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WWII hero meets Northville fifth-graders

Ed Wright
 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Students in David Wayne's fifth-grade classroom at Amerman Elementary in Northville didn't have to visit an Emagine Theater last week to be in the presence of a true hero.

The hero — Nicholas Beltsos — came to them.

Beltsos, the grandfather of Amerman fifth-grader Katerina Tsimlingras, shared his memories of what it was like to be a teenager and later a soldier in Greece during the Mussolini-led Italian military's attempt to take over his relatively small but proud nation.

The 93-year-old war hero — who later moved to the United States and served as a professor of business management

at Eastern Michigan University — described, with the help of his son, John, and daughter, Vasilia, several enlightening stories, including the time as a 15-year-old that he rode his bicycle while holding a sign to encourage the Italians to return to Rome.

Beltsos' stories mesmerized the fifth-graders, who were chuckling at some points of the hour-long presentation and hanging on every word of the intense scenarios Beltsos faced.

A demolitions expert once he was old enough to join the Greek military, Beltsos partially lost his hearing, which necessitated him wearing a special set of headphones during his presentation.

He repeatedly told his audience how grateful he was that he was in their presence and that they were open to hearing his stories.

"We feel honored that you want to hear this and it's so exciting for us," said John Beltsos, the man of honor's son. "If you think about it, we're bridging 100 years of history today."

"World War II changed the entire world, and it impacted us all these years later. You can hear stories from somebody who was actually there."

Among the most compelling stories Beltsos and his children, John and Vasilia, shared was how the Greek civilians and army protected allied pilots who were shot down over their country.

"The American pilots were told that if their hands were too smooth and callous-free, the Germans would see, know they were Americans and take them captive," said Vasilia Tsimlingras with

See HERO, Page 2A



Beltsos' granddaughter, Katerina, introduced her grandfather with a heartfelt history of his life. ED WRIGHT | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Maybury Farm's main barn. The barn hosts rabbits, pigs, goats, sheep and peafowl. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

How is Maybury Farm after controversial firing?

Ed Wright
 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Just a few months after Maybury Farm's full-time director Cindy Kern was dismissed from her job by the Northville Community Foundation, a sense of normalcy prevailed across the 85-acre rural setting just south of 8 Mile Road, not far from the bustling and hustling metro Detroit suburbia.

Goats gobbled up snacks out of a toddler's palm, robust livestock roamed around their pens without a care in the world and the sounds of hammers hit-

ting nails echoed through the decades-old white farm house that doubles as the office for new Northville Community Foundation Director Diana Wallace.

Although Kern's firing sent ripples of uncertainty through the farm's faithful community of volunteers and regular attendees — Maybury's annual generation of revenue had reportedly increased from \$200,000 to \$400,000 under her guidance — all appeared well at Northville's unique working farm/tourist attraction, an observance that was confirmed by Wallace.

"I understand everybody has an opinion about what is best for the farm and

the animals," said Wallace, responding to a question about a public forum organized by Kern in the wake of her dismissal. "Honestly, we don't care about what happened in the past; we're focused on what we can do moving forward to make the farm a wonderful place to visit for the community."

"We've been very lucky because we have a bunch of employees who are very dedicated to making the farm the best it can be. We've been working with Tollgate (a neighboring farm) and Michigan State University to ensure

See FARM, Page 12A

Businesses react to changes in fireworks laws

David Veselenak
 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If you're looking to put on a fireworks show around the Fourth of July, you've got a few more days to put on your show this year. And those changes are something several fireworks businesses are welcoming.

Adjustments made last year by the Michigan legislature and signed into law by former Gov. Rick Snyder decrease the number of protected days for shooting fireworks from 30 to 12. But despite that reduction, some fireworks companies say they hope the changes will actually mean an uptick in sales.

Sean Conn, vice president of legal for Lansing-based Big Fireworks, said

See FIREWORKS, Page 5A



Westland Big Fireworks manager Sean Conn has aisles and aisles of fireworks, which he describes as those that "you place on the ground, light the fuse, they go and go boom". JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Summer fun

Want to celebrate America? Find a Fourth of July event in your town. Page 4A

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Music fills parks in concert series

Phillip Allmen
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK -
MICHIGAN

Summer's finally here. Enjoy a night out, catch some live tunes and have a grand time. From oldies to rock to country to children's music, here's all of the concert series taking place this summer. And with the Fourth of July next week, there's a slew of patriotic-themed programs on tap, as well.

Music From the Heart, Livonia

Livonia City Hall
Shows start at 7 p.m.
July 11, Motor City Soul
July 18, Trilogy
July 25, Rock and Roll Never Forgets
Aug. 1, Devin Scillian & Arizona Son Band
Aug. 8, Sinjon Smith
Aug. 15, Cruizin' Jupiter
Aug. 22, Mainstreet Soul
Aug. 29, Steve King & The Dittilies

Music in the Air, Plymouth

Kellogg Park
Shows start at 7 p.m.
June 28, Larry Lee & the Back in the Day Band
July 5, Steve Aho
July 19, Steve King & The Dittilies
July 26, Randy Brock Group
Aug. 2, Dale Hicks Band
Aug. 9, Motor City Soul
Aug. 16, Theo Gridiron
Aug. 23, Rick K. & The Allnighters
Aug. 30, Magic Bus

Milford Concerts In The Park, Milford

Central Park
Shows start at 7 p.m.
June 27, Kari Lynch
July 11, Trilogy
July 18, Fifty Amp Fuse
July 25, Rockstar
Aug. 1, Mainstreet Soul
Aug. 15, Magic Bus
Aug. 22, Phoenix Theory
Aug. 29, Persuasion

Concerts in the Park, South Lyon

McHattie Park
Shows start at 7 p.m.
June 28, Gemily
July 12, Bill Bynum & Co.
July 19, Aral Sea Divers
July 26, Fast Eddie
Aug. 2, Annie & Rod Capps
Aug. 9, Randy Brock Group
Aug. 16, Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies
Aug. 23, Invasion

Sounds like Summer, Highland

Veterans Park
Concerts start at 7 p.m.
July 7, Itchycoo Park Band
July 16, II V I
July 23, Toppermost
July 30, Nick Palise
Aug. 6, In Flight
Aug. 13, Gypsy & the Rockers

In the Park Summer Concert Series, Birmingham

Shain Park
Shows start at 7 p.m. except for two listed at noon
July 3, The Blue Cat
July 7, US Jazz Ambassadors
July 10, 12 p.m. Siloam Pool



The Novi Concert Band performs earlier this month in Walled Lake. PHOTOS COURTESY CURTIS DROGMILLER



Emily Reach joins the Jon Fett Quartet at the Milford Concert in the Park series.



The Jon Fett Quartet kicked off the Milford concerts in the park series June 6.

July 10, Steve Aho
July 17, Audrey Ray
July 24, Skye Island Band
July 31, Thornetta Davis
Aug. 7, Magic Bus
Aug. 14, 12 p.m. SurfZurp
Aug. 14, Nobody's Business

Sizzling Summer Art Series, Novi

Shows start at 10:30 a.m.
Pavilion Shore
July 10, The Music Lady
Beverly Meyer
July 17, Polynesian Dancers of Michigan
July 24, Musician Guy Louis
July 31, Animal Magic
Fuerst Park
Aug. 7, Musical Duo Gemini
Aug. 14, Rock N Roll K9s

Sounds of Summer, Walled Lake

Hiram Simms Park
Shows start at 7 p.m.
July 10, All Directions
July 17, Laughing Madmen
July 24, Groove Suns
July 31, The Patrick Fitzgibbon Band
Aug. 7, Detroit Social Club

Lunch Beats In Riley Park, Farmington

Riley Park
Shows start at noon
July 3, Mark Reitenga

July 10, Maggie McCabe
July 17, Al Carmichael
July 24, John Latini
July 31, Carly Bins
Aug. 7, Billy Brandt
Aug. 14, Sheila Landis & Rick Matle
Aug. 21, Emmanuelle Jacob

Rhythms in Riley Park, Farmington

Riley Park
Shows start at 7 p.m.
June 28, Dig A Phony
July 5, Major Dudes
July 12, Motown Eagles
July 19, Skye Island Band
July 26, Billy Mack & The Juke Joint Johnnies
Aug. 2, Randy Brock Group
Aug. 9, Wayback Machine
Aug. 16, The Shy
Aug. 23, Chirp

Stars In The Park, Farmington Hills

Heritage Park
Shows start at 7 p.m.
June 27, Indian Musical Extravaganza By Jai Ho
July 11, Grizzly Goat
July 18, High School Music Night
July 25, FCB Big Band
Aug. 1, Farmington Community Chorus
Aug. 8, TBD A Capella
Aug. 15, Stan Barnes & Friends

Summer Concert Series, Canton

Heritage Park
Tuesdays Are Terrific
Shows start at 11:30 a.m.
July 16, Ralph's World
July 23, Genot Picor Storyteller
July 30, Music Man Dave
Aug. 6, Melissa Behring
Aug. 13, Story Rhythms
Thursday Night Live
Concert Series
Shows start at 7 p.m.
June 27, Serious Jack
July 11, The Groove Party
July 18, Killer Flamigos
July 25, Shiny Penny
Aug. 1, Dueling Pianos
Aug. 8, Alexandria N' Transit
Aug. 15, Trilogy

Summer Concerts, Northville

Friday Night Concerts
Town Square (downtown Northville)
Shows start at 7 p.m.
June 28, Bobby Murray Band
July 12, Detroit Social Club
July 19, Theo Gridiron
July 26, Sound Station
Aug. 2, 3rd Degree Byrnes
Aug. 9, Gia Warner
Aug. 16, Shawn Riley Band

Aug. 23, Steve King and the Dittilies

Aug. 30, Social Bones Wednesday Night Concerts - Northville Unplugged!

July 10, Jill Jack
July 17, The Johnnies
July 24, Alex Mendenall
July 31, Matt Gabriel
Aug. 7, Sam Van Wagoner
Aug. 14, Kris Kurzawa Duo
Aug. 21, Shawn Riley Duo
Aug. 28, Steve Taylor
Tunes on Tuesday, Northville
Town Square
Shows start at 10:30 a.m.
July 9, Paula Doak
July 16, Kevin Devine
July 23, Paula Messner
July 30, Earth Angels
Aug. 6, Rick Kelley

Aug. 13, Eugene Clark
Aug. 20, Guy Lewis
Aug. 27, Stephanie J

Concerts in Goudy Park, Wayne

Goudy Park
Shows start at 7:30 p.m.
July 17, Major Woody
July 24, Theo Gridiron
July 31, Live Bullet Detroit
Aug. 7, Rock Star
Aug. 14, Steve King & The Dittilies
Aug. 21, Power Play
Aug. 28, Fifty Amp Fuse

Concerts In The Park, Redford

Handy Park
Shows start at 7 p.m.
July 2, Byron & Michelle Trio
July 9, Surf Zup
July 16, Detroit Social Club Blues Band
July 23, Fast Eddie Band
July 30, The Sympathy Orchestra
Aug. 6, Taylor Tucky
Aug. 13, The KEG Band
Aug. 20, Sound Proof
Aug. 27, Sinjon Smith

Summer Concert Series, Wixom

Sibley Square Park
Shows start at 7 p.m.;
June 27 at 6 p.m.
June 27, Steve Taylor
Three and Steve Aho
July 11, Magic Bus
July 18, Theo Gridiron
July 25, 2XL
Aug. 1, Kris Kurzawa Group
Aug. 8, Steve King & The Dittilies
Aug. 15, Chris Canas Band
Aug. 22, Rick K and The Allnighters

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi has posted a public survey online at www.cityofnovi.org/parksurvey to seek public input for the Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services' 2020-24 Strategic Community Recreation & Master Park Plan.

Publish: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2019

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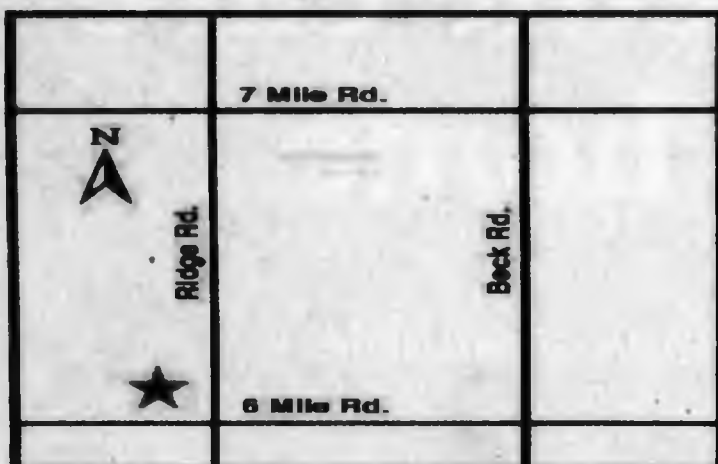


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Some of Westland's Big Fireworks' selection. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Fireworks

Continued from Page 5A

day and Sunday the weekend before. So that Saturday, sales were kind of meh, because even though they gave them that day, no one knew."

Sales not expected to be affected

While most communities have limited the number of days allowed to shoot aerial fireworks off, Conn said he's not expecting to see a major change in sales at Big Fireworks. Most people buy fireworks in late June for Independence Day anyway, and not for other federal holidays such as Columbus Day or Christmas.

If anything, it might be an increase in sales in the coming years, though probably not this year since so many consumers are still learning the new law changes.

"I don't know if it's going to increase them this year, because people still believe it's the day before, the day of the day after," Conn said. "Everyone of them said I didn't know there was a law change."

Konopka said he expects sales to stay about the same if not a little better at his store north of Eight Mile and at the tents he opens every year in Canton and off Territorial near Plymouth. He does hope it grows as the number of days allowed to shoot fireworks around Independ-

ence Day has increased.

His concern will come after Aug. 1, when another aspect of the law takes effect that allows local communities of more than 100,000 or counties with a population of more than 750,000 to additionally regulate temporary structures.

It's his belief that clause could be used to affect smaller firework sales operations in the future, or worst to drive bigger retailers to try and put businesses like his out of business.

"It didn't specifically say what those regulations were, so it's vague," he said. "They gave ideas such as maybe only five permits per city or location or so many square miles away. But it's open for discussion."

After several years of seeing how the law worked, Conn said he believes these new changes are ones that allow for everyone to be happier with the situation and allows for better oversight.

