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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Huron Valley teacher receives \$25K award

Peruski one of 40 educators honored nationwide

Susan Bromley [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The suspense was building Friday in the Lakeland High School gymnasium.

More than 1,300 students, staff and educational VIPs from inside and outside the Huron Valley School District seemed to hang on the words of Greg

Gallagher from the Milken Family Foundation, who was about to present a very large check to a very surprised Lakeland teacher.

"One teacher has the power to impact thousands of students," Gallagher said, noting that while professional athletes and celebrities seem to get high-profile awards and recognition, he feels educa-



Peruski

tors have the single most important job in the nation. "We go across the U.S. giving the Milken Award, and one of the best teachers in the country is in your school.

"This teacher is receiving the only (Milken Educator Award) in Michigan this year. We searched all over the country to find the best of the best."

Applause filled the fieldhouse as those present learned the chosen teacher was to receive \$25,000 - no strings attached.

Cheers exploded as Gallagher finally revealed the winner: Nick Peruski, a stunned and clearly excited career technical education teacher who high-fived students in the bleachers as he ran to the podium, a huge grin on his face.

See TEACHER, Page 8A



South Lyon East High students prepare to release balloons with student Trevon Tyler's football jersey number printed on them during a memorial service at South Lyon East's football field Dec. 6. Tyler died Nov. 29. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Autism nonprofit approaches deadline for fundraising

Ed Wright [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Only one obstacle remains in the way of a match-made-in-heaven marriage between a nonprofit looking for more operating space and a sprawling 14-acre property that has been on the market for over three years: Cash.

The Living and Learning Enrichment Center, a Northville-based nonprofit that assists young adults who have autism, needs to raise approximately \$650,000 - it has already secured \$50,000 of the \$700,000 needed - to complete the purchase of Northville's Don Massey property at 801 Griswold.

Coming up short during a marathon fundraising journey would be heart-breaking for everyone involved, but especially so for Rachelle Vartanian, its founder, director and the parent of an autistic son.

"Everyone has been amazing in their support of us," Vartanian said. "But we're not quite where we have to be financially, so we're asking the public for support. Not only could donors get potential naming rights at the property - for instance, we could put a donor's name on the front porch - but any contribution to us is a tax write-off.

"Once we get in, we're not worried (about finances). We have a sound structure. But we need to come up with the money for the purchase, and we're running out of time."

Vartanian said the property would be ideal for her growing organization, which helps young adults with autism transition to independent living after their schooling is completed.

"The campaign goal is independent living," Vartanian said. "Up to 90% of this population of teens and adults with autism and other special needs are unemployed, with many living in their parents' basement.

"Our plan is to create large numbers of jobs to provide work experience and income, along with life-skills training for independent living so these

See DEADLINE, Page 8A

## Laughter, tears: SL East remembers Trevon Tyler

Susan Bromley [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A heartbreaking week ended Friday night with laughter and tears shared on the football field at South Lyon East High School.

Hundreds gathered near the middle of the Cougars field to honor Trevon Tyler, a student and football player who died Nov. 29 from complications following knee surgery. His parents, classmates, teammates, friends and coaches all shared memories of the funny, kind, and deeply loved and missed 16-year-old.

His was a life that ended much too

### Funeral services

Visitation for Trevon Tyler will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at O.H. Pye III Funeral Home, 17600 Plymouth Road, Detroit.

A funeral service will be conducted at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Interment will take place at Detroit Memorial Park West, 25200 Plymouth Road in Redford Township.

soon, as noted by East football coach Joe Pesci, who expressed gratitude to Trevon's parents for "sending your son to us."

Pesci remembered Trevon as a joke-

ster, athlete and respectful student. The crowd laughed as Pesci recalled playing country songs and asking Trevon to sing along, at which point the football player with the big eyes gazed at him and said, "Coach, you must be crazy."

"I will never forget him, and I'm sure he is looking down on us with a smile that would light up a stadium," Pesci said.

The coach's speech was followed by friends including Darrell Davis, who recalled that Trevon would walk into a party like a celebrity, with an attitude

See TYLER, Page 8A

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# At what time should schools start their day?



**Super Talk**  
Steve Matthews  
Guest columnist

In Novi, our high school starts early – 7:15 a.m. But we are not alone in that regard. Other high schools around us start early as well:

- West Bloomfield: 7:10 a.m. to 2:03 p.m.
- Novi: 7:15 a.m. to 1:59 p.m.
- Walled Lake: 7:15 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.
- Huron Valley: 7:16 a.m. to 2:03 p.m.
- South Lyon: 7:20 a.m. to 2:13 p.m.
- Clarenceville: 7:25 a.m. to 2:31 p.m.
- Farmington: 7:45 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.
- Plymouth: 7:08 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.
- Northville: 7:20 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.

What we know is that students need their sleep. Sleep helps students devel-

op, rest their bodies and restore their minds. What we also know is that often we create schedules that prevent students from getting enough sleep.

Sleep is especially important, and yet increasingly problematic, for adolescents. When our students hit the teenage years, their internal clocks change. The adolescent body cannot go to sleep at the same time as their younger siblings. As a result, the CDC reports that six out of 10 middle school students and seven out of 10 high school students do not get enough sleep.

Younger students, it appears, do get enough sleep because their bodies can relax earlier in the evening, allowing them to fall asleep.

Lack of sleep can lead to a host of other problems. Increases in anxiety, depression, injuries in sports and behavior problems can all be impacted by

a lack of sleep.

In Novi, we are proposing changing the school day start times to create a schedule that would allow for our middle and high school students to get more sleep. The administration has proposed to the board of education the following start times for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Meadows (5/6 building) 7:30 a.m. to 2:22 p.m.
- Novi High School 8 a.m. to 2:44 p.m.
- Novi Middle School 8:30 a.m. to 3:11 p.m.
- All elementary (K-4) 9 a.m. to 3:52 p.m.

Changing the start times will create a "new normal" for the Novi Community School District. In order to have enough buses to transport all of our elementary students at the same time, we will not

be able to provide transportation inside our designated school walk zones. Athletic and marching band practice schedules will undoubtedly change. It will be different.

I believe that change is needed to support our students. There is no perfect time to start school. However, there are times that make more sense than others.

The board of education has been presented with this recommendation. When the board makes a decision about whether to change or keep school start times the same, we will communicate clearly and often with our community so that all of us will be prepared for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

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

## Lyon Township employs full-time firefighters

Susan Bromley [HometownLife.com](http://HometownLife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lyon Township has hired full-time firefighters to cover the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

After years of shifts that went uncovered and hopes that "something big doesn't happen," Chief Ken Van Sparrentak expressed his pride, happiness and gratitude as four new full-time firefighters and two full-time fire captains were sworn in during a historic moment at the township board meeting.

"I'm really pleased, this is a special night for the fire department and the entire township," Van Sparrentak said. "I thank the board for their support and vision as we hired the first full-time firefighters."

Moments later, firefighters Chad Scime, Douglas Moebs, Alan Hamilton and Thomas Arnold, as well as captains David Haven and Nathan Sturos, took oaths swearing to protect the Constitution of the United States and that of Michigan, as well as faithfully perform the office of full-time firefighters and captains.

"Everyone that was hired earned it, and the community can be proud of these professional firefighters that will be here for years to come," Van Sparrentak said. "I am proud of all of them and I know they will do great for the township."

The first shift with full-time firefighters came the day after Thanksgiving, when Van Sparrentak said the department responded to six medical emergencies and one burn complaint.

In the first 11 months of this year, the fire department has responded to about 1,425 calls, and it is on pace to hit 1,500 calls by the end of 2019.

That increasing number of calls over the past several years in a fast-growing township led Van Sparrentak to apply for a FEMA grant earlier this year to fund full-time firefighters.

He simultaneously made a plea to the township board to allow the hiring to go ahead amid a shortage of firefighters, regardless of whether federal funding was approved.

While the grant was not approved, the township board saw the need for the full-time staff. Their salaries and benefits will be covered thanks to a voter-ap-



Clerk Michele Cash, left, swears in new Lyon Township full-time firefighters and captains during the Dec. 2 board meeting. COURTESY OF KEN VAN SPARRENTAK

"I'm really pleased, this is a special night for the fire department and the entire township. I thank the board for their support and vision as we hired the first full-time firefighters."

**Ken Van Sparrentak**  
Chief, Lyon Township Fire Department

proved 2014 fire millage that is good for 10 years. The annual fire department budget is now about \$1.7 million.

The addition of full-time firefighters represents an increase to the budget of about 10 percent to 20 percent, Van Sparrentak said. While the cost of the six full-time staff is about \$330,000 per year, the budget will see a reduction of about \$170,000 in paid on-call costs, for a net increase estimated at \$160,000.

The department's current 25 paid on-call firefighters remain integral to pro-



From January to November of this year, the Lyon Township Fire Department responded to about 1,425 calls, and could hit 1,500 calls by the end of 2019. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

viding service in Lyon Township, Van Sparrentak said.

Five of the full-time firefighters were chosen from the department's paid on-call staff, while the sixth was a paid on-call firefighter in Milford. They will provide around-the-clock emergency response from the fire station located at 58000 Grand River.

"In the past, we ran into situations where we did not have sufficient personnel to cover the fire station and had to rely on response from firefighters coming from home or work or wherever, which delays response," Van Sparrentak said.

After dedicating time and effort to make the full-time staff a reality, Van Sparrentak is looking forward to being able to reflect on what this means, perhaps after the captains start their first day of work in January.

"I will look back and consider how big this is for our community and department and how long it took to get to this point, but I am so proud of all who were involved and for the support of the township board and the residents," he said. "These are first career firefighters, on the front line, first responders."

"Coming without hesitation to an emergency is a big deal. We have full-time administrative, but this gives us boots on the ground."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

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The living room of the former Milford Opera House is furnished with many seats and a large projector screen, perfect for large gatherings, parties or other events.  
PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Former Milford Opera House now a rental

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If your dream is to spend the night in a 19th century performance venue in a quaint downtown area, Ed Swadish has just the surprise for you.

Swadish recently purchased the former Milford Opera House at 339 N. Main and has had it renovated to become a short-term rental. He's expected to begin accepting reservations this month for overnight guests, and hopes the space could also be used for corporate events and parties.

"I love downtown Milford and I love history," he said. "This building was everything all rolled up into one."

Swadish, owner of Huron Valley Guns in New Hudson, said he bought the property on a whim from the owner a few weeks ago. Since that purchase, he's made some changes to the more than 2,900 square feet above Gina's Bridal Boutique and continues to make improvements, including the addition of a mural depicting life in the 1870s.

"A lot of it was here, all I did was knock out some walls," Swadish said. "People want to pay money for a loft, they want that big feeling and open area."

Inside includes several bedrooms, as well as space for others to sleep in the main area. The former opera house also has a bathroom, a kitchen area and a dining space atop the old stage, which has its original floorboards. Also original is the door off Main Street, as well as the old box office window.

Before Swadish owned it, the space was in private ownership and had been a private residence. Swadish changed that, opening the space up for an open house during the Big Reveal on Nov. 21. He said hundreds of people filed through to get a glimpse of the space that



The kitchen area of the bed and breakfast is atop the former stage, which still has its original floorboards.



Owner Ed Swadish, who also owns Huron Valley Guns in New Hudson, opened the space for the Big Reveal.

has also been used for business endeavors in the past.

"We had a ball (Nov. 21)," Swadish said. "There were so many people here."

So far, Swadish said he has seen interest in renting the space for several upcoming events, including New Year's Eve, and even someone who plans to rent the space during Milford Memories next summer.

He's working to have a website created, but already has a Facebook page created for the event and has begun taking overnight reservations.

To make a reservation, inquire on the Milford Opera House Facebook page.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.



"A lot of it was here, all I did was knock out some walls," Swadish said of his work on the new rental space.



Guests can lounge in the corner as they overlook downtown Milford from the former opera house.





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## COLD CASES

# Mom prepares for missing daughter's 50th birthday

Susan Vela HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The holidays are just around the corner and Kathleen Wilson is preparing to release more balloons into the sky for her daughter, Christina.

She started the tradition some years ago to say she loves and misses the child who sat on her bed the morning of Feb. 11, 2013, just as she typically did.

This time, "Chris" kept taking her shoes off and putting them on before finally going for a walk.

Balog, then 43, never returned. "That was it," said Wilson, sitting in her Westland living room. "No purse. No phone. She didn't take anything with her. She walked around the corner there. She headed that way."

Wilson motioned toward Malvern Street, which runs along the Rouge River.

Wilson, 76, still remembers giving her daughter about an hour before heading into Hines Park to find her. She called police and checked hospitals. As the hours stretched into days, Wilson put up flyers.

She coped with her cognitively-impaired grandson missing his mother. They both gave DNA samples.

Wilson dealt with police who seemed to be accusing her of playing some role in her daughter's disappearance. She grew wary.

"Have you ever watched 'Criminal Minds,' (a TV show about an elite FBI unit)?" Wilson asked. "It was like they were profiling me. I never laid a hand on her ... ever. Every time they called me, I was a nervous wreck. I was like skin and bone. That was tough. That was really tough."

## 'I had to go on with my life'

Christina Balog is one of about 300 missing metro Detroit people identified in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) database.

Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik said Balog is treated as a missing person, which means her case is usually reviewed every six months. Every spring, he said, officers scour Hines Park look-

## About this series

Crime statisticians warn of a cold case crisis. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the nation has about 250,000 unsolved murders, and the number rises by several thousand each year.

Hometown Life is talking with some of the investigators who are involved in various cold cases in metro Detroit and highlighting some of those files.

ing specifically for some trace of her.

"Christina Balog was just a unique case where she walked away from her house and didn't really give any direction to her family where she was going," he said. "We've searched the woods like crazy. We just haven't been able to locate her."

Wilson said an officer stopped by her home over the summer to say volunteers were searching for missing people in the park.

At this point, she would prefer her daughter dead than getting tortured and raped somewhere, she said.

