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MDOT plans I-96 flex route in Oakland

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After studying options to improve traffic flow on Interstate 96, the Michigan Department of Transportation has determined a flex route on the expressway between Kent Lake Road and I-275 is the way to go, with construction to begin in 2021.

The "flex route" will convert median shoulders of I-96 between Kent Lake Road and I-275 into traffic lanes temporarily during periods of heavy congestion, typically during morning and evening rush hours, for more capacity.

The plan also calls for ramp metering at select locations to control ramp traffic entering the freeway for smoother merging.

The project was decided upon after MDOT studied "this heavily traveled route, which experiences high traffic volumes and numerous crashes and determined the need to improve I-96," wrote MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross in a news release.

The objective is to accommodate more traffic eastbound in the mornings and westbound in the afternoons.

The flex route will use existing shoulders for additional capacity, similar to the US-23 flex route north of Ann Arbor. The project is expected to reduce crashes and improve travel time between US-23 and I-275.

Any questions regarding the project can be emailed to MDOT-196Flex-Route@Michigan.gov.
sbromley@hometownlife.com



Kyle Pryce, of Plymouth, works on a tattoo on the leg of Brook Jacoby at Eternal Tattoos in Howell on July 26. Pryce, a former counselor, became a full-time tattoo artist seven months ago. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Tattooists explain 'mind-blowing' art

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brook Jacoby readily admits that he "probably should have waited a few more years" to get hard-to-hide tattoos forever inked onto the back of his hands.

"They probably cost me a few jobs when I was young," the Plymouth resident said with a chuckle, extending his hand as if handing a job application to a potential employer.

But Jacoby has no regrets when it comes to the rest of the body art that decorates most other sections of his skin, including his shiny scalp.

"It's nice how people's acceptance of tattoos has changed ... although I still get people staring at me while I'm using the self-scan checkout ... they think I must be stealing something (because of his body art)," Jacoby said.



Pryce lines the tattoo art on Jacoby's leg in black ink, making it permanent.

See TATTOOS, Page 8A

Milford Memories returns this weekend

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The 28th annual Milford Memories summer festival returns Friday through Sunday, mostly along Main Street and in downtown Milford.

Here are five things to make your visit unforgettable:

1. You gotta have art

About 300 artists from all over the United States and Canada will have their creations on display and for sale. The mediums are all over the map, too - from paintings and photography to jewelry, sculpture and more.

Art in the Village starts at 10 a.m. each day and ends at 8 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, and 5 p.m. Sunday.

Find a masterpiece that fits your style or have your kids make you one - the Detroit Institute of Arts is sponsoring a children's workshop in Central Park.

2. Blind canoeing

Want a challenge? How about canoeing while blindfolded or being the guide for your teammates who are paddling without sight?

The Blind Canoe Race starts at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, with check-in and same-day registration at 11:30 a.m. for \$20 per canoe. Or, register in advance for \$15 per canoe.

3. Poles, holes, balls and cold butts

Joell Beether says Milford Memories has something for everyone, and the executive director of the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce points to tournaments for kids and adults as part of the proof.

Kids can partake in a fishing tournament starting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Central Park/Huron River, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament most of the day Saturday, and sand volleyball tournaments with age divisions Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Adults can enjoy a Cold Butts Euchre Tournament while seated on ice blocks and compete in a cornhole

See MEMORIES, Page 10A

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How to take advantage of soft recycling service

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The nine cities encompassed by the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, which are Farmington, Farmington Hills, Milford, Milford Township, Novi, South Lyon, Southfield, Walled Lake and Wixom, are reminding residents that old clothes can be recycled right at the curb.

South Lyon and Wixom became the first two cities in the country to pilot a curbside program with Simple Recycling, which takes care of "soft recyclables" like clothing, in 2014. The rest partnered with Simple Recycling in 2016.

Simple Recycling is a for-profit recycling company that comes at no cost to residents.

"Eighty-five percent of the clothing we want to discard on an annual basis is just thrown away in landfills," said Mike Csapo, general manager of the Recycling Authority. "Most of the clothing that we want to get rid of isn't donated or otherwise reused or resold. So in order to capture that material, Simple Recycling tried to make it as easy as possible to get rid of it."

Clothes picked up curbside by Simple Recycling first head to local resale shops. If they're turned away there, the clothes are shipped overseas and, if they still cannot be sold, are recycled.

"It's one more option for people to put something back into the value chain instead of in their trash can," Csapo said. "This is a program that competes with landfills for materials, not with charities."

Residents to the five cities are sent Simple Recycling's bags to set clothes on the curb. When the bags are picked up on a person's designated rubbish pick-up day, new bags are left in their place.

Homeowners can call 866-835-5068 to request more bags.

Csapo stressed that donating to local charities is always preferable for giving their clothes new life. But, if that's not possible, he said, Simple Recycling is in the neighborhood every week.

hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
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A Chinese elm in Farmington Hills is one of the entries in the Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest. COURTESY OF PAUL GROSS



A Cottonwood in Livonia is one of the entries in the Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest. Hundreds of trees have been entered so far. COURTESY OF TINO ASQUINI

Big Tree Hunt Contest underway

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The 2019 Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest is on with one month left to go, and there are prizes for the largest tree in multiple categories.

Lara Edwards, programs and development coordinator for contest sponsor ReLeaf Michigan, called the contest "a wonderful activity for families, outdoor enthusiasts and folks who love trees."

"Contest entries help track these vital, historical, living landmarks and provide potential state champion trees to Michigan's Big Tree Registry," she added.

Hundreds of trees have been entered so far from 67 of Michigan's 83 counties, including a willow tree that Edwards said measures more than 30 feet in circumference.

Besides the largest tree per county, awards will also be presented for largest tree found by a youth age 15 and younger; largest found by an adult (16 and older); the largest Eastern White Pine found in the state; and for potential state champion trees.

The newest state champion, an eastern red cedar that has a girth of 133 inches and height of 101 feet, was added to the register in April. It was found in the Kleinstuck Preserve in Kalamazoo County. The tree has an average crown spread of 47 feet and scored a total of 246 points, according to the Michigan Botanical Club.

The Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest was started in 1993. Trees must be living and accessible for verification. Tree size is determined by circumference, which is measured around the trunk. Trees already listed in the Michigan Big Tree Register are not eligible.

All entries must be postmarked or submitted online by Sept. 3. To enter a tree or for more information, visit www.bigtreehunt.com. Brochures and printed entry forms are also available at any local library.

All participants will be invited to the awards ceremony in late 2019.

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



A sugar maple in Milford has been entered in the 2019 Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest. Entries must be postmarked or submitted online by Sept. 3. COURTESY OF MARK RAMSEY

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **TERRA (aka VILLA D'ESTE) JSP 17-52 AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.718 FOR PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR AN AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY (PRO).** The subject property is approximately 30.14-acres and is located east of Napier Road and on the north side of Nine Mile Road (Section 29, 30). The applicant proposed a 41-unit single-family ranch housing development (for sale). The current amendment is required as the applicant is seeking some additional deviations for building elements to allow greater flexibility for construction of individual homes, alternate pavement material for sidewalks and driveways and other minor changes. No changes to the approved layout are proposed at this time.



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

Subject Property Parcel ID's: 50-22-30-401-026 and 50-22-29-326-040

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be submitted to the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during the City's regular business hours, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: August 8, 2019

Alligator found in Oceola Township

Kayla Daugherty

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Police captured an alligator found wandering on

the side of a road July 30 in Livingston County.

About 4:20 a.m. a Livingston County Sheriff's Office deputy responded to a report of an alligator

on the side of the road-way in Oceola Township.

A woman on her way home from work told the responding deputies the alligator crossed in front of her vehicle and continued across the road-way, according to a news release.

The deputies found the alligator a few feet from the road near a pine tree and safely captured it.

The animal is currently at the Livingston County Animal Shelter.

"I've been here 30 years and that's the first alligator I have seen," Livingston County Sheriff Michael Murphy said.

He said the alligator is approximately 2 feet long and weighs roughly 10 pounds.

Anyone wishing to claim the alligator should contact Christy Peterson at the Livingston County Animal Shelter before noon Thursday.

The alligator will be transported to Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary in Athens, Michigan, if it is not claimed, officials said.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE PUBLIC NOTICE

Postal Service Will Be Holding a
Public Meeting on
Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Subject: Northville, MI - Main Post Office

Meeting Location: City of Northville, MI
Northville City Hall, Council Chambers
215 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167

Publish August 08, 2019



DRUMMING UP SOME FUN AT THE NOVI TEEN CENTER



Lori Fithian, upper right, leads a July 24 drumming session at Novi High School. Novi Teen Center campers spent almost two hours with Fithian learning about drumming techniques but also how to listen, support and collaborate with others.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



While balancing on one leg, Novi Teen Center counselor Isabelle Brumley balances a water bottle filled with dried beans atop her head during a July 24 drumming session with teacher Lori Fithian at Novi High School.



Shane Walker lets loose during the drumming session. Novi Teen Center counselor Isabelle Brumley is at right.



Lori Fithian smiles as she leads Novi Teen Center campers and counselors.



In a group exercise, Novi Teen Center campers and counselors see whether they can balance bottles on their heads while standing on one leg.



Each camper and counselor had their own drum to use during the session.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.289 FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE AT ARTICLE 3, ZONING DISTRICTS, SECTION 3.10, B-1, B-2, AND B-3 BUSINESS DISTRICTS REQUIRED CONDITIONS TO ALLOW BUILDING HEIGHT TO BE INCREASED TO A MAXIMUM OF 4 STORIES OR 52 FEET IN THE B-2 COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.**

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing. The proposed text amendment is available for examination and review at the Planning Division of the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Any written comments must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: August 8, 2019

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Fire burns mobile homes in Green Oak Twp.

Sean Bradley Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A fire started by a resident using a blowtorch to kill weeds that caught two mobile homes on fire has been ruled accidental.

The two homes were damaged July 30 in Green Oak Township, displacing three families, Green Oak Township Fire Department Chief Kevin Gentry said last week.

"It does appear as though a resident was using a propane torch to burn off weeds and that's what spread to the trailers," Gentry said.

The fire was reported at 5:15 p.m. after a shed caught fire at a mobile home park in the 11700 block of Floreen Lane, Gentry said.

"By the time police arrived one min-

ute later, it was already in one of the residences," he said.

No people were injured. However, a cat died as a result of the fire.

The blaze was extinguished within 20 minutes.

There were two propane tanks near the homes that were allowed to burn off in an attempt to prevent a hazardous materials leak, but a leak did occur, forcing approximately 60 people to evacuate the area for more than three hours, he said.

A hazardous materials team responded to the leak.

Responding to the scene were the Green Oak Township fire and police departments, Northfield Township Fire Department, Livingston County EMS and Disaster Assistance Response Team.



Propane continues to burn off from a tank ignited by a mobile home fire on Floreen Lane in Green Oak Township on July 30. No one was injured in the fire.

GILLIS BENEDICT/
LIVINGSTON DAILY

Novi police raising breast cancer awareness with special vehicle

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi police have been dispatching a pink-and-white Ford Explorer to show support for those affected by breast cancer.

The color-coded sport utility vehicle on a mission to raise awareness appeared this past weekend at the recent Susan G. Komen Michigan three-day event in metro Detroit.

The SUV will remain part of daily operations throughout August, September and the first two weeks of October.

Then it's destined for two weeks of display at various events and locations.

With a minimum \$5 donation, people can sign the vehicle's pink portions with the name of a loved one or messages for those impacted by breast cancer.

David Molloy, Novi's public safety director, said his team wanted to strengthen community partnerships and connect with residents.

"This isn't just a new pink wrap on one of our current vehicles," Molloy said in a city news release. "It really is our way of showing support to everyone who has been affected by breast cancer



A Novi police vehicle has been painted pink and white to help raise awareness for breast cancer. COURTESY OF NOVI POLICE

that they are not alone in their fight."

In November, Novi police officers plan to donate money raised from the

signatures to the Believe in Miracles Fund at Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi.

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

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Thursday, August 8, 2019

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Interest rates are still at a historical low. That means your buying power couldn't be better. Toll Brothers is currently offering exceptional financing programs for quick delivery homes and long-term rate lock programs for new builds making now the best time for you to purchase your dream home. Plus, for a limited-time only, you can take advantage of exclusive savings at participating communities Saturday, August 10–Sunday, August 18.