Despite the changes, there are always those who decide to shoot fireworks outside of the legal times set by their community. Those are people, Conn said, the industry does not support.

"Most people, especially in these suburban areas around Detroit, they are definitely observing the law," he said. "It's those 1% of jerks that are lighting them off. The industry does not like those people."

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



Jessica Konopka pulls a firework off the shelf for an order at the Michigan Fireworks Company in Lyon Township. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Lucas Konopka pulls a firework off the shelf at the Michigan Fireworks Company in Lyon Township, which his parents own. The business is a family business. DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Zoo to close penguin center, fix the faulty waterproofing

Elissa Robinson
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Detroit Zoo's acclaimed Polk Penguin Conservation Center will close in September for at least nine months to allow for waterproofing repairs, according to a news release from the zoo.

The repairs are needed because of faulty waterproofing by the construction contractor of the \$32-million facility, which debuted in April 2016.

Approximately 9 gallons of groundwater has been seeping into the building and is being pumped out each day, the zoo reported.

"Unfortunately, the contractor failed to properly waterproof the foundation, was aware that groundwater water was seeping into the building throughout construction, didn't fix the problem and failed to inform us," said Ron Kagan, Detroit Zoological Society executive director and CEO.

The zoo won arbitration against DeMaria Wharton Smith, the contractor responsible for the problem. DeMaria is required to make the repairs at its own expense, the zoo reported.

The zoo's reference to "DeMaria Wharton Smith" named a joint venture of two companies that built the penguin habitat: Detroit-based DeMaria Building Co., a family-owned firm ranked 12th largest among general contractors in Michigan by a trade publication; and Florida-based Wharton-Smith Inc., another major general contractor, known for building schools, government buildings, sports arenas and "themed attractions," according to its website.

After completing the unusual project, both builders received numerous industry awards that they continue to celebrate on their websites. On Thursday afternoon, in response to Free Press inquiries, the companies issued a combined statement:

"DeMaria is proud of the quality work we have completed for the Detroit Zoo-



A penguin swims in the new 33,000-square-foot, \$32 million Polk Penguin Conservation Center at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak in April 2016. The center will close for nine months to repair faulty waterproofing. REGINA H. BOONE/DETROIT FREE PRESS

logical Society over the past two decades.

"The joint venture of DeMaria/Wharton-Smith has received numerous accolades from industry trade media on the work performed on the Polk Penguin Conservation Center. Regrettably, work completed by subcontractors on the Center resulted in leakage requiring repairs.

"The Detroit Zoological Society and the Joint Venture of DeMaria/Wharton-Smith agreed through mediation to make repairs to correct the issue of water infiltration. The repairs will be performed by the Joint Venture, mutually

See ZOO, Page 11A



Penguins from the Detroit Zoo's Polk Penguin Conservation Center will live in the zoo's former penguinarium while repairs are made. CURT CLAYTON

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Phillip Garcia, left, and his father, Robert Garcia, of Commercial Construction Inc., pose in their office. GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Robert Garcia talks about the company that has benefited from the statewide Pure Michigan Business Connect initiative, at the Green Oak Township plant on Thursday.



Family business breaks into power industry

State program helps company expand customer base

Jennifer Timar Livingston Daily | USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A family-run industrial millwright and rigging service business based in Green Oak Township has broken into a lucrative market, the power industry.

When Robert Garcia Sr. started Commercial Construction Inc. about 23 years ago, he primarily worked for companies in the automotive sector.

Garcia said he's been looking for years to grow the business in the area of power generation.

Commercial Construction now installs and maintains power plant equipment for both DTE and Consumers Energy.

Garcia said participating in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Pure Michigan Business Connect program was the catalyst that allowed them to make connections with key players and diversify his company's customer base.

Last month, Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, DTE and Consumers Energy announced a \$15 billion commitment to invest in Michigan business in the next five years.

Garcia was selected to speak at the annual Mackinac Policy Conference and represent Michigan companies that have grown due to the MEDC program and investments from the two utility companies.

Contracts with the power companies have brought Garcia's company more business, and additional revenue from DTE and Consumers Energy helped Garcia relocate from a 8,000-square-foot facility in Milford to their current facility in a 26,000-square-foot building on about seven acres at 7428 Kensington Road.

"We've doubled or tripled the volume of business from Milford to here," Garcia said, and they have about doubled their staff by hiring 25 more people.

"The majority of the jobs have been in the skilled trades and project management," he said.

His son and employee Phillip Garcia said they have been able to spread some of their success around.

"We have subcontractors, pipe fitters, crane companies and others, so it trickles down," Phillip Garcia said.

Sons Robert Jr. and Gary Garcia, as well as Robert Sr.'s wife, Gina Garcia, all work for the company.

Commercial Construction Inc. has also been able to purchase expensive equipment and tools, Phillip Garcia said.

"Various capital expenditures, renovations, tools and even new hires have been a direct result of doing business

with Consumers and DTE," he said.

Robert Garcia said securing work with Consumers Energy was a direct result of his business's participation in the Pure Michigan Business Connect initiative.

"It got us in front of the supply chain," he said. "The initiative set up opportunities for us to meet with commodity suppliers, which is a rarity."

He said the initiative also connected the company to a potential opportunity to expand work out of state.

"We've prequalified with Kansas City Power and Light Company (to submit quotes for work) and we're in the process of bidding. ... It's the first outside of Michigan, so it's going to be huge for us," he said.

He declined to say how much DTE and Consumers Energy have invested in their business.

A new \$15 billion commitment

Consumers Energy and DTE have committed to each spend \$1.5 billion annually with Michigan suppliers through 2024, according to a release from MEDC.

"Those include suppliers that are more than half owned by people who are racial minorities, women, military veterans and who are LGBTQ," the release states.

DTE committed \$2.5 billion and Consumers Energy committed \$1.5 billion in spending with diverse suppliers in the next five years.

Robert Garcia said his family heritage is Hispanic, and he was born in Texas to a father who worked in the skilled trades.

DTE and Consumers Energy are founding members of the Pure Michigan Business Connect program, which launched in 2011, and have previously committed and spent \$11 billion with suppliers in Michigan, according to the release.

Consumers Energy has spent more than \$5 billion with Michigan companies in the last four years, Patti Poppe, president and CEO, said in the release.

"Our investment in Michigan businesses has created or retained 24,000 jobs over the past nine years," Gerard Anderson, DTE's chairman and CEO, said in the press. "We look forward to continuing to create growth opportunities for hard-working business owners in our state, and we will continue to urge our large suppliers to focus sourcing from within Michigan as well."

Connections between suppliers and purchasers made through the Pure

See BUSINESS, Page 11A

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Legacy Center is expanding again

Complex to add basketball, volleyball courts in \$6M multisport facility

Jennifer Timar Livingston Daily | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Legacy Center Sports Complex is growing again.

This time, ownership of the large multisport facility is adding a 76,050-square-foot basketball and volleyball center to the Green Oak Township facility. The project will cost approximately \$6 million.

Droo Callahan, the complex's director of sports, said they have club basketball teams, but they have been practicing and playing games in area high school gymnasiums.

"We've been limited in our basketball footprint in the state," Callahan said.

The Legacy Center's basketball program has been able to have as many as 15 club basketball teams in the winter season. Callahan said there are at least eight teams during fall and spring.

"We'll have an opportunity to have an awesome experience and bring in college coaches to see them easier," he said.

The new basketball and volleyball center will feature eight hardwood basketball courts that can be converted into 16 volleyball courts.

It will also have a mezzanine with bleachers where spectators can watch games from above and other seating areas on the floor.

The addition will have a concession stand, team rooms and restrooms, along with pitching tunnels that the complex's baseball program can use.

'Go big or go home'

Kristen Althouse, the complex's director of volleyball, says her volleyball program has 13 club teams this year.

Althouse forecasts doubling the number of teams after the basketball and volleyball center opens.

"Go big or go home. ...It will increase the number of teams in our annual volleyball tournament in mid-May," Althouse said. "We can probably double the size of the tournament."

She also hopes to add boy's volleyball.

"With more courts, we can expand into an untapped market," she said.

She said she is excited the Legacy Center will have hardwood courts for volleyball. They currently have three plastic courts that are placed over artificial turf in a sports dome on the property.

Girl's volleyball teams are in the complex's Legends Volleyball Organization, the official name of the Legacy Center's volleyball program.

"We are quickly expanding out of the dome," she said. "Our courts right now are regulation size, inside the lines, but we also need outside lines to be able to teach and grow the game."

The Legacy Center is expected to break ground on the addition this summer.

Callahan said the plan is to have it complete in time for volleyball in January.

Years of growth

The Legacy Center has undergone several large expansions costing millions since opening in 2013.

The complex features:

- A 101,000-square-foot indoor sports field house

- A 104,000-square-foot inflated dome with artificial turf

- A 15,000-square-foot baseball and softball training facility



An architectural rendering shows what the Legacy Center Sports Complex's future basketball and volleyball center will look like after construction is complete. COURTESY THE LEGACY CENTER SPORTS COMPLEX



Droo Callahan, director of sports at the Legacy Center Sports Complex, and Kristen Althouse, director of volleyball, discuss architectural renderings of a new center for volleyball and basketball courts on June 10.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY



Kristen Althouse, director of volleyball at the Legacy Center Sports Complex in Green Oak Township, talks on June 10, 2019 about the plan to build a new structure to house numerous volleyball and basketball courts. GILLIS

BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

- Outdoor fields for sports such as football, soccer, lacrosse

- Outdoor baseball and softball fields

- Outdoor sand volleyball courts

A medical wellness and fitness center could be built in the next few years, Callahan said.

Township looking into new field lighting

Green Oak Township Supervisor Mark St. Charles said the township has received a few complaints from residents living adjacent to the Legacy Center about the brightness of LED field lights installed last summer.

"We are taking readings at night to make sure they are in compliance with their planned unit development agreement," St. Charles said.

He said if there is an issue, they will work with the complex to resolve any potential problem.

Contact Livingston Daily reporter Jennifer Timar at 517-548-7148 or at jtimar@livingstondaily.com.

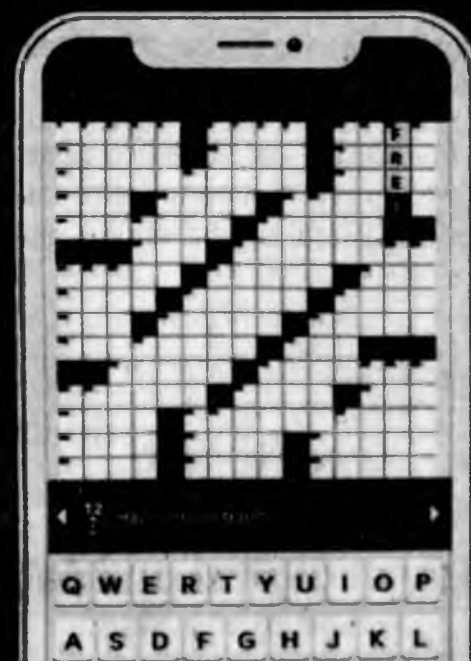
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USA TODAY

State offers free nicotine patches, gum to encourage smokers to quit

Anna Bauman Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Smokers can get free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges this summer from a state department urging Michiganders to ditch the habit.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is offering the free products as part of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention campaign aimed at educating people about smoking-related diseases.

Anyone can call the Michigan Tobacco Quitline at 800-QUIT-NOW, or 800-784-8669, to receive up to eight weeks of the free nicotine products through Sept. 30. The Quitline, available 24/7, is staffed with English, Arabic and Span-

ish-speaking counselors and offers online coaching or text messaging.

"As a physician and public health professional, I know all too well the terrible toll of smoking," said Joneigh Khaldun, the department's chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "MDHHS is committed to helping Michiganders quit tobacco products and reduce their risk of tobacco-related illnesses like cancer and heart disease."

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the nation. It kills about 480,000 people every year.

About 68% of smokers say they want to quit.

More information is available at Michigan.gov/tobacco.



Dave and Kris Smith of Farmington Hills, with their son, Mike, and grandson, Micah, at Michigan Lottery headquarters after winning Mega Millions. SUBMITTED

New Farmington Hills millionaire plans to splurge on chicken dinner

Susan Bromley
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Dave Smith of Farmington Hills won \$3 million this month, but he isn't doing what many lottery winners do.

The systems engineer manager for a large computer company didn't quit his job.

He isn't buying a new house, car or boat.

His biggest vacation plan this sum-

mer isn't a trip around the world with a meal at a 3-star Michelin restaurant, but a first-time visit to Frankenmuth and a chicken dinner at Zehnder's.

"Most people just say goodbye to their job, but my plan even before the money was to work another two to four years and that is still my plan," he said.

His wife Kris will also keep her job working in a forensic psychiatric unit for the state of Michigan. The couple celebrated their 28th anniversary Saturday and Dave says he will likely give

Kris what he always does — a card with cash. This time, he might increase the amount enclosed from \$20 to \$30, he laughs.

The \$10 increase would be a buck more than what he spent when he bought three easy picks in the Mega Millions game online at \$2 apiece, and added the multiplier option for \$1 each. Using the multiplier would triple his winnings, and as it was, that extra dollar netted him an extra \$2 million.

"It was the best investment I ever made," he laughed.

Smith has played the lottery for years, in the past buying tickets at gas stations when the jackpot was large, compiling the paper slips in his wallet until it was full, and then scanning en masse weeks or months later when his wallet got too full. The most he had won previously was \$200.

'Holy mackerel'

On June 11, after a lunch conversation with a work colleague who told him his cousin who had struggled financially all his life had just won \$1 million, Smith played Mega Millions using the Michigan Lottery app.

He went to bed before the 11 p.m. drawing that night and the next morning while preparing for meetings, went online to see if he had matched any numbers. He had not matched a single number in his first two plays, but as he scrolled to the final play, five of the white ball numbers were lit up, with a notification telling him he had won \$3 million. The prize is the largest ever won online through the Michigan Lottery. He couldn't believe his eyes.

"The font size was really small," Smith recalled. "I said, 'Holy mackerel, did that say \$3 million?'"

He called Kris, who was driving and initially became angry with her husband. She believed he was trying to pull one over on her, as she would sometimes do to him when she had to get car repairs and telling him the bill was going to be \$3,000 before saying, "Just kidding." She made him send a screenshot of the lottery notification and then pulled off the highway to look at it. And yet she still didn't believe it for another 10 minutes.