"If somebody took her, they're not going to take care of her with no money for all this time," she said. "That's how I feel."

But she still looks for clues. She forges on despite the lack of closure.

"When Chris disappeared, I had to go on with my life for Cody," she said. "He's a really good person. He's a lot like Chris."

She finally gave away some of her daughter's belongings earlier this year.

"I kept hoping she'd come back," Wilson said.

## Forced to let go

There are the balloons to consider. Wilson releases them for Christmas, birthdays and other occasions for both her deceased husband and their missing daughter. Cody is her companion.

"We say something, and let the balloons go up," she said. "It makes me feel good to do something like that."

Christina Balog married a man her parents considered domineering. They



Kathleen Wilson shared a flyer with Hometown Life from when her daughter, Christina "Chris" Balog, went missing in 2013. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

divorced, and she returned to live in her parents' home.

Balog had bipolar disorder. For those last few years, she never lost the agitation that came along when her father, Robert Wilson, died from cancer.

"The man, even when he was sick, always had a smile," Wilson said. "He'd give you the shirt off his back. That's the way Chris was. She was a lot like her father. It really hurt her bad when he died, even though we knew it was coming."

Because of kidney issues, her daughter could no longer take medications that had helped her in the past. Wilson remembered Chris growing afraid to take showers and seeking behavioral care.

Days after being released from a facility, Wilson said her daughter sat at the end of her bed.

She asked questions about their plans for the day.

"She kept it up and kept it up," Wilson said. "I was a wreck."

Christina Balog told her mother that someone was coming to get her.

"I said, 'Nobody is coming to get you.' She said, 'Yep, there's a guy right there with a suitcase.' I said, 'He lives next door. Nobody is coming to get you.'"

"She put her shoes on. 'I'm going for a walk.' I said, 'OK.' Then she took her

shoes off. She must have done that about five times. She finally said, 'Well, I'm going for a walk.'"

## Missing mom

Cody was at school when his mother disappeared.

Wilson now has custody of the man, now 22.

"He hopes she comes home," Wilson said. "He still thinks she's going to come home."

Cody did not want to comment for this story. He said he doesn't have much to say and doesn't remember a lot about his mother.

"All I know is I miss her," he said. "I just know that she's a good person."

Their planned balloon date is Dec. 16, Balog's 50th birthday.

"It's going to be a sad one," Wilson said. "It's not as though I don't think about her every day, because we do. But it is what it is until we get closure."

"After seven years and nothing ... Cody thinks she's going to come back but I don't think so. If I found her on my porch, I'd be excited."

"Thank God, I've got Cody."

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



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# Former priest sentenced

Susan Vela HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A former Canton and Westland priest was sentenced Nov. 20 to a year's probation, 45 days in Wayne County Jail and sex offender treatment because of his relations with someone who approached him for spiritual guidance.

Patrick Casey, 56, of Bellaire, apologized to the Archdiocese of Detroit and his fellow priests, friends, family and parishioners before court security escorted him from the Third Circuit courtroom in downtown Detroit.

"I'm truly sorry," said Casey, who served as a priest for the the St Thomas a'Becket Catholic parish in Canton and the former St. Theodore of Canterbury parish in Westland. "Most of all, my apologies to (the victim) for not serving him as I ought to have. I am truly sorry."

Attorney General Dana Nessel announced charges against an already defrocked Casey in May. His Oct. 2 trial on a third-degree criminal sexual conduct charge concluded with a jury's deliberations and then Casey's decision to plead guilty to misdemeanor aggravated assault.

The man who alleged they had a sexual encounter on Jan. 17, 2013, also spoke at the sentencing. He expressed a wish that Casey never serve as priest again.

"I was drowning," he said. "I needed help. I needed a shepherd. He could

have called the police when I mentioned my suicide attempt. He could have taken me to the hospital himself. That's what I needed."

"He didn't suggest another priest to talk to. He didn't say there's a hotline if you're feeling suicidal. I hope someday he really understands the gravity of what he did even if he doesn't care. I do pray for him. I hope he doesn't lose his faith. If anyone deserves to lose his faith from all of this, it's me."

When in his 20s and professing to be gay, he met Casey and eventually sought the rite of confession from Casey. According to an affidavit, the priest met with him in his office at the former St. Theodore of Canterbury Church in Westland and they engaged in sexual acts, including oral sex.

Catholic Church officials heard from the priest's apparent victim several years after their sexual encounter happened. The Archdiocese of Detroit's formal investigation included an interview with Casey.

He admitted to the sexual acts, and officials recommended Casey's dismissal from the clerical state. The Archdiocese agreed on Aug. 1, 2018. The Vatican continues to review his case, according to Nessel.

Judge Wanda Evans said during the sentencing that she was disturbed by Casey's relations with someone who considered him a spiritual guide and teacher.

# Census jobs pay \$19/hour; some offer opportunity to work from home

Micah Walker Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It happens once every decade, with a huge impact on everything from congressional seats to federal funding: the decennial U.S. census.

And the federal government, along with communities throughout Michigan, already are gearing up.

The 2020 Census is creating thousands of well-paying jobs, from clerks to census takers to higher level positions.

## What jobs are available in metro Detroit?

### Census takers

**Location:** Wayne County, Oakland County, Macomb County

The bureau is hiring work-from-home census takers to help conduct interviews and verify addresses. Census takers will go door-to-door collecting information following a script and record the answers using electronic devices such as smartphones or laptops or on paper forms. Pay varies from \$19 to \$21 an hour, and mileage is reimbursed.

### Field representatives

**Location:** Livingston, Oakland, Lapeer, St. Clair, Macomb, Wayne counties

Open to anyone in Michigan, this position requires workers to interview respondents to collect survey or census data for ongoing surveys, door-to-door surveys, one-time surveys, and special censuses. In addition, representatives are responsible for communicating with respondents, supervisors, and other people as needed. The worker may occasionally be required to lift boxes of survey materials or laptops weighing up to 30 pounds. Pay ranges from \$14.30 - \$20.54 per hour and mileage for travel is reimbursed.

Applicants will be considered for vacancies in their immediate area within specific geographic boundaries. Those interested should contact the Chicago regional office in order to receive an application package.

### Regional technician

**Location:** Wayne County

This at-home position requires applicants to live in Wayne County. The technician will be responsible for providing technical operational assistance to one of the three operations: decennial (including decennial tests); census coverage measurement and quality assurance operations.

In addition, the employee will:

- Provide training when required to staff, including on-site assistance as necessary.

- Responsible for providing administrative guidance to the accountable care organization managers in order to assure timely, orderly and efficient conduct of decennial operations.

- Monitor the ACO recruiting operations by working closely with Government Partnership Specialists, Community Outreach and Media Partnership Specialists, maintaining contact with appropriate referral services in order to identify recruitment efforts and resolve recruitment and publicity problems.

- Serve as a technical problem-solver/troubleshooter involving daily telephone contact with the ACO and periodic travel.

Pay ranges from \$46,103 to \$106,318 per year, with the position expected to last until September 2020. However, the job may be extended or terminated early at management's discretion. The schedule is a mixed-tour, meaning it could change between full-time, part-time and intermittent depending on workloads.

### Census field manager

**Location:** Oakland County

The field manager is responsible for:
 

- Supervising 10 to 15 census field supervisors and 3 to 5 office support clerks.

- Provide group and individual training.

- Monitor daily assignments.

- Provide advice and guidance to subordinate staff.

- Maintain effective public relations with the community, such as the local news media, community leaders and organizations and local government.

- Establish an effective working relationship with traditionally hard-to-reach populations or with specific populations indigenous to the area within the office boundaries.

- Assure specific levels of quality and progress of field operations are being met through analysis of various computer generated reports and observation.

- Review and analyze cost, quality, and progress reports to assure operations are conducted within prescribed time/allocations and quality and cost efficient standards.

The field manager will work in the census office in Pontiac and must live in Oakland County. Five positions are available. Pay is \$24 an hour. Applicants must have at least a year of management experience.

### Complete count coordinator

**Location:** Oakland County

Oakland County government officials are looking for a coordinator to lead census efforts in the area. The employee will be responsible for:

- Assisting in the development of census activities

- Maintain contact with the census bureau, private and nonprofit organizations, associations, volunteers and citizen groups.

- Compose materials to promote current, ongoing and upcoming census events.

- Monitors media coverage, website and social material regarding the census and related activities.

- Coordinate committee meetings and support staff to ensure meeting success.

- Ensure all committee meetings, activities and projects comply with laws, public acts, local ordinances, policies and procedures.

- Coordinate communication with census committee including officials of local cities, villages and townships.

- Utilize current countywide and/or department specific software to complete assignments.

- Ensure the county and partners have a system to track census participation to ensure full participation throughout the county.

Salary ranges from \$48,672 to \$63,107 per year. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in business, education, social sciences, life sciences, marketing, public relations or a related field. In addition, they must have at least two years of related work experiences.

More census jobs can be found at [census.gov/usacares.org](http://census.gov/usacares.org) and [mitalent.org](http://mitalent.org).

## Why it matters

According to the Census Bureau, the data collected for the census help determine a number of factors in government, schools, and communities across the country including:

- The distribution of congressional seats to states.

- The apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Census data assists states and communities in allocating funds for:

- Neighborhood improvements

- Public health

- Education

- Transportation

- It provides age search information for:

- Qualifying for Social Security and other retirement benefits

- Passport applications

- Proving relationship in settling estates

- Researching family history or a historical topic

## How to apply

According to the bureau's 2020 Census page, the general qualifications for a census position include:

- Be at least 18 years old.

- Have a valid Social Security number.

- Be a U.S. citizen.

- Have a valid email address.

- Complete an application and answer assessment questions. (Some assessment questions are available in Spanish. However, an English proficiency test may also be required.)

- Be registered with the Selective Service System or have a qualifying exemption, if you are a male born after Dec. 31, 1959.

- Pass a Census-performed criminal background check and a review of criminal records, including fingerprinting.

- Commit to completing training.

- Be available to work flexible hours.

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At left, South Lyon East High students attend Trevon Tyler's memorial service Dec. 6 at the South Lyon East football field. At right, South Lyon East High football coach Joe Pesci, right, greets Tyler's father, Victor Tyler Sr. "All the joy and love he brought home came from each and every one of you," Victor said to the assembly. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Tyler

Continued from Page 1A

of "Love me," drawing laughs.

"You will be forever loved, my brother," he said. "You are a legend in our hearts."

Alyssa Hollo said Trevon was dedicated to all who knew him and got along with everyone.

"He acted like everyone's hero," she said, calling him her lunch buddy and laughing as she recalled he was always asking for food. She noted his family drove him an hour every day from their home in Detroit so he could be in South Lyon with his friends.

"I'm beyond thankful I got to be his friend," she said. "He is the sunshine through the clouds."

Ella Robinson agreed, saying, "Trevon was an inspiration to all of us. ... Although he won't walk across the stage with the class of 2021, his legacy will carry on."

She paused before also thanking his parents for putting Trevon into the lives of everyone at South Lyon East, who would walk with them in sorrow.

The students then released white balloons marked with Trevon's jersey number, "#54," which floated in a cold wind up to the moonlit sky.

As students wiped away tears, Tre-

von's parents, Yolanda Lewis and Victor Tyler Sr., sought to comfort the students and expressed their own thankfulness.

"He loved this school," Lewis said, adding that the hour-long drives to South Lyon with her son were filled with joy and silliness. "We love and will miss him, but this community. ... He loved you guys."

Victor Tyler Sr. recounted that his son always wanted to tell him what happened on the football field before doing his homework.

"He never said anything bad," he said. "All the joy and love he brought home came from each and every one of you."

Students raised candles or lit up their phones in a moment of silence before Athletic Director Greg Michaels closed the ceremony, asking all present to consider the concept of time, and finding time in a world that often doesn't seem to have enough.

"The next time you think you don't have time, think of Tre and be happy," he said. "Take time to smile, to work harder, to laugh. Tre would want you to laugh more."

A gofundme page has been set up to help Trevon's family, with more than \$33,000 of a \$50,000 goal met.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.



A South Lyon East High football coach hugs Trevon Tyler's mother Yolanda Lewis.

## Teacher

Continued from Page 1A

"This feels amazing!" he said, immediately expressing his gratitude for his teaching colleagues. "I feel so lucky to work with great educators. ... This is awesome."

Peruski, 36, of Howell, has taught in Huron Valley Schools for a decade: the first seven years at Muir Middle, and three at Lakeland High, instructing students in business and the CTE program.

He fits well the profile of the educators the Milken Family Foundation has honored with awards since 1987. He is exceptional in his profession, showing

leadership qualities, presenting innovative programs and inspiring students, Gallagher said.

The Milken Family Foundation has given 40 educator awards this year nationwide. Over the years, about 2,800 educators have been honored, with the intent of recognizing the hard work of teachers, while also inspiring students to go into the profession.

Peruski said he loves the challenge of teaching.

"Every day is different and what works for students changes," he said. "I love meeting the needs. It's great to know I am making an impact. ..."

"This is insane. I am very humbled knowing there are so many other amazing teachers."

State Superintendent Michael Rice said Peruski is "a rock star" who inspires students to be excited about learning.

"There are a lot of honorable professions, but no greater one than the one that raises kids up," Rice said. "I'm glad he represents this profession."

His students are glad, as well.

Shaye Smalley, a Lakeland junior, and Ryan Castellon, a senior, are in Peruski's Business Management Technology 2 class, which they described as a hands-on class in which they learn to run a business.

"He's really nice and very passionate about his job," Smalley said. "He also does a lot of administrative stuff and things outside of teaching to make the school district better."

Castellon agreed.

"He is encouraging us all the time to be the best, not just take notes, but be interactive," he said. "Teachers go through a lot with kids who can be rude. If you want to be a teacher, you need a thick skin and you have to enjoy it."

Castellon added that Peruski's class is one of the only ones he truly enjoys and he believes that is directly attributable to his teacher.