"There truly has never been a better time to purchase your dream home" says Nadia Mekled, Regional Sales Manager for Toll Brothers. On top of the great low rates, this special event will allow buyers to add even more luxury and value to their new Toll Brothers home with all the finishes they've always wanted-for less." Incentives vary, so buyers should contact their community of interest to learn more. Toll Brothers offers several new construction opportunities in the metro Detroit area.

Resort-class Amenities in Canton

Westridge Estates is the only new community in Canton offering resort-style amenities, including a clubhouse with fitness room, gathering room, kitchenette, locker rooms, pools, sand volleyball court, children's play park and walking paths. Westridge Estates is located just south of Ford

Road west of Ridge Road, and home prices start in the upper \$400,000s. For more information, visit WestridgeofCanton.com or call (734) 844-0279.

Selling Fast in Canton

Hamlet Pointe and Hamlet Meadows are located within the existing community of The Hamlet offering an exceptional location close to Plymouth-Canton schools, the Ford Road Shopping District, expressways, parks and the quaint Cherry Hill Village.

At Hamlet Meadows, pricing starts in the upper \$300,000s. Two-story home designs range from 2,411 sq. ft. to more than 2,842 sq. ft. Brand new, open-concept designs are now available. Hamlet Pointe features large home sites and side-entry garages. Homes are priced from the upper \$400,000s. Immediate and quick occupancy homes are available. For more details, visit TheHamlet.com or call (734) 398-5939.

Low-maintenance Villas in Novi

Located in the heart of Novi on the east side of Novi Rd., just south of Ten Mile Rd. is Ridgeview Villas of Novi. Several luxury villa designs range from 2,041 to 2,676 sq. ft. and most offer a first-floor master suite. Residents enjoy low-maintenance living and paved walking paths leading to The Sports Club of Novi, a dog park, and Novi Ice



Toll Brothers is offering great rates and special savings from August 10 to August 18.

arena. Pricing begins in the mid-\$400,000s. New home sites with private wooded views have been released so buyers should hurry in for best selection. For details, call (248) 904-8515 or visit Ridgeview-Villas.com.

Luxurious Living in Northville

Now offering two amazing single-family communities in Northville. Toll Brothers at Montcarret is located on the south side of Seven Mile Road, 1 1/4 miles west of Beck Road just minutes from the historic downtown. Toll Brothers at Dunhill Park is on the corner of Beck Road and 8 Mile Road across from Maybury State Park. Both prestigious communities offer a range of home designs with an exceptional

list of features on grand oversized home sites. Prices start at the low \$700,000s. Call (248) 924-2601 or visit TollBrothersAtMontcarret.com or LiveAtDunhillPark.com for details.

Popular Villas in Ann Arbor

Located on the north side of Scio Church Road, just west of Maple Road, the low-maintenance luxury villas offers an exceptional list of included features in a stunning setting with pricing from the upper \$400,000s. Final opportunity offers a spacious first-floor master suite and is available for immediate move-in. For details, call (734) 769-9660 or visit Kensington-woods.com.

North Oaks of Ann Arbor is the region's premier resort-class community situated in

a stunning 109-acre setting. Two collections of homes are available. Townhomes from the low \$400,000s and Villas from the low \$500,000s.

The Villas range from 2,041 to 2,631+ square feet and offer first or second-floor master suites, island kitchens, open layouts, loft space, and more. The Townhomes range from 1,861 to 1,890+ sq. ft. and include a 2-car garage and the option to add a rooftop deck.

A clubhouse with a fitness center, yoga room, billiards, great room with fireplace, verandas overlooking the lap and wading pools, locker rooms and a play park is now open. North Oaks is located minutes from the University of Michigan's north campus, the VA Hospital, St. Joseph

Mercy Hospital, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, and downtown Ann Arbor. Children attend acclaimed Ann Arbor Schools with the elementary and middle schools just 3 minutes away. For details, call (734) 224-6686 or visit North-Oaks.com.

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Trailwoods of Ann Arbor, is a new community of single-family homes tucked into a gorgeous setting with Ann Arbor schools, low Scio-Twp taxes, and convenient location with quick access to I-94 and only minutes to downtown. Two collections of homes offer all new designs with an impressive list of included features. The Village Collection is priced from \$399,995 and The Parkside Collection is priced from \$499,995. Two gorgeous models are available to tour and quick move-in homes are available. For more information, visit TrailwoodsOfAnnArbor.com or call (734) 995-5503.

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A chicken and rice bowl is covered in masala sauce.



Employee Yash Reddy prepares a chicken masala with rice bowl.



Chef and owner of Novi's Masala Indian Kitchen, Sathish Kumar, opened his new restaurant about three weeks ago. Kumar previously had been a cook at the former nearby Mirchi restaurant that was located at Grand River and Novi Road. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Fast-casual Indian eatery open in Novi

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Walk into the Masala Indian Kitchen restaurant in Novi and it's probably not like any other Indian restaurant you've been to.

That's exactly what owner Sathish Kumar wants you to notice.

"They go to other restaurants and the buffet is so huge and they try to pile up the plate and they can't eat. They feel heavy until the evening," he said. "Here, they come, they eat, they leave."

The restaurant, at 43168 Grand River Ave. in the Novi Town Center, opened a few weeks back and aims to be a "fast casual" approach to Indian food.

If you aren't accustomed to tikka masala chicken or a dosa crepe made with rice and lentils, Kumar hopes you'll stop in and try his food.

"I'm not really focusing on the Indian community," he said. "I'm focusing more on the locals."

Kumar, a Novi resident who immigrated to the U.S. in 2000, has worked at several restaurants and owned Aroma Indian Cuisine on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. He decided to get out of that restaurant and began working on his new concept starting in October, which occupies the space where The Big Salad used to be.

The restaurant mimics other fast-casual restaurants with high-quality tables and chairs, simple decor highlighting spices such as turmeric and cinnamon, and even a remote ordering kiosk for those who want to quickly and easily customize their meal.

The menu is full of Indian delicacies spanning the subcontinent. Kumar has brought a taste of both north and south India to his restaurant, which vary



Novi's Masala Indian Kitchen sits off Grand River Avenue near Novi Road.

greatly in flavor.

"Indian cuisine is huge. North Indian food is mild, where they use a lot of dairy products like cream, cheese and butter," he said. "Whereas, I'm from south India, so we don't use a lot of dairy products. South Indians tend to eat more spicy."

He hopes his concept expands in the coming months. He's eyeing potential additional Masala Indian Kitchens in Royal Oak, Troy and downtown Detroit. His hope is to open six restaurant in the coming months.

The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. More information, including a menu, can be found on the restaurant's website, masalamichigan.com.

Despite being the owner, Kumar will not be loafing around in the back. He'll be up at the stove and prep table with his employees. Preparing the best food around is too important for him to sit back.

"I spend all day in the kitchen," he said. "It's like my second home."

"I'm on wheels. I never sit." Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

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Latest data breach reminds us of need to protect credit



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

We are bombarded with so much news and information that it becomes overwhelming. Over the last week, we've had news of another major data breach, this time affecting Capital One; President Donald Trump putting new tariffs on China; a potential trade war breaking out between Japan and South Korea; ongoing issues regarding Brexit; the new jobs report; and the Federal Reserve lowering interest rates.

I can go on and on with other stories that hit over the last week, but I think you get the point. This is the world that we live in and we have to adjust. My view is that you cannot react to every story, because you would end up being like the hamster running in the wheel — moving at a fast pace, but in the end you'd be in the same place. At the same time, if you ignore everything, it could be at your peril. As far as I'm concerned, the issues you should focus on are the ones that directly affect your situation.

Of all the stories that have come out over the last week or so, the one story that you should pay attention to is the Capital One hack.

Even if you don't have a Capital One account and never dealt with them, this is the story that you should focus on. It's not that the other stories aren't important, but I don't think it's important that you react to them. I believe the Capital One story is important because data and security breaches put you at risk, and when you consider that over 100 million Americans were affected by the Capital One breach, it's a reminder of the vastness of this problem.

Even though there is not one thing that you can do that will 100 percent guarantee that you will not be hacked, there are things you can do to better protect yourself. One of the things you may wish to consider is to put a freeze on your credit report.

When you put a freeze on your credit report, it basically prevents others from accessing it. Typically, when you apply for credit, your lender reviews your credit report to determine if you're credit-worthy or not. When you put a freeze on your credit report, it prevents identity thieves from opening a new account in your name.

People who have been subject to identity theft find that the crooks take

out loans or open charge cards in their name. Having your credit reports frozen prevents this. Therefore, I recommend more and more people do this. It is important to keep in mind that when you freeze your credit report, it does not have any impact on your credit score, and you can always unfreeze your account if you apply for credit.

To freeze your credit report is relatively simple; all you need to do is to go to each individual credit bureau and click on their security freeze page. In that regard, it is important that you type in the website into your browser as opposed to linking from an email.

The three websites are equifax.com, experian.com and transunion.com. The reason I mentioned that you shouldn't directly link from an email is because that is one way scammers get your information. One thing they do is put up fake websites and pop-up ads that look real, and they use that to capture all your information. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission just issued a warning about this.

As you may have heard, Equifax reached a settlement with the government regarding its security breaches. As part of that settlement you can go on its website, and if you're affected, apply for a cash settlement or free credit monitoring. Unfortunately, the crooks are already trying to take advantage of this. As the Federal Trade Commission pointed out, there have already been fake websites claiming to be the Equifax Settlement Claim website, and bogus pop-up ads. That is why to protect yourself, you must always type the address into the web browser.

I remember in the good old days all you had to do to protect yourself was tear up your carbons from your charge cards; unfortunately, that is no longer the case. Identity thieves have taken advantage of technology to our detriment.

This is the world we live in, and we cannot put our heads in the sand and do nothing. In addition to putting alerts on your accounts, review all statements, and be very judicious about to whom you give your sensitive and personal information. Freezing your credit will protect you and give you some peace of mind.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

What to consider when looking to buy a condo



Robert Meisner
Guest columnist

Q: I am interested in buying an upscale condominium in Birmingham, but condos are entirely new to me. What is important to keep in mind as I search around?

A: Each condominium project has to be evaluated on its own merits. Anyone buying a condominium must find out first whether the developer of the condominium has a good track record for developing and building condominiums. If there is a history of litigation, that may be a red flag.

There are also other factors that must be considered, including the square footage cost, the amenities, your rights under the condominium documents, the monthly assessment that will be charged, whether reserves are adequately funded, whether the association is properly managed professionally and by whom, etc.

Whether the price tag is in the hundreds, thousands or millions, all of the necessary preconditions to making an informed decision to purchase must be examined carefully, so you would benefit from the advice of experienced legal counsel.

Q: Our condo association has a no-lease policy. A number of people have moved in claiming they are relatives of an owner, but we have no reason to believe that is true. We are concerned that they are violating our policy. What can we do?

A: First, consult with your community association attorney to ensure that your documents are clear regarding the no-lease policy and how non-co-owner occupants are addressed. You will have to ensure you do not run afoul of federal fair housing laws which protect against discrimination on the basis of family status.

And keep in mind that the definition of a family has expanded over the years and is not set in stone. A judge may reasonably find that occupants constitute a family even if certain traditionally recognized relationships such as marriage and consanguinity do not exist.

You have a right to determine whether the person is living at the condominium as part of the family of the co-owner. You have every reason to inquire if you suspect that the condominium is being leased out, assuming your documents prohibit it. But again, exactly how to go about that should be addressed on a case-by-case basis by your community association attorney.

Regarding what you can do personally, keep an eye on leasing websites such as Craigslist, Airbnb, etc. for evidence that the unit is being leased out.

*Robert M. Meisner, Esq. is the principal attorney of The Meisner Law Group, based in Bingham Farms, which provides legal representation for condominiums, homeowner associations, individual co-owners and developers. His book, *Condo Living 2: The Authoritative Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium* is available at www.momentumbooks.com. He can be reached at 248-644-4433 or bmeisner@meisner-law.com.*

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Tattoos

Continued from Page 1A

"On the flipside, an older woman who had literally just walked out of a church the other day, stopped me while I was walking down the street and said, 'I just think you look great,' " he said. "And a mom at the grocery store pointed out my tattoos to her kids, complimenting how nice they looked.