Having convinced his wife, Smith, who was on his way to a work meeting, called the friend from lunch the previous day who was also going to the meeting. When he shared that he had won \$3 million, his friend told him to skip the meeting, he would cover it, and to avoid getting in an accident on the way home.

Although he had just realized the most amazing financial fortune of his life, Smith felt an accident would be just his luck and even recalls driving through a construction zone in Kalamazoo where he had to swerve to miss a hubcap that fell off someone's vehicle.

At home, he and Kris tried to grasp the meaning of having won \$3 million.

"It was overwhelming and it put us in such a state we were only semi-rational, it's all sorts of emotions," Smith said. "We really didn't know what to do."

Last Friday, Dave and Kris Smith went to Michigan Lottery headquarters in Lansing to pick up their check, which ended up at about \$2,150,000 after taxes. They took the check to the bank, which he recalled as "hilarious."

When Smith got up to the teller, she didn't look at the check but asked if he had filled out a deposit form. There weren't enough squares for the amount, but he squeezed it in as best he could. As the teller finally looked at the check, she simply stared. She then excused herself, walked away and moments later, he was escorted from the line into a private office, where employees immediately began trying to sell him financial services, but he wanted only to deposit the money.

Practicality, but maybe a splurge

The Smiths have no extravagant plans for their windfall. They are going to do some home repairs such as a new roof on their deck, new carpeting, and painting in one fell swoop instead of staggered as they may have done before. They are also putting a college fund together for their grandson Micah. But otherwise, they have their eyes on retirement and "building some kind of pension," which neither currently have, and preserving the principal and living off the interest.

Meanwhile, they are back to work and planning their trip to Frankenmuth, where they'll stay at the waterpark and have the Zehnder's chicken dinner for the first time.

When pressed about setting his sights a little further, Smith says maybe they will take that riverboat tour of Germany that Kris has always dreamed of.

"I am kind of a practical guy," he said, but as he thinks about it more, he acknowledges also a fascination with certain parts of Asia and Europe and notes he would like to go to Vietnam, and Spain and Portugal.

Mostly, he is feeling more relaxed, with a weight lifted off his shoulders regarding retirement so near.

"Even though we were in pretty good shape, you always worry about how long do you work, do you have enough? How much will healthcare cost?" he said. "These are the questions you ask, and you don't know the answers... There are a lot of unknowns and it took some weight off that."

His family and friends have been supportive, with only an outpouring of good wishes. He and Kris are grateful that no one has looked at or treated them any differently, because they value their relationships, and in the end, aside from that solid footing for their retirement, nothing has changed.

People dream about winning the lottery and he did, too, wondering what it would be like to win. Now he knows, but he will keep playing.

"Does lightning strike twice?" he wonders. "I guess we will find out."

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

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Commerce Township woman missing since Friday

Susan Vela
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Oakland County deputies are seeking help finding Alice Phillips, 41, of Commerce Township.

They said in a press release they were dispatched Saturday morning to the 2800 block of Pinto Drive near Union Lake and Commerce Roads because Phillips left for a walk Friday evening and hadn't returned.

Phillips' husband said she had been holding his gun and a single bullet before she left their home, apparently for a walk.

He told deputies he managed to retrieve the weapon. Then, within minutes, she went for a walk.

He wasn't alarmed because she frequently walks during the evening.

When she failed to return home, he told deputies he called 9-1-1. His wife had left their home without her cell phone, house keys, personal identification cards, money or credit cards.

She apparently suffers from depression and refuses to take the recommended medication. Police said there



Alice Phillips
OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

were other signs she may have been suicidal.

The husband stated he had already searched her usual walking routes.

Deputies searched foot trails using a township auxiliary vehicle. They also checked local stores and restaurants without success. Searches continued through Sunday,

including several local parks.

He told deputies he last saw his wife, Alice Phillips, wearing a blue and grey sweatshirt and blue jeans. She stands at 5 feet 3 inches tall, weighs 120 pounds and has shoulder-length auburn hair.

She also has a large tattoo of a rose with top hat on an upper arm.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Oakland County Sheriff Office at 248-858-4911.

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



Strawberries on sale at the Detroit Eastern Market JESSICA J. TREVINO, DETROIT FREE PRESS

Pick-your-own strawberries are ripe for summer harvest

Susan Selasky
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

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Blake's Orchard & Cider Mill, 17985 Armada Center Road, Armada. 586-784-5343 or www.blakefarms.com.

Blake's Almont U-Pick Farm and Garden Center, 5590 Van Dyke, Almont. 810-798-3251 or www.blakefarms.com.

Middleton Berry Farm, 4790 Oakwood, Ortonville. 248-831-1004 or www.middletonberryfarm.com.

Rowe's Produce Farm, 10570 Martz, Ypsilanti. 734-482-8538 or www.rowesproducefarm.com.

Spicer Orchards, 10411 Clyde, Fenton. 810-632-7692 or www.spicerorchards.com.

Verellen Orchards & Cider Mill, 63260 Van Dyke, Washington Township. 586-752-2989 or www.verellenorchards.com.

Westview Orchards, 65075 Van Dyke, Washington Township. 586-752-3123 or www.westvieworchards.com.

Whittaker's Berry Farm, 6724 Todd, Ida. 734-269-6612 or www.whittakersberryfarm.com.

Contact food writer Susan Selasky at 313-222-6872 or sselasky@freepress.com. Follow @SusanMariecooks on Twitter.

Let's hear a big cheer for local strawberries. Those sweet little gems of summer are finally here.

Mother Nature has kissed the strawberry fields with some sunshine, and many of the pick-your-own strawberries in and near southeast Michigan are ripe for harvest. Most of the farms are reporting that they officially opened on Friday -- the first day of summer. The weather for picking conditions for the next several days looks promising.

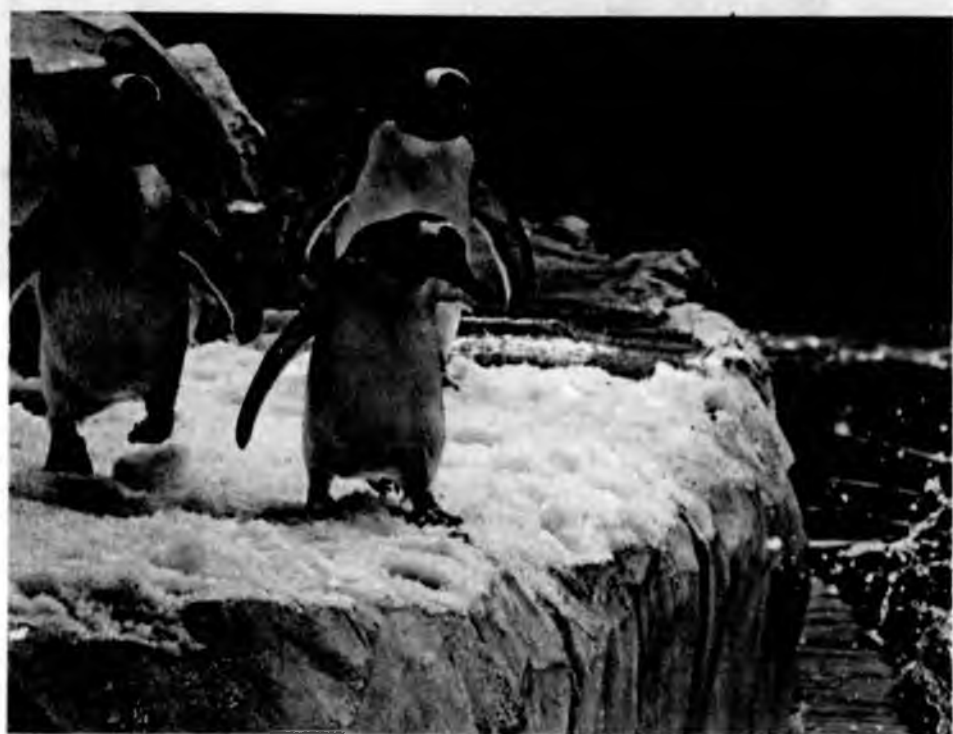
Strawberries are late this year due to the cool weather. It's the latest season start in decades. If you plan on heading out to a farm, be sure to check website and phone ahead for availability. Also, since strawberries are delicate, most farms have a guide on the best way to pick them and the best way to handle and store after picking.

Here is where you can pick your own strawberries:

DeGroot's Strawberries, 4232 Bull Run, Gregory. 517-223-3508 or www.degrootsstrawberries.com.

Diederich Berry and Produce Farm, 3537 Morrice Road, Webberville. 517-521-4667.

Blake's Orchard & Cider Mill, 17985 Armada Center Road, Armada. 586-



Penguins from the Detroit Zoo's Polk Penguin Conservation Center will be rehomed while construction is done on the facility. CORYDON MARTIN

Zoo

Continued from Page 7A

agreed upon with the Zoo."

The Polk Penguin Conservation Center will remain open through the summer and close Sept. 9. It will reopen in mid-June of next year after repairs are complete.

The penguins will live in the zoo's former penguinarium while the new facility is being repaired. The penguins will not be available for visitor viewing during that time.

The Polk Penguin Conservation Center is home to 75 king, rockhopper, macaroni and gentoo penguins.

Contact Elissa Robinson:



Penguins from the Detroit Zoo's Polk Penguin Conservation Center will be rehomed while construction is done on the facility. JENNIE MILLER

erobinson@freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter @lissa218. Want to read more from Elissa? Click here — and then sign up for our Woodward 248 and Joint Venture newsletters.



From left, Commercial Construction Inc. president and CEO Robert Garcia and sons Phillip and Gary pose in front of several cranes Thursday in the Green Oak Township facility. PHOTOS BY GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Business

Continued from Page 8A

Michigan Business Connect program have generated more than \$8 billion in new contracts and purchase orders and created or retained more than 40,000 jobs in Michigan, according to the release.

"Expanding opportunities for the di-

verse range of business owners right here in Michigan is critical to ensuring the success of our state," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in the release. "I applaud DTE and Consumers Energy for their tremendous support of Michigan suppliers and continued engagement in Pure Michigan Business Connect."

Contact Livingston Daily reporter Jennifer Timar at 517-548-7148 or at jtimar@livingstondaily.com.

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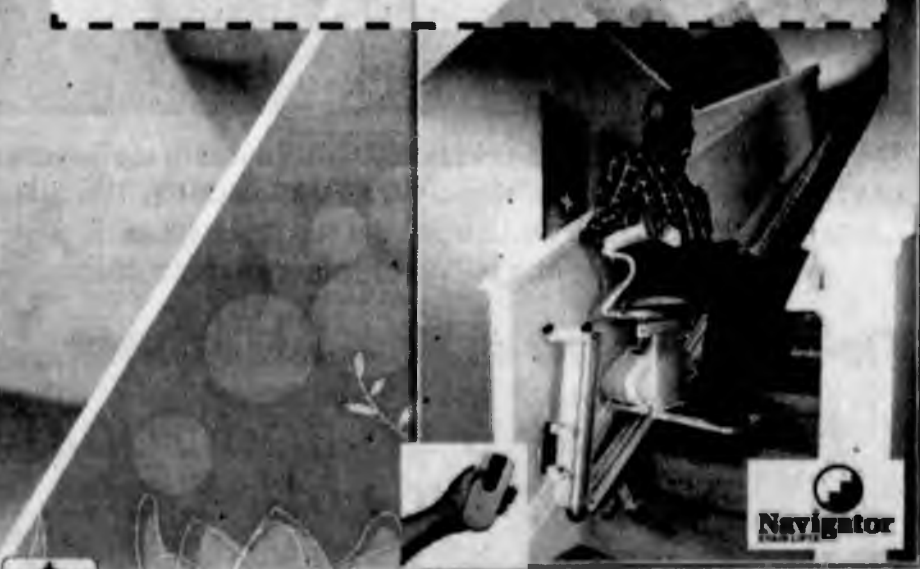
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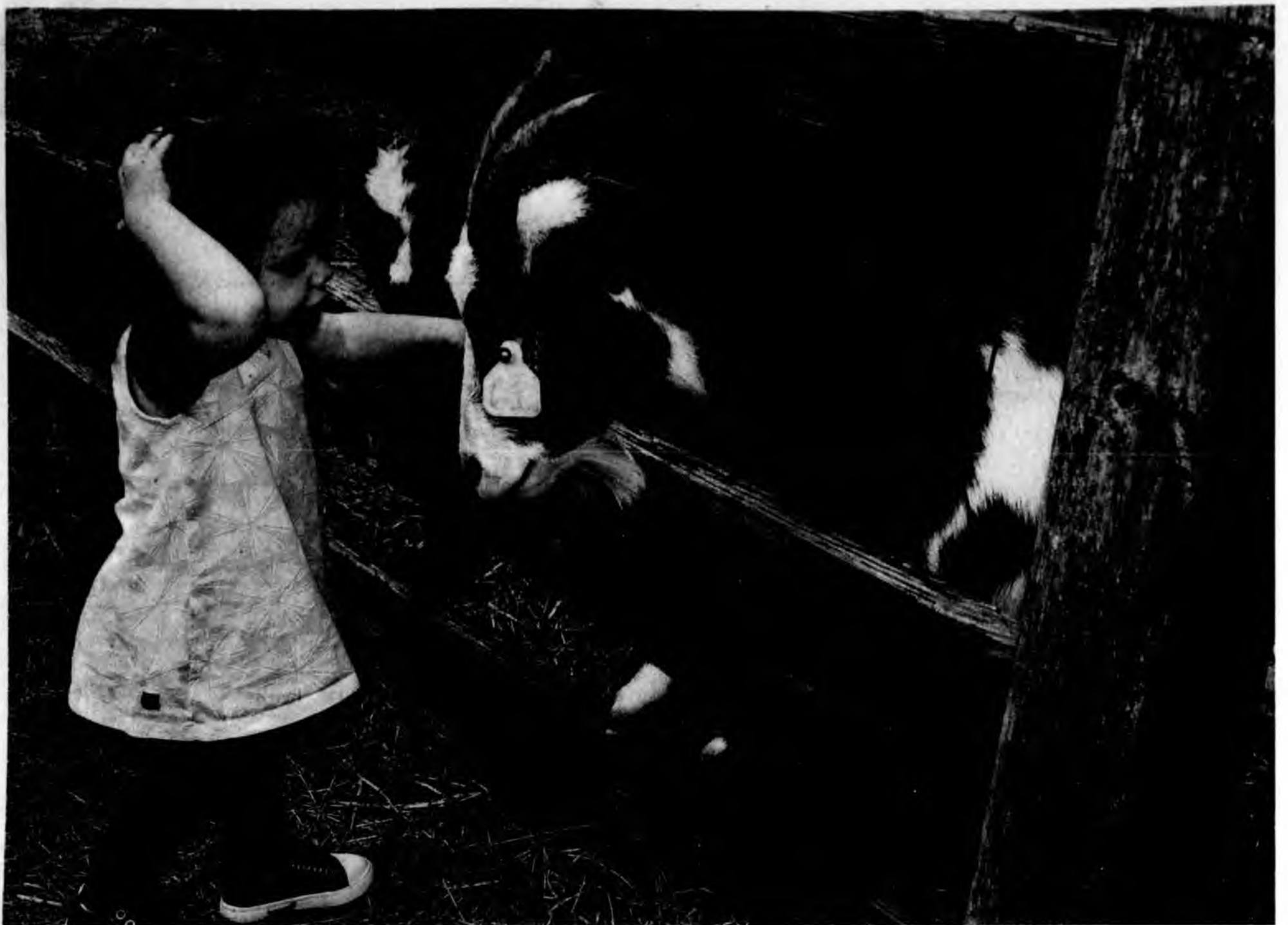
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Maybury Farm visitor Jolene Regnier, 21 months, scratches her head after getting an affectionate nuzzle from a goat during a June 5 visit. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Farm

Continued from Page 1A

that the animals are healthy and happy."