Kirsten Kirkland, who worked with Peruski on the Building Futures Committee, called him very deserving of the award.

"He never made my ideas seem small and he is just that kind of person: very kind and positive for the students," she said.

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## Deadline

Continued from Page 1A

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In addition to the purchase of the property, the \$700,000 would cover start-up costs for the nonprofit, which plans to include, among other assets, a lavender farm, alpaca farm, doggie day care with dog walking, a bee farm, manufacturing IT training, and job skills classes.

The 6,253-square-foot Massey estate has four bedrooms and six bathrooms and was built in the 1920s.

Don Massey was a world-renowned Cadillac dealer. He died in 2011 at age 83.

The Living and Learning Center is seeking individual and corporate sup-



**The Living and Learning Center is hoping to acquire the nearby Massey estate. The deadline to secure funding for the property is approaching, and the nonprofit still needs \$650,000.**

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

port. For more information, visit the organization's website or call 248-308-3592.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

# Commission approves sale of Hines Park mills

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Private development will occupy two historic mills once operated by Henry Ford in Hines Park after a vote by the Wayne County Commission.

Commissioners voted, 11-3, during its meeting Dec. 5 to sell the Wilcox Mill, 230 Wilcox in Plymouth, and the Newburgh Mill, 37401 Hines Drive in Livonia. The sale of the mills — Wilcox to Tony Roko for the use of the Plymouth-based Art Foundation and the Newburgh Mill to developer Richard Cox — now move toward closing the sale of the properties so the property developers can build their projects.

The plans will allow work to commence on the mills, which have sat unused by the county for several decades since Ford closed the plants in the middle of the 20th century. Several commissioners said they were happy to see something happen with the mills, since nothing has been done for years.

"We owned it for 70 years, we didn't do (anything)," said Commissioner Al Haidous, D-Wayne. "What we've been doing for the last 70 years didn't work."

But several commissioners, as well as residents who are a part of the citizens group Save Hines Park, spoke against the sale. Commissioner Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, said opting for more lease options would have been a better move rather than selling parkland.

"I believe there's other ways to handle this," he said. "I believe we have a responsibility to protect park lands for Wayne County citizens."

Anderson was one of the three "no" votes, along with commissioners Diane Webb, D-Livonia, and Tim Killeen, D-Detroit. Commissioner Joseph Palamara, D-Grosse Ile Township, was absent from the meeting as he was attending the funeral of Trenton Mayor Kyle Stack, who died Nov. 29 that took place during the commission meeting.

The vote came more than a week after the issue was discussed at length during a committee on public services meeting by the commission.

The two mills will join the Phoenix Mill in Plymouth Township as being sold in the past year by the county.



Groups in support of Tony Roko's Art Foundation and preserving two mills in Wayne County's Hines Park listen to a speaker during the Wayne County Commissioners meeting Nov. 26 at Detroit's Guardian Building. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

County leadership has said there is no money for the renovation of the mills in the county's budget and selling the property will allow the mills to be restored to their former glory. Part of the requirements in the sale will include pursuit of historic status for the buildings and allows the county first right-of-refusal to purchase them back if the land comes up for sale in the future.

As a part of the deal to sell the Newburgh Mill, Cox will be required to purchase land and deed it to the county after he builds a new structure for the county sheriff's mounted division. That land will be located in the 8000 block of Farmington in Westland, not far from Nankin Mills, the administrative offices for the Wayne County parks.

The plans for the Wilcox Mill include an art center and sculpture garden ran by Roko's art foundation, and the Newburgh Mill will become a distillery and hold another entity, such as a coffee shop, next door on the property. A small park will also be installed next to the Newburgh Mill.

## 'Its future is in your hands'

Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman, D-Detroit, said she's received plenty of response from residents both in support and against the project. She said in addition to taking those all into account, she looks at the support from the surrounding cities' leadership, who have supported it.

"That's very important about how the surrounding cities feel about it," she said. "It appears their supportive of this issue."

Letters from leaders of municipalities such as Livonia, Plymouth, Canton Township and Westland were submitted to the commission in support of the sale of the mills.

Nancy Darga, a Northville resident, a member of Save Hines Park and the former chief of design for the Wayne County parks, told the commission they had gathered more than 17,000 signatures asking the commission to not sell the mills and instead enter into a private-public partnership utilizing grants to re-

store them.

"Its future is in your hands," she said before the vote. "I am asking you to keep this park system intact."

Wayne County Assistant Executive Khalil Rahal said the arrangement is for Cox to construct the mounted division structure first and deed it to the county before he can have access to the Newburgh Mill.

With the county commission's vote, it commences a 120-day period where due diligence occurs. If everything goes successfully there, the developers will be able to close on the property by early April at the latest, he said.

Livonia resident Bill Craig, a member of Save Hines Park, told the commission after the vote that the group's work was not finished, and issued a warning to the commission to keep from selling other land in the area, including a park in Westland.

"I hope we don't have to meet again on another parcel," he said. "Please stay away from Holliday Nature Preserve." [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com)

USA TODAY NETWORK PRESENTS

## Taking over a loved one's affairs



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

My mother is a widow and is in her early 80s. Since my father died five years ago, she has handled all her own affairs, including her investments. Over the last number of months, I've noticed my mom has slowed down and I have convinced her that I should take care of managing her legal and financial affairs.

My first question for you is what, if any, legal documentation do I need to get? I want to make sure that I am protected. I have two siblings, one of them who is estranged from the family and I believe could cause me some problems in the future.

My second question to you is, in handling my mother's financial affairs, what advice can you give me in taking over?

Gary

Dear Gary:

In looking at your situation, I believe that the first thing you should do is obtain a medical power of attorney for your mom and a durable power of attorney. These are two separate powers of attorney that together will give you the legal rights to handle your mother's financial and legal affairs and at the same time, be involved in her medical care.

For example, by having a medical power of attorney, you will be able to communicate directly with your mother's healthcare providers, including her doctors. A medical power of attorney can also give you the right to make an end-of-life decision for your mom. Particularly in a situation where an unhappy family member could cause problems, having a medical power of attorney will give you the protection you need.

The other power of attorney I mentioned, a durable power of attorney is more geared for any legal or financial issue that may develop.

This can include handling your mom's banking relationships or even making decisions regarding her home. The bottom line, by having a medical and a durable power of attorney you can

have the power and the authority to do what you think is necessary to handle your mother's affairs and at the same time, provide a level of protection for you in the event that other family members create problems.

In handling your mother's affairs, there are some things I would recommend you do to make your life easier. The first would be to find out if she has any current estate planning documents such as a will, a trust or even other powers of attorney. If she has these documents, the first thing you need to do is to make sure they are still current and reflect your mother's wishes.

I also think it would be important if you are going to take over your mother's affairs to collect her medical information; such as who her doctors are and a list of her prescriptions. At the same time, it would make sense to make sure you understand what her insurance coverages are and determine if any changes need to be done.

In handling your mother's financial affairs, it is important to accumulate her data and know exactly where she stands.

In addition, I would make sure you have any passwords and login information from any of her accounts. I also recommend that you make sure you're added on as a signatory to her bank accounts and brokerage accounts. You should also get the names and numbers of professionals she may have dealt with such as financial advisers, insurance salespeople and CPAs. It is important that you obtain a copy of her tax return. This could be an invaluable piece of information in helping you accumulate her assets.

Life used to be easy; it is no longer that way. Taking over a loved one's affairs is not easy. However, what can make the task less daunting is to make sure you get off on the right foot by obtaining the necessary legal documents and other information which will make your job much easier.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).

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# Preschooler-tested and approved toys revealed

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Searching for experts' advice on what to buy your preschooler for Christmas?

Look no further than the results of The Goddard School's recently-released Top 10 list, which was crafted from feedback delivered by those who know best: actual pre-schoolers (oh, and their teachers chipped in, as well).

For the 12th consecutive year, The Goddard School, which has metro Detroit locations in Canton, Novi, Lake Orion, Macomb and Rochester Hills, asked their pre-school students to complete the enviable task of testing toys (observant teachers judged the toys on their students' interactivity, skill development and creative inspiration, among other criteria).

In September, students at 50 Goddard Schools throughout the country played with several toys — electronics were excluded — to determine the Top 10.

"Probably the hardest part of the project was hiding the toys so the students couldn't see them before the test," school owner Sandeep Chada said, smiling. "We didn't have any trouble finding volunteers for this assignment. The kids were really excited."

"With most of the toys, the kids were engaged right away, but others they ignored pretty quickly. It was a subjective test, but effective all the same."

The Goddard School asks toy manufacturers each year for toys they'd like included in the test. Most comply, Chada said.

"Once the results are in, we send them to the toy companies so they can use them as they wish," he added.

Chada said it's important for pre-school toys to teach children social interaction skills.

"Without these skills, you're never going to make it to the board room," he said.

## Drum roll please ...

And the 2019 winner was: the Melissa & Doug Take-Along Town.

"This toy encouraged social interaction and was easy for kids to play with on a counter or table top," Chada said. "A

## Top 10

(listed in no particular order)

■ **Winner: Take-Along Town** (Melissa & Doug); suggested age range 3 to 5 years

■ **Crinkle Monkey** (The Manhattan Toy Company/Wimmer-Ferguson); 3 to 12 months

■ **Set of 3 Primary Color** (Playmonster Oibo) 0+ months

■ **Latches & Doors Busy Board** (VTech) 12-36 months

■ **Leapbuilders ABC Smart House** (Leapfrog) 18+ months

■ **Orangutwang** (Playmaster) 4+ years

■ **Smart Sizzlin' BBQ Grill** (Leapfrog) 2+ years

■ **Linkimals Smooth Move Sloth** (Mattel, Inc.) 9+ months

■ **Learn & Groove Dancing Panda** (Leapfrog) 9+ months

■ **Peg Brite** (Quercetti) 4+ years

lot of times, with kids of this age, sharing and taking turns is tough. The Take-Along Town scored well with this challenge. It's a well-constructed, well-thought-out toy."

Chada, a longtime educator, urged parents of infants to withhold electronics from their children for a minimum of the first two years of life.

"And from the time they're 3 to 6 — or even later than 6 — kids should be limited to 15 or 20 minutes a day with electronics," he said.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, play is important for child development, but children learn best from adults.

"They get language skills, learn about how the world works and get feedback that can reinforce learning and positive behavior," the AAP says in its new guidelines for people buying toys for kids.

"We are inundated with all kinds of sensory-stimulating noise and light toys, and digital media-based platforms with child-oriented software and apps. Kids need to use their imaginations,



The Goddard School's Cameron tests out a toy. COURTESY OF THE GODDARD SCHOOL

they need to move both their hands and their bodies and they need to express creativity.

The AAP advised parents to "use caution when they see 'educational' on the label.

"The truth is most tablets, computer games and apps advertised as educational aren't," the non-profit stated. "Most educational apps target memory skills, such as ABCs and shapes.

"These skills are only one part of school readiness. The skills young children really need to learn for success in school (and life) include impulse control, managing emotions, and creative, flexible thinking. These are best learned through unstructured and social play with family and friends."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

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## Why we believe that every person has value



Dean Johnson  
Guest columnist

**The book of Genesis ... says God created people "in his image." That is, we are somehow like God in a way that animals and birds and fish are not. We are not just another animal on the evolutionary scale. This is what makes us special.**

In the movie, "The Help," each evening when the maid puts the little girl to bed, she repeats to her, "You are kind, you are smart and you are important." It's very heartwarming. But who says? Who says that little girl is important? And if she isn't smart, is she still important? Says who?

Recently Bernie Sanders was in a town hall campaign meeting when a hurting and depressed military veteran recounted to him how difficult his life is, and he admitted he was considering suicide.

Sanders actually shouted: "No, you're not going to do that!"

He went on to delineate his proposals for how the government would help the man. But what if the government doesn't help the man? Is there a reason not to commit suicide?

The book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, tells an account of God creating people. It says God created people "in his image."

That is, we are somehow like God in a way that animals and birds and fish are not. We are not just another animal on the evolutionary scale. This is what makes us special.

Later in Genesis, the reason given that we should not take the life of another person is that they are "in God's image."

One day someone asked Jesus if people should pay their taxes to the government. Jesus looked at a coin and said, "Whose image is on the coin?"

People replied, "Caesar's image." Jesus said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar." That is, give to Caesar what is his, what bears his image.

Then he said, "Give to God what is God's." That is, what bears his image. You bear the image of God.

I have a college-age son who looks quite a bit like me.

There is a woman in our church who

often can't even remember his name, but who treats him with great respect just because he is "the pastor's son."

To her, therein lies his most striking feature, that he is in my image in a way no one else on Earth is.

Even though the Bible says the world is messed up because of violence and injustice and "sin," it says humans are still in the image of God.

This is the reason, for instance, that the book of James in the New Testament implores us not to curse our fellow humans: because "people are the image and likeness of God."

The image might be damaged or distorted but, yes, we are still the image of God.

The Hebrew word for image is *selem*. In Latin we say, The "Imago Dei."

If a culture worshiped a certain deity, they would set up a *selem*, an image, of that deity, which would represent the deity in their town.

The *selem* itself was not that deity, but it was thought to have something of the essence of the deity in it.

It represented and stood in place of the deity.

The 10 Commandments say, "Don't make a graven image of God." Why? Because there's already an image of God, and it's you.

The Rev. Dean Johnson is senior pastor at Lake Pointe Bible Church in Plymouth. Email him at [deanlpbc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deanlpbc@sbcglobal.net).



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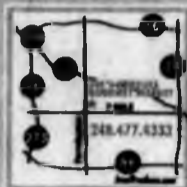
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John Glenn's Renel Thrasher watches as Wayne's Chase Leslie tries for a basket during KLAA game action last season.  
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

## What to watch for in KLAA boys basketball

**Andrew Vaillencourt**  
HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kensington Lakes Activities Association boys basketball starts up with each area team looking to challenge for a division and conference title.