"I definitely get more positive comments than negative ones. Every once in a while, someone will think I must be a criminal or a white supremacist because I have a lot of tattoos and a bald head, even though I don't have anything close to a racist tattoo on my body. I've been spit at and harassed pretty badly.

"It's funny, though: the people who react negatively to my tattoos are the ones I would expect to, but most of the ones who react positively are the ones I'd never expect."

Jacoby will be one of several accomplished tattooists (and in his case, tattoo-ee) at the Northville Art House's exhibit "MARKED: The Art, Body, & Soul of the Tattoo Artist," running through Aug. 24.

A display of tattoo images submitted by the public to #northvillearthouse-tattoo on Instagram in an installation titled "Tattoos from You: Public Photographs," will also be featured.

The public is invited to submit images through Aug. 19.

Plymouth resident Kyle Pryce, whose work will join her Eternal Tattoos studio colleague Jacoby's at the exhibit, took the ink-soaked plunge into full-time tattoo artistry seven months ago after switching out her job as a counselor. She is a longtime conventional artist, having earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts and a master's degree in counseling.

Transitioning from conventional art to body art required an adjustment period, Pryce revealed.

"Tattoos are very permanent, obviously, and the finished product can be unpredictable because everyone's skin is different," she said. "I can do one design on one person, turn around and do the same thing on another person, and they will look totally different.

"During my apprenticeship with TJ Hodge, I worked a lot on honing and



An example of the many tattoos that will be featured at the Northville Art House exhibit through Aug. 24. SUBMITTED

See TATTOOS, Page 9A

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Tattoos

Continued from Page 8A

cleaning up my drawings and doing things I didn't already have a background in, like lettering. As part of my apprenticeship, I had to do my first tattoo on myself. I did a little flower on my leg."

While she will always take pride in that first work of self-made body art, Pryce prefers the larger-scale variety that is more noticeable and creates more buzz from people.

"I'm currently in the process of working on two half-sleeves, a large side piece that starts on the leg and goes up to about here (she points to a spot just below her armpit), and a large back tattoo," she said. "Obviously, it takes multiple sessions to complete the bigger ones. I'll try to get the outline done during the first session, any shading during the second session before adding color in the final session."

What's the price, Pryce?

As a relative newcomer to the profession, Pryce said she charges approximately \$100 an hour, considerably lower than the \$150-an-hour rate most experienced tattooists charge.

"Although, if it's a bigger tattoo, I'll cut the customer a break," she said.

The spectrum of tattooing has expanded over the past few years, the Eternal Tattoos of Howell professionals said, moving from traditional, more Americana-esque designs, which are still wildly popular, to "mind-blowing" art.

"There are a lot of fine artists who are getting into tattooing and pushing the boundaries in every respect," Pryce noted. "It's such high-level work that it will hold its integrity over time."

The growing acceptance of high-profile tattooing is reflected in at least a small scale South Lyon High School art teacher Andrew Klebba, a Livonia native who now resides in Plymouth, who gave his mom a tattoo as a gift for her 60th birthday.

"She wasn't real excited when I first started getting tattoos," said Klebba, whose collection of skin art includes a colorful farming scene and a military-themed landscape – homages to both of his grandfathers. "But I gave her a small



Eternal Tattoos artist Brook Jacoby talks about his creations at the Howell tattoo studio. "It's nice how people's acceptance of tattoos has changed for the better. ... I definitely get more positive comments than negative ones," he said.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

flower tattoo for her birthday, which was a cool experience for me."

No pain, no gain

Considering the tattooing process is centered on ripping through skin with a sharp object and filling the void with ink, there's no getting around the pain aspect ... at least for now, Jacoby said. "It would be difficult to come up with

something to improve the process. The tools we use have been pretty much perfected over the past 150 years," Jacoby said. "If there are changes to the industry 10 years from now, I'd say that someone will possibly come up with a way to make it painless and/or instant."

Enduring the pain is part of the hurts-so-good appeal to tattoos, Pryce chimed in.

"Tattoos for a lot of people are very

meaningful and they feel strongly that they need and want that image, so they're willing to undergo the pain it takes to get it," she said. "It's kind of like making up your mind that you want to run a marathon. You don't go into it with the mindset that 'This sucks!' You're going in with the mindset that, 'I'm doing this!'"

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



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ONLINE COUPONS

Detroit Catholic Central dedicates baseball complex

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At the end of last school year, several hundred alumni, parents and fans attended a ceremony on the campus of Detroit Catholic Central as the Detroit Catholic Central Fr. Martin Baseball Complex and Al Moran Field at Shamrock Park was officially dedicated and blessed.

Many former players attended the day's festivities, allowing the double-header to serve as a school reunion in

addition to the dedication event.

Stan Wilkins '42 and The Honorable Roland L. Olzak '45, two of Fr. James Martin's C.S.B. former ball players from the Belmont Avenue and 15 consecutive Catholic League Championships days, were on hand.

More than a dozen of Martin's former players would go on to play professional baseball. Three of his former players played in the 1945 World Series between the Detroit Tigers and Chicago Cubs.

Moran '57 gave a heartfelt speech

See **BASEBALL**, Page 2B



The Detroit Catholic Central baseball complex was dedicated in the spring. COURTESY OF JAKE MARMUL

Drew Poet Foundation keeps its namesake's memory alive

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Drew Poet was a perfectly-wrapped gift – to his family, friends, coaches and teammates.

He was the kid who, on the hottest sun-baked afternoon of late summer, would pull off his Plymouth-Canton Steelers football helmet during practice breaks and energize his teammates with his life-is-beautiful smile.

He was the young man who yearned to attend the University of Michigan someday, churning out straight A's in high school advanced-placement classes that propelled his grade-point average to a Wolverine-worthy 4.7 (on a 4.0 scale).

He was an accomplished multi-sport athlete – maybe not the biggest stud on the baseball field, basketball court or gridiron, but pound-for-pound, among the toughest and most effective.

And he was the son and brother whose beyond-his-years courage made his family (parents Kevin and Mary and brothers Nick and Matt) proud beyond words while he wrestled with an undefeated monster named Ewing sarcoma.

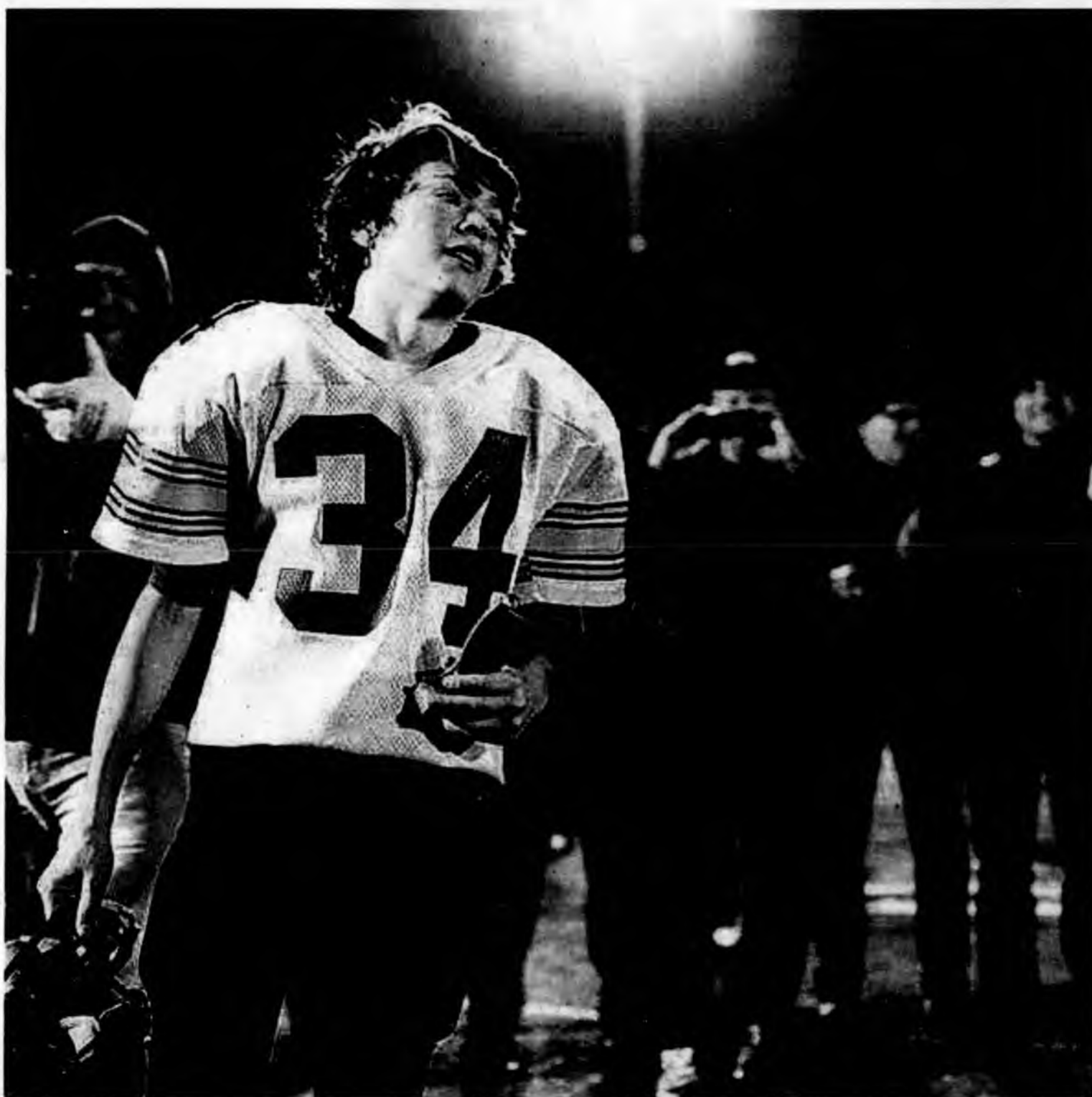
Evil foe

Ewing sarcoma is a merciless, deceptive and relentless beast.

A difficult-to-detect cancer that grows in the bones or in the tissue around bones, it delivers unbearable pain to its victims, the vast majority of whom are boys in their mid- to late-teens.

The disease's rarity – approximately 200 to 300 people are diagnosed in the United States each year – is both a blessing (fewer cases, less suffering) and a curse (fewer cases, less time and money devoted to finding a cure).

And as the Poets discovered at life's most tragic level, Ewing sarcoma can



Drew Poet holds his Super Bowl trophy after his final game as a Plymouth-Canton Steeler in 2015. COURTESY OF DEANNA WILLIS

See **POET**, Page 2B

Stevenson softball, pom teams to host golf outing Sept. 15

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Stevenson softball and pom teams have joined together to host a golf outing that will raise money for the two programs.

The outing will take place at 9 a.m. Sept. 15 at the Whispering Willow Golf Course on Newburgh Road in Livonia.

It will be a four-person scramble and costs \$90 per person. There will be a 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets and a silent auction. Various golf games such as closest to the pin, longest drive, Vegas hole,

skins and more will also take place.

Dinner is included; those who don't want to play golf but still want to attend can get dinner only for \$25. There will be chicken, mostaccioli, potatoes and salad. You also have the opportunity to sponsor a hole for \$100.

Registration is due by Sept. 7. For

more information, visit <https://livonia-stevensonsoftball.sportngin.com/golf-outing> or contact softball coach Kevin Hannigan at hannigankevin9@gmail.com or pom coach Aleigh Schlatterbeck at aschlatterbeck@gmail.com.

Contact Andrew Vaillencourt at avaiilienc@hometownlife.com.

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The Poet family: (from left to right) Drew, Nick, Kevin, Matt and Mary. Drew Poet died April 20 after a valiant battle with Ewing sarcoma. SUBMITTED

Poet

Continued from Page 1B

only be diagnosed with advanced medical scans – tests that the medical professionals who treated Drew's unbearable pelvic pain (and tests that his parents exhaustively requested) failed to execute until it was too late.

With his family at his side, in the comfort of his own Charlotte, N.C. bedroom (the Poets moved from Plymouth to North Carolina in the summer of 2017), Drew Poet passed away after a valiant battle with Ewing sarcoma on April 20, the day before Easter. He was just 17.

"Drew was an absolute rock through this entire nightmare," said Mary Poet, "and that was part of the problem. Even when he was experiencing excruciating pain several months before the ultimate diagnosis, he never complained. He was the strongest human being I've ever known."