Citing human resources restrictions, NCF board members have remained tight-lipped about the reasons for the termination of Kern, whose January fo-

rum was attended by close to 100 people, the majority Kern supporters.

The farm is owned by the state of Michigan, which partnered with the NCF on a 45-year lease in 2003 under the condition that the state could conduct inspections.

From the outset of her involvement with the farm, Kern said she was disappointed in the NCF board's "limited un-

derstanding of how the farm operated."

Wallace countered those comments by emphasizing that the farm has never been more robust than during the post-Kern era.

"Our priority from the start has been the health and safety of the animals, and to provide them with the very best care we can," Wallace said. "We also want to do what's best for our employees."

"I'm a firm believer that Maybury Farm needed to do what it needed to do (in response to the firing of Kern). It's an HR (human resources) issue, so I can't speak to the details, but we all wish (Kern) well. I'm glad she's doing what she wants now. She's doing what's in her best interest and we're doing what's in the farm's best interest."

Wallace said the farm has not lost one volunteer as a result of Kern's dismissal.

Rob Lindman, who Kern hired as the farm's head of maintenance just weeks before her departure (he was retained by the NCF after being re-interviewed), said that the farm passed a recent state inspection with flying colors.

"The Department of Natural Resources inspector told us that the farm

is looking better than it has at this time of the year in quite a while," Lindman said. "They conducted a thorough inspection of the farm, going from room to room, checking to see if fire extinguishers were working, the animals were properly cared for ... things like that."

In addition to the 105 animals that make the farm their home, Wallace said the farm has added popular programs that have invigorated attendance.

"We recently held a farm festival that was attended by close to 1,500 people," Wallace said. "We've added several new offerings, including yoga for children."

"Unlike some petting farms in the area, this is a working farm. Animals are moved out and new ones brought in, just like at any working farm. The fruits and vegetables we grow are picked by our visitors."

"The No. 1 goal of the NCF is to make this place a great destination for visitors, a great home for our animals and a great place to work for our employees and volunteers."

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



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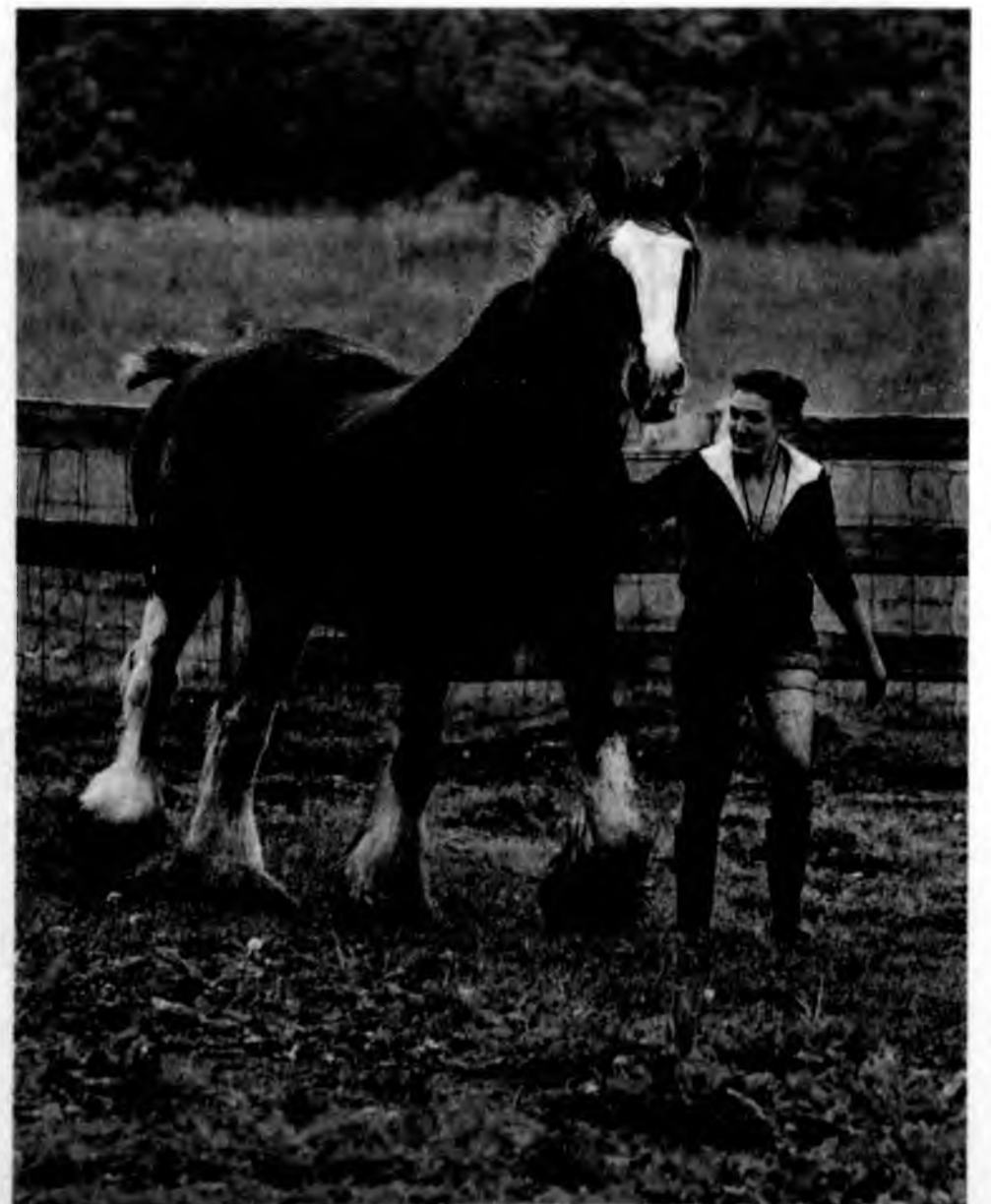


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Maybury Farm animal worker Rachel Moran brings in Scotty the Clydesdale horse to meet some visitors. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Northville tennis coach Linda Jones retires

Andrew Vaillencourt
 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville tennis coach Linda Jones has a lot more sun in her future.

The three-time state champion and 2019 Michigan tennis coach of the year has decided to retire from coaching at Northville, along with her husband Dan, who was an assistant coach, and will move to Florida.

She enjoyed an illustrious 11-year career with the Mustangs and first started coaching the JV team before taking the varsity job in 2014. Grosse Pointe South girls tennis coach and Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame member Mark Sobieralski, who has won eight different coach of the year awards and four state titles of his own (including this year), said Jones put Northville girls tennis on the map, turn-

ing the Mustangs into one of the best programs in the entire state.

Since becoming the team's head coach, Jones led the team to a top five finish in the state every year. The Mustangs came in fifth in 2014, won the state championship in 2015, 2017 and 2018, was runner up in 2016 and finished fourth this season.

In addition to being the 2019 state coach of the year, Jones was also named regional coach of the year four times, including in both 2018 and 2019.

She felt that this was the right time to retire and move on after her grandchildren graduated this year from the Plymouth-Canton school district. She and her husband have a place in the Villages in Florida where they will spend time relaxing, volunteering and maybe even do some assistant coaching. She said they have friends down there and that it's like recess for them.

"It was the perfect breaking time for us," Jones said. "We can run and play again."

Jones retired from Ford in 2007 but decided to stay near her grandchildren and help raise them.

She gave a lot of credit to her husband Dan for being a great assistant and helping her throughout their coaching career.

"He always helped me with all the coaching responsibilities," Jones said. "He was terrific to work with. He's my best friend."

She said that they would travel up to Midland to watch the state championships and picked up things they wanted to implement over the years. When she started as the varsity coach, that first year was spent encouraging the girls to believe in her vision and after that, the



Northville tennis coach Linda Jones won three state titles and placed in the top five in the state in every year she coached the Mustangs.

COURTESY OF LINDA JONES

See TENNIS, Page 4B

Plymouth's Miller named lax Coach of the Year

Andrew Vaillencourt
 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth boys lacrosse coach Ray Miller has been named the 2019 US Lacrosse Michigan Coach of the Year after he led the Wildcats to the state quarterfinals.

Miller's team won its division in the KLAA, won a regional championship and set a school record for wins in a season.

"I am very humbled and honored to have earned this prestigious award this season," Miller said. "To me, this honor means that my fellow coaches and the lacrosse community have recognized and appreciated the great strides our program has taken these past three years."

It was the first time in school history that Plymouth won the KLAA East Division. The Wildcats finished with a record of 17-5.

"Even though this award highlights only myself, I feel our hard-working,

See LACROSSE, Page 5B



Plymouth coach Ray Miller lifts up the regional championship trophy after his team beat Saline 19-12. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PREP BASEBALL



Quite a few Hometown stars made the lineup for the MHSAA All Star Game at Detroit's Comerica Park on June 20, including players from Westland John Glenn, Detroit Country Day, Birmingham Brother Rice and Salem High.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Local players shine at All-Star game in Detroit

Andrew Vaillencourt
 Hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It will be a night to remember for the 50 Michigan High School baseball all-stars, who were awarded the opportunity to close out the season at Comerica Park in Detroit Thursday night.

The players were split into two teams, East and West, and played a nine inning ballgame at the stadium the Detroit Tigers call home. The East All-Stars came out victorious, defeating the West 11-3.

The West team got the scoring

started, getting two runs in the second inning, but the East took over after that, scoring three in the third and never looking back. A five-run seventh inning blew the game open.

Almost a dozen players from the Hometown Life coverage area participated in the game, nine on the East and two on the West. Two of the game's biggest contributors hailed from the Plymouth-Canton school district.

To add even more local flavor, Novi's Sophie Psiakis sang the National Anthem and God Bless America.

The East squad also featured two area coaches. Leading the East was

Livonia Franklin's Matt Fournier, who was joined by John Glenn coach Lawrence Scheffer as an assistant.

Fournier said that it was an honor to be selected as the East coach and that it was even more special he got to attend with his son, Cal. He placed an emphasis on making sure the kids enjoyed the experience and had fun, and ran the game just like the MLB managers do during the MLB All-Star game. Everyone on both rosters played a good portion of the game.

Here's a rundown of all 11 players with a recap on their performance:

See BASEBALL, Page 2B



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Baseball

Continued from Page 18

Nate Blain, Canton, East

Blain was one of the game's most productive players. He played the back half of the game and went 2-for-2 at the plate with a double, RBI single, two steals and two runs. His speed and power were both on display. Blain will play baseball at Madonna.

"It was awesome, it was my first time playing at Comerica Park," Blain said. "It's been a while since a Canton Chief was selected for the all-star game, so that was pretty awesome to hear. It felt awesome, I was playing with a lot of good players and I felt like I stood out tonight and that made me feel good."

Bobby Cavin, Livonia Stevenson, East

The Spartans catcher played the second half of the game and had three at-bats out of the cleanup spot. He went 1-for-2 with a walk, single and a steal — his first of the year. He will play baseball at Oakland University.

"It's very humbling," Cavin said. "It's a great last hurrah in high school baseball to play with and against a bunch of my friends. It's mind-blowing to play on a field where MLB guys that I looked up to my entire life play."

Aaron Dolney, Detroit Country Day, East

Dolney, who is Nebraska bound, started the game at catcher. He went 1-for-2 in his two at-bats, collecting a single.

"It means a lot to me because I'm coming out here and competing with the best of the best in the state of Michigan and seeing who the other competition is," Dolney said. "In any old high school game there's one or two really good kids on each team, but here, up and down each lineup, calling pitches, it's hard to pitch around kids — there's no easy guys to get out."

Alex Finney, Cranbrook, East

Finney entered in the second half of the game and had two at-bats. He went 1-for-1 with a single and a walk, and scored a run. He is headed to Ohio University.

"It's an amazing feeling, a lot of guys my size get overlooked and it just feels great to be out here with all the big guys," Finney said. "It feels great, it's an amazing experience."

Tito Flores, Brother Rice, East

Flores started the game in center field and hit third for the East team. He went 0-for-2 with a pair of flyouts and had an error in the field. He was the leader and star player for the Warriors this season, who reached the state semifinals, and will play baseball at Michigan, which is currently in the College World Series.

"It's a great honor to be out here playing with the guys you've played against or played with some or most of your life," Flores said. "Coming out here, you feel like a kid in a candy store, you get the clubhouse treatment, you come out here for pregame and you're stretching and you're just like wow. It's a blessing to be out here and I'm super thankful to be selected."

Cal Fournier, Livonia Franklin, East

Fournier, who made the game with his dad, played in the outfield during the second half of the game and went 0-for-2 in his two plate appearances. He will attend Madonna.