Last year, Canton won the KLAA

championship defeating Wayne Memorial, which won the East Division. The Zebras got revenge in the playoffs, defeating the Chiefs. Both teams will look quite different this season, meaning the league could be wide open.

This preview will focus on the Hometown Life-area teams, which make up 10 of the KLAA's 16 programs.

### KLAA East Livonia Churchill

**Head coach:** Jay McCulloh, 4th season

**Last season's record:** 2-19 (T-7th East)

See KLAA, Page 2B

## What's ahead for LVC boys hoops

**Colin Gay** HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The high school basketball season is here.

From the moment the season tips off on Dec. 9, Hometown Life-area teams will play with the goal to get to the Breslin Center in East Lansing for the state finals on March 28.

Here is a preview of how four area teams in the Lakes Valley Conference look ahead of the season opener.

### South Lyon East

**Head coach:** Ron Levin, seventh season

**Last year's overall record:** 6-16, eighth place in LVC, lost to Ann Arbor Skyline in district semifinal

**Season opener:** 7 p.m., Dec. 10 at Lakeland

**Players to watch:** F Nick Branton, G Bryce Bird

**Levin's season outlook:** "Expectations for this year's team are very high. We have the talent and the character to compete to win the league and our district. We have depth at every position and leadership from players that should keep us competitive all season long."

### Milford

**Head coach:** David Gilbert

**Last year's overall record:** 15-8, fourth in LVC, lost to Oxford in the regional semifinal

**Season opener:** 7 p.m., Dec. 10 vs. Walled Lake Northern

**Players to watch:** Eric Elizondo, Ronnie Savage, Nick Krol, Dylan Schils

**Gilbert's season outlook:** "Our entire team will be filling new roles. We bring up a strong group of juniors from the JV who will look to make an early impact along with a core group of seniors who will be stepping forward to leave their own legacy on our program. We graduated five out of our top six from last season. We lose 80 percent of our scoring and rebounding."

### South Lyon

**Head coach:** Troy Weidman, third season

**Last year's overall record:** 5-16, ninth in LVC, lost to South Lyon East in the district first round

**Season opener:** 7 p.m., Dec. 10 vs. Livonia Stevenson

**Players to watch:** F Joe Carano, G

See LVC, Page 2B

## KLAA hockey preview: Best conference in Michigan?

**Andrew Vaillencourt**  
HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of the most exciting local sports is back in action.

The Kensington Lakes Activities Association (KLAA) Conference features 11 teams instead of the league's usual 16, since John Glenn, Wayne Memorial,

Belleville, Fordson and Dearborn do not have hockey teams in the conference. However, it is one of the most competitive hockey conferences in the state with multiple state title contenders.

Last year, Livonia Stevenson won the KLAA and is primed to again be at the top of the league with Brighton, Hartland and Salem.

The KLAA boasts the Division 2 de-

fending champion Hartland, which has won the state championship two years in a row. Stevenson and Salem both lost in the state quarterfinals, Stevenson to Trenton in D2 and Salem to Division 1 state champ Detroit Catholic Central.

Brighton, Northville and Howell all made it to the regional finals.

Here's a look at all 13 teams as the season gets underway:

### KLAA East Canton

**Head coach:** Justin Maedel, 1st season

**Last season's record:** 14-11

**Key players:** Senior F Hugo Fonovic, senior G Jaxon Taylor, senior D Addison

See HOCKEY, Page 3B



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## LVC

Continued from Page 1B

Connor McCollum, G Quinn Fracassi

**Weldman's season outlook:** "South Lyon will enter the season with a unique combination of youth coupled with players who garnered significant playing time as underclassmen. While the Lions struggled early, they finished the regular season winning three of their last four games, resulting from the growth of the underclassmen. The Lions had a productive off-season and are also adding key players from a strong junior varsity team."

### Lakeland

**Head coach:** Ron Thompson, third season

**Last year's overall record:** 14-7, third place in LVC, lost to Walled Lake Northern in the district first round

**Season opener:** 7 p.m., Dec. 10 vs. South Lyon East

**Players to watch:** G David Jabiro, F Austin Boughton, F Lucas Theaker, G Max Beagan, G Shane Ellis, C Caleb Zurek

**Thompson's season outlook:** "This year's Lakeland team has a big void to fill after graduating nine players from last year's team. This doesn't change our expectations to compete every day in practice and in games. We hope to peak at the end of the year to give ourselves a great chance to win a district title. For that to happen, we need to find some players to step up as leaders and we need to learn to be disciplined. We have an inexperienced group that will hopefully get better every day."

**Contact reporter Colin Gay** at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



South Lyon East's Adam Trent, left, tries to block a shot by South Lyon's Connor Fracassi. Both teams had their season openers Tuesday night, South Lyon East against Lakeland and South Lyon against Livonia Stevenson. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

## KLAA

Continued from Page 1B

**Key players:** Sophomore G Boston Clegg, junior G Ryan Hutchinson, junior G Jordan Garcia, junior F Cole Johnston

**McCulloh's season outlook:** "We are a team that has great chemistry, a workman like mentality and a very high ceiling. We are young but are going to play a very exciting style of basketball and compete night in and night out. We have a high level of toughness about us that will help us stay composed versus pressure. The key to our success will be getting better every day."

### Livonia Franklin

**Head coach:** TJ Hurley, 3rd season

**Last season's record:** 2-18 (T-7th East)

**Key players:** Senior F Greg Fox, senior G JJ Carpenter, sophomore G Andre DeWalt

**Hurley's season outlook:** "This season we have a young team with a lot of up and coming talent. We have three underclassmen who will all be key players contributing to our success this season. We return only two seniors who will both play significant roles on the court and more importantly as leaders in the locker room. As a program, we expect to be competitive and improve all season long and compete for a district championship."

### John Glenn

**Head coach:** Jerret Smith, 1st season

**Last season's record:** 12-9 (T-4th East)

**Key players:** Senior G Kyle Holt, senior G Jalen Johnson

**Smith's season outlook:** "This season will be a process. Kids are working hard but we are establishing a new system and trying to put in place a championship caliber work ethic. With that being said we are looking forward to getting better every day and we will only focus on how to get better each day and let the season take care of itself. Championships aren't won in December, they are won in March so we have time every day to prepare for that journey."

### Livonia Stevenson

**Head coach:** Kareem Smartt, 6th season

**Last season's record:** 10-11 (4th East)

**Key players:** Senior G/F Evan Bradford, junior G Evan Asante, junior F/G Luke Merchant

**Smartt's season outlook:** "We have high expectations for this year's team. Every season we set our sights on making it to the Breslin Center, but this year we believe we can compete for the division, conference and district titles along



Canton's Jake Vickers goes up for a shot last season. Last year, Canton won the KLAA championship, defeating Wayne Memorial, which won the East Division.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the way. We have returning sophomores and juniors that earned significant playing time last year who give us depth at each position and will help us play our style of up-tempo basketball."

### Wayne Memorial

**Head coach:** Nkwane Young, 6th season

**Last season's record:** 18-6 (1st East)

**Key players:** Senior Rico Covin, sophomore Dontae Foreman

**Young's season outlook:** "We hope to win the KLAA championship, we won it in 2017 and won our division last year; made the final four the last two years. We are looking forward to this season."

### KLAA West Canton

**Head coach:** Jimmy Reddy, 11th season

**Last season's record:** 21-2 (1st West, Conference Champions)

**Key players:** Senior F Jake Vickers, senior G Ben Stesiak, sophomore G Lake McIntosh, sophomore G Cole Vickers

**Reddy's season outlook:** "Our expectation at Canton is to continue to compete like we have the last 10 years. In order to do that we must defend and rebound at a high level and value the basketball. We have some inexperienced guys but they have really put a lot into getting ready for this season. I really

like the makeup of our team and their competitiveness and I know they are excited to get going next week at Ann Arbor Pioneer."

### Northville

**Head coach:** Todd Sander, 12th season

**Last season's record:** 18-5 (3rd West)

**Key players:** Senior F Zach Shoemaker, senior G Brady Withey, senior G Domenic Rodriguez

**Sander's season outlook:** "On paper, I think many of us in the West Division feel like we all take a slight step down from last year: we had 18 wins, Howell made a trip to the Final Four and Canton loses a Mr. Basketball Candidate. That being said, all of our teams are well-coached so everyone is looking forward to reloading and competing at a high level. Coach Housey at Novi does a great job, and rivalry games are always tough. There are no easy nights in our Division or the KLAA. The KLAA is always one of the most competitive leagues top-to-bottom in the metro Detroit area."

"We expect to compete for the Division. Winning the Division is our first goal with every new season. By doing that (or finishing second), you have a chance to win the conference given the second season of the current scheduling format. Though last year was one of the

most enjoyable teams and seasons with an ideal group of players and parents, the beauty and reality of high school sports is you have a new challenge each November. I look forward to watching our players reap the rewards and having success for as much time as they've put in the past eight months."

### Novi

**Head coach:** Chris Housey, 2nd season

**Last season's record:** 10-11 (4th West)

**Key players:** Senior G Ashton Smith, senior C Bruce Turner, senior G Miles Sloan, junior G Bryce Lubin

**Housey's season outlook:** "We are returning six players from our Varsity team last year, as well as some new members to the team. We expect to compete each and every single game, and if we do things the way we're supposed to do them, we will have success this season. What we lack in size we try to make up for in speed and athleticism. In addition to the nightly battles with each of our KLAA conference opponents, we have a challenging non-conference schedule, and both of those will help prepare us for the state tournament. The strength of our team is in our unity and cohesiveness; this team is at its best when we are playing together and working hard. We are looking forward to beginning the season this coming Tuesday."

### Plymouth

**Head coach:** Mike Soukup, 11th season

**Last season's record:** 9-12

**Key players:** Senior F Matt MacLellan, senior F Jacob Smith, junior G Brandon Craddeith

**Soukup's season outlook:** "This is a group that will need to grow together quickly. Plenty of new faces in new roles. It is my hope that this process happens quickly and they can challenge the best teams in the league."

### Salem

**Head coach:** Bob Brodie, 36th year

**Last season's record:** 5-16 (8th West)

**Key players:** Senior G Ryan Len, senior F Garrett Smith

**Brodie's season outlook:** "A very young but versatile group with a lot of basketball knowledge. Should have a lot of depth this season and get better as the season progresses. Looking for a better finish than last year and hope to vie for a division championship."

**Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien** at [availlien@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlien@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

## Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

Eilers, senior D Sammy McArdle

**Maedel's season outlook:** "This year's team has a good core of players coming back for the season, with good work ethic from the seniors, down to our freshman defensemen. The roster has a mix of seniors and juniors along with a couple sophomores and a freshman. Great group of players that want to get Canton Hockey back on the map, the coaching staff has worked to change the culture in the locker room, on the ice and in the community. Coming into my first year it was very important to come with a vision that I wanted to change things here but I could not do it all myself, the players have to buy in. They have. This team works hard every day on the ice and in the weight room, I can not wait to see how this team grows through the season."

### Livonia Churchill

**Head coach:** Jason Reynolds, 8th season

**Last season's record:** 9-15-2

**Key players:** Senior F Cameron Greener, senior D Keith Peterson, senior F Michael Mancina, junior D Justin Haydu, junior G Bryant Riley

**Reynolds' season outlook:** "Last year was a transition year for us, after a magical State Finals run. We were young and inexperienced, and we needed new young leaders to step up and emerge. In 2019-20, our squad is a year older, our leaders have emerged from the group and our culture is restored. We're approaching this season with a sense of pride and unity, with a goal to improve each day and reach for excellence."

### Livonia Franklin

**Head coach:** Jim Neve, 1st season

**Last season's record:** 4-20-1

**Key players:** D Luc Ores, D Luke St. Ledger, F Jacob Cox, D Ryan Kerr, F Casey Farren, F Dustin Fretter, G Steven Hicks

**Neve's season outlook:** "We have a great core of returning players this year along with some nice additions we expect to compete in every game we are in."

This year's roster is strong on all ends of the ice with our defense being led by Luc Ores and Ryan Kerr and the addition of sophomore Luke St. Ledger. Our forwards are led by our captain Jacob Cox and Casey Farren and newcomers sophomore Dustin Fretter and freshman Caden Diclemente. Goaltending has been a strong part of our program and this year we are led by senior Steven Hicks."

### Plymouth

**Head coach:** Gerry Vento, 9th season

**Last season's record:** 12-13-2

**Key players:** Senior F Ian Smith, senior F Gavin Roach, senior F Brendan Allen

**Vento's season outlook:** "No doubt we will be a work in progress but I am thrilled with the work ethic and attitude of this group. They have an all in mentality and that can really make a difference during the course of the season. We will be looking for a few up front to carry the load early on in regards to goal scoring but I have no doubt that the depth we need will develop as the season progresses. We have four returning defensemen which should make the learning curve short on the back end and two returners in net who will be pushing each other for the No. 1 spot."

### Salem

**Head coach:** Ryan Ossenmacher, 13th season

**Last season's record:** 15-13

**Key players:** Senior F Alex Schaumburger, senior D Anthony Gattoni, senior F Ethan Granowicz, senior F Sean Sugrue, senior D Joey DeRose

**Ossenmacher's season outlook:** "Tremendous leadership with this year's team. A solid group of returners who made it to last year's state quarterfinals and have an understanding of what it takes to find success. Our expectations are to improve throughout the course of the season and hopefully play our best hockey come playoff time. An extremely challenging schedule that that should help with preparation for what is always a tough playoff draw."

### Livonia Stevenson

**Head coach:** David Mitchell, 12th season

**Last season's record:** 21-6-1

**Key players:** Senior F Seth Lause, senior F Jaron Anderson, junior F Brenden Heard, junior F Ian Kimble, junior F Ethan Waldo, junior D Ayden Adamic, junior D Nick Justice

**Mitchell's season outlook:** "We are excited to get going this year. We have an extremely difficult schedule that will challenge us every night we take the ice. We must challenge ourselves every day in practice to make sure we are ready. Our leadership has been outstanding thus far. It will be a question of how much can we improve, how much can we grow and get better? We have some key guys in key places that will allow us to compete, but we must execute consistently if we'd like to be successful. Looking forward to a fun and challenging year of Michigan High School Hockey."