"Even in the final weeks of his life, while he was being cared for with in-home hospice, he was determined to beat it. He was the one encouraging us, telling us it was going to be OK. It was Drew's idea to start the foundation. He didn't want anyone else to go through what he was going through."

Just weeks after Poet's death, while still in the early stages of a hard-to-imagine grieving process, his family and friends launched The Drew Poet Foundation, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to keep its forever-young namesake's spirit alive by supporting clinical research programs in pediatric cancer, Ewing sarcoma in particular.

"There are 200 to 300 sets of moms and dads out there who, over the next year, don't know what's coming," Mary Poet said. "Drew's foundation will help shed light on this horrific disease, raise awareness and, hopefully, increase the level of research that goes into finding a cure."

Loved beyond measure

The overflowing ocean of love Drew Poet harvested during his short life is reflected in part by a GoFundMe page initiated by family friend Deanna Willis to help the Poet family with costly medical expenses and to kick-start the foundation.

In less than a month, the fundraiser had generated close to \$70,000.

"Drew was a big-time leader, a big-time motivator," said Angelo Lanava, one of Poet's P-C Steelers coaches. "I never saw him hang his head. He was always picking everybody else up."

"And I'm not just saying this because Drew passed away. I'd have said the same thing five years ago. Drew was a great, great young man. The year after his final season of playing with the



Drew Poet zeroes in on a ball carrier during a Plymouth-Canton Steelers' game at the University of Michigan's football stadium.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEANNA WILLIS

Steelers, he came back and helped us coach the varsity. I think he got as much out of being a mentor for the younger players as he did playing."

Poet's final on-the-field statement as a Steeler left an everlasting imprint in the hearts of the team's fans.

"We were winning by six points in the (2015 Michigan Youth Football and Cheer Conference) Super Bowl with less than a minute to play and Macomb was driving," Lanava remembered. "Macomb's quarterback threw a pass to the receiver Drew was covering. They both got their hands on it, but Drew fought for the ball and got the interception."

"What a way to end his Steelers' career."

The Steelers' program, for which Kevin Poet formerly headed, is honoring Poet in a variety of ways during the upcoming season. A flag bearing the number 34 he wore throughout his youth football career will fly at half mast at the team's home field, located on the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex property.

And his number will be retired during a special ceremony at the varsity team's homecoming game in October.

Fabulous first impression

During his first football game for Charlotte (N.C.) Catholic Central, Poet returned a punt for a touchdown – just months before being diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma.

The move south was ignited by a job promotion Kevin Poet accepted in Charlotte.

"Kevin worked in Charlotte during the week, then flew home for the weekends," Mary Poet said. "We told Drew that we could continue to live in Plymouth, but he told us that he wanted to try the move. He knew he'd miss his



Drew Poet, front, stands with his parents, Kevin and Mary, prior to a game.

friends in Michigan, but he was such a friendly, outgoing kid that he made friends in Charlotte immediately."

Most importantly, the move to Charlotte proved to be a health-related blessing for Drew, whose new doctors at Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte reacted to the Poets' adamant requests for advanced testing on Drew's chronic pelvic pain after he had been consistently misdiagnosed by two health systems in Michigan.

"Our family pediatrician was sure it was a combination of both growing pains and athletic injury," Mary Poet revealed. "Ultimately, Drew was misdiagnosed by several practitioners."

In October of 2018, a series of blood work revealed that Drew's C-reactive protein numbers were "off the charts," Mary Poet said. The result was a sign of widespread inflammation in his system.

"Drew's oncologist in Charlotte was mortified that he hadn't been accurately diagnosed due to how long we sought answers and treatment for his pain," Mary Poet said. "She told us no teenager should have to go through what Drew's been through."

Demand action

Mary Poet urged parents to demand advanced testing if their child is experiencing high levels of pain for more than three months.

"Doctors mean well," she said. "A disease like Ewing sarcoma is so rare that they don't test for it. But there comes a point where pediatricians need to think outside the box, listen to parents and test for even the worst diseases."

Novi Detroit Catholic Central and Charlotte Catholic Central high schools will honor Drew Poet, who would be entering his senior year this fall, by including him in their respective graduation ceremonies in the spring of 2020.

"Drew attended a Jimmy Buffett concert in Michigan before he moved to Charlotte and a verse from one of the songs he heard became his motto," Mary Poet shared.

The verse: "Some of it's magic, some of it's tragic, but I've had a good life all the way."

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

Baseball

Continued from Page 1B

recognizing and thanking his family, the Basilian Fathers, former and current coaches and players and the benefactors who made this long-awaited dream of such a complex and field a reality.

Moran is regarded as one of the best athletes to ever come out of CC. He received 11 varsity letters in four sports and earned all-state honors in football and baseball. He turned down a scholarship offer to play football at Michigan State after he was drafted by the Boston Red Sox. He played 10 years of professional baseball before returning to CC to spend 23 years as an assistant coach.

The facility features new turf, bleachers and a press box.

Fr. Richard Elmer, C.S.B. '46, CC president emeritus, gave a prayer as he blessed the complex and field. Ed Turek '85, CC president and a former player for Moran, expressed CC's collective gratitude toward all who made the project a success, as well as for Fr. Martin and Moran, who have dedicated their lives

to CC, the baseball program and the formation of young men. Dan Collins '84, CC advancement director, served as master of ceremonies.

The Shamrocks swept U of D Jesuit in the doubleheader (6-1, 7-6).

Contact Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.

Tigers trade deadline return uninspiring



Andrew Vaillencourt
Guest columnist

The trade deadline has come and gone and the Detroit Tigers are in an even better position to earn the first overall pick in the 2020 MLB Draft.

The team was already the worst in baseball, and after trading away closer Shane Greene and outfielder Nick Castellanos, it will have the edge on the Orioles for that top pick as the seasons winds down. The player the team selects there will assuredly help propel this rebuild forward, which the franchise desperately needs after the return at the deadline failed to do so.

The Tigers trade deadline return was uninspiring. It wasn't awful, it wasn't good. They were able to get two decent pitching prospects for Castellanos, which is as good a return as they were going to get and picked up another pitcher and outfielder, Joey Wentz and Travis Demeritte, for Greene. They could've done better, they could've done worse.

Detroit also decided not to trade rising star pitcher Matthew Boyd.

The main takeaway from the series of trades and non-trades, is that the Tigers did not bring in a single player that fans can point to as a building block for the future. If Paul Richan and Alex Lange (the pitchers acquired in the Castellanos deal) pan out, that'll be a great boost, but isn't something that should be counted on. Wentz, who is the best prospect the team received at the deadline, is now the team's No. 10 prospect and has joined a loaded rotation at Double-A Erie. He's a solid prospect, but profiles as a No. 4 or 5 starter in the future — if he makes it. He slots behind five other pitchers in the Tigers' system. Demeritte raked in Triple-A this season for Atlanta, but wasn't ranked as a top-30 prospect and has already been called up to Detroit. He is a project defensively, but can hit for some power. He has the potential to be the team's fourth outfielder of the future — more if he can hit for average, but that remains to be seen.

Should the Tigers have gotten more



The Tigers were able to get two decent pitching prospects for outfielder Nick Castellanos, which is as good a return as they were going to get. The Tigers did not bring in a single player that fans can point to as a building block for the future.

RAJ MEHTA/USA TODAY SPORTS

for Greene, who had been one of the top relievers in the league this season? Probably.

It's not unreasonable to think they should've received one top 100 MLB prospect, but the market was slow, buying teams were stubbornly unwilling to move top prospects, and backed into a corner, the Tigers seemingly got what they could. It's fine, but uninspiring. Greene has promptly imploded with the Braves, with two bad outings to start his time with them, so it's always possible we'll look bad and be satisfied with the trade, but that still doesn't mean I have to be excited about what the Tigers got back.

The most controversial move of the trade deadline was holding on to Boyd, who has broken out this year and is

among the league best when it comes to striking out opposing batters. Tigers GM Al Avila decided to hold onto Boyd, as an offer worthy of his services was apparently not made.

This is a difficult move to discuss because while it would've been in the best interest of the team to trade Boyd, Avila needed to maximize the return and bring back not one but two top 100 prospects, or at least one top 30 player. He made the reasonable demand of Houston's top prospect, outfielder Kyle Tucker, but was rebuffed. Instead, the Astros went out and got Zack Greinke from Arizona. A fair deal given the salary of Greinke, Tigers fans would've been unhappy with the return the Diamondbacks got for him. It's better to hold onto Boyd than give him away for lesser

prospects, especially considering he still has three years left on his contract.

An upper tier GM, however, might've been able to pull off the type of trade the Tigers needed. We've seen plenty to know that Avila is average at best, especially after the Detroit Free Press reported he turned down trades involving Javier Baez of the Cubs and Alex Bregman of the Astros two years ago for Michael Fulmer. Baez and Bregman were top prospects at the time and have since become superstars. Hindsight is 20/20, but that stings, especially considering Fulmer's demise.

With Boyd still in the fold, the team has two options: trade him this offseason/at the next trade deadline or compete for the playoffs in 2021 with Boyd still on the roster.

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South Lyon pom team does well at Grand Rapids camp

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The South Lyon varsity and JV pom teams attended the Mid-American Pom Pon Camp this summer at Davenport College in Grand Rapids.

The varsity team, which is made up of 32 girls, and the JV team, made up of 16 girls, are coached by Katee Buddenburg and Emily Thomas. Both squads had great performances.

The varsity team received first place for all of their routines resulting in — first place in speed learning, first place in kick-line and a grand champs trophy. They also received the peppy pom award for having the most spirit and Leah Evangelista won the advanced toe touch competition.

In addition, the varsity team received the Knock Your Socks off award given to them from Howell varsity for blowing them away with their routine. 14 girls made the MAPP All-Star team which will perform at Cedar Point, the Detroit Thanksgiving Parade, the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade and this year, is traveling to California to perform at Disneyland. They also received most congenial team voted on by all the other teams attending camp that weekend and got first-place in their original routine.

The South Lyon JV team had a great showing for its first year in existence.

It won first-place in speed learning, second-place in kick-line and first-place for their original routine. The team won the Team Unity Award given out by the staff. Emma Reif won the toe touch competition for the intermediate teams.

2019 South Lyon graduate Molly Thomas, who was on South Lyon varsity pom team for all four years, was selected to be a Mid-American Staff Sister — only the second South Lyon pommer to be selected for this elite team. She attended the camp this summer with the team as well.



The South Lyon junior varsity pom team poses with their trophies.



Leah Evangelista and Emma Reif won the varsity and Junior varsity toe touch competition in Grand Rapids.



The South Lyon varsity pom team poses with their medals. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHELLEY THOMAS

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LIONS MAILBAG

What are reasonable expectations for 2019?

Dave Birkett
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

We're a little over a week into training camp, and with a day off Saturday it feels like a good time for the first Detroit Lions mailbag of the season. Let's get to your questions.

I feel pretty good about this regime and the moves made this season. Because of that I've got a little hope building up inside of me. How optimistic or pessimistic should I actually be, or am I just delusional because THIS IS THE LIONS after all. — @ch0z3n1

It's the first week of August, so the last thing I'm going to do is pop your hope balloon. I mean, without hope, why bother, right?

In all seriousness, I think this is something we go through every year. One Lions season ends in disappointment. Spring rolls around and they fill most of their holes in free agency and the draft. Everyone shows up to camp in the best shape of their life. Then the season ends and we cycle back through the same emotions again.

I think the Lions are a better team than they were a year ago. Matt Patricia seems more comfortable in his second season as head coach, there's some good young talent in the pipeline, and Matthew Stafford is healthy again.

That's reason for hope coming off a disappointing 6-10 season, but it's also prudent to keep your expectations in check.

There's a few really good teams in the NFL right now, teams like the Patriots, Chiefs, Saints and Eagles. The Lions aren't in that group. There's a few really bad ones, too. Teams like the Cardinals, Dolphins and Giants. The Lions aren't there, either. They're a middle-of-the-pack team that could win 10 games just as easily as they could lose 10.

If you're thinking more long-term, I think Bob Quinn has built a solid roster and managed the salary cap well, and that's reason to believe this thing is headed in the right direction. This is a big year for both Quinn and Patricia, and if Patricia proves he can inspire a locker room then your optimism could be rewarded.