"It's a huge honor to be considered one of the best seniors in the state of Michigan," Fournier said. "To be able to come out here was truly awesome, I felt like a big leaguer on the field, it was great. ... (My dad) is the reason why I fell in love with baseball and playing for him these past few years for high school and getting to play here for my last game with him, it's awesome."

Nasir Frederick, Wayne Memorial, East

The speedy outfielder played center field during the second half of the game. He made a couple nice running catches and had two at-bats out of the lead-off spot. He went 0-for-1, but reached twice, once on a walk and once after he made it safely to first on a dropped third strike. He also scored two runs. He'll play baseball at Coastal Carolina University.

"It's an honor to be out here with all my friends that I've met through the game of baseball," Frederick said. "It felt great. I felt really loose out here, I gotta put on a show for my family because they're all here. It's a big league field, so I have to make it look good."

Carlton Harper, Salem, East

Harper had arguably the game's biggest hit. He started at third base for the East and hit second. He went 1-for-2 with a 2-run triple that gave the East a 3-2 lead in the third inning. Harper is headed to Long Island University Brooklyn.

"It feels amazing, last year I came here and it was just a dream of mine to make it. Once I found out I was in it, I was extremely excited and couldn't wait to play," Harper said. "It felt great (to get the triple), I was behind in the count and I got back even and I knew he was going to throw me a fastball and he left it up and I hit it out front and drove it to the right center gap. My speed allowed me to get a triple."

With both Harper and Blain standing out, Harper says it shows that the Plymouth Canton schools are a great place to be for baseball.

"It says P-CEP is a really good district for baseball, a lot of good players come out of here and the KLAA too," Harper said. "I'm excited to represent my school."



Stevenson Spartan Bobby Cavan watches a foul ball exit the playing field at Comerica.



Livonia Franklin player Cal Fournier takes a swing.



Lakeland High player Trent Farquhar takes a cut at a pitch. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Nate Blain celebrates just as he crosses the plate, scoring a run.



Dirt flies from his cleats as Brother Rice player Tito Flores follows the arc of his hit and heads for first base during the MHSAA All Star Game at Comerica Park.



After swinging and missing a third strike, that the catcher missed, Wayne Memorial's Nasir Frederick takes off for first base — and is safe on a throwing error.



Detroit Country Day's Aaron Dolney was behind the plate for a few innings at Comerica.



Westland John Glenn Chad Stevens pitched, played in the outfield and batted at the All Star Game. Here he warms up in right field.



Salem High player Carlton Harper takes a swing on June 20 at Comerica Park.



South Lyon right fielder Nate Logan scoops up a basehit that reaches him in foul territory during the MHSAA All Star Game.

Chad Stevens, John Glenn, East

The Rockets ace did it all for the East team. He started at DH, batting in the five-spot, pitched an inning and played right field. He walked twice at the plate. On the mound, he pitched one inning and allowed two runs on two hits while striking out one. He is going to Hilldale College.

"I'm honored to be selected to play in this game, not many people get to be selected for this game and I just had a blast," Stevens said. "Being out here is probably one of the best experiences of my life. The guys I'm around are great ballplayers, I actually learned a lot from them, they're great players. This is definitely an opportunity of a lifetime. You dream of playing in the bigs as a kid and now I'm playing in a big league stadium, so I feel like a little kid again, it's like a dream come true."

Trent Farquhar, Lakeland, West

Farquhar played the second half of the game and had two plate appearances. He went 1-for-2 with a single. He will play baseball at Bowling Green University.

versity.

"It was awesome," Farquhar said. "Being selected to the game is a great honor that I didn't take lightly. My motto is you deserve everything you earn. ... Playing with all these legit guys and great competition was awesome. They're all great guys, great teammates, I love playing with them."

Nate Logan, South Lyon, West

Logan started in right field for the West and hit ninth. He made some nice catches in the field and went 0-for-1 with a flyout in his only at-bat. He is headed to Grand Valley State University.

"It was a tremendous honor being named to such an elite team with such great talent," Logan said. "It was an amazing experience playing in front of my friends and family and playing alongside some of the most talented guys in the state at such an incredible venue was an experience I'll never forget."

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avaiillenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Novi's Pheiffer named soccer coach of the year

Andrew Vaillencourt
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After leading Novi to its second straight state championship, Novi girls soccer coach Todd Pheiffer has been named Large School Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association (MIHSSCA).

It's the second year in a row Pheiffer has taken home the award.

"I am extremely honored to be selected as the Large School Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association for the second year in a row," Pheiffer said. "To be selected by my fellow coaches for this award is very humbling because there are so many great high school coaches that give up so much of their time to help students not only be better athletes, but be better people as well. Even though I am the one receiving this award, this award represents all of the hard work, commitment and dedication that the girls have put into this program. I have been so lucky to have been able to work with such amazing student-athletes at Novi High School and if it were not for them, I would not have had all the successes I have had as their coach."

Novi finished off an undefeated season by beating KLAA foe Plymouth in the state title game 5-0. To reach the title game, Novi also had to beat Forest Hills Central, Grand Blanc, Livonia Stevenson, Brighton and Harland.

The Wildcats also finished as the No. 1 team in the entire country according to Top Drawer Soccer.

In addition to state coach of the year, Pheiffer was named district and regional coach of the year.

Novi senior Jessie Bandyk was recently named Michigan's Miss Soccer, and was joined by teammate Avery Fenchel on the Dream Team.

"I would also like to personally thank my two assistant coaches, Mike Stratton and Luke McDonald who were both instrumental to all of the successes Novi girls soccer had this



Novi soccer coach Todd Pheiffer accepts the regional championship trophy. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

year and our extraordinary Athletic Director Brian Gordon, who not only understands the importance of educational athletics in kids lives, but

works tirelessly to promote and provide opportunities and experiences for all high school student athletes," Pheiffer said.

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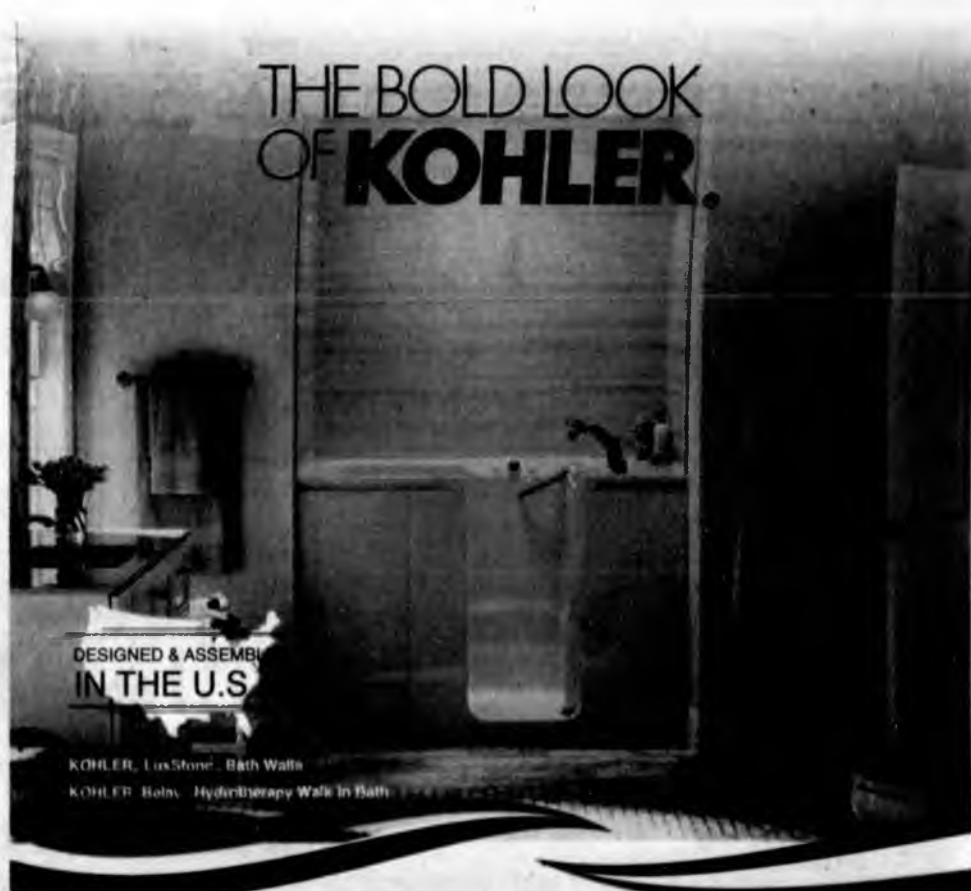
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HOCKEY

Plymouth's US National Team Development Program has eight first-round picks in NHL Draft

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The United States Hockey National Team Development Program, which is based in Plymouth, had an absolutely loaded roster this past season and was full of future NHL stars.

Those players took the first step towards becoming NHL players Friday night, when eight from the program were drafted in the first round of the NHL Draft.

"Very excited for our players, they work so hard. Coaching staff, everyone around works hard," USA Hockey executive director Pat Kelleher said in an interview on NBC Sports Network during the draft. "The players, their families, it's a big night for them and a big night for USA hockey."

Here they are, in order:

No. 1 overall - C Jack Hughes, New Jersey Devils

Hughes was viewed as the obvious top selection for months. He is loaded with star potential and should start in the NHL right away. Last season he scored 34 goals and had 78 assists in 50 games.

No. 5 overall - C Alex Turcotte, Los Angeles Kings

Like Hughes, Turcotte lit up the scoreboard last season in 37 games. He scored 27 goals and totaled 35 assists.

No. 9 overall - C Trevor Zegras, Anaheim Ducks

Zegras, who many thought would be a target of the Red Wings at No. 6, scored 26 goals and tallied 61 assists in 60 games last season.

See HOCKEY, Page 5B



Jack Hughes, who played in Plymouth for the US National Development Team Program, was drafted No. 1 overall in the NHL Draft. NEW JERSEY DEVILS



John Beecher played two seasons for the USA National Team Development Program. RENA LAVERTY/PROVIDED PHOTO



Tracking the puck into his USA crest during a 2017-18 game is goalie Spencer Knight. RENA LAVERTY/USA HOCKEY

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Tennis

Continued from Page 1B

sky was the limit.

"You really had to focus on doubles," Jones said. "If you could win four state championships in doubles and possibly have one state champ at singles, you could win a state championship, and that's exactly what we did."

Northville's doubles teams became feared across the state and were the strength of Jones' teams.

Jones will take plenty of great memories with her into retirement, but one in particular stands out. In the final match of the season against Midland Dow in 2017, then sophomore Connie Gao dislocated her shoulder and was forced to change her entire approach to the game. In 2018, she came back and couldn't serve overhand.

Jones worked and worked with her and finally told her she wanted her to serve underhand. Gao resisted, but after a while, got better and better. The junior finally believed, and despite all odds, became a state champion, winning the No. 4 doubles flight with her freshman partner.

"That was the best victory I think I've

"It was the perfect breaking time for us, we can run and play again."

Linda Jones
Northville tennis coach

ever witnessed," Jones said.

Gao would follow that up with another state title this year.

Northville will forever have a special place in Jones' heart. Her father graduated from the school in 1940 and she graduated a Mustang in 1970. Her coaching has left a winning culture within the tennis program.

"I'll miss the girls and my relationship with them," Jones said. "Most of them when they move on will text me later and tell me what they're doing or connect with me on Facebook. ... I'll miss being a part of Northville high school. I'll miss being a part of the Northville tradition."

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



The Northville girls tennis team poses after winning the 2018 state championship. Coaches Linda and Dan Jones stand at either side. COURTESY OF LINDA JONES

Hockey

Continued from Page 4B

No. 12 overall - LW Matthew Boldy, Minnesota Wild

In 64 games last year, Boldy scored 33 goals and had 48 assists.

No. 13 overall - G Spencer Knight, Florida Panthers

It's rare to see a goalie go this high, but that tells you how good Knight is. He went 32-4 last season with a .913 save percentage and 2.36 goals against average.

No. 14 overall - D Cam York, Philadelphia Flyers

In 63 games, the defenseman scored 14 goals and had 51 assists. The Flyers traded back with the Coyotes to take York, who is signed to play at Michigan this fall.

No. 15 overall - RW Cole Caufield, Montreal Canadiens

An electric goal-scorer, the undersized forward tallied 72 goals and 28 assists in 64 games.

No. 30 overall - C John Beecher, Boston Bruins

In 63 games, he scored 15 goals and had 28 assists. His stats aren't as impressive as the other forwards on this list, but he was stuck playing behind Hughes, Turcotte and Zegras. Beecher is committed to Michigan.

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"Very excited for our players, they work so hard. Coaching staff, everyone around works hard."

Pat Kelleher
USA Hockey executive director



No. 15: Right wing Cole Caufield, Montreal Canadiens.
PHOTOS BY ANNE-MARIE SORVIN/USA TODAY SPORTS



No. 5: Alex Turcotte, Los Angeles Kings.



No. 13: Goalie Spencer Knight, Florida Panthers.



No. 9: Center Trevor Zegras, Anaheim Ducks.



The Flyers selected Cam York with the 14th pick in Friday night's NHL draft.



No. 12: Left wing Matthew Boldy, Minnesota Wild.



Plymouth coach Ray Miller walks up to accept the regional championship trophy.
MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lacrosse

Continued from Page 1B

dedicated student-athletes deserve all the praise for the success that they accomplished on the field," Miller said. "There are also two great influencers that I feel deserve recognition, Team Total Lacrosse Director/University of Detroit Mercy Men's Assistant Lacrosse Coach Dwayne Hicks and Plymouth High School Athletic Director Luke Swanson. Coach Hicks has expanded my knowledge of the sport and taught me valuable coaching techniques that I believe are a big reason as to why I received this award. Luke has been a huge support

from an administration standpoint and has helped make our seasons run as smooth as possible."

In order to reach the state quarter-finals, Plymouth had to beat two top 10 teams that had beaten the Wildcats earlier in the season, Northville and Saline. They got the job done before losing to Rockford.

"It takes a village to build a great program and without the help and support of our students, assistant coaches, parents, boosters, administration and community we would not have had the success that we did," Miller said.

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PREP GOLF



Keegan Bunting of Dexter fired a 7-over-par 79 to win his division at the Kensington Junior Golf Tour's first event of the summer. PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Season begins with a bang for Kensington junior golfers

M.B. Dillon
Special to HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At Faulkwood Shores Golf Club in Howell last week, Braylon Park gave himself the best birthday gift a golfer could ask for: a hole-in-one.