### KLAA West Brighton

**Head coach:** Paul Moggach, 25th season

**Last season's record:** 13-13-1

**Key players:** F Will Jentz, F Brady MacDonald, F Logan Mitchell-Pietta, G Chris Wozniak

**Moggach's season outlook:** "After a .500 season we are hoping to rebound with a young, but talented team. We will need to win more one goal games and create a culture where everyone wants to make others better. Our schedule will test us and resilience will need to be a key team attribute."

### Hartland

**Head coach:** Rick Gadwa, 9th season

**Last season's record:** 27-4

**Key players:** Senior Dakota Kott, senior Sam Kastamo, junior Adam Pietila, senior Kieran Carille, G Ryan Piros

**Gadwa's season outlook:** "Our expectation is the same it is every year and that is to become the best possible team we can become through our preparation, work ethic and attitude. We have 21 players that all have the ability to compete at a high level. Our 2019-2020 goals consist of getting better every day, learning to compete together as one and have the best time of our lives doing it. We figure if we do these things well we will be in a good place come season end."

### Howell

**Head coach:** Rocky Johnson, 1st season

**Last season's record:** 13-12

**Key players:** Senior Stefan Frantti, senior Dominic Rossi, senior Brent Wolf, senior Brandon Eoll

**Johnson's season outlook:** "Expectations are high with strong senior leadership. Stefan Frantti and Dominic Rossi will be making a case for Mr. Hockey. Inexperienced goaltending may be the decisive position for a strong push toward the state tournament in March. New excitement with a new staff."

### Northville

**Head coach:** Gordie Brown, 2nd season

**Last season's record:** 13-14-1

**Key players:** Senior F Nick McInchak (A), senior D Liam Cooney (C)

**Brown's season outlook:** "Looking forward to a challenging year playing in the best overall conference in the state. Team is young compared to previous seasons where we graduated 13-15 seniors. Excited to see the young players develop and become well rounded student athletes, involved in the community and charitable events."

### Novi

**Head coach:** Mark Vellucci, 7th season

**Last season's record:** 10-14-1

**Key players:** Senior F Maanas Sharma, senior F Jay Naidu, junior F Nate Erskine, junior F Austin Balconi, senior D Mike Small, junior D Max Rallis, junior D Sam Lewinski

**Vellucci's season outlook:** "Novi returns 14 players and will be a senior/junior laden team. We look forward to playing in the top three showcases this year: MIHL/KLAA, Trenton and Public School Showcases where we'll have five high quality opponents. On top of playing in one of the tops leagues in the state, Novi's non-league games are competitive too."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at [avaiillien@hometownlife.com](mailto:avaiillien@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

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# Plymouth Christian girls hoops team primed for improvement

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth Christian Academy's girls basketball team kicked off the 2019 season Dec. 3 with a win over University Leggett, 54-23.

The Eagles are primed for an improved season after an early exit from last year's state playoffs.

Last season's upset loss at the hands of Novi Christian in the first round of the MHSAA tournament has stuck with junior Ariela Boboc.

"We beat them twice during the season and we should have beaten them in the districts," Boboc said. "We had a couple of injuries and we didn't press as well as we could have. So, this season, we're communicating better, and I think we're ready to get another chance in the tourney".

Head coach Rod Windle says the team is ready to go.

"All of us are excited about this season," Windle said. "The coaching staff is working with the girls to make sure that they are improving every day and working hard. And that includes the classroom - we want to be successful in all phases. We want the girls to say at the end of the season that they did their best and we want them to expect great things from each other."

Sophomore Anna Fernandez is optimistic, even though the team is relatively young.

"We have a good chemistry," Fernandez said. "So far, we are playing well together, and our fundamentals are solid. We may be young, but the girls have all played before and most of us have team experience from the summer."

The team will play a number of bigger schools and gets to play a game later this season at Little Caesars Area in Detroit.

"I'm excited - most of us have played together and the newer players played this summer," senior Rachel Costello said. "I think we are already starting to mesh, and we should be ready to go for the conference games."

Plymouth Christian's schedule is ambitious. The Eagles will battle Division I



The Plymouth Christian girls basketball team is primed for an improved season after an early exit from last year's state playoffs. SUBMITTED

opponents, Canton, Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin as well as two-time state champion, Adrian Lenawee Christian and divisional foes, Inter-City Baptist and Lutheran Northwest. PCA finished tied for second in the MIAC's Blue Division, behind only Inter-City. Their 5-3 record in conference was their best since the 2013-2014 season, when they won seven games and their 12 wins overall was the most since the 2013-2014 team won 13.

Windle expects that the tough schedule will help them down the road.

"The games against the Class A schools should sharpen us for conference play," Windle said. "We need to be pushed and gain that valuable experience. Being prepared for those games is crucial."

This year's team is a blend of experience and youth. Providing senior leadership will be Isabel Mossel, Ella Godin, Costello and Eva Warmbier. Windle has tabbed Mossel and Godin as captains, along with Fernandez.

"I'm happy about our senior leadership," Windle said. "All of them have a heart to lead others and pour into others. They will be a great resource for all of the girls."

Fernandez is looking forward to the

added responsibility.

"I think I'm pretty vocal," she said. "So is Ari (Boboc) and all of our seniors are demonstrating leadership and all of us are trying to help the new players and show them what is expected of them."

Boboc and newcomer Emma Clark will work with Fernandez and freshmen Morganne Houk and Grace Fernandes. Having players at every grade level will help in the years to come.

"We have an even amount of every grade," Boboc said. "I think the new people will help us compete. We have a nice blend of guards and posts, that will be good. And we have played together before, so there will be some good chemistry," says Boboc.

## Key games

■ Road Opener - Dec. 10 at Canton  
■ Inter City Baptist games - Feb. 14 at Home, February 21 on the road.

■ Little Caesars' Arena Game - Feb. 10 vs. Whitmore Lake

■ Homecoming - Feb. 7 vs. Clarkston Everest Collegiate

Mike Costello contributed to this report.

avallenc@hometownlife.com

## SCOREBOARD

Here is a look at how Hometown Life area schools are performing in winter sports such as boys basketball, girls basketball and hockey.

### Girls basketball

#### Dec. 3

North Farmington 50, Birmingham Groves 47  
Plymouth Christian Academy 54, University Liggett 23  
Livonia Stevenson 65, South Lyon 27  
Plymouth 50, Wyandotte Roosevelt 28  
Livonia Franklin 46, Lincoln Park 41  
Milford 38, Linden 32

#### Dec. 5

Farmington Hills Mercy 64, Waterford Kettering 26

#### Dec. 6

Farmington Hills Mercy 61, Grosse Pointe South  
John Glenn 53, Romulus 40  
Saline 58, Salem 42  
North Farmington 49, Walled Lake Northern 41  
Milford 38, Brandon 27

### Hockey

#### Nov. 26

Milford 9, Ann Arbor Huron 0

#### Nov. 27

Brother Rice 5, Detroit Catholic Central 2  
Milford 6, Walled Lake Central/Waterford United 2

#### Nov. 28

Farmington Unified 4, Walled Lake Northern 1

#### Nov. 29

Milford 5, Livonia Franklin 4

#### Nov. 30

Salem 6, Brighton 3

#### Dec. 4

Brother Rice 3, Orchard Lake St. Mary's 1: CHSL Tournament quarterfinal  
Detroit Catholic Central 9, Dearborn Divine Child 0: CHSL Tournament quarterfinal

#### Dec. 5

Milford 7, South Lyon Unified 1  
Detroit Catholic Central 2, U-D Jesuit 0: CHSL Tournament semifinal  
Brother Rice 10, Cranbrook Kingswood 1: CHSL Tournament semifinal

#### Dec. 7

Milford 6, Walled Lake Western 4  
Detroit Catholic Central 4, Brother Rice 0: CHSL Tournament final  
Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

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# Indulge in healthier Mexican hot chocolate

Jais Tollette  
MakeItGrateful.com

In any random survey of everyone's favorite guilty-pleasure food, chocolate undoubtedly would top the list. It's one of the most popular confections in the world, with chocolate makers dominating Candy Industry's Global Top 100 Candy Companies. But in truth, chocolate isn't really a *guilty* pleasure at all: In its purest form, chocolate is loaded with nutrients. So, in honor of this exciting fact, here's a healthy version of Mexican hot chocolate loaded with mood-elevating and brain-boosting ingredients that will satisfy your cravings.

## What, exactly, is chocolate?

Chocolate is a highly concentrated powder made from chocolate liquor, a paste derived from cocoa beans -- the fruit of the cacao. Many of us are used to chocolate in bar form, which is typically highly processed and loaded with additives like sugar, milk and artificial flavors. This version of chocolate is not healthy at all. If you're going to pick up a chocolate bar, dark chocolate is a better bet because has less sugar and provides more of the health benefits of the cacao fruit. If you want to truly reap the benefits of the cacao plant, go for raw cacao powder. This superfood contains high amounts of sulfur, magnesium, phenylethylamine, flavonoids and antioxidants, which help keep you focused and alert, lower blood pressure, reduce inflammation, burn fat, and our personal favorite: foster a great mood.

## 'Chocolate caliente'

This healthy version of hot chocolate is called chocolate caliente in Mexico. That's because the cacao plant actually originated in the equatorial regions of the Americas and was probably first cultivated by the indigenous Mayan, Tolec and Aztec peoples more than 3,000 years ago. In Mexico, hot chocolate is traditionally prepared with whole milk and tablets of "table chocolate," which is available in most Mexican grocery stores. These tablets contain a mix of chocolate, cinnamon and sugar. This recipe uses cacao powder to avoid the processed sugar but includes the cinna-



Satisfy your sweet tooth with vegan Mexican hot chocolate. JAIS TOLLETTE/MAKEITGRATEFUL.COM

mon, which also has brain-boosting benefits.

## The good-for-you ingredients

All in all, this hot chocolate recipe is not only healthy but packed with ingredients that can help lift your spirits.

**Cacao powder:** Cacao stimulates the brain to release particular neurotransmitters, which help elevate and regulate mood. Cacao produces two chemicals when consumed. One is phenylethylamine (PEA), an adrenaline-related chemical that the body produces when excited, quickening the pulse and increasing focus and awareness. The other is anandamide, a lipid known as the "bliss molecule."

**Oats:** Oats contain high levels of the amino acid tryptophan, which is converted to serotonin in the body and helps promote relaxation and anxiety relief.

**Cinnamon:** Cinnamon battles inflammation, which is believed to cause of depression and anxiety.

## Vegan Mexican Hot Chocolate

### Oat milk

1 cup rolled oats (gluten-free or regular)

5 cups water

¼ teaspoon salt

1-2 Medjool dates, pitted (optional)

1 tablespoon light oil, optional (vegetable, grapeseed, sunflower seed, walnut etc.)

### Hot chocolate

2 cups oat milk

2 cups water

¼ cup cacao powder

¼ cup sweetener (Medjool dates, agave, maple syrup and raw cane sugar all work well)

½ tablespoon cinnamon + 1 cinnamon stick

1 teaspoon vanilla extract or vanilla bean powder

¼ teaspoon of cayenne pepper (optional)

Pinch of salt

**First, prepare the oat milk.** Add all necessary ingredients to high-powered blender and blend until well blended, about 1 minute. Strain through nut-milk bag. Store milk in fridge for up to 5 days. Shake well before use.

To make the hot chocolate, add 2 cups oat milk and 2 cups water to saucepan with stick of cinnamon. Heat over medium-low heat until cinnamon is fragrant, about 5-10 minutes.

Once fragrant, remove cinnamon stick and add liquid and remaining ingredients to blender.

To serve, simply pour hot chocolate into mugs.

Top with dollop of whipped coconut cream and dash of cacao powder.

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# Land of surprises

Passengers aboard a sightseeing boat get an incredible view of Niagara Falls. The falls on the U.S.-Canada border draw 30 million visitors annually. PHOTOS BY LINDA LANGE. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL VAN BLANKENSHIP/USA TODAY NETWORK, AND GETTY IMAGES

## Ontario abuzz with opportunities for fun

Linda Lange and Steve Ahillen Special to Knoxville News Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

**TORONTO** — The moose seemed unfazed by it all — a couple dozen paddlers clicking cameras from canoes as it grazed on aquatic plants in the shallows just a few yards away. Algonquin Provincial Park, about 175 miles northeast of Toronto, is not a land of big worries. Stunning scenery, yes. Big worries, no. Although more than 3,000 moose inhabit the nearly 3,000-square-mile park, they are shy and stealthy. The tallest stand more than 7 feet, but can blend into the woodland so completely that they are nearly impossible to spot even at close range.

So, seeing the moose in the open was a huge surprise on a trip of many surprises in Canada's southern Ontario province, where castles stand on islands, fireworks fly from waterfalls and gardens grow out of car hoods.

### Canoe country

As our paddles cut the sparkling water of Canoe Lake, one of the biggest of 1,500 lakes in Algonquin, our guide tells us of beloved Canadian artist Tom Thomson.

In the early 1900s, Thomson was often spotted on this lake leisurely paddling his canoe, always with an eye toward an Eastern hemlock bent just so, a beaver dam topped with a fresh winter snow or the play of sunlight on the water on a fall evening.

His art works, dynamic in their use of light and color, brought the rugged beauty of the untamed wildness to the world and sparked a generation of Canadian artists.

Each of the park's lakes has its own beautiful lure. Gliding across Lake Opeongo on a flannel-shirt fall morning through the crisp air and mist is an experience that can't be had from a car seat.

That said, hikers will find nearly 200 miles of trails. Favorites are the Spruce Bog Boardwalk, the Lookout Trail on a pine-woods ridge and the Centennial Ridges Trail.