Should the preseason performance last year have been an indicator of the poor start the team got off too? How much should we read into this years preseason games? — @MichaelPick1

Last year's preseason was absolutely an indication of what was to come,



Lions tight end Jesse James catches a pass during practice at training camp July 26 in Allen Park.

KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

though it was less about the games than it was about everything else going on. If you remember, I had the Lions pegged for nine wins last April when the schedule came out, then changed course and had them going 7-9 by the time my season prediction dropped in September. Camp was that discouraging.

We're not even two weeks into camp now, so I'm not ready to make any predictions yet. But I don't have the same pending sense of doom that I had last year. That said, because there's so much parity in the NFL, I wouldn't read too much into what happens in the preseason, especially in games. The Lions are installing a new offense, half their starting defense has yet to practice and there's sure to be bumps ahead.

Enjoy the preseason for what it is: A chance for vets to shake off rust, young players to develop their skills and coaches to get a feel for their roster.

Any concern with Stafford's INTs early on? Seems like we're hearing a lot about them. — @joshb_916

Stafford made headlines this week for throwing interceptions in three straight practices. That's a bit unusual. I remember him going weeks at a time without picks in previous preseasons. But as I wrote Wednesday, I think it's more about working out the kinks in a new offense than it is any serious regression in his game.

On Tuesday, rookie linebacker Jahlel Tavai intercepted Stafford in a red-zone drill when he tipped a pass to himself. Stafford either didn't see Tavai or tried to squeeze a pass over his head on the play. On Wednesday, second-year safety Tracy Walker scored an interception on a pass that Stafford threw behind rookie tight end T.J. Hockenson. That pick came in seven-on-seven drills, where the old adage is the ball should never hit the ground. On Thursday, rookie cornerback Amani Oruwariye got the pick in the corner of the end zone when he outjumped Kenny Golladay for a ball.

Stafford had some interception problems early in his career but he's taken pretty good care of the ball the last few seasons. I expect that trend to continue in Darrell Bevell's offense. Stafford needs to get on the same page with some of his receivers when it comes to the deep passing game, but that's what camp is for. I wouldn't be too worried about a few late July/early August turnovers.

Is Hock the best #Lions rookie you can remember watching during his first week at training camp? If not, who was? — @BrentGromaski

T.J. Hockenson has had a nice start to training camp. He's a red-zone threat and good intermediate receiver, and he's going to play a big role on offense this year. I wouldn't call him the best rookie I've seen in all of my training camps covering this team, though, and I'm not sure I have a good answer for you as to who is.

In general, I think it's wise to pump the brakes when it comes to making over-the-top statements about rookies because there's much more that goes into being a successful player on Sunday. Last year, I thought Frank Ragnow had a really nice start to camp, and a fine season overall, but he did have a few eye-opening reps in joint practices against the Raiders. I wasn't around for Stafford's first camp in 2009, and my memory eludes me when it comes to Ndamukong Suh's first camp in 2010, but I remember Mikel Leshoure having a nice start in 2011 — and even hearing then-running backs coach Sam Gash gushing about what they had in the backfield — only to watch him pop his Achilles tendon and never be the same player.

Expectations are high for Hockenson, as they should be, but he hasn't reached Gronkowski levels yet.

I've heard camp updates on every tight end except Jesse James. Any-

thing to report? Either good or bad. I was excited by the (free-agent) signing based on his play in Pittsburgh last year. — @Komen3k

It's probably a tribute to James that you haven't heard much about him yet. He hasn't made any jaw-dropping plays that I can recall or done anything that makes you scratch your head and wonder why he's here. He's just quietly gone about his business and filled the role the Lions envisioned when he signed: As this team's starting tight end (though they will use plenty of two-tight-end sets this fall) and a viable red-zone threat.

Who is a sleeper to win the LG job? We all know the Kenny Wiggins experiment will fail horribly. — @Odell-BretthamJr

Got a handful of questions about the offensive line, and particularly the starting left guard job, so I'll address them all here. Wiggins remains the favorite to win the job, though it's clearly up for grabs. The Lions have spent the early part of camp rotating players on and off the first team, with Wiggins, Joe Dahl and Oday Aboushi all getting starter reps. Curiously, the Lions have had right guard Graham Glasgow mixing between the first- and second-teams as well, though he's much safer in his job.

I don't believe the Lions will settle on a starter until after all their preseason evaluations are in, but I'd guess the Week 1 starters are, from left to right, Taylor Decker, Wiggins, Frank Ragnow, Glasgow and Rick Wagner. It'd be an upset if someone not currently on the roster starts Week 1 against the Cardinals.

A week away from the first preseason game and no Snacks, no Slay, a decimated D-Line and who knows what injuries happened in the 7 days in camp, how can you have success when players aren't there? — @Slade-Bivins

Slade, you know as well as I do that it's far more important for players to be ready in September than it is in August. We still have more than a month till real games begin, and the Lions believe that holding Slay, Snacks and some others back now is the best way to ensure they make it through the entire season.

I want to see Trey Flowers, Damon Harrison and Mike Daniels lined up next to each other as much as anyone, and yes, the Lions are dealing with a bunch of injuries in their front seven right now. But most of those aren't serious and shouldn't prevent this team from having success. Let's revisit this topic in a couple weeks.

RED WINGS MAILBAG

Will Larkin be anointed Wings' next captain?

Helene St. James
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

August tends to be the quietest month in the NHL, an uneventful cool down period after the exhilaration of July's free agency and the excitement of June's draft.

Come September players will gather for unofficial skates, a chance to lace up before training camp. The Red Wings are scheduled to undergo physicals Sept. 12 and begin the on-ice part of training camp Sept. 13 at Centre Ice Arena in Traverse City. For the first time in nine years, Steve Yzerman will be watching from a corner suite, in his first camp since taking over as general manager April 19.

Until then, here's a mailbag. Thanks as always for the many interesting and some fun questions.

When are the Wings announcing an official Captain??? — @bettiepage-girl

After Yzerman retired in July 2006, the Wings announced Lidstrom as the new captain during the 2006-07 season opener. Fans responded with a standing ovation. They cheered even louder when Yzerman dropped a ceremonial puck between Lidstrom and Canucks captain Markus Naslund.

Just as Lidstrom had been the clear-cut successor to Yzerman, Henrik Zetterberg was Lidstrom's heir apparent. That didn't happen until Jan. 15, 2013, though, because the NHL and NHLPA spent the fall of 2012 mired in a labor dispute. The Wings opened with a two-game road trip, so they chose to anoint Zetterberg during a news conference at Compuware Arena in Plymouth (now USA Hockey Arena), hours before a scrimmage.

The Wings didn't name a captain af-



Dylan Larkin split time wearing an "A" last season. DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

ter Zetterberg retired last September, instead going with three alternates (Dylan Larkin and Frans Nielsen split wearing an 'A' between road and home games, unless one of the other alternates, Niklas Kronwall or Justin Abdelkader, was not in the lineup).

That softened Larkin's adjustment to the duties of wearing a letter on his sweater. The decision reflected on Larkin's age (22) and the knowledge the team would struggle (Yzerman was 21 when he was named captain, but that was in 1986, back in the days before the Internet and especially social media). Larkin handled the role well, speaking frankly to media after tough losses, and would seem to have earned a promotion.

The Wings open 2019-20 on the road, but host the Dallas Stars the next day, Sunday, Oct. 6. The Wings could reveal Dylan Larkin as the next captain before

the home opener, but what a way to energize the fans at Little Caesars Arena if Yzerman comes out for a ceremonial puck drop after Larkin is introduced wearing a 'C' on his sweater.

Any word if Seider is going back to the DEL this year or staying in NA with the Griffins/Wings? — @ImTheSchmidt13

Moritz Seider's German Hockey League team, Mannheim Adler, starts preseason games this month and begins the regular season Sept. 13. The Wings, however, plan to have Seider, their top selection (sixth overall) from the 2019 draft, at prospects camp and main camp. Those run Sept. 6-16 in Traverse City, followed by a nine-game exhibition season. Then Yzerman and his hockey operations staff will decide where Seider is best off to start the 2019-20 season.

Mannheim is the defending champi-

on and Seider would be a valuable member of the lineup, getting top minutes.

There's a strong argument for keeping Seider, 18, in North America, too, beyond adjusting to the smaller ice sheet.

The Wings signed Seider, 6-foot-4, 207 pounds, to a three-year entry-level contract in July. If he doesn't look NHL ready, they could put him in Grand Rapids. The Wings could take a nine-game look at Seider at the NHL level (like they did last season with Zadina) without triggering the contract.

If Seider is in Grand Rapids, it'll be considerably easier to keep tabs on his on-ice development, plus there'd be direct oversight over his off-ice activities, such as his training and his diet.

Another option is the Ontario Hockey League, as Seider was drafted by Owen Sound in the 2018 import draft.

What does the goalie depth chart look like as of right now? — @stemy24

Jimmy Howard and Jonathan Bernier are slated to man the net for the Wings. Coach Jeff Blashill chose to alternate starts between them down the stretch (before Bernier got hurt) and is likely to do that again to start the season.

Yzerman signed Calvin Pickard to a two-year deal on July 1 to help mentor top goalie prospect Filip Larsson in Grand Rapids, and to have in reserve in case of injury to Howard or Bernier. Pickard, 27, has 104 NHL games to his credit.

Good morning, in your opinion, which Red Wing would best help the @Lions in this 2019 season, and which position would he play? — @Twitter-Slim

Hah, love a little cross promotion. I pitched Andreas Athanasiou as wide receiver because of his explosiveness and size to my Lions colleague Dave Birkett, who agreed.

Tour leaders face off in golf playoffs at Whispering Willows

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

The Golf Channel is really missing out. On any given day, its camera crew could be capturing amazing moments on the Kensington Junior Golf Tour. That includes last week at Livonia's Whispering Willows, where tour leaders Sam Frelich and L.T. Smith both fired 79, deadlocking for first and competing in a play-off.

Frelich, of Commerce Township, shooting one of his best rounds this summer, won in sudden death with a par on the first play-off hole, number 17. Had Smith not 3-putted on the 18th hole, the outcome would have been different.

It was a battle of brothers in the youngest boys division, with Westland's Troy Watson, 13, shooting 83 to beat 10-year-old Damo Watson by a single stroke.

"It's pretty fun competing against my brother. We're pretty competitive about everything," Damo said.

Competing in her second tournament, Gabriella Tapp, 14, of South Lyon, shot 91 to win the girls 18-hole division.

"It's kind of crazy because I didn't feel like I played that good, honestly," said Tapp, who will enter South Lyon High School in the fall.

In the 9-hole group, top finisher Lauren Thomas of Brighton, who scored 49, offered kudos to golf partner Vince Wal-kup of Milford, who shot 77.

"It was his first time playing, and I wanted to give a shout-out to him. He did really well. It was fun playing with him," said Lauren, 12, a leader in tour standings.

Frelich, who golfs for Walled Lake Northern where he'll be a senior, said: "I started off pretty bad but finally learned how to hit the ball, so it turned out OK. I shot 42 on the front nine. I knew I had to play really good on the back nine to have a chance. I shot 37 on the back. I started hitting greens; seven out of nine. I had no birdies, which was surprising. I'd say my approach shot on 18 (a par 4) was a highlight. I stuck it close and I parred the hole.

"I'd never been in a playoff before, so it was a little stressful walking up to the tee box. After L.T. went, the pressure kind of came off."

Frelich drove the green and 2-putted for his par.

With an excellent shot at winning a county championship (Kensington golfers compete for tour titles in Wayne, Oakland, Livingston and Washtenaw) "the win feels good, knowing there is only one week left," Frelich said.

Smith, who will be a senior at Detroit Novi Catholic Central and is looking to make the top five on the Shamrocks' varsity golf squad, said: "I made some good par saves, but I just didn't have the momentum going at all today. It was kind of a slow round. I made a lot of bogeys. On the back nine, I ended up 3-putting 18. That cost me. It goes back to that."

The Brighton resident fired a 71 to finish second in Kensington's Huron Hills tournament and won the Hartland Glen tourney with a 73.

Troy Watson, with a career-best 79 to his credit, shot a 7-over-par 42 on the first nine. The soon-to-be Livonia Frost Middle School eighth-grader said: "I did all right. I left a lot of strokes out there. I double-bogeyed a par-3. I had a lot of positive stuff. I got a lot of par saves on par-4s and I made a lot of long-distance putts today. That felt really great. Most of those putts I really needed.