"It was hole 4, 155 yards, and a pond is on the right," said Braylon, who just turned 14 and will attend Howell High School this fall. "From the tee box, I couldn't see the hole, but I could see the flag behind the bunker. I hit a smooth, soft drive toward the flag. One of the player's families was up there watching. They said it took two hops and rolled in. They're like, 'It's in the hole!'"

"I was like, 'Wow!' I was shocked. I had never done that. It was weird," Braylon said. Braylon's father Matt was his caddy. "Braylon hit it toward the middle of the green. The pin was on the left so his ball had to work its way to the hole," said Matt. "It took a hop and rolled right in, and wedged between the cup and the flagstick. I just grabbed him, spun him around and gave him a big hug. I've only had one hole-in-one, so he's already tied me. His birthday was the day before, and this was his first real tournament, so it felt like a birthday present to have that happen."

Lauren Thomas, 11, of Brighton was all smiles, too, after competing in the Kensington Junior Golf Tour's opening event. The soon-to-be Maltby Intermediate 6th-grader fired a 45 to win the 9-hole IJU division.

"I had fun playing the course," Lauren said. "Some of the par-5s are harder holes, and there was a green that was all downhill and really hard to putt on. But on the 8th hole I had a 30-foot putt. I put a little tap on it and made it in. I did par that hole, and it felt very good," added Lauren, who's also a competitive jumper. "On the back nine, there's a little weed patch and it was really funny; there was a duck sitting in the pond and my friends and I were laughing. I accidentally hit the duck. It was OK; I just hit its tail."

Keating Holland of Ann Arbor carded a 53 to take second in the IJU division. "I finished strong; on number 8 I had a par, and on the last hole I had a bogey. I had a lot of carries getting the ball away from water. The rough was tall and thick, but I got through it," said Keating, whose best score is 40.

Brook Herbstreit of Fenton shot 87 to



Braylon Park of Howell gets a hug from dad Matt after scoring a hole-in-one in his first tournament.

win the girls' 18-hole division. "I was hitting my drives really good, and my putting was really good. It surprised me. Usually this early it's a little bit rougher," said Brook, who golfs for Fenton High School where she'll be a junior. "On number 8, a par 4, my drive was a little right, and I had to go over a tree. I landed on the green, which is slanted all the way down. I 2-putted from 40 feet for par."

This is Brook's third year playing on the Kensington Tour. "I know a lot of people who do it, and I like playing with

people I know, and on courses I know," she said.

Second in the division was Maire Sullivan of Plymouth. Maire also shot 87 but lost the tie-breaker.

Keegan Bunting, 16, of Dexter captured the boys' 15-18 division with a blistering 79. "I had a big blow up hole on number 6, with a 7. But I rebounded with three pars," said Keegan, who'll be a junior at Saline High School. "I was mad at myself for about 10 seconds, but then I focused on the next hole instead. I found my strength and I was hitting all my tee

shots straight and far and draining putts. I just carried that for the whole 18. I had about a 25-footer for par on 18.

Griffin White of Brighton took second among boys 15-18 with an 83.

Keldon Koshorek, 14, of White Lake made his debut with the Kensington Tour a memorable one. He fired an 85 to win the boys' 12-14 division. "I struggled with my putting a little bit. On hole 3, I 4-putted for a double-bogey. That was one of the worst holes. Then on number 6 and 9, I made birdies to battle back," said Keldon, who'll be a freshman at Our Lady of the Lakes in Waterford. "On the back nine, I played conservative and finished with a 41. It's my first time out here, so I'm happy."

Damo Watson of Westland shot 88 to take second in the division. "On the back nine, a highlight was my 20-foot putt for par on number 10," said Damo. "I played here before. It's a very strategic golf course. You need to place the ball in the right positions to be able to score."

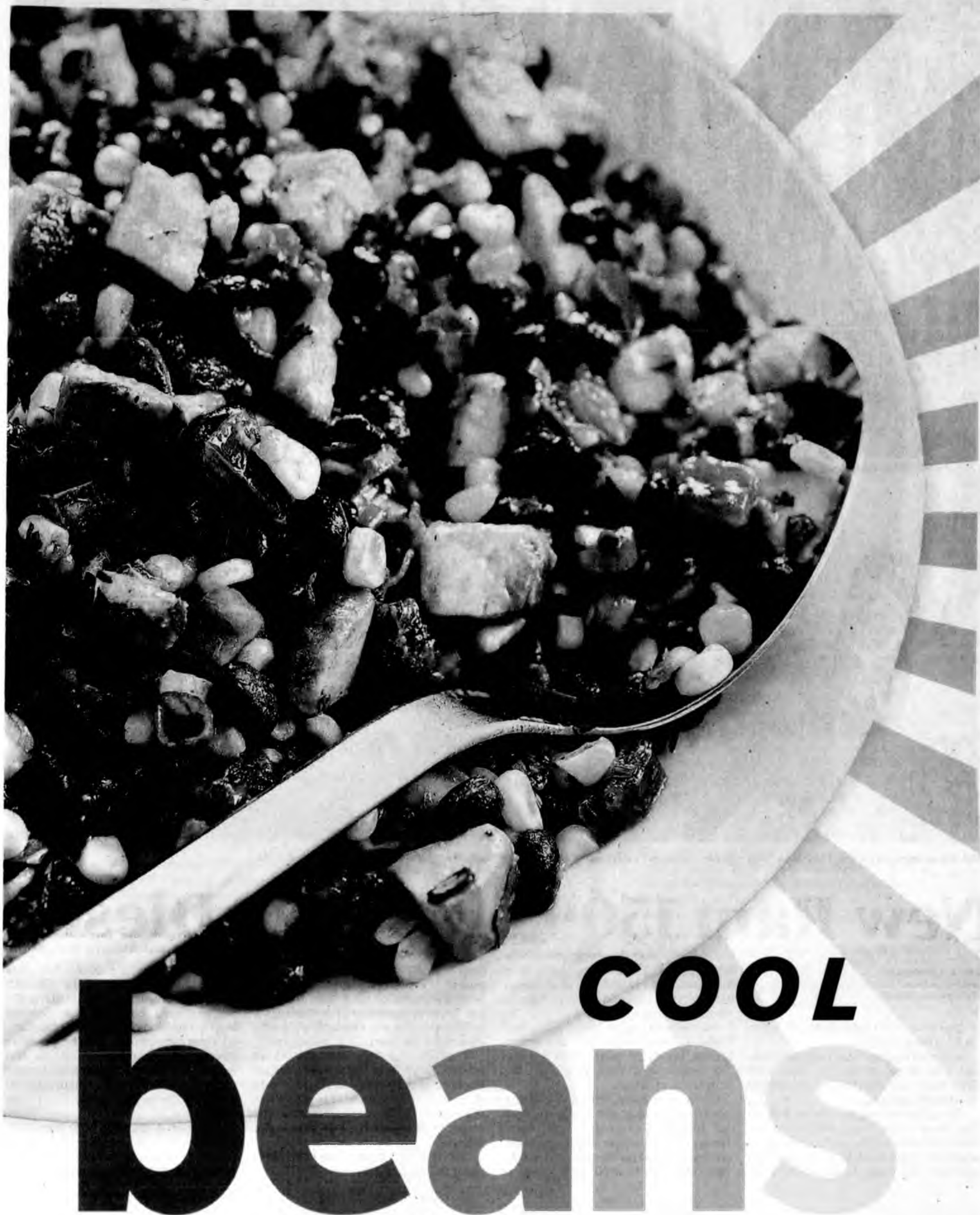
Luke Topolski of Northville won the developmental division for 6-11-year-olds, shooting 60.

Scores aside, camaraderie and love of the game make playing enjoyable for Kensington golfers. Giavanna Spagnuolo, 10, and brother Grayson Spagnuolo, 7, of Howell agree that "It's pretty cool meeting new friends, and how there are different age groups." A highlight for Giavanna was a 30-foot chip that went in the hole on number 5. Grayson sank a 30-foot putt on number 4. "I got really excited that I made it in," he said.

Another sibling duo, Sara and Tony Haupt of Northville, were among the 96 golfers at Faulkwood, re-joining the tour this year. "Kensington is a lot more relaxed, and tournaments are closer to home," said Sara, 15. "You don't have to be a 3-under-par person to play. When I started, I was shooting in the 150s. I still had fun. Sara shot 90 at Faulkwood, good for fourth place."

"I like the courses they pick out," said Tony, who at Faulkwood competed as an 18-holer for the first time. Tony won runner-up honors last summer in a playoff for the 9-hole tour championship. "Some courses are really challenging, and some are easy."

They boost my confidence." Kensington hosts tournaments for junior golfers aged 6-18 all summer in Oakland, Livingston, Wayne and Washtenaw counties. For more information, visit www.kensingtonjuniorgolf.com.



COOL beans

AMERICA'S TEST
KITCHEN VIA AP;
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION
BY KAYLA FILION/USA
TODAY NETWORK;
GETTY IMAGES

America's Test Kitchen

For an easy, light, summertime bean salad, we combined fiber-rich black beans with fresh corn, bright tomato and creamy avocado. Toasting the corn in a skillet until golden brown brought out its natural sweetness. Chipotle chile, cilantro, and lime juice provided the perfect Southwestern flavor profile to this easy-to-prepare salad. Fresh corn is important for the flavor of the salad — don't substitute frozen or canned corn.

Southwestern Black Bean Salad

Servings: 4

Start to finish: 15 minutes

2 scallions, sliced thin

3 tablespoons lime juice (2 limes)

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1½ teaspoons minced canned chipotle chile in adobo sauce

Salt and pepper

2 ears corn, kernels cut from cobs

1 (15 ounce) can no-salt-added black beans, rinsed

1 tomato, cored and chopped

1 avocado, halved, pitted, and cut into ½-inch pieces

3 tablespoons minced fresh cilantro

Whisk scallions, lime juice, 1 tablespoon oil, chipotle, ¼ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper together in large bowl.

Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in medium skillet over medium-high

This light black bean salad is perfect for summer

heat until just smoking. Add corn and ¼ teaspoon salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer corn, beans, and tomato to bowl with dressing and gently toss to coat. Gently fold in avocado and cilantro. Season with pepper to taste and serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 302 calories; 145 calories from fat; 16 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 462 mg sodium; 35 g carbohydrate; 13 g fiber; 5 g sugar; 10 g protein.



The diesel version of the 2020 Ram 1500 will be available in all models and likely will go on sale in the fourth quarter. FCA US LLC

New Ram 1500 offers EcoDiesel

Eric D. Lawrence
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The new 2020 Ram 1500 will offer an EcoDiesel option.

A diesel engine was suggested but not announced when the new 2019 Ram 1500 was unveiled at the Detroit auto show last year.

The planned engine release follows the class-action legal settlement announced earlier this year for owners of about 100,000 2014-16 EcoDiesel Ram pickups and Jeep Grand Cherokees.

FCA did not admit wrongdoing, but regulators said it had installed defeat devices that allowed the vehicles to cheat emissions testing.

In announcing the new engine, Reid Bigland, who heads the Ram brand, touted the third-generation 3.0-liter V6 EcoDiesel's fuel economy and torque capabilities.

"The new Ram 1500 EcoDiesel is America's most powerful half-ton diesel pickup, following up on Ram's Heavy Duty torque leadership and achieving what no other manufacturer has, with up to 480 pound-feet of

torque in a 3.0-liter engine," Bigland said in a news release. "The all-new EcoDiesel engine and our eTorque mild-hybrid powertrain technologies deliver the highest available fuel efficiency for our Ram 1500 customers."

The diesel will be available in all models, including the Ram Rebel for the first time, and is slated to go on sale in the fourth quarter of this year. Pricing and fuel economy will be released closer to the sale date, FCA said in the release.

The engine is built at the FCA Cento plant in Ferrara, Italy.

"The 3.0-liter EcoDiesel V6 uses dual overhead camshafts (DOHC) with four valves per cylinder and a 60-degree angle between the cylinder banks. The block is cast with compacted graphite iron, which provides strength to dampen vibrations but weighs less than gray cast iron. A compacted graphite iron bedplate adds rigidity to the block," according to the release.

FCA noted that the 2019 Ram 1500 Classic – the older version of the Ram pickup – is available with a second-generation 3.0-liter EcoDiesel.

Headlights glaringly are in 'sorry shape' in many US vehicles

Mark Phelan
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Millions of Americans are driving around in the dark. That's not a metaphor; it's the state of U.S. headlight technology and maintenance compared with such places as Canada, Europe and Japan.

Only about half of 2018 model-year vehicles in the U.S. offered "adequate" headlights, and frequently only on expensive, option-laden models. That put good visibility out of sight for many American drivers, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, an industry group that tests and advocates for safety features.

On top of that, experts say improper installation reduces the effectiveness of many advanced headlights, turning what should be safety aids into glaring annoyances for other drivers.

It's easy to recognize the problems if you've been on the wrong end of a bright headlight aimed into your eyes, but harder for people driving cars with mis-

aligned lights or those with cloudy, fogged-over lenses. They don't know what they're missing until they're literally blindsided by an unexpected curve, construction zone or other obstacle their lights didn't illuminate.

"A lot of headlights are in pretty sorry shape," said John Bullough, director of transportation and safety lighting programs at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

Focusing light where it's needed

Help is on the way, but there's no telling when. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which sets standards for vehicle safety, is working on rules for a new technology called adaptive driving beam, or ADB lights. Automakers and suppliers are waiting impatiently to offer the superior systems they already sell in much of the world.

"Lighting technology has never accelerated like it is today," said Todd Morgan, senior vice president for global product development at lighting suppli-



LED headlights are a building block for more accurate, ADB (adaptive driving beam) lights. VARROC

er Varroc, which has an engineering center in Plymouth, Michigan, just west of Detroit.

Like high-intensity and halogen headlights before them, LEDs initially were limited to luxury vehicles, but Morgan said, "LED lights are evolving and their cost is becoming reachable" for compact and subcompact cars and SUVs. Varroc's goal is to make them and other new lighting technologies affordable for mass-market brands and vehicles.

ADB lights combine three features that are innovative and have been proved driving millions of miles in heavily regulated, safety conscious markets.