The Logging Museum Outdoor Exhibition Trail tells the story of the brutal life of loggers through the early years. Logging was begun in the 1830s to meet the demand for great white pine that grew in abundance here.

More leisurely travelers enjoy an hourlong drive on Highway 60 through the park's southern area to view idyllic lakes and sweeps of woodland of white pine, American beech, yellow birch and Eastern hemlock.

### Big city buzz

Artistically arranged shrubs, ferns and sap-



Locks adjust the water level on the Rideau Canal as it flows through Ottawa. The canal runs 125 miles from Ottawa to Lake Ontario near Kingston.

lings grow from the engine cavity and trunk of a wildly painted car in Toronto's Kensington Market neighborhood. Funky is the vibe here with coffee shops, craft beer pubs and international cafes.

From trendy Yorkville to creative West Queen West, Toronto, a city of nearly 3 million, contains enough cool neighborhoods to wear out any traveler's walking shoes.

This big city moves fast. Best advice: Leave your car at the hotel, buy a transit pass and take the street cars or subway.

The CN Tower looks down on the Lake Ontario waterfront. A harbor walk goes by the Harbourfront Centre, home to the city's many artistic festivals, and Music Garden, a physical interpretation of Bach's First Suite for Unaccompanied Cello. The Toronto Islands, a group of 15, provide summer sand beaches and the Centre-ville Amusement Park.

Architect Frank Gehry poured creative energy into the design of the Art Gallery of Ontario, including a corkscrew-crazy staircase. The museum houses an abundant number of paintings and sculptures.

The equally futuristic-looking Royal Ontario Museum houses not only art but exhibits on

history and culture. These are but the leading two of many Toronto museums and historic places that honor everything from shoes to textiles. The Hockey Hall of Fame is also among them.

### The castle

The sad tale of Boldt Castle involves 1900s millionaire George C. Boldt, who was building the opulent residence for his wife, Louise, when she died unexpectedly in 1904. So devastated was Boldt that he stopped construction on the nearly completed project and never again set foot on Heart Island, where it was being built.

The island is one of about 1,800 in the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River.

Decades passed, but now Boldt's grand project is nearly completed thanks to the efforts of Thousand Islands Bridge Authority. Tour boats drop off visitors who tour the castle and grounds. The island is in New York state, and visitors from Canada need passports to make the trip.

### Niagara Falls

Rain ponchos are not just for show at Niagara Falls. Taking a boat ride up to the legendary falls is like heading into a car wash. But, the once-in-a-lifetime view is worth the wet. The falls provide a spellbinding sight for the estimated 30 million people who visit here each year.

A linear park of lavish gardens along the Canadian side offers a wonderful walk on an autumn evening. Dawdle there a little longer for a great view of the fireworks over the falls depending on the schedule for that display.

The tourist town of Niagara Falls, Ontario, is a frenzy of activity, especially for vacationers looking for family fun. A more leisurely experience can be had through a short drive past farms and vineyards to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where a bench at Queen's Royal Park provides a great view of the Niagara River.

## TRAVEL

# Here's how much, whom you should be tipping at hotels

David Oliver  
USA TODAY

To tip or not to tip: That is the question. Well, it's one of them.

You may be confused about if – and how much – you need to be tipping hotel staff, from the valet to housekeeping to the concierge.

"No one really has a clear picture," Ann Sadie Osten, a travel adviser and president of Sadie's Global Travel, which specializes in luxury travel, tells USA TODAY.

When in doubt, tipping is better than not, though how much you tip depends on what type of accommodation you're staying in (hotel luxury and amenities factor into how much you need to shell out, for example). The consistent rule across hotels: Bring cash.

## The valet

For a mid-level hotel with valet service, you should tip anywhere from \$2 to \$5, Osten says. The American Hotel & Lodging Association recommends \$1 to \$5 when someone delivers your car.

You also may not always get the same valet, so it's nice to give something extra to different people moving your car back and forth. If there's bad weather, and valets are working in an uncovered area, Osten recommends tipping even more.

If you stay at a luxury hotel, a valet or bellman may help transport your bags for you, in which case you'll want to tip bigger (think \$5 or more, especially if you have multiple bags).

## The concierge

Tipping a concierge, or member of a hotel staff providing you with detailed information about what to explore during your stay, remains a vague prospect. It depends on what service they're providing and how much you use them.

If you go to the concierge and ask for advice on what tours to take and receive specific recommendations, you could shell out between \$5 and \$50, Osten says. The higher end of that would likely be something you consider at a luxury hotel. The American Hotel & Lodging Association recommends \$5 or \$10 de-



Maid making bed in hotel room GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

pending on what service they provide, like booking a restaurant or snagging you hard-to-get tickets, or a lump sum when you leave.

You may want to tip up front if you know you're going to use them frequently during your trip. "That way each time you go to them they will be very attentive," Osten says.

## Room service and housekeeping

A hotel may automatically add gratu-

ity to room service (but it's best to double-check). Otherwise, 18% to 20% should suffice.

Tipping housekeeping may not be the norm, but it is nice to leave a small gratuity, especially if you leave a big mess or call for extra towels. Anywhere from \$3 to \$7 daily works, Osten says. The American Hotel & Lodging Association suggests \$1 to \$5 each night. You should leave a note making it clear the money is for housekeeping.



Hotel housekeepers aren't making bank. According to jobs website Indeed.com, the average pay for a hotel housekeeper is \$11.01 per hour in the United States. The American Hotel & Lodging Association suggests tipping \$1 to \$5 per night and notes the tip should be left daily, preferably in an envelope or with a note so that it's clear it's for housekeeping. JULIA THOMPSON/USA TODAY JULIA THOMPSON/USA TODAY

## Other hotel tipping tips

Shuttle service to and from the hotel should run you between \$1 to \$2 per person in tips or \$4 to \$5 per party, according to the American Hotel & Lodging Association. Osten recommends \$5 to \$15, and \$10 to \$20 for two people.

You don't see tipping as much at hotels that don't have concierge service. If a front desk attendant helps you out a lot, of course, tipping is a nice gesture.

Make sure you know the typical tipping procedure wherever you're traveling to, since standard rules don't exist around the world – or even from hotel to hotel. "There are certain countries that it's not a standard practice to tip, and it's not in their culture whatsoever so it's not required or expected," Osten says.

Overall, tip what you're comfortable spending and take into account a series of recommendations before coming up with a plan.

# Sausage soup makes a hearty one-pot meal

Laura Gutschke  
Abilene Reporter-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

When hectic holiday schedules have you scrambling to feed the family, a hearty soup is the easy answer.

The following recipe for sausage, sauerkraut and kale soup has filling flavors, can be prepared quickly and is relatively healthy. The tangy sauerkraut gives a bright flavor to every spoonful.

Serve the soup with crusty French bread, and it's a one-pot meal.

The pairing of sausage and sauerkraut is common on German restaurant menus. The twist on that duo is tossing in a couple of handfuls of chopped kale to add more fiber, antioxidants and other nutritional rewards. Leeks, which taste like a blend of onion and garlic, add another layer of flavor.

As a side note, leeks can taste gritty if not properly processed because they draw up loose soil in the stem while growing. To avoid that, cut the roots and green tops from the middle white section. Then cut the white middle section in half lengthwise. Soak the halves in a bowl of water, swishing them two or three times. The dirt will sink to the bottom of the dish. Dry the leeks before slicing or dicing them.

The ingredients in the recipe below can be adjusted to personal tastes. Not a fan of sauerkraut? Then use only one-fourth or one-half of the amount listed in the recipe.

Don't like kale? Toss in chopped baby spinach instead. Whichever you choose, dark greens are just the healthy alternative your body needs after too many helpings of heavy Thanksgiving fare.

The recipe is based on Sauerkraut Soup from "The Low-Carb Cookbook" (1997) by Fran McCullough. As the book suggests, it's a relatively healthy recipe, especially for those who are cutting carbohydrates from their diet.

My changes to the dish involve clarifying the directions and using beef broth instead of the chicken variety. The recipe also called for kielbasa sausage, but I prefer German-style smoked sausage, such as from Opa's or Kielbassa that should be available at local grocery stores.



The pairing of sausage and sauerkraut is common on German restaurant menus. GETTY IMAGES

## Sausage, Sauerkraut and Kale Soup

Yields 4 servings

1 pound German-style smoked sausage, sliced into pieces about ½-inch thick  
2 leeks, well washed and sliced thin  
2 cups sauerkraut, well rinsed and chopped  
4 cups beef broth

2 cups kale, well washed and chopped  
Salt to taste

Lemon pepper (or pepper) to taste  
Dash cayenne pepper

Garnishes: A spoonful of sour cream per person, or a spoonful of spicy, brown mustard

In a large stockpot over medium heat, sauté the smoked sausage until starting

to darken, about 10 minutes. Add the leeks and sauté for about 3 minutes. Add the sauerkraut and broth. Bring just to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer. Add the kale and season to taste with salt, lemon pepper and cayenne. Cook until the kale is tender, about 10 minutes. Taste and adjust seasonings.

Ladle soup into bowls and serve with garnishes on the side.

# Obituaries



**Virginia LaVerne Dodge**

**SANTA BARBARA, CA** - Virginia (nee Pinkos) LaVerne Dodge of Santa Barbara, CA and formerly of Milford, MI, passed away peacefully on November 20, 2019, with family at her side, after a long hard-fought battle with cancer. She was ninety years old.

A Memorial Service will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, on Saturday, December 21st, 2019, 2 PM. A Gathering will begin at 1 PM, until the time of service. Burial of remains, will be at Highland Cemetery, in Highland, MI, following the service.

In Lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions can be sent to Hospice of Santa Barbara

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Rick Cook  
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Love you,  
Dad & Mom



## John Michael Turnbull

John Michael Turnbull, devoted husband of Kathleen Ritchie Macleary, was born on July 16, 1948 to parents Bruce and Rita Turnbull. Mike grew up in Northville, Michigan and lived on Eaton Drive with his brothers Bob, Craig, Brian and sister Carol.

At Our Lady of Victory and Northville High School, he excelled at sports, academics, and theater. He was voted Class President and Athlete of the Year of his 1966 Northville Class and earned varsity letters for football, basketball, and baseball. Mike had numerous collegiate athletic opportunities but chose Michigan State University to be a Student/Athlete on the Football Team and he studied communications and sang in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

After college, he was drafted into the Army where he served in Germany. He then biked alone and with his brothers, first through Michigan and then internationally. His famous 1975 bicycle trip passed through Hawaii, Guam, Japan, Egypt, Greece, Belgium, Holland, England, Ireland and Scotland; the journey was captured in black and white with his 35mm Nikon camera and was published in various journals.

As a graduate student at Central Michigan University, Mike met and later married Kathy Macleary. He was immensely proud of their 42 years together. They had four children: Megan, Matthew, Chris, and Sean. His grandchildren, Scarlett, Meredith, Julia, Louisa, Ayden, June and Aethen knew him as a fun and caring grandparent. He is remembered by his family, brothers, sister, and friends as a genuinely giving person.

As the family moved from the Midwest to Pennsylvania and later Culver, Indiana, Mike earned a renowned reputation in academic administration and enrollment management. As the Director of Admissions for Culver Academies for over 16 years, Mike shaped the lives of thousands of high school students as he thoughtfully crafted diverse classes of talented students; he was proud to mentor many young professionals in the field.

Mike passed on November 28, 2019, Thanksgiving Day, and we remember his stories, his spirit and his dedication to work and family now and always.

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## Paul E. Root

Paul E. Root, age 75.  
December 7, 2019.

Dear brother of John (Rebecca). Uncle of Laura (Neil) Moorman, Michael Root and David (Helena) Root. Great uncle of Jack, Noah, Ellen and Max. Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Hugh and Grace Root. Paul graduated from Mackenzie High School in his hometown of Detroit in 1962.

Paul served in the US Navy from 1965-1969. During his service he was awarded the Vietnam Service Accommodation as well as the Good Conduct Medal. In 2002 Paul was awarded a Certificate of Special Recognition from Congress for his service during the Vietnam War. Upon his return home from the Navy, Paul began his career at GM in an office capacity and retired in 2002 after 31 years.

Paul was active at the Novi United Methodist Church, Novi Rotary and the community of Novi and was a donor to many animal rescue causes.

The celebration of life for Paul will take place on December 18, 2019 at the Novi United Methodist Church 41671 W 10 Mile Rd, Novi, MI 48375. The family will receive friends from 9:30 until the service honoring Paul at 10:30am.

Interment will take place at Great Lakes National Cemetery Holly Michigan.

Donations in memory of Paul may be made to the Novi United Methodist Church.

On line sympathy message at [www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com](http://www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com)

Even if you know  
what's coming,  
  
you're never  
prepared  
for how it  
feels.

~Natalie Standiford

## John R. Wittekindt

**NORTHVILLE** - John R. Wittekindt, age 77, Northville, formerly a longtime resident of Ann Arbor, passed away December 5, 2019. He was born February 9, 1942 in Melrose Park, Illinois; son of Roy H. and Jeannette E. (nee Watkins) Wittekindt. He was united in marriage to Edith "Edie" (nee Foxworthy) Paradowski on December 13, 2018.

John graduated from Downers Grove High School in Downers Grove, Illinois; class of 1960. He continued his education at University of Chicago where he graduated in 3 years with a pre-medical degree. He then attended University of Michigan Medical School and earned his MD. John proudly served in the United States Navy as a Lieutenant Commander in Vietnam from July 1968 until August 1971. He served as surgeon attached to a Marine unit and spent a year assigned to a nuclear submarine. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, Vietnamese Campaign with device, Combat Action Ribbon, Joint Service Commendation, Presidential Unit Citation, and Vietnamese Divisional Cross of Gallantry. While was serving in the Navy, he realized surgery wasn't for him and that he was interested in the mental health field. He liked talking to patients and helping them heal. John worked as a child psychiatrist for many years. He had a private practice, consulted with school districts in Michigan and Ohio, and most recently worked for Ottawa County Community Mental Health. John was a member of the American Medical Association and the American Child Psychiatry Association.