"I was driving the ball really good; around 230-235 yards. On the back nine, I shot 41. I had a lot of iron shots that were next to trees but I still made it on the green. On the (par 5) 16th hole, I got on the green in 5. I had a 50-foot putt left for bogey. It was going a little too fast and offline on the way to the hole. My ball hit something and died down. I sank that putt. I was really excited about that.

"I had one lucky shot on 18. I hit my 3-wood next to a tree. It was about 49 yards. It bounced a few times, and lipped out of the hole. I was a little overwhelmed that it got so close. I wanted it to go in, but it was all right."

Damo shot 41 on the first nine.

"On hole number 9, I hit my third shot to about 10 feet and made my putt for par. That felt good," said Damo, who will be a fifth grader at Johnson Upper Elementary in Westland. "On the back nine on a par 3, I hit a big draw and it went into the middle of some trees. My dad told me to just punch a pitching wedge out of the trees onto the green, and I did exactly that. I had about a 20-footer. I 2-putted for bogey. It thought it was a good



At left, Sam Frelich of Walled Lake Northern, left, and L.T. Smith of Detroit Novi Catholic Central duelled in the boys division at Whispering Willows. After tying for first, Frelich won in a one-hole playoff. At center, Gabriella Tapp of South Lyon, left, topped the girls division. Sara Haupt of Northville took runner-up. At right, Troy Watson, right, edged out his brother, Damo Watson, by a single stroke to capture the youngest boys division. PHOTOS BY M.B. DILLON/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



L.T. Smith of Brighton hits his tee shot during the Kensington Whispering Willows playoff.

shot out of the trees and I had an opportunity to make par."

Tapp carded 45 on the front nine.

"I thought I was pretty bad. I didn't really know where my clubs were going to go. I wasn't striking them very well," she said. "On the back nine, I shot 46. I had a birdie on hole number 8 (a par 4). My tee shot was like 40 yards out. I chipped to five feet and made the putt. That felt really good after I wasn't playing my best for a while."

Whispering Willows "is pretty nice, and pretty wide open," said Tapp, adding that the Kensington Tour "is fun; it's not really intense. The competition feels more relaxed."

Runner-up Sara Haupt, who will be a junior at St. Catherine of Siena Academy in Wixom, scored 94.

"I shot 49 on the first nine. I took a 9-hole warm-up," joked Haupt, who shot 80 in a G.A.M. tournament earlier this summer. "I couldn't really get on in regulation, and when I did, I'd 3-putt."

She fared better on the second nine, shooting 45. Haupt had a memorable 6th hole on a day when her woods "weren't going straight. I got on the green in three. This is a long par 4. I ended up 1-putting and thought, 'This is

great. I'm so happy,'" she said.

Like many others on the tour, Haupt looks forward to the Kensington Ryder Cup, set for Aug. 5 at Moose Ridge Golf Course in South Lyon.

"It's one of my favorites. It's really chill and you don't have to care about your score so much. It's match play and one hole really won't matter," the Northville resident said.

Describing her win among the 9-holers, Lauren Thomas said, "I would say I did pretty well. I got a lot of 5s. I think by far the hardest hole was the first one, with a lot of doglegs. It's a par 5 and it was the only 7 I had on the course."

"I got a par on hole 8, and had a 5 on holes 3, 5, 6, and 7. And on 2, 4, and 9 I had a 6. And it was in the 40's so I was happy with it. It felt really good, and I was very proud of myself and for the other people who were playing in it."

Kyle Wilson of Howell and M.J. Hoskins of Hartland tied for second in the 9-hole division with a pair of 69s. Wilson won the tiebreaker in a scorecard playoff to take runner-up honors.

For Wilson, the fifth hole was a highlight.

"I hit a really good drive, 150 yards with my driver," said the 10-year-old

Navigator Upper Elementary School student. "I had an off-balance shot close to the water and had to hit it with one leg on a rock. It went really close to the hole and I sank the putt. I hit a really good shot out of the sand on the last hole. I was really close to the pin and then I made a 2-putt. I think it was a bogey or par."

"I am more proud of myself than what I did a few years ago. I did a very good job with putting and chipping. It feels more accomplished that I can make more shots than I could last year. The rest was pretty bad."

In the 6-11-year-old developmental division, Liam Doll of Tecumseh finished first with a 53. Preston Pawluchuk of Commerce Township took second with 73.

Dan Aldred, Kensington tournament director, said, "I am very proud of the hard work these kids are putting in. I love to watch the game grow and see the golfers build confidence and skill."

"The kids are developing the ability to competitively golf with others their age. They develop the skill of counting every shot while under pressure."

"This is preparing them to be able to golf at the high school level."

HOW I BECAME A ...

Being the life of the parties is a passion and a job

Mindy Weiss helps create memories

Susannah Hutcheson
Special to USA TODAY

From her beginnings as a custom invitation designer to planning massive celebrity events and weddings, Mindy Weiss dominates the event planning space. Weiss' magic touch has been seen on everything from Diana Ross' 75th birthday celebration and the wedding of Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi to nuptials on ABC's "The Bachelor" and the elaborate first birthday extravaganza Stormiworld for Travis Scott and Kylie Jenner's daughter Stormi.

USA TODAY caught up with the sought-after event planner, author and lifestyle expert to talk about everything from working 40 hours in a single weekend to planning events for the Kardashian family.

Question: How did you get your start in the business?

Mindy Weiss: I designed custom invitations out of my garage at my home, and everybody would come to the house and I would do these creative, really off-the-charts, crazy invitations. I did that for probably about seven years until one of my clients said, "Could you just do the whole party?" I actually didn't want to be an event planner because I did a lot of event planner invitations for their jobs, and often they were so cranky and miserable. I thought, I'll never do that! I was asked to do a party, he wouldn't take "no" for an answer, and I planned that one party. I need to say that I grew up in a home where my mother gave the most fantastic parties – she was insanely talented and she stepped out of the box – so it was kind of in my blood, and once I did

that one party it became like a drug.

Q: What does a typical workday look like for you?

Weiss: I get up at 6 a.m., lay in bed until 7 a.m., then I get dressed and do pilates three to four times a week. I'm in my office at 9. Monday is a hard day because I've just come off the weekend of parties and people are very anxious on Mondays. Monday is a day of phone calls and catching up, and then I work until about 7 and then I rush over to my grandchildren to give them kisses and hopefully get to put them to bed. Then, I'm home by probably 8:30, and then I start all over again.

On the day of an event, we meet with the staff and have an early breakfast to review the whole thing or the whole weekend. We start at 8 a.m., and then I pretty much can only last until midnight, so the girls will stay until it ends. Sometimes they're getting back home or in their hotel rooms at 6 a.m. It's a long day, a long process – first ones there, last to leave.

Q: What does your creative process look like?

Weiss: Thank God for Pinterest, because it's really helped in knowing what the client loves and doesn't love. Sometimes they'll come to me with 10 different looks, so it's up to us to eliminate and then kind of focus into one look. Once we get that down, then we design around that. We do a set-up for a client where we have the flowers, the tables, we give them choices of dishes and all the tableware, and we try to show them as much as we can to give them an idea of what it will look like that day.

Q: What is your favorite thing



Mindy Weiss says the best part of her job is being a part of people's memories. VALORIE DARLING

about your job?

Weiss: My favorite thing is being part of people's memories. It is such a huge responsibility, and I've been honored to be included in their life memories.

Q: What have been some of your career highlights?

Weiss: Diana Ross's 75th birthday; parties for Beyoncé; and one of my most exciting is working for Oprah. Now, I have to tell you, working for the Kardashians – kindest family ever. They are so creative, and they push me to another level. Kanye (West) really makes you think – "Nope, bring it to the next level" – so I've learned so much from them, and Kris (Jenner) is everything.

When I hear someone say anything negative about them, I just want to say, you have no idea. They are very special.

Q: What advice would you give to someone who wants to follow in your footsteps?

Weiss: A lot of people think this job is very luxurious, and that you get dressed up to go to parties every Saturday night, but this is a seven-days-a-week job. It is hard, it is pressure, you need to be patient, you need to want to work hard, and you need to be able to keep a lot of secrets. If you can get up on Monday morning and start all over again after you worked 40 hours on the weekend or more, then this job is for you.

ASK HUMAN RESOURCES

Work dress codes guide first impressions

How you dress can signal professionalism, trust



Johnny C. Taylor
Columnist
USA TODAY

Johnny C. Taylor Jr., a human-resources expert, is tackling your questions as part of a series for USA TODAY. Taylor is president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest HR professional society.

The questions are submitted by readers, and Taylor's answers below have been edited for length and clarity.

Question: I work in retail and recently one of my co-workers was pulled aside and told she must wear a bra to work. Many of my colleagues do not wear bras. Our handbook states that our shirts must be the correct color and have sleeves and they must not be sheer, see-through, low cut or showing midriff. Nowhere does it mention undergarments. Can our company force us to wear undergarments and, if it can, shouldn't wearing undergarments be required for both genders? – Meghan

Johnny C. Taylor Jr.: Generally, yes, your company can require you to wear undergarments.

Keep in mind that a dress code isn't put into place to hinder your experience in the workplace. Instead, it reflects a business's brand, customer and client interactions, geographical location, safety concerns and other factors.

Like it or not, people make judgments about credibility, trustworthiness and other characteristics based on dress. If what's beneath that colored, sleeved shirt is clearly visible, it could be distracting or considered inappropriate.

Companies – like yours in the customer-facing retail industry – want to present themselves professionally to customers, clients, vendors and potential employees. With employees serving as the face of a company, guidelines on dress are put in place to meet this ex-



Like it or not, people make judgments about credibility, trustworthiness and other characteristics based on how you dress. GETTY IMAGES

pectation of professionalism.

Unless a dress code discriminates based on sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, religion, or race, employers are free to set a policy consistent with their workplace culture and work environment. Different standards for men and women have been upheld by the courts when policies were considered reasonable and not burdensome on one gender.

In enforcing dress codes, employers must consider accommodations for employees' medical needs, disabilities and ethnic or religious beliefs. If there is a reason why a dress code requirement cannot be met, an employee should discuss it with his or her supervisor or HR department. In this case, an alternative to a traditional bra might serve the same purpose and be acceptable to both the employer and employee.

Q: I've been sick with a bad cold and missed a few days of work. Besides not feeling well, I didn't want to make my co-workers sick. I was torn about staying home because we are very busy at work. It was a hard decision to make. Did I do the right thing? – Anonymous

Taylor: You made a good call.

Trying to power through at work when you're not feeling well could not only prolong your illness, but it could expose your co-workers, clients or customers to your cold, affect the quality of your work and reduce your productivity. Your dilemma is not lost on me, however. Having a twinge of guilt probably means you're a dedicated worker.

Make sure you know your company's sick-time policy, which will provide guidance. For example, some company policies require a doctor's note from an

employee if he or she is absent for a certain number of work days.

If you are starting to feel better but have not completely recovered, ask your manager if you can work from home for a few days. Additionally, if you don't have the energy to work a full day, talk with your supervisor about adjusting your schedule on a short-term basis.

Once you return to the office, make a good-faith effort to clean your workspace, since viruses that cause colds can be contagious for a week or two.

Lastly, as with all aspects of workplace culture, managers and senior leaders must set an example. They, too, should stay home when they are sick. They also can ensure the staff is cross-trained, which could help alleviate any pressure an employee might feel to come to work when sick.

Triplets born premature are now 'little stars' of book, social media

Jennifer Timar
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Howell native Victoria Buursma's triplets were born three months premature after a complicated pregnancy.

Now thriving and hitting important developmental milestones, the 3-year-old girls are the stars of a new children's book Buursma wrote about their adventures with their grandparents on Mackinac Island.

Buursma says the wee ones have also become "little stars" on social media.

She regularly posts photographs of the girls in matching clothing on her growing Instagram page, www.instagram.com/triplethefun, which is followed by more than 12,000 people, and shared by large companies.

"I see my girls as the biggest treasures of my life, so if they are able to put smiles on other people's faces, that makes me happy," said Buursma, who relocated her family to Gaylord last year.

The 32-page book, "Triple the Fun on Mackinac Island" is a story about traveling with the triplets to the island and things they like to do. It also includes advice about traveling with young children and suggestions for things to do on the island with kids.

