour on the same day and took nothing away from the self-guided tour except some photos. (No audio tours are offered.)

Specialty tours and programs: In addition to the youth tours, the museum has a variety of special events and tours, including lectures and a popular \$50

photo walk. Coming in October, a four-month exhibition of original fine art from director Tim Burton.

"Brilliant!" show: Las Vegas is known for its shows, but not too many are evening outdoor performances. The museum's lively "Brilliant!" show, which opened in early 2018, is a choreographed nearly-40-minute light and music show that illuminates long-dead signs and offers some narrated Las Vegas history. Visitors dance and sing along to songs including Elvis' "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Viva Las Vegas" and Frank Sinatra's "Luck Be A Lady." The show is \$23 for adults. The best option: a \$42 combination ticket that includes a guided tour of the boneyard and the "Brilliant!" show, back to back.

Advance reservations are recommended for any visit as tours and other programs sell out regularly.

Details: neonmuseum.org

Your Invitation to Worship

<p>Brighton</p> <p>HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL www.hsrcc.net at the corner of Winona Lake & Muech Rd. 810-231-9199 Fr. John Roccus, Pastor Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Please visit our Shrine of Turin Display and Book & Gift Shop</p>	<p>Milford United Methodist Church 1200 Atlantic St., Milford, 248-684-2798 www.umc-milford.org Sunday Worship: 10 am www.milfordumc.net</p>	<p>Northville</p> <p>First Presbyterian Church of Northville www.fpcnorthville.org 200 E. MAIN ST. AT HUTTON Worship, 9:30 am Children's Sunday School, dismissed to classes during worship Adult Sunday School, 10:45 am 248-348-0911</p>	<p>Novi</p> <p>BRIGHTMOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH 40800 W. 13 Mile Road, Novi on the corner of M-5 & W13 Sundays 9:00a & 11:15a www.brightmoorcc.org something for the entire family</p>	<p>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374 Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Msgr. John Kasza, Pastor Parish Office: 347-7778</p>	<p>first united methodist church south lyon, mi 640 S. Lafayette (248) 437-0760 Sunday Worship: 8:15 am, 10:45 am, & 11 am Sunday School 9:30 am Rev. Mary McInnes, Lead Pastor Rev. Kenny Walkup, Assoc. Pastor southlyonfirstumc.org</p>
<p>Highland</p> <p>Church of the Holy Spirit 3700 Harvey Lake Rd, Highland Saturday Mass 5PM, Sunday Mass 9 & 11AM 248-887-5344 HolySpiritHighland.com The Holy Spirit is Here - Come Home All are Welcome!</p>	<p>OAKPOINTE milford CHURCH 1250 South Hill Rd. (248) 685-3560 www.opcmilford.org Contemporary Worship Service: 8:30, 10:15, and 11:45.</p>	<p>United Methodist Church Northville (248) 348-1144 777 West 8 Mile Road (8 Mile and Tall Road) Northville, Michigan Worship Times: September - May 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day - Labor Day 10:00 a.m. Rev. Nevin M. Wootley, Lead Pastor www.furcnorthville.org</p>	<p>NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 41671 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375 Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m. Rev. June M. Smith, Pastor 248-349-2652 www.umcnovi.com Looking God, loving each other and being our own witness</p>	<p>MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21355 Meadowbrook Rd. In Novi at 8 1/2 Mile 248-348-7757 • www.mbcoc.org Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister LO 0000118119</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON 60620 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178 Phone: 248-437-2983 Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m. Assoc. Pastor: Randy Weeks Website: www.fbcouthlyon.com Email: fbcouthlyon@boglobel.net LO 0000118188</p>
<p>Milford</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD VISITORS WELCOME! 133 Detroit St., Milford • 248-717-3564 Pastor Steve Swartz Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship - 11 am Wednesday, 8:00-7:00 p.m. Awards, 3 yrs old thru 8th grade Sept.-March Website: milfordfbcfid.org</p>	<p>MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Pastor Bryant Anderson 238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2805 www.milfordpc.org Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School ages 3 thru 8th grade @ 10 a.m. Youth Group 10 am - Grades 9-12 A heritage of area worship since 1836</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 133 Orchard Dr., Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Church 348-2821, School 348-3810 Religious Education 348-2558 Rev. Denis Theroux, Pastor</p>	<p>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. www.falthcommunity-novi.org WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AM "Children, Youth and Adult Ministries"</p>	<p>BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH Gathering in Jesus Name 52909 10 Mile Rd • South Lyon, MI 48178 Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Mike Ragan, Pastor 734-347-1983 pastor cell Old fashioned preaching KLV</p>	<p>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN Wisconsin Synod • Reynold Sweet Pkwy. at Liberty St. Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. All Classes 8:00 Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-1651</p>
<p>SAINT GEORGE'S (an Episcopal Community) "God Loves You. No Exceptions!" Sunday Communion 8 & 10:30 am Intergenerational Bible Study 9:15am stgeorgsmilford.org / 248-684-0495 801 E. Commerce Street, Milford 48381</p>	<p>Whitmore Lake</p> <p>FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH 10774 Nine Mile Road Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 448-2582 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church 41415 W Nine Mile Rd • Novi, MI 48375 248-349-0565 Divine Service on Sundays at 10am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:45am Rev. Thomas Schroeder welenov@coi.com Come and worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!</p>	<p>HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375 Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (English) & 6:30 p.m. (Spanish) Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Fr. Robert A. LaCroix, Pastor Fr. James Houbbeck, Associate Parish Office: 248-348-8847 www.holyfamilynovi.org</p>	<p>CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH 28900 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon 248-486-0400 www.crossroads.net Service Times Good Friday - 8:18pm & 7:30pm Easter Sunday - 9:30am & 11:30am</p>	<p>Community Bible Church 22163 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon 248-486-4400 Sunday Worship, 11:00 A.M. 7372 Grand River, Brighton 810-227-2255 Sunday Worship: 9:30 A.M. & 11 A.M. www.communitybible.net LO 0000132837</p>
<p>For more information regarding this directory, please call Alana Lanctot at 833-790-0914 at email: alanctot@localiq.com</p>					