John was a train enthusiast; he liked trains of all sizes and had a collection of model trains. It was a hobby he and his wife had in common. John traveled



extensively throughout the world and United States, including a majority of Europe, the Caribbean, Hawaii, multiple trips to Disney, camping, and visiting National Parks. He had been hoping to visit Antarctica and Australia. John was an expert carpenter, electrician, and plumber. A true craftsman, everything he did was top notch. He built a second home for his family on Lake Michigan and extensively remodeled his home in Ann Arbor, tripling its size. John was incredibly talented when working with his hands and was always working on home projects, including gardening. He had an amazing tool collection and could do anything himself. John was very knowledgeable and a history buff; he especially liked world history and the Civil War. He was an avid Michigan Football fan and never missed a game. John loved animals, his favorite pets of all time were his Newfoundland, Truffle and his Calico cat, Kitten. His current furry companion was his rescue cat Harvey who spent time comforting him. John's greatest joy in life was his family; he adored spoiling his grandchildren and was very devoted to them all. He was always supportive and attended many of their functions. He was loved by those who knew him and will be greatly missed.

John is survived by his beloved wife, Edie Wittekindt; his children, Owen (Rebecca) Wittekindt and Kate (Kyle) Wade; his stepsons, Jason (Gwen) Paradowski and Daniel (Lisa) Paradowski; his brothers, Neil (Pamela) Wittekindt and Alan Wittekindt; his grandchildren, Owen, Karen, Xander, Rory, Wesley, and Jacob; and his niece and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Private services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate memorial contributions to Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Share condolences at [www.casterlinefuneralhome.com](http://www.casterlinefuneralhome.com).

## BOOKS

# 5 new reads: Thomas Keneally, 'Schindler's List' author, returns

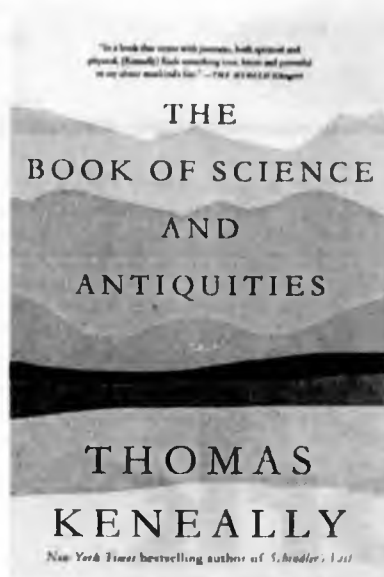
In search of something good to read? USA TODAY's Barbara VanDenburgh scopes out the shelves for this week's hottest new book releases.



**1. 'The Story of a Goat'**  
by Perumal Murugan (Black Cat/Grove, fiction, on sale Dec. 10)

**What it's about:** A supernatural figure gifts an old farming couple a runty black goat named Poonachi, who brings wonder and hardship to the farm in this magical fable that tackles the injustices of caste, prejudice and sexism. It's a welcome return for Murugan, who once swore off literature.

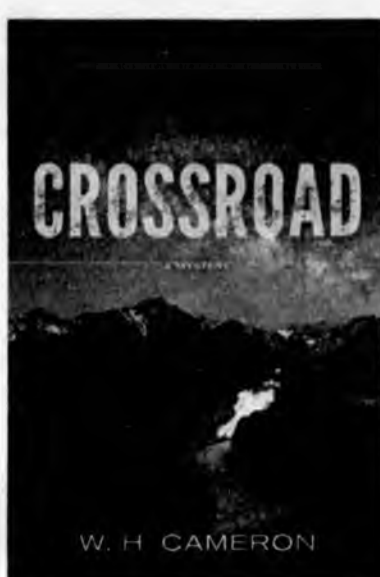
**The buzz:** In a ★★★★★ review for USA TODAY, Eliot Schreier writes, "The greatest achievement of this remarkable novel is the empathy its adult readers will feel for a non-human creature; through Poonachi's tale we are reminded how much bonds us with the animal world."



**2. 'The Book of Science and Antiquities'**  
by Thomas Keneally (Atria Books, fiction, on sale Dec. 10)

**What it's about:** The author of "Schindler's Ark," which inspired the movie "Schindler's List," sets his new novel in Australia, exploring the parallel lives of a modern-day documentary filmmaker and a pre-historic man, both of whom are forced to come to terms with their mortality.

**The buzz:** "Keneally is a writer of immeasurable talents, with an eye for the human drama that makes history. The intertwined stories of men from different eras keep the reader wondering how it will all come together," Patty Rhule says in her ★★★★★ review for USA TODAY.



**3. 'Crossroad'**  
by W.H. Cameron (Crooked Lane Books, fiction, on sale Dec. 10)

**What it's about:** Apprentice mortician Melisende Dulac stumbles across a deadly car crash on a desolate road in the Oregon high desert, and one of the bodies is that of a newborn girl, lying an impossible distance from the wreckage. And then the bodies go missing from Melisende's mortuary.

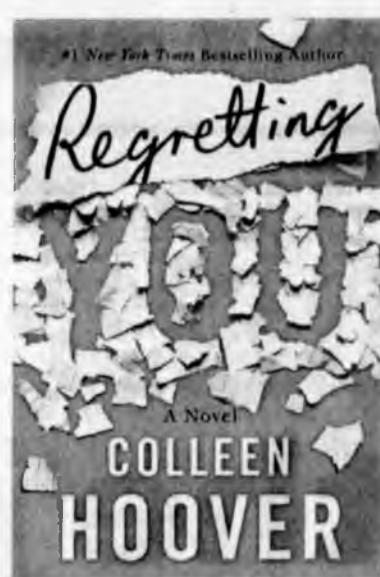
**The buzz:** "This pulse-pounding tale begs to be read in one sitting," says Publishers Weekly.



**4. 'The Wonderful'**  
by Saskia Sarginson (Flatiron, fiction, on sale Dec. 10)

**What it's about:** Hedy Delaney is an American girl trying to make the best of her new life on a U.S. airbase in post-war England with her parents and twin brother. But an unforeseen tragedy rips her family apart, and Hedy devotes her life to finding out the truth of what happened that day.

**The buzz:** "A gripping and devastating tale of a family torn apart by secrets, war, and human brutality," says Kirkus Reviews.



**5. 'Regretting You'**  
by Colleen Hoover (Montlake, fiction, on sale Dec. 10)

**What it's about:** Morgan Grant and her 16-year-old daughter, Clara, are shattered when Chris (their husband and father, respectively) dies in a tragic accident under dubious conditions that unearth long-buried secrets. Mother and daughter couldn't be more unlike but must navigate their contentious relationship to rebuild their lives.

**The buzz:** "The emotions run high, the conversations run deep, and the relationships ebb and flow with grace," according to Kirkus Reviews.

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www.hscc.net  
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810-231-9199  
Fr. John Rocus, Pastor  
Weekend Liturgies Saturday 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Please visit our Shrine of Turin Display and Book & Gift Shop

### Highland

**Church of the Holy Spirit**  
3700 Harvey Lake Rd., Highland  
Saturday Mass 5PM,  
Sunday Mass 9 & 11AM  
248-887-5364 | HolySpiritHighland.com  
The Holy Spirit is Here - Come Home  
All are Welcome!

### Milford

**FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD**  
VISITORS WELCOME!  
133 Detroit St., Milford • 248-717-3564  
Pastor Steve Swayze  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship - 11 a.m.  
Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Admission: 3 yrs old thru 8th grade Sept. - March  
Website: milfordfb.org

**Church of the Holy Spirit**  
3700 Harvey Lake Rd., Highland  
Saturday Mass 5PM,  
Sunday Mass 9 & 11AM  
248-887-5364 | HolySpiritHighland.com  
The Holy Spirit is Here - Come Home  
All are Welcome!

### Milford United Methodist Church

1200 Atlantic St., Milford, 248-684-2798  
**Sunday Worship**  
9:30am - Traditional  
11:00am - Contemporary  
www.milfordumc.net

### OAKPOINTE | milford

1250 South Hill Rd.  
(248) 685-3560  
www.opcmilford.org  
Contemporary Worship Service:  
8:30, 10:15, and 11:45.

### MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Bryant Anderson  
238 N. Main Street, Milford MI (248) 684-2805  
www.milfordpc.org  
**Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.**  
Sunday School ages 3 thru 5th grade @ 10 a.m.  
Youth Group 10 am - Grades 6-12  
A heritage of area worship since 1836

### First Church of Christ, Scientist

All are welcome at all services  
905 E. Commerce St., Milford, MI 48361  
Sunday Service: 10:30 am  
Sunday School ages 3-20; 10:30 am  
Children's room: Wed & Sat services  
Wednesday service: 7:10 pm 248-485-7266

### 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  
248-348-0911

### United Methodist Church

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

### OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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WEEKEND LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
Church 348-2621, School 348-3610  
Religious Education 348-2556  
Rev. Dennis Theroux, Pastor



### Whitmore Lake

**FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH**  
10774 Nine Mile Road  
Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 449-2582  
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.

### Novi

**BRIGHTMOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
40800 W. 13 Mile Road, Novi  
on the corner of M-5 & W 13  
Sundays 9:00a & 11:15a  
www.brightmoorcc.org  
something for the entire family

### NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

41671 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375  
Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.  
Rev. June M. Smith, Pastor  
248-349-2652  
www.umcnovi.com  
"Loving God, loving each other and living our core values"

### HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375  
Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (English) & 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.  
Fr. Robert A. LaCroix, Pastor  
Fr. James Houback, Associate  
Parish Office: 248-349-8847 www.holyfamilynovi.org

### Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church

41415 W Nine Mile Rd • Novi, MI 48375  
248-349-0565  
Divine Service on Sundays at 10am  
Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 8:45am  
Rev. Thomas Schroeder welanov@aol.com  
Come and worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

### ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI

46325 10 Mile Rd. • Novi, MI 48374  
Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.  
Msgr. John Kasza, Pastor  
Parish Office: 347-7778

### MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

21355 Meadowbrook Rd., in Novi at 8 1/2 Mile  
248-348-7757 • www.mbcoc.org  
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.  
Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister  
LD: 0000319378

### BIBLE BELIEVERS CHURCH

Gathering in Jesus Name  
52908 10 Mile Rd • South Lyon, MI 48178  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Mike Ragan, Pastor  
734-347-1983 pastor cell  
Old fashioned preaching KJV

### CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

28900 Pontiac Trail • South Lyon  
248-486-0400  
www.bcrossroads.net  
Service Times  
9:30am & 11:30am  
Renewed Hope Counseling Center  
248-560-7507  
rhopecc.net

### First United Methodist Church

640 S. Lafayette  
South Lyon, MI  
(248) 437-0780  
Sunday Worship: 8:15 am, 10:45 am, & 11 am  
Sunday School 9:30 am  
Rev. Mary McInnes, Lead Pastor  
Rev. Kenny Walkup, Assoc. Pastor  
southlyonfirstumc.org

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON

60820 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178  
Phone: 248-437-2983  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.  
Senior Pastor: Jason Meaux  
Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com  
• Email: fbcsouthlyon@bcbglobal.net  
LD: 0010246495\_01

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Wisconsin Synod • Reynold Sweet Pkwy.  
at Liberty St.  
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.  
All Classes 9:00  
Matthew Minzloff, (248) 437-1651

### 'the WAY' - a ministry of Hope Lutheran Church

Worship @ Abbey Park  
28413 Abbey Lane  
New Hudson, MI  
Sunday @ 10am, 248-553-7170  
www.hope-lutheran-church.com  
Rev. Thomas Schirmer

For more information regarding this directory, please call  
Anthony Dixon at 313-222-2401 or amdixon@gannett.com

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### College no longer the only path to a successful career

Erik Titner  
[thejobnetwork.com](http://thejobnetwork.com)

There's no doubt about it, the world is changing fast — and at a pace that most of us have never experienced before. Everything from rapid advances in technology to seismic cultural, political, social, and economic shifts are altering the way we live on a deep and lasting level, forcing us to reevaluate many of the previously "tried and true" ways of doing things.

Like it or not, there's a term for all of this — it's called progress — and the world is divided between those who choose to keep up and those who fall behind.

Chief among these transformations is higher education. Decades ago, college was an ideal way to prepare young adults for success in the working world, and a degree was practically mandatory in order to climb your way to the top of the professional ladder and into one of the big corner offices. These days, that old way of thinking — and those corner offices — are evaporating, and it's forcing folks to reevaluate the value of college in this brave new world of rapidly evolving professional opportunities.

#### The cost is prohibitive for most

A big factor that's upsetting the old college apple cart is cost. Simply put, the cost of earning a degree has skyrocketed in recent years and finding the funds to finance higher education has become infinitely more challenging for most of us. On top of this, the notion of borrowing your way through college has become increasingly less desirable as the stigma against getting buried in student loan debt continues to grow and get attention.



GETTY IMAGES

#### A degree no longer signifies that you're more qualified for a job

That said, there's an even more elemental concern regarding the value of college that's got folks talking and thinking long and hard before making the decision to commit to earning a degree: Does college even effectively give you a leg up in the work world?

It's long been a cliché that college kids, equipped with their expensive diplomas, are ill-prepared for the pressures and demands of a job in the real world. And now, with rising education costs and an increasing focus on alternate paths to professional success (like embracing entrepreneurship and starting your own business), the very notion of whether or not that expensive diploma is worth going after anymore is being questioned by an increasing number

of people.

Sure, the argument can still be made that having that degree on your resume is a crucial step in order to get your foot in the door at most jobs. Still, it's also hard to argue against the notion that the value of a college degree becomes increasingly diluted when everyone else has one too, and those who find other and more unique ways to stand out from the job-hunting crowd just may have the upper hand.

#### College doesn't teach the skills you need for success

It's also important to question why so many employers are lamenting the ever-widening "skills gap" that's making it harder for them to source qualified candidates for their open positions. Some argue that it's the direct result of

an outdated higher education system that bogs students down with coursework that's not relevant to their chosen career paths ... and instead keeps them on an extended academic treadmill to ramp-up costs and eat up valuable time that would be better spent gaining practical, work-focused experience and training.