They frequently visit her mother and stepfather, Rose and David Witt, and sister Katharine Witt, who are known in Howell for their family's former popular restaurant, Anthony's. The family members followed Rose's dream north to Mackinac Island, where they work as innkeepers at two inns, The Cottage Inn and The Mackinac House.

Buursma said her social media posts have been shared by large national companies, like kids clothing company Carter's, magazine Good Housekeeping's social pages and Pure Michigan, among others.

Some clothing companies send them free clothes for the girls to wear for promotion on social media.

A photo of the triplets with Yummy Mitt brand teething mittens appeared in a July 2017 episode of ABC's business idea pitch reality show Funderdome, hosted by comedian Steve Harvey.

Buursma said her pregnancy and the girls' birth and early development was far from normal and highly stressful.

Born at 28 weeks at the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in April 2016, the girls spent about two months in the hospital's newborn intensive care unit and about a month of that in an incubator.

Two of the triplets, Josie and Rosie, had to wear special Michigan Medicine-invented therapeutic helmets for babies for a period of time to correct plagiocephaly, commonly known as flat head syndrome.

"Having three babies crammed into one space caused their skulls not to fully develop when their bones were so soft," Buursma said.

The hospital featured the girls in sev-



The Buursma triplets play outside The Cottage Inn on Mackinac Island while wearing matching tutus.

"They've gone through quite a bit and we've had a few scares, mostly it was them learning to eat and grow and being immune compromised because they were so premature. Now we've passed some developmental milestones and it's just a lot of relief. They are running, walking and talking, and they are super smart."

Victoria Buursma
Mother of triplets born three months premature

eral blogs to promote helmet therapy, "like poster children for plagiocephaly," she said.

The girls, while still medically fragile, are thriving, mom said.

"They've gone through quite a bit and we've had a few scares, mostly it was them learning to eat and grow and being immune compromised because they were so premature," she said. "Now



Victoria Buursma's triplet daughters visit Murdick's Fudge Shop on Mackinac Island. Their adventures on the island are the subject of Buursma's new children's book, "Triple the Fun on Mackinac Island." SUBMITTED PHOTOS

we've passed some developmental milestones and it's just a lot of relief. They are running, walking and talking, and they are super smart."

Buursma said she keeps in touch with UM maternal-fetal medicine specialist Dr. Deborah Berman.

"It's always so much fun to see them," Berman said about the girls in a 2018 health blog published by the UM health system. "Here's a family who experienced incredible uncertainty and stress and is now finally able to just enjoy being parents to active, healthy toddlers."

"I just love seeing these tiny babies we helped deliver grow up into these beautiful little girls who are full of life and so much personality. It's the outcome we always strive for," Berman wrote.

Buursma donated 52 copies of her children's book to the hospital's NICU with financial support from Bob Benser, Jr., who co-owns the island's first fudge shop, Original Murdick's Fudge and the two inns where her family members work.

Inspired by family adventures

In April of last year, Buursma, her husband Kody Buursma and their daughters moved to Gaylord to be closer to her family.

Victoria Buursma has always had the writing bug. She is a blogger and social media influencer with an interest in advocating for premature babies.

Then she got an idea for a children's book that would celebrate her daughters' adventures visiting their grandparents and aunt on Mackinac Island.

"The book is about their adventures and things they like, going on the boat, visiting the fudge shop and the butterfly house," Buursma said. "But I also want-

ed the book to be life lessons, like the concept of sharing, because with three girls they just have to. It's also about how we manage problems, like getting a large stroller through the door, and still have fun."

Aside from a story, the book also includes travel guidance for families visiting Mackinac Island with small children, a list of the triplets' favorite activities and a list of free activities.

Special treats at Howell shop honor family

Heart of Michigan, a Michigan-made store in Howell, sells copies of the children's book.

Store owner Karen Wing said she will soon begin selling Mackinac Island-themed gift baskets, including the book and sweets from Original Murdick's Fudge, among other souvenirs.

"I love connecting with people like Victoria, because they used to live in Howell and they are all about Michigan," Wing said. "When she came in to talk with me about the book, I thought how perfect it would be. My whole passion is to keep the money in Michigan."

The book is also sold at several shops on Mackinac Island and other northern Michigan communities.

It is also available for sale online by publisher Mackinac Memories Press, at www.mackinacislandmemories.com and <http://victoriabuursma.com>

It is illustrated by Natalia Wohletz, of Milford and Mackinac Island, who co-owns the publishing company with her mother, Jennifer Wohletz.

"What is really nice is the illustrations are canvas paintings, which are unique. It really shows the beauty of Mackinac Island and they look just like my daughters," Buursma said.

Obituaries

Sue "See" Brandberry

MILFORD - Sue "See" Brandberry passed away on July 15, 2019 in Florida at the age of "76". Sue was a very long time resident of Milford. Sue spent all her school life in Milford from grade school through High School and graduated from Milford High School with the class of 1960. Sue was also a Milford business woman and ran her own beauty shop for years. As was her request she has been cremated for a later interment in the Highland Cemetery.



Marino "Babbo" Riccardi

MILFORD - Marino "Babbo" Riccardi, a resident of Milford, MI died on August 3, 2019, with his children by his side. He was 81 years old.

He is survived by his five children, Joseph (Shelby) Riccardi, Nicole (Mark) Seman, Daniella Riccardi, Maria Teresa (Dain) Vettese and Sophia (Andrew) Connelly; grandchildren, Marino Seman, Marcella Seman, Mariana Seman, Joseph Marino Riccardi Jr., Grayson Jay Riccardi, Giovanni Vettese and Stella Vettese as well as many nieces, nephews dear friends and extended family members.

Visitation was held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford.

Mass of the Resurrection will be held at St. Mary Our Lady of the Snows, 1955 E. Commerce Rd., Milford on Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 10:30 AM, with gathering to begin at 10:00AM. The Rev. Msgr. John Budde to officiate. Burial to follow at Milford Memorial Cemetery.

For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit LynchFuneralDirectors.com



This expansion won't die of old age



Ken Fisher
Columnist
USA TODAY

Happy birthday to America's longest-ever economic expansion. June marked 10 years of growth, matching 1991-2001 as the longest expansion in U.S. history. And the good news continues. Third-quarter numbers will set records.

But rather than partying, most pundits are preparing eulogies. This expansion is too old, they fret. Wrong! Economic cycles don't die of old age. The more folks fear that myth, the more I want to party. Whatever finally kills this 120-month upswing, it won't be the fact that it's more than twice as old as the 58-month average for U.S. expansions since World War II. To understand this, think globally.

Australia finished its 27th year of uninterrupted growth in 2018. It's still running strong. Britain grew from 1992-2008 - a 16-year-long streak. That one, of course, got clobbered by the 2008-09 financial crisis.

So, if age didn't kill these longer expansions, why should it doom America's now? People think about many phenomena as they do about biological life, where relative old age within any species eventually kills - technically called senescence. Senescence is irrelevant to economies. Expansions die from multi-trillion-dollar negative shocks. Historically, central banks, such as our Federal Reserve, often were the culprit. They have often misread the tea leaves, feared an inflationary overheated reality and tightened evermore while the economy weakened. While I don't think rate cuts are necessary now, that central banks globally are starting to cut shows they don't fear overheating now.

Nor should they. This expansion has averaged quarterly GDP growth in the low 2% annual range. Sluggish! The postwar average pre-2009 was 3.3% including recessions. Until last August, wage growth hit 3% year over year in just one month this entire cycle. Fed data show workers with only a high school degree (or less) fared worse, with wages falling 4.2% in total from 2007 to 2013. They didn't regain pre-recession levels



This long, slow economic expansion is history's most hated. GETTY IMAGES

until 2017. Nearly any economic metric you examine - inflation, loan and money supply growth, industrial output, consumer spending - shows slow growth.

The cause? The Federal Reserve and its early long-executed "quantitative easing" - bond buying it wrongly called "stimulus." Why? That bond buying lowered long-term interest rates. Fed officials thought that would make for eager borrowers. But banks must supply those loans. Banks fund long-term lending by borrowing at short-term rates. Hence, that spread, between short and long-term rates - the infamous "yield curve" spread - is a proxy for new lending's profitability. The Fed's lowering long rates when short-term rates were near zero pinched the profitability of lending. So banks lent be-

grudgingly. Businesses struggled to get credit. The quantity of money didn't grow, keeping inflation low and economic growth dragging. The Fed's quantitative Quaalude turned an economic "boom" into a low, long, joyless trudge toward growth.

This longest, slowest expansion has another accolade: It is history's most hated. Throughout, pundits have dissed growth. Early on, it was normal freaked-out skepticism, folks fearing a depression, double-dip or Japanese-style lost decade. Those fears never fully vanished. Every wiggly growth slowdown - typical variations within any economic cycle - spur recession fear to this day. See current worries over slowing manufacturing data. Pundits claim this wobbly old economic upswing is dying before their eyes.

As I detailed recently, other people's fears are your friend. They keep euphoria at bay and lower expectations. That makes positive surprise easier to attain, buoying stocks. That also explains why history's longest bull market runs parallel to this long joyless expansion - twin long, slow ascents.

Forget fears of age killing this expansion. As long as folks hate this still-growing U.S. economy, stocks have room to climb.

Ken Fisher is founder and executive chairman of Fisher Investments and is No. 200 on the Forbes 400 list of richest Americans. Follow him on Twitter: @KennethLFisher. The views and opinions expressed in this column are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of USA TODAY.

Your Invitation to Worship

Brighton

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www.hsrcc.net
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Wednesday, 8:00-7:30 p.m.
Awards, 3 yrs old thru 8th grade (Sept - March)
Website: milfordfb.org

Milford United Methodist Church

1200 Atlantic St., Milford. 248-684-2798
Sunday Worship: 10 am
www.milfordumc.net

OAKPOINTE | milford

CHURCH
1250 South Hill Rd.
(248) 685-3560
www.opcmilford.org
Contemporary Worship Service:
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238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2905
www.milfordpc.org
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Sunday School ages 3 thru 8th grade @ 10 a.m.
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Sunday School ages 3-20, 10:30 am
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Wednesday service: 7:30 pm 248-485-7364

Northville

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
www.fpcnorthville.org
200 E. MAIN ST. AT HUTTON
Worship, 9:30 am.
Children's Sunday School, dismissed to
classes during worship
Adult Sunday School, 10:45 am
248-348-0811

United Methodist Church - Northville

(248) 348-1144
777 West 8 Mile Road
(8 Mile and Tait Road)
Northville, Michigan
Worship Times: September - May 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Memorial Day - Labor Day 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Wooley, Lead Pastor
www.fumcnorthville.org

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Religious Education 348-2568
Rev. Dennis Theroux, Pastor

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54899 8 Mile Rd. at Curran Rd. Northville, MI 48167
248-374-2268
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11:00 am Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study at 7 pm
Pastor Andy Whitten
oursaviorlutheran.com

Whitmore Lake

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

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Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 449-2582
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Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.

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248-349-2652
www.umcnovi.com
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Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Fr. Robert A. LaCroix, Pastor
Fr. James Houbec, Associate
Parish Office: 248-348-8847 www.holyfamilynovi.org

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church

41415 W Nine Mile Rd • Novi, MI 48375
248-349-0565
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Rev. Thomas Schroeder: welsnow@aol.com
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Msgr. John Kasza, Pastor
Parish Office: 347-7778

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Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister
LG-0000318678

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Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Mike Ragan, Pastor
734-347-1963 pastor cell
Old fashioned preaching KJV

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www.crossroads.net
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9:30am & 11:00am
Renewed Hope Counseling Center
248-560-7507
hopecc.net

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Rev. Mitchell Horlock, Pastor
www.fpcsouthlyon.org
LG-0000318499

first united methodist church south lyon, mi

640 S. Lafayette
(248) 437-0780
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Sunday School 9:30 am
Rev. Mary McInnes, Lead Pastor
Rev. Kenny Walkup, Assoc. Pastor
southlyonfirstumc.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON

60820 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178
Phone: 248-437-2983
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Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com
• Email: fbcsouthlyon@bcbglobal.net
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www.communitybible.net
LG-0000318997

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New Hudson, MI
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Rev Thomas Scherger

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YOUR LOCAL JOB LISTING FROM LIVONIA OBSERVER

How to answer: 'What are you passionate about?'