They consist of:
■ Arrays of many LED lights
■ Full-time high beams
■ Systems to direct light away from other drivers' eyes and toward street signs, or potential obstacles like a deer by the side of the road.

"We're talking about a safety system with provable benefits," Morgan said. "We have reams of data from Europe, but we don't know when it'll be legal in the U.S. It's a huge shame."

The latest ADB lights use digital cameras to detect oncoming vehicles, street signs, etc. Software turns selected LEDs on or off, keeping light out of oncoming drivers' eyes.



the power POSITIVITY

**Find success
by sending the
right messages**

Angie Ferguson | Guest Columnist
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

It's been said that life begins at the end of your comfort zone and that certainly resonates in athletic and fitness pursuits. Have you ever purposefully listened and been mindful of the messages you send yourself during a training session? Our brains are more powerful than any muscle in our body and our thoughts can impact the effectiveness and enjoyment of our workouts. To get the most out of each training session, negate any negative thoughts and put yourself in the optimal mindset for performance.

'I can't do it!'

It is natural for our mind to tell us to back off when we are experiencing discomfort, fatigue or pain. It's a survival mechanism the body uses to protect itself. The challenge becomes recognizing which thoughts come from credible physical threats and which thoughts are simply there as we are hesitant to push beyond our comfort zone.

We will never experience the positive results of training unless our sessions challenge us. Next time you're tired or uncomfortable and say, "I can't do this," change the conversation to "I CAN do this" or "I AM doing this" and see what happens.

To reap the most out of our efforts, we need to challenge our bodies in a variety of ways. Have you ever walked away from a workout or training session because you didn't think you

were good enough? When you limit yourself by these negative messages, they become self-fulfilling prophecies and you deny yourself the opportunity to grow, learn a new skill and/or break through a plateau. Book a session with an exercise professional to learn how to challenge your body, how to use specific equipment safely and what you CAN do. This way there are no excuses, nothing can hold you back and YOU ARE WORTH IT!

'I'm too sore to do this.'

Sound familiar? I refer to this as a 'case of the I don't wannas.' For the most part, if you are experiencing mild to moderate delayed onset of muscle soreness (DOMS), you won't be putting yourself in any danger by stepping up and training again, even though it might be uncomfortable at first. Tell yourself "YOU CAN" and once you get moving and blood begins flowing, muscles will heat up, joints will become lubricated, and you'll feel better right away.

Having said that, be mindful of soreness vs. overtraining. If you feel unwell, are in a poor mood, or are unusually stiff or sore you may need to rest. If you're feeling muscle soreness, why not book a regular massage instead of telling yourself you can't train? This will ensure your body is recovering optimally from training sessions and that you are getting the most out of the effort you are investing.

Next time you are working out, tune into what you're telling yourself. There may be some changes you can make or messages you can send to make certain you are getting all the rewards of your labors.

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

GETTY IMAGES

Smartphone users hang up on broadband

Edward C. Baig
USA TODAY

You get your internet at home by subscribing to a high speed broadband service, as do a majority of your fellow Americans. That is unless you're among the 1 in 4 adults who've ditched or passed on home broadband. And many of you who've come to that decision have found what you deem a suitable substitute: your smartphone.

Such is a key finding from a mobile technology and home broadband survey of U.S. adults released Thursday by the Pew Research Center.

Pew found that 37% of respondents indicated that when using the internet they primarily do so on a smartphone, nearly double the 19% who answered the same way in 2013.

And 45% of the non-broadband crowd say that their smartphone lets them do ev-

erything they need to do online, up substantially from the 27% who said so in 2013.

In fact, Pew reports the share of non-broadband users who say their smartphone is the most important reason for not having a high-speed internet connection where they live has nearly doubled over the same time period, from 12% to 23%.

For sure, some people cited the affordability of broadband as the reason for their reluctance. But the percentage of non-broadband adopters who cited price as a barrier, dropped from 33% in 2013 to 21% today.

In the meantime, while the growth of smartphone use for a cyber-connection has grown across all age groups, young adults are more likely to reach for a handset when they go online. Fifty-eight percent of those ages 18 to 29 mostly use the phone for such a purpose, up from 41% in

2013.

As you might expect, income levels also are a factor in whether people subscribe to home broadband. The report found that 73% of U.S. adults say they subscribe to broadband internet services at home, but the number climbs to 92% among adults in households with incomes of \$75,000 or more annually.

By contrast, in households where the yearly income is south of \$30,000, the share of broadband subscribers drops to 56%.

That 36-point gap in broadband adoption between the highest- and lowest-income groups is substantially larger than the 24-point gap in smartphone ownership between these groups, the report says.

Educational differences show a nearly identical pattern.

Among other findings:

■ Some 46% of smartphone owners say when using the internet, they mostly do so on their phone, compared with 34% six years ago.

■ During the same period, the share of smartphone users who say a desktop, laptop or tablet computer is their primary device for going online has fallen from 53% in 2013 to 30% today. And roughly one-quarter of smartphone users say they equally use a cellphone or a desktop, laptop or tablet computer when going online, up from 12% in 2013.

■ Meanwhile, 6 in 10 of the folks without broadband indicated that they have never had high-speed internet service at home in the past, compared to about one-third who have.

The survey was conducted from Jan. 8 through Feb. 7 of this year, among a nationally representative sample of 1,502 adults 18 or older.

TRAVEL

When will Disney's Rise of the Resistance ride open?

Scott Craven
The Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the new Star Wars land at Disneyland, a menacing laser turret looms over a trail that leads to a mysterious cavern. Yet that is not what prohibits visitors from venturing along that path.

It's the chain across the entrance, as well as the cast members stationed out front. But more than that, it's Disney's insistence on perfection as work continues on the Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge attraction at the end of this path, a project Imagineers call their most ambitious ever.

So when is Rise of the Resistance opening?

The answer gets no more definitive than "sometime this year."

When Disney CEO Robert Iger first announced that Galaxy's Edge would

open in June, it was with the assumption that both of its marquee rides would be open as well: Rise of the Resistance and Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run.

But when park officials later said Galaxy's Edge would debut May 31 — deemed a soft opening — they made clear that Rise of the Resistance would not be ready.

It had been decided that opening without Rise was better than delaying the opening. Based on reviews and fan reactions, Disney made the right choice.

The new land has been well-received. Guests have flocked to Oga's Cantina (Disneyland's first foray into offering alcohol to the public) and Savi's Workshop (build a \$200 lightsaber), where two-hour lines have been common.

Waits for Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run, in which groups of six pilot



A laser turret looms over Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge at Disneyland.
SCOTT CRAVEN/USA TODAY NETWORK

Obituaries

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

Fred J. Hicks

NORTHVILLE - Fred J. Hicks, age 100, lifelong resident of Northville, passed away peacefully at home on June 15, 2019. He was born December 19, 1918 in Northville, Michigan; son of Fred V. and Hazel (nee Wilcox) Hicks. Fred graduated from Northville High School; Class of 1936. He proudly served his country in the United States Army during WWII. Fred was united in marriage to Laura A. Bolton on March 25, 1942; they spent 77 loving years together as husband and wife.

Fred worked as a postal carrier for the Northville Post Office, retiring in 1982. He was a member of the National Rifle Association. He was a nature lover and enjoyed being outside fishing and hunting. He also enjoyed gardening; his home vegetable garden included tomatoes, peppers, beans, and an abundance of garlic. Fred read the newspaper from cover to cover and liked doing crossword puzzles. He was very mechanical and able to fix anything. He was a wealth of knowledge, which he often shared with family and friends. Fred was the person his family went to for everything, he was truly loved by those around him.

Fred is survived by his loving wife, Laura A. Hicks; his children, Patricia (Fred) Fitch and Fred (Frances) Hicks; his grandchildren, Matt (Michelle) Fitch, Laura (Dale) Morey, Jacqueline (Mike Hay) Hicks, Amanda (Matt) Sheridan, Christina (Tom Hubbard) Hicks-Hubbard; his great grandchildren, Rebecca, Andrew, Chelsey, Shelby, Madison, Ashley, Colby, and Lillian; and his great great grandchild, Kinsley. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, July 3, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. until Noon with a Memorial Service at Noon at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. Rev. Douglas W. Vernon from First United Methodist Church of Northville will officiate the service.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate memorial contributions to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154

Please share condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

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the iconic ship on a dangerous mission, have been moderate. Waits typically are 30 to 40 minutes, and rarely longer than an hour.

But Rise of the Resistance is a different beast, a hulking rancor as opposed to the domesticated tauntaun. (Star Wars fans will understand.) Its complexity is what's causing the delay.

Those who follow Disney for a living — particularly bloggers who report on everything from queue refurbishments to the latest themed churros — speculate the ride's many intricacies have temporarily flummoxed builders, as if the Imagineering has exceeded the technology.

When will it open?

Make no mistake, Imagineers are going to get it right. Whatever problems are holding up the ride will be solved.

But Disney won't open an attraction until officials are sure it can perform dependably. If they open it too soon and it breaks down every few hours, they'll face the dark side of social media.

When it comes to an opening date, it's no surprise that park officials stick to generalities. The official line is, "Rise of the Resistance will open this year." But we can't resist guessing when it may rise to the level of welcoming guests.

■ **End of August.** There are two reasons why the ride could open at the end of August. First, the biennial convention for Disney superfans unfolds Aug. 23-25 at the Anaheim Convention Center.

Officials are known for dropping big news here. Iger unveiled Galaxy's Edge at the 2015 expo.

Second, this would correlate with the Aug. 29 Galaxy's Edge opening at Disney World in Florida. That would be some nice synchronicity.

■ **Our odds:** 3-1. This is the Star Wars horse we'd bet on in the Rise of the Resistance race.

■ **Late September/early October:** Crowds typically are lighter as summer transitions to fall and kids are back in school. Opening Rise of the Resistance now could stoke crowd levels to record highs for this period. If not, the season's smaller crowds could help Imagineers break in the attraction slowly. Should it go down, fewer people will be there to complain on social media.

■ **Our odds:** 8-1. Hardly a long shot, but we don't feel strong about the timing.

■ **November.** What better way to fill the gap between Halloween and Christmas than the rise of Rise? As wreaths take the place of pumpkins, guests would pay scant attention to the decor as they line up for Galaxy's Edge, which is committed to its story and should remain a holiday-free zone.

■ **Our odds:** 15-1. A dark (side) horse to be sure.

■ **December.** One would think Rise of the Resistance would open long before

the first carols are sung. But the attraction's envelope-pushing technology may require extensive time to perfect. Not to be ignored: the Dec. 20 opening of the ninth and final "Star Wars" film with roots to the 1977 original. Is it merely coincidence the movie is called "The Rise of Skywalker?" Probably, but still intriguing.

Our odds: 6-1.

■ **Who knows:** Iger initially said Galaxy's Edge would open in June. We booked hotel dates throughout that month so we'd be prepared to attend the media preview. Which was May 29.

■ **Odds each of these guesses is wrong:** Even money.

What to expect

Rise of the Resistance may be Disney's crowning achievement after 64 years in the theme-park business. It will blend special effects, trackless vehicles and audio-animatronics.

While video screens will be part of the ride, it will rely largely on a 3D environment, including a detailed interior of a Star Destroyer that fans will swear was taken right from the big screen. It will be as much an experience as a ride.

Guests will proceed past the laser turret and into a cavern lined with horizontal ridges, the result of being carved by lasers. It leads to a briefing room inside a secret rebel base, where "recruits" are briefed by Rey (in hologram form and played by Daisy Ridley, re-creating her role from the "Star Wars" films).

The adventure begins as guests board a shuttle escorted by Poe (Oscar Isaac), an experienced X-Wing pilot. And, of course, things go badly.

The floor vibrates as the transport lifts off from Batuu, and it's not long before the shuttle is pulled toward a Star Destroyer, an immense craft belonging to the evil First Order. The "abductees" are taken to a bay, a vast space said to be one of the more impressive sights on the attraction thanks to the use of animatronic figures and video projections.

Travelers wind up in a detention cell where Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) shows up to interrogate them, employing a few Jedi mind tricks that go far beyond "These aren't the droids you're looking for."

In another set piece, there's an explosion and a hole suddenly appears in a wall. A Resistance fighter appears to lead recruits to eight-person trackless vehicles to make an escape, at one point dodging laser blasts from full-side AT-ATs, the four-legged tanks first seen on Hoth in "The Empire Strikes Back."

At one point, vehicles seem to climb 100 feet, facing off with stormtroopers. Eventually, a successful escape is completed, or so we assume, given Disney's embrace of happy endings (and returning guests safely).

One last guess: The lines will be strong for this one.

Almee Picchi
Special to USA TODAY

The thrill of homebuying can turn into a letdown after the closing — especially if the house doesn't look exactly how you remembered during the property hunt.

Didn't recall that ugly popcorn ceiling? Forgot about those too-steep basement stairs? That's when some new homeowners get infected with the renovation bug.

Take Robbie Mortillaro and Marianne Sierk, a married couple who recently moved to Baltimore from Rochester, New York. They bought a three-bedroom, two-bath home with a big yard and deck they thought would be perfect for their 3-year-old daughter. At first, they said, they wanted to change only a few things, such as repainting the walls.

"We're like, oh, maybe we'll change that," recalls Sierk, a radio host and comedian. "Cut to May, and we were living in rubble. It snowballed."

Taking on a home renovation can be costly, stressful and time-consuming. But Mortillaro and Sierk kept their sense of humor — and their costs low — with some key strategies.

Here's their advice:

Agree on what you can't live with

A frank discussion will help set your priorities, the couple says. Their biggest post-closing issue: that popcorn ceiling in the dining room, says Mortillaro, a stay-at-home dad and luthier who repairs violins and other stringed instruments.

"When we first walked through the house, it's like, oh, popcorn, whatever," Mortillaro says. "But we were both like, 'We hate that,' and that ended up being the biggest project."

Brace yourself for more repairs

Like many homeowners before them, the couple stumbled upon one of the major pitfalls of renovations: one fix leads to another. The popcorn ceiling, which was sagging, turned out to hide bigger issues, they recalled. Mortillaro says he realized the ceiling wasn't framed right, and that electrical wiring wasn't run correctly.

"We're trying to figure out why they lowered the ceiling," Mortillaro says. "Then you realize, like, nothing's square and nothing's level. And so you're just constantly fixing stuff over and over."