Moreover, the higher education system, with its exorbitant costs and sometimes questionable admissions selection processes, contains barriers to entry that many progressively-minded individuals are eager to leave behind and move past. Many of today's forward-thinking business leaders today are recognizing a new truth: a driven, hard-working, curious, and naturally talented individual who demonstrates a little grit and a lot of hustle during the interview process can be just as effective as a candidate with a college education and perhaps little else (and maybe even more effective).

So, as this debate rages on, where does this leave those who want to make the right decision about whether to invest in college? Like most things in life, the answer isn't a simple one. The truth is, not all colleges — or job candidates — are created equal, and some programs in some schools are more effective at preparing students for the work world than others.

Therefore, it's up to individuals to research their options, learn about their chosen fields and requirements to entry, explore their universe of options, and make an informed decision that's right for them.

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

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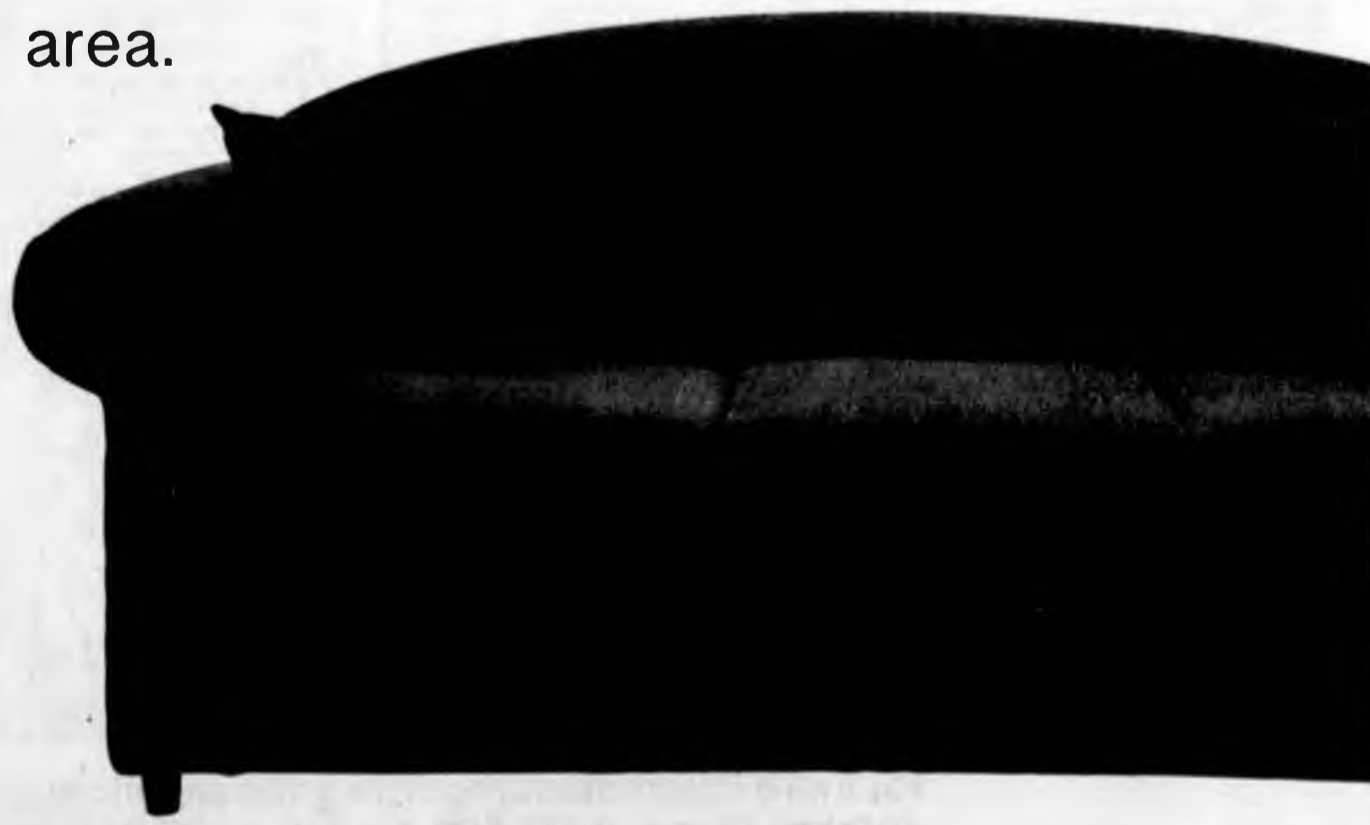
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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

## ACROSS

- 1 Agree (with)  
5 Ability to cope well with difficulty  
11 Mini-devils  
15 Girl  
19 Forget to say  
20 Vocation  
21 Heist booty  
22 — Stanley Gardner  
23 She played Kira Nerys on "Deep Space Nine"  
25 Sicilian resort city  
26 Rain-starved  
27 Get riper  
28 Taken with  
29 Legendary nude horse rider  
31 Small bird  
32 Enthoed Fr. woman  
33 Lightning source, as shortened in weather reports  
36 Like wicker baskets  
37 Rotating rocket ride at Disney theme parks  
40 Alternatives to dice  
43 Has the helm

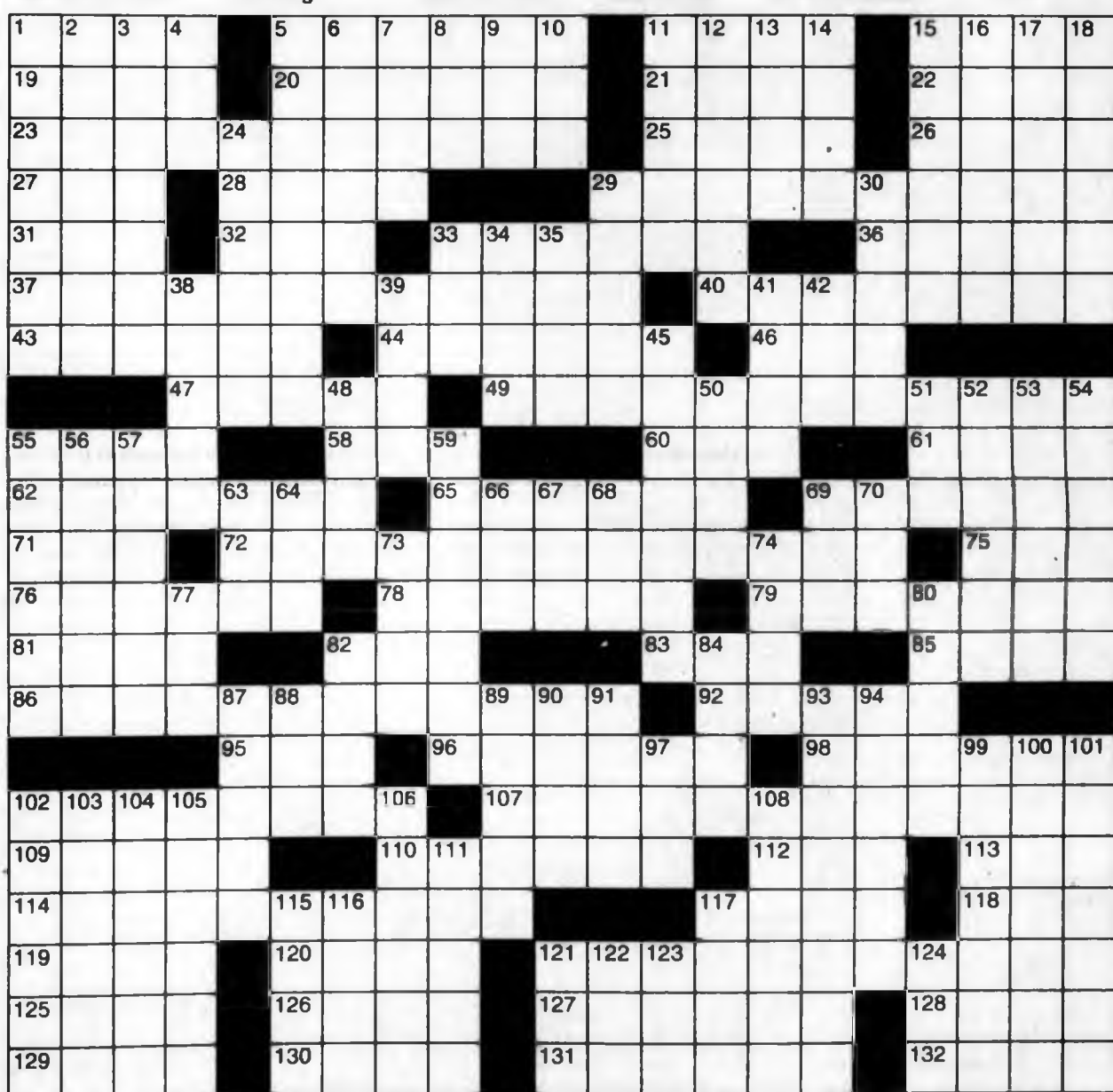
- 44 Exactly  
46 Lime drink  
47 "Oh, go on!"  
49 Kevin Bacon's "Footloose" role  
55 Spring-loaded stick  
58 R&B's Rawls  
60 Suffix with script  
61 Elvis — Presley  
62 Twitched, as a muscle  
65 Pasta strip  
69 Raiment  
71 — and yang  
72 Depressing or untidy sort  
75 Santa —, California  
76 Overprotect  
78 Most ashen  
79 Discovered  
81 Old cracker brand  
82 Short time, for short  
83 Sheeran and O'Neill  
85 Regatta tools  
86 Grammy nominee for writing the Lee Ann Womack hit "I May Hate Myself in the Morning"

- 92 Retort to "No you're not!"  
95 Moray, say  
96 Gin mill  
98 Be emphatic  
102 Moniker for Boston's locale  
107 Flying disc renamed "Frisbee" in 1957  
109 Zones  
110 FDR part  
112 "Indeedy"  
113 "Law & Order: —" (NBC series since '99)  
114 Silly grin  
117 Gravy Train competitor  
118 Insult, in rap  
119 Be very mad  
120 Baseball's Ty  
121 Their names begin eight answers in this puzzle  
125 Wields  
126 Major city in Norway  
127 Squirrel food  
128 Actress Hathaway  
129 Period before 6-Down  
130 Close-call cry  
131 Present in a different form

- 132 Attention-getting cries  
DOWN  
1 Piano recital pieces  
2 Free-verse poet  
3 Kitchen nook  
4 Hellenic H  
5 Red apple  
6 It follows Holy Week  
7 Stooges, e.g.  
8 New Year in Vietnam  
9 Zodiac sign  
10 Mess up  
11 "Word has it ..."  
12 Munchies from Mars  
13 Pint-size  
14 Smeltery junk  
15 Entice  
16 Get there  
17 Split-off bit  
18 Alternatives to coupes  
24 Sun blockers  
29 Oscar winner Sophia  
30 Proprietor  
33 Uncle, in Spanish  
34 Sky shiner  
35 Head, in French  
38 Creditors' takebacks

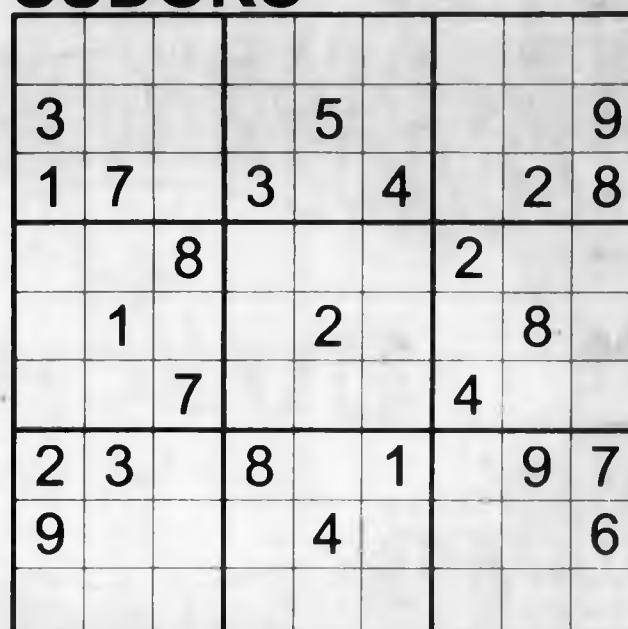
- 39 Square in the first column of a bingo card  
41 Speed  
42 Nuptial vow  
45 Try to equal  
48 "We're No Angels" actor — Ray  
50 Regatta group  
51 Gym pad  
52 Pop singer Grande  
53 Intersection  
54 Presses and stretches  
55 Hitchcock film of 1960  
56 Downer drug  
57 India's India  
59 Takes stuff out of a suitcase  
63 Nero's 1,550  
64 Up 'til  
66 Popeye's Olive  
67 Lofty poem  
68 "ER" roles  
69 Exist  
70 Luggage-screening org.  
73 Oil gp.  
74 "Frozen" heroine  
77 Fawn nurser  
80 Hen's perch  
82 Road deicer

- 84 T. rex, e.g.  
87 U.S. flag sewer Ross  
88 Meadowland  
89 Sappy tree  
90 Earthen cooking pot  
91 Person, place or thing  
93 Motorist's distance marker  
94 Attach with a click  
97 Siouan tribe  
99 "All finished!"  
100 "Kids" actress Chloë  
101 Bridge supports  
102 Amount a sack will hold  
103 Stimulate  
104 Naval petty officers  
105 Most secure  
106 OK for eating  
108 Traffic cones  
111 Funny bone locale  
115 Garbage barge  
116 Dance violently  
117 Razor choice  
121 Uber order  
122 Fabulous flier  
123 Fabled flier  
124 "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-"



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

## SUDOKU



## Here's How It Works:

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

## BUSINESS WORD SEARCH