 Eric Titner
thejobnetwork.com

When we're on the job hunt in search of our next great career opportunity, many of us spend the bulk of our time in prep mode, where we do everything we can to try and get our foot in the door of a company that we want to work for. This includes research to see which companies are hiring, catching up on the latest industry news and trends, and frantic networking to kick open the doors of opportunity. Meanwhile, we're also polishing our cover letters and resumes until they're razor-sharp, and—if we're lucky enough to score an interview—spending an almost embarrassing amount of time thinking about what we're going to wear to make a perfect impression.

Sure, these are positive steps to take and will help you get closer to making your goal a reality. But the truth is, today's savvy interviewers are looking for more than just walking bulleted lists of skills and accomplishments. They want to make sure they hire well-rounded candidates who are passionate about work and life who will fit well into their company cultures. According to a recent article by Inc., "... employees who fit well with their organization, coworkers, and supervisor had greater job satisfaction, were more likely to remain with their organization, and showed superior job performance."

Think about it—hiring personnel are going to be bombarded with a blizzard of successful candidates who have the requisite abilities to handle the job effectively. Do you want to be just one more qualified person, or do you want to stand out from the crowd and make a deeper impression?

Hopefully, we've convinced you that



GETTY IMAGES

today's successful job candidates are able to demonstrate what motivates and drives them, and what they're truly passionate about in life—a question that is increasingly popping up during interviews. The truth is, many candidates (even ones who have prepared intensely) stumble when asked what they're passionate about during interviews. But you don't have to! Use the following strategies to help you hit a home run when this question comes flying your way.

Be honest

The truth is, seasoned hiring managers are great lie detectors and will likely know when you're telling the truth and when you're just floundering in an effort to try and make a good impression. Today's progressive companies often dedicate time, energy, and resources

to a variety of helpful humanitarian causes, and if your passions naturally align with theirs then that's a sign of a great fit. So, if you're truly passionate about helping orphans in third-world countries or dedicated to ending ocean pollution that's fantastic, but if you're just trying to make yourself sound good, chances are it will backfire—especially if you're asked follow-up questions that you don't have answers for. Being honest about what you're passionate about in life, whatever it is, is your best approach, and the right company will appreciate who you are and what moves you.

Be bold

Chances are if you're asked about what you're passionate about in life then so are those other qualified candidates, so do what you can to make sure

your response stands out. Use bold and genuine language and imagery when discussing your passions, and if you have a compelling story to back it all up, even better.

The goal here is to make a strong impression that you're the sort of person who dedicates 100% of themselves to the things in life that matter to you—an impression that lasts long after the interview is over.

Tie it all together

As previously mentioned, today's companies are bolstering their corporate brands by dedicating themselves to all sorts of worthwhile global causes, and if you can show how your passions complement theirs, it's really going to help you stand out as a potential hire. Also, try to tie your life's passions to your work life, if possible. Show how you're the sort of person who is naturally driven and motivated by professional challenges, and how work for you is more than just a paycheck. If you can convince interviewers that your passion for your work is undeniable, you're going to have a much better shot at demonstrating your potential value as a member of their team.

If you're looking to have a stand-out performance during interviews and make a lasting impression, then make sure that your passions—in work and in life—are made clear. Use the advice and strategies presented here to help make that happen, and to ensure that you're doing your absolute best while on the job hunt. Good luck!

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

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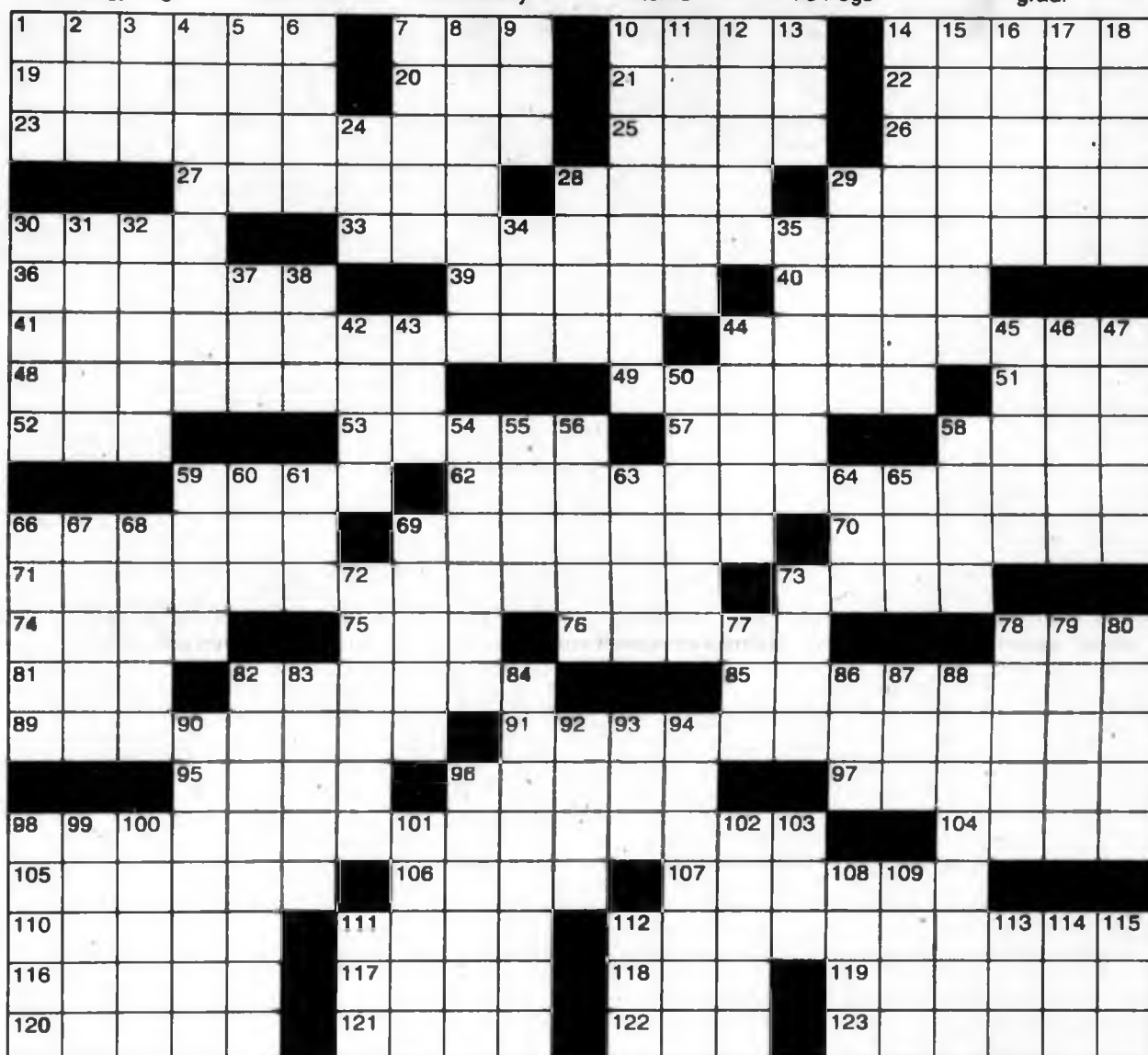
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Hindu monks
7 Gorilla or gibbon
10 Baby doll call
14 Ignominy
19 Wound antiseptic
20 Nothing
21 Chilled
22 Tabloid VIP
23 Long poems in which animals speak and act like humans
25 Figure skater's jump
26 Drizzles, e.g.
27 Beethoven specialty
28 Much-shared GIF, maybe
29 Murrur continuously
30 Bodega, e.g.
33 Detecting of sweetness, flavor, etc.
36 Spiny-crested lizard
39 Place atop
40 Not busy
41 Installments of TV series that were not preserved
44 Biology and ecology, e.g.
- 48 It may be loose-leaf
49 Clan carvings
51 "— found it!"
52 Pub. houses hire them
53 One of the Judds
57 Cannes' Palme —
58 Actress Lena
59 Iris' place in the eye
62 Hindu social classes as they relate to government affairs
66 Cherishes
69 Taverns
70 Lord's home
71 1 Peter and
73 Armory stuff
74 Sister of Luke, in sci-fi
75 Seville cheer
76 Masterful
78 Fan noise
81 In time past
82 Dry gully
85 Road part for cyclists
89 "Huzzah!"
91 Crusty, cheesy brand in the frozen food aisle
- 95 Salinger's "love and squalor" girl
96 Philosopher with a logical "razor"
97 Surrendered in landfills
98 It may result in a look at
105 ET and such
106 Dried out
107 Sea demigod
110 Future pupa
111 Pre-'91 world power
112 Enter ... or what each of seven long answers in this puzzle has
116 Prepare to pray, say
117 Go higher
118 Old Olds
119 Conductor of impulses
120 Composer Camille
121 Direct
122 Age-verifying docs.
123 Trees that tremble
- 3 Org. for a periodontist
4 Say wrongly
5 Gung-ho on
6 In view
7 Ekberg of Hollywood
8 Blue Period artist Pablo
9 Overhead rails
10 Highway distance marker
11 Keen insight
12 Rhythm
13 Lumber tool
14 High ethical standards
15 Encourage
16 Court excuse
17 — Park (Edison's lab site)
18 Jed Clampett player Buddy
24 Singer Benatar
28 Parcel (out)
29 Make obscure
30 Pooh creator
31 Put up — fight
32 Undergoes oxidation
34 TV's Turner
35 Orator of old Rome
- 37 Neighbor of Colo.
38 GI address
42 Scottish isle
43 Pop music of Jamaica
44 Quits
45 Eyelashes, anatomically
46 Give the boot
47 Awareness
50 Danish port
54 Irish playwright Sean
55 Ale grain
56 Capri, e.g., to a Capriote
58 Filmmaker
59 Stellar bear
60 Dog healer
61 Ending for journal
63 Three- — sloth
64 NASA moon lander
65 Ending for journal
66 Insurer with a duck mascot
67 San — Bay
68 Stellar hunter
69 Grain storers
72 Redcap, e.g.
73 On the job
77 "POV" ailer
78 Fogs
- 79 Open, as some jackets
80 John Irving's "A Prayer for Owen —"
82 Armories
83 Freeway exit inclines
84 Came to pass
86 Tavern cask
87 Green gp.
88 Adds pep to
90 Take revenge
92 "Behold!" to Brutus
93 Brutus' lang.
94 Sent forth
96 Ukraine city
98 Goes on foot
99 "George & —" (1990s talk show)
100 "Yes, —" ("For sure!")
101 Actor Davis in many Spike Lee films
102 Creme-filled cookies
103 Puppy bite
108 Funny Fey
109 Wallet singles
111 Internet ID
112 — Lankan
113 Fury
114 Comedian
115 USNA grad.

DOWN

- 1 Sis, say
2 Adversity



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

SUDOKU

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

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!

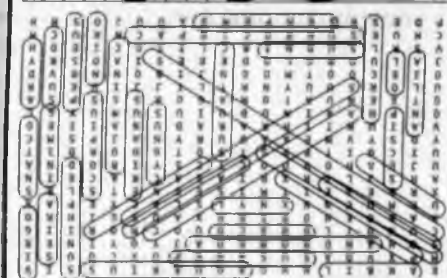
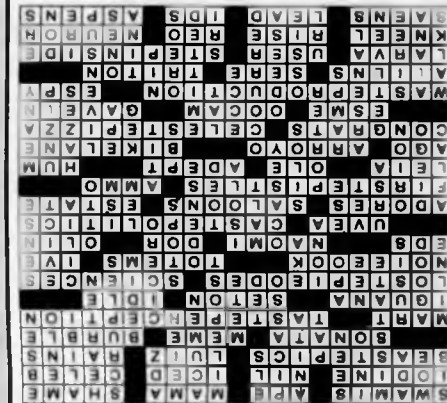
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M P X V D A S U S A G E P U X C Q U I S
S O H A N D R O M E D A J Y Q Y I N E R
C U N O T L D R A C O Q O C M Q R I G
A A R O E H O P I E R X A U S E I H R O
U R M U C N N X N Y L S L A C E P A X
X R B E A E I T M I S E G N E T S L R S
A R S J L T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

WORDS

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DELPHINUS
DRACO
ERIDANUS
GEMINI
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INDUS
LEO
LIBRA
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PEGASUS
PERSEUS
PHOENIX
PISCES
SAGITTARIUS
SCORPIUS
SERPENS
TAURUS
URSA
VIRGO

ANSWER KEY



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

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