Renovate without losing your mind or your savings

"It's satisfying to know that it was our own muscle that went into it. The most rewarding part about renovating is that you get it done the way you want."

Marianne Sierk



GETTY IMAGES

Be open to reusing materials

The couple estimates that they've spent \$8,000 on renovations but believe their costs could have reached \$60,000 if they hadn't relied on some money-saving strategies. Two key approaches: reusing materials and buying lightly used appliances.

"We repurposed so much of the wood that we pulled out of the ceiling from the dining room when we pulled that ceiling out," Mortillaro recalls.

Sierk adds they bought secondhand appliances for a fraction of what they'd cost new. "They're like-new, and they were \$300 for a washer, \$300 for a dryer," she says. "Like you don't have to buy

brand-new, top-of-the-line" appliances.

Take on some of the labor

Mortillaro once worked in construction and has the skills to undertake many of the renovations, which lowered costs. But Sierk adds she turned to YouTube and websites to learn some skills, such as hanging curtain rods.

Even so, she cautions, be prepared for a steep learning curve. "So many things are like eight steps, and I thought it would be one. So not fun," she says.

Know when to hire an expert

Despite their skills and determina-

tion to learn, the couple concedes there are projects that require a professional. In their case, it was the home's HVAC system. "I knew enough to know that it wasn't right," Mortillaro says. "And then I also knew enough to know that I shouldn't tackle that project." The couple hired a professional HVAC company to install a new system.

Enjoy the payoff

"It's satisfying to know that it was our own muscle that went into it," Sierk says. And she adds, "The most rewarding part about renovating is that you get it done the way you want."

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Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister
LB-0000316079

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Rev. Michael Horlock, Pastor
www.fpcsouthlyon.org
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Sunday School 8:30 am
Rev. Mary Mahan, Lead Pastor
Rev. Kenny Walkup, Assoc. Pastor
southlyonfirstumc.org

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60623 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178
Phone: 248-437-2863
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Evening Service 8:00 p.m. (Wednesday Evening 7:30 p.m.)
Assoc. Pastor: Randy Weats
Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com
Email: fbcsouthlyon@baptistglobal.net
LB-0000316071

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All Classes 9:00
Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-1051
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Saying 'no' and other work productivity hacks

 Erik Titner
thejobnetwork.com

In today's nonstop, hectic work culture, the lines between our professional and personal lives are blurred and intertwined like never before, which often means that we're always operating at breakneck speeds to complete everything we need to get done in a given day. No one likes to end a day with the sense that they didn't add enough checkmarks to their to-do lists. And since no one has figured out a way to add more hours to the day yet, we must compensate by maximizing our work productivity.

Particularly at work, staying on top of responsibilities is mission-critical for a variety of reasons—not only does failing to handle assigned tasks on schedule reflect poorly on you, but it can also have long-term consequences on your career and future opportunities. Delayed projects can adversely affect the workflow of your colleagues. Plus, the negative impact of falling behind at work can include added stress, anxiety, depression, loss of sleep, and a host of other unwanted mental and physical effects.

There are ways to make what may feel like a maelstrom of daily tasks a little more manageable. Consider utilizing the following foolproof work hacks to help you stay on top of things.

First, get organized

Don't expect to be able to allocate your time, energy, and resources to tackling your daily to-dos effectively if you don't have a good handle on them and what you need to get done each day. You'll have to get organized.

There's no "one size fits all" approach



GETTY IMAGES

to organizing—use whatever tools work best for you for keeping track of and staying on top of everything you need to get done. There is a wealth of organization tools available to check out—including apps, software, and good old-fashioned notebooks and paper. Feel free to use the trial and error approach until you devise a system that works for you, but don't fall prey to thinking that you can juggle it all in your head—that's a recipe for disaster. Consider the time you spend building a good organization system a real investment in your productivity—one that will surely pay off in the long run.

Take the time to prioritize

Are you the sort of person who looks at a long list of tasks and, overwhelmed by its sheer size, chooses to turn away and put it all off for later instead? Breathe — and consider a better ap-

proach.

When faced with an imposing to-do list that threatens to decimate your productivity, fight back by taking a few minutes to prioritize every item. If you're unsure of what should come first and what can wait, it's fine to ask your manager—you are taking proactive steps to get your work done in the most helpful way possible. Once you've prioritized, you can narrow your focus on the most important tasks first. As your list shrinks, you'll have the bandwidth to tackle those less critical tasks later, with a renewed sense that everything is going to be okay.

Break down complex tasks

We all know what it's like to face a complex, multi-faceted task with multiple sub-tasks and interconnected dependencies — it can often seem downright impossible to complete. A simple

approach to keep these toughest to-dos from halting your work productivity is to break them down into smaller, more manageable tasks. Tackle them methodically, one by one. Breaking a big to-do into smaller to-dos has the net effect of chipping away at previously insurmountable projects and keeping your work productivity high.

Use the secret weapons

When it comes to being productive, you have two "secret weapons" at your disposal that are often underused, but can make a big difference — getting help and saying no.

When faced with an enormous task, one where it makes more sense to utilize the capabilities and energy of other folks, don't hesitate to ask for help. People often view asking for help as a sign of weakness, but in fact, it's the opposite. Asking a team member for assistance is a strategic use of available resources to maximize work productivity and complete a task.

Another underused strategy for staying productive is to avoid taking on more than you can handle at any given time by simply saying "no." True, this can be misused and abused in the face of tasks you simply don't want to do, but when used responsibly and appropriately, saying that you simply don't have the time to tackle a task at the moment can help keep you focused, on track, and at the peak of your productive potential. Be polite, and make sure you back up your "no" with reasons why focusing on the unwanted task will make you less productive for other things on your list.

Erik 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.

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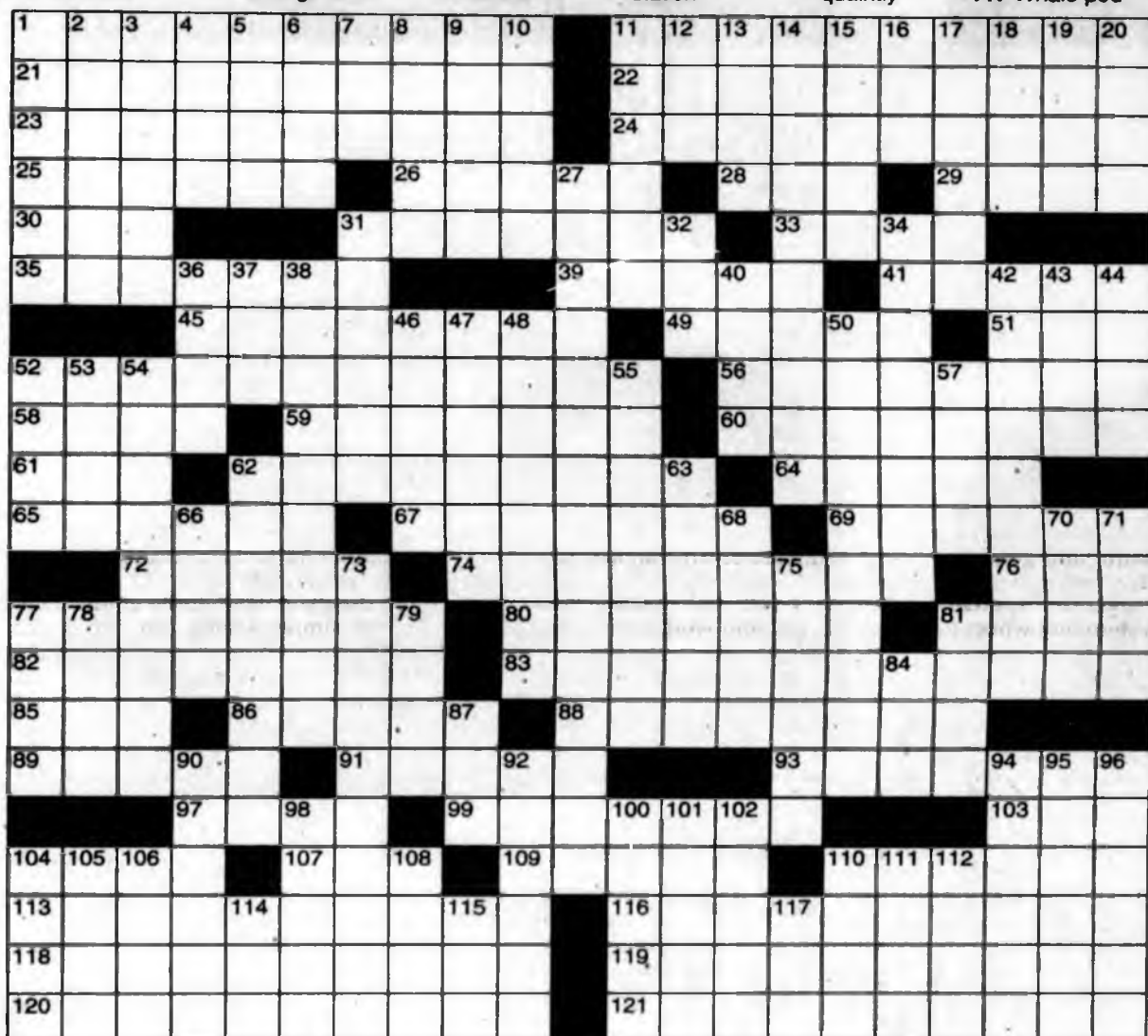
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 City in Orange County, California
11 Extended animal shelter initiative
21 Regular guy
22 Well-practiced pieces
23 Good snorkeling sites
24 Within a single school
25 Have a brawl
26 — liver (dish rich in iron)
28 Secret agent
29 —-mell (confused)
30 Frozen water
31 Narrow sea routes
33 Title girl in a J.D. Salinger story
35 Swift feline
39 "Have a Heart" singer
41 Total up again
45 People giving accounts
49 Many Bosnians
51 Socratic "I"
- 52 Homer Simpson voicer Dan
56 Opiate, e.g.
58 Johnson of old comedy
59 Some rupee spenders
60 Most tranquil
61 Ring around the collar?
62 Cellars
64 "Mercy me!"
65 Ring around the collar?
67 Diet for a boxer
69 Get a move on
72 Discussion venue
74 Ponchos' kin
76 — Fernando Valley
77 Major U.S. field yield
80 Soft, knit fabrics
81 Herr von Bismarck
82 She admired the Man of Steel
83 Perfume ingredient
85 Suffix with meth-
86 Soothing additives
88 Like needles with fibers through them
- 89 Resembling a homet, say
91 "Republic" philosopher
93 Largest parts of brains
97 Memo start
99 "Dream on!"
103 Bk. after Exodus
104 Send cyberjunk to
107 Kind
109 Took illegally
110 Electric resistance measure
113 Long-life-cycle plants
116 Cabal boss
118 "Way to go, hero!"
119 Field of a retail boss
120 Gazpacho, basically
121 Warnings about shady deals
- 8 Thrust out
9 As of now
10 Model 3 car
11 Former Sony record label
12 Where lions lie
13 Makes a selection
14 Be guilty of
15 Waiters' loads
16 24-hr. cash cache
17 Certain wig
18 Put to work
19 Verbal
20 Tony-winning Carter
27 Method of valuing inventories
31 Sedimentary rocks
32 She's part of the fam
34 North Pole wife
36 One-named Art Deco artist
37 Summer top
38 Free of artificial ingredients
40 XXX, maybe
42 Affirms as true
43 Oration station
- 44 With 46-Down, held together with a plumbing adhesive
46 See 44-Down
47 Fill with love
48 Consign to an inferior rank
50 "Glass half full" outlook
52 Announce
53 Sector
54 Uses a wok
55 Bowl over
57 Alero's make
62 — Center (Brooklyn arena)
63 World Cup sport
66 Electrojet particles
68 Loma of literature
70 Sol followers
71 Hydroxyl compound
73 Corners on the market
75 Hook up (to)
77 Hawk's nail
78 "Game of Thrones" actress
79 Lime discard
81 Bygone, quaintly
- 84 — Lingus (carrier to Dublin)
87 Announce
90 One of the Ewings on "Dallas"
92 Even choice
94 One on in-line skates
95 Acting king
96 Heads off
98 Rio — (mining company)
100 Fishing bait
101 Of a pelvis bone
102 Three-time Grand Prix champion
104 Roast rod
105 Colombian cash
106 William Saroyan's "My Name Is"

DOWN

- 1 Milk-derived
2 Affirm as true
3 Olympian Jackie Joyner —
4 Distinctive stretches
5 Descend
6 Horrid giant
7 "Riddle me, riddle me —"



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

SUDOKU



Here's How It Works:

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

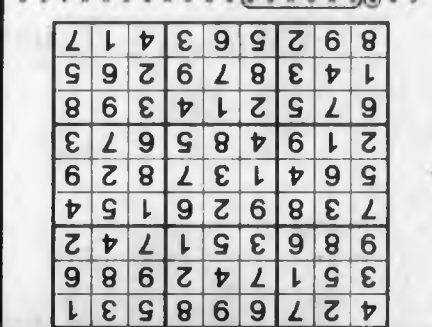
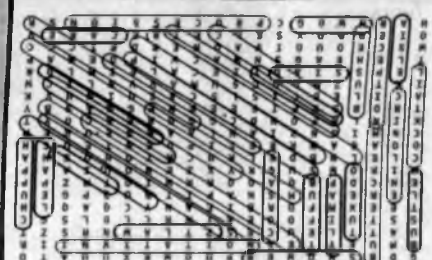
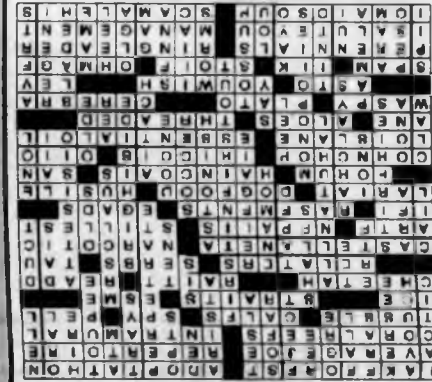
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B M U E Y T E I N O I T A T I V N I I R
U A T T L E U C E S Z T L A W N R S Z T
S T U I F O O E R T N R C L D L S G C
T E E X M F D R B I E A N Y C Q A Q L H
L E R E A U M S N A P I T B U Q P G E U
E N C D F B Q A Q Q R R N I O T M Z P P
H I R O W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