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Steps to starting a business, according to financial experts

 Eric Titner
thejobnetwork.com

Attention entrepreneurs: Are you eager to kickstart your own business? Of course, the notion of being your own boss and taking your idea, nurturing it with some hard work and ingenuity, and grabbing hold of a little luck in order to turn it into a successful venture is an exciting prospect—and you may be itching to just throw caution to the wind and run with it as quickly as possible.

That said, it may be in your best interest to slow things down a bit, temper your excitement with a little caution, and take some more cautious steps forward. After all, the business world is full of people who started off with grand plans for their new businesses but had their entrepreneurial visions knocked out of orbit by harsh reality, failed executions, and poorly-devised and ill-timed decisions.

According to a recent article by Investopedia, "The Small Business Association states that only 30% of new businesses fail during the first two years of being open, 50% during the first five years and 66% during the first 10. The SBA goes on to state that only 25% make it to 15 years or more. However, not all these businesses need to fail. With the right planning, funding, and flexibility, businesses have a better chance of succeeding."

So, perhaps the first question you should consider asking yourself when planning to start a new business is if you want to be on the winning or losing side of these percentages. Sure, that may not be a difficult one to answer, but whether or not you're willing to do the requisite amount of careful planning when you're at the critical initial stages of getting your business off the ground may a bit trickier.



GETTY IMAGES

If you're looking to stack the odds in your favor, then consider the following strategies on how to start a small business, according to financial experts who've seen it all and know the most common mistakes and pitfalls to avoid.

Define your value

You may have nothing but the best intentions for wanting to start your own business, but are you sure it's one that's poised to generate value (think revenue)? Sure, money isn't everything, but it is an essential component to making your business take off and be sustainable, so make sure that your venture is one that has a reasonable chance of returning on your investment of blood, sweat, tears, and start-up capital.

Back up your hopes with analytics that project a clear and realistic trajectory into the black at some point in time.

Also, be sure to define how your business idea and brand stand out from the competition, disrupt your industry, and contribute substantively to the world—because if they don't, then what's the point?

Plan (and plan some more)

Enthusiasm is a great thing to have when starting a new venture, but it will rarely sustain a business past initial takeoff. Get grounded and make sure you plan—both for the immediate future and for what lies ahead. Temper your entrepreneurial excitement with a solid business plan that legitimizes your goals with demonstrably achievable milestones. (If you're going to court startup capital from outside sources, this is an absolute must.)

Also, take the time to do some long-range projections for your business (try

one- and five-year plans to start); these can always be revised as your business idea grows and evolves, but they will be a huge help in determining whether you're on track for success or a collision course with failure.

Get help

No person is an island, and your business shouldn't be one either. Savvy entrepreneurs know to leverage their networks to take full advantage of the knowledge, talent, and experience of people in their orbits to make their business ideas. Regardless of your industry, running a business takes a wide and varied set of skills, and unless you're an indomitable entrepreneurial wizard and jack-of-all-trades, do yourself a favor and rely on the expertise of others to benefit your new venture. Don't be afraid to pay for some outside advice and guidance if needed be—consider it a sound investment.

Learn from mistakes

The truth is, almost no one gets everything exactly right when starting a business. But often, the difference between a successful business and a flop is an entrepreneur who learns from their mistakes. You can either self-assess regularly, take note of what went wrong, and make a swift course correction... or sit back, avoid self-assessment, and remain doomed to keep repeating failures. Consider the missteps that happen along the way as valuable learning moments and use them to your advantage as you trudge forward.

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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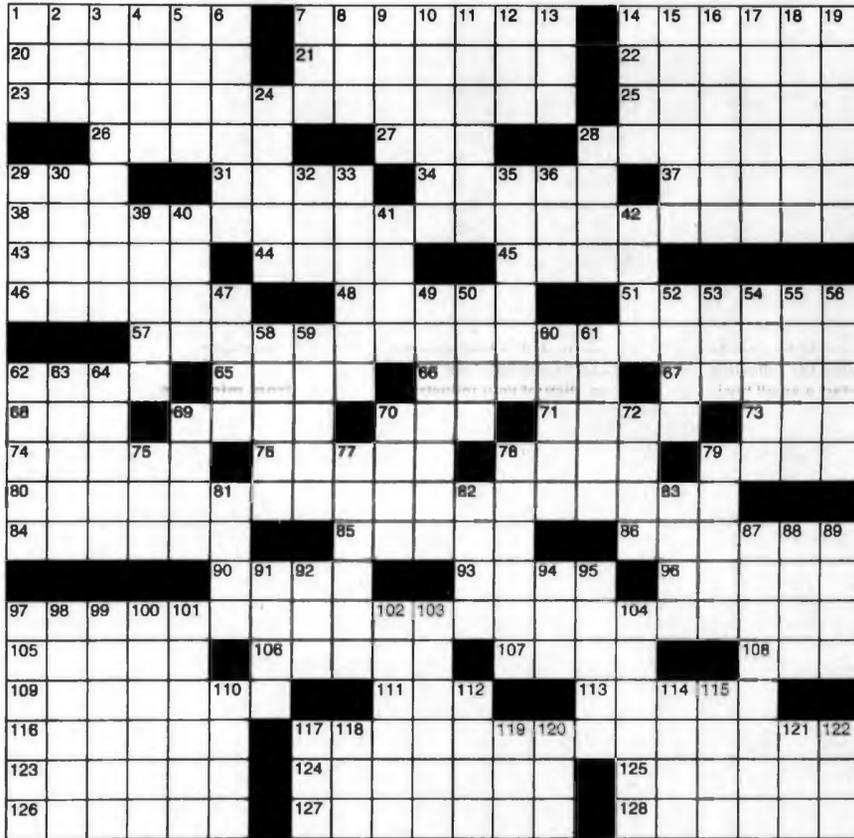
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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tribal emblems
 - 7 Sobbing
 - 14 Hunt for food vessel
 - 21 Church part near the altar
 - 22 Mistreating type
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 Starts a PC session
 - 26 Copies a cat
 - 27 Pop singer Grande, to fans
 - 28 Doctrine in copyright law
 - 29 Buy that can be deleted
 - 31 With 110-Down, decisive trial
 - 34 Hawk's nest
 - 37 Goldman's partner
 - 38 Riddle, part 2
 - 43 Fig and fir
 - 44 Foster
 - 45 Miner's strike
 - 46 Unruffled
 - 48 Plotting group
 - 51 Pastry variety
 - 57 Riddle, part 3
 - 62 Pieces of gig gear
 - 65 Bridle part
 - 66 Of a central point
 - 67 Perform wonderfully
 - 68 Buck mate
 - 69 Apple's apple, e.g.
 - 70 Miss.-to-Minn. dir.
 - 71 Foyer floor protectors
 - 73 Linking word in Leipzig
 - 74 Befogged
 - 76 1980s radical Hoffman
 - 78 Huge hauler
 - 79 February 14 deity
 - 80 Riddle, part 4
 - 84 Weds on the fly
 - 85 University of — Dame
 - 86 Buddy from way back
 - 90 Group in a roundup
 - 93 Griffin who created "Jeopardy!"
 - 96 Debonair
 - 97 End of the riddle
 - 105 Helmsley with hotels
 - 106 Beau —
 - 107 Rebuke to Brutus
 - 108 "Hel-Hp!"
 - 109 Divided into segments
 - 111 Cry of cheer
 - 113 Part of OTB
 - 116 Provoke dir.
 - 117 Riddle's answer
 - 123 Fishing nets
 - 124 Vacillated
 - 125 Comic Booster
 - 126 Most eccentric
 - 127 Cabbie's query
 - 128 More packed
- DOWN**
- 1 Shooting marble
 - 2 Cry of delight
 - 3 Stomped on
 - 4 Kin of -ess
 - 5 Japanese soup variety
 - 6 Investment bigwig
 - 7 Charles
 - 7 Hosp. section
 - 8 Bruins' org.
 - 9 "I did it!"
 - 10 Bait
 - 11 More tender
 - 12 Mr. — (old detective game)
 - 13 Foxy
 - 14 FDR's dog
 - 15 Wind section player
 - 16 Little kid
 - 17 "That being the case ..."
 - 18 Hostess in a kimono
 - 19 Borgnine of "Marty"
 - 24 Grouchy Muppet
 - 28 Familial fight
 - 29 Deeds
 - 30 Prune
 - 32 34th prez
 - 33 Priest's assistant
 - 35 Threw the dice
 - 36 Altar avowal
 - 39 Conducts
 - 40 In re
 - 41 "Dam it"
 - 42 Relinquish
 - 47 The younger Saarinen
 - 49 Grammy winner Tony
 - 50 State frankly
 - 52 Grows older
 - 53 Shoot down
 - 54 Rack up
 - 55 Old-style office scribe
 - 56 Clings (to)
 - 58 "Just Shoot Me!" actor George
 - 59 Mourner of myth
 - 60 Personal identifiers
 - 61 Pin it on
 - 62 Wise truism
 - 63 Roadhouse
 - 64 Basil-based sauce
 - 69 Overdue
 - 70 Boy, in Bolivia
 - 72 DVR pioneer
 - 75 Sci-fi power
 - 77 Family on "Married ... With Children"
 - 78 Jacket part
 - 79 Finish
 - 81 Court king Arthur
 - 82 Cookbook writer Rombauer
 - 83 Snow queen in "Frozen"
 - 87 Openers of many locks
 - 88 Chevy debut of 2004
 - 89 Some watch displays, for short
 - 91 Leg up
 - 92 Pop's Carly — Jepsen
 - 94 Like a prof. emeritus
 - 95 Flashy Chevy, for short
 - 97 Texas city
 - 98 Got close to
 - 99 Doughnut-shaped figure
 - 100 Harmonious
 - 101 Hoists
 - 102 Took pains
 - 103 Physician, often
 - 104 Lay in concealment
 - 110 See 31-Across
 - 112 Roll call reply
 - 114 Proficient
 - 115 — Grape (Ocean Spray flavor)
 - 117 URL part
 - 118 "Take that!"
 - 119 Sweaty, say
 - 120 Old Tokyo
 - 121 Prop- or hex-ender
 - 122 The, in Vienna



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

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

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!

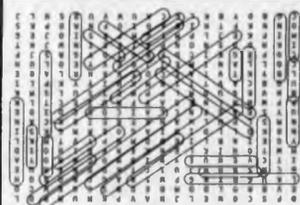
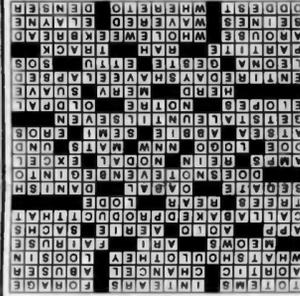
COMEDY CLUB WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AUDIENCE
- BIT
- BOOKING
- BRINGER
- CLUB
- COMEDIAN
- COMEDY
- COMIC
- CROWD
- FEATURE
- FUNNY
- GAG
- HEADLINER
- HECKLE
- IMPROVISED
- JOKE
- LAUGHING
- OPENER
- OPEN MIC
- PERFORMANCE
- PREMISE
- RIFF
- ROOM
- SATIRE
- SET
- SHOW
- SHTICK
- SKETCH
- SKIT
- SLAPSTICK
- SOCIAL
- STAGE
- TAG
- VENUE

ANSWER KEY



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

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Lake Orion Methodist Church Rummage Sale: May 2 & 3th 9-5pm & 5-8; 8-10am only, 140 E. Flint 3 bks E of M-24, (Lapeer Rd).

Plymouth Methodist Church Large variety of household goods, clothing, books, toys, etc. Tues. 4-8, 11-4, Wed. 5-7, 4-5 Bag sale, Thurs. 9-10am-5pm, 45701 North Terriorial.

Garage-Tag Sale
South Lyon, Multi-Family Sale, Thurs 4/25 & Fri 4/26 9am-7pm, Sat 4/27 9am-1pm 939 WESTHILLS Dr. in Hidden Creek Subdiv. Roan or Shine. Kitchen items, dishes, pots, pans, home decor, small furn, McCoy pottery pieces, lights, bathroom items, jewelry, perfume, tons of garden items such as pots, garden seeding, books, shoes & much more. Something For Everyone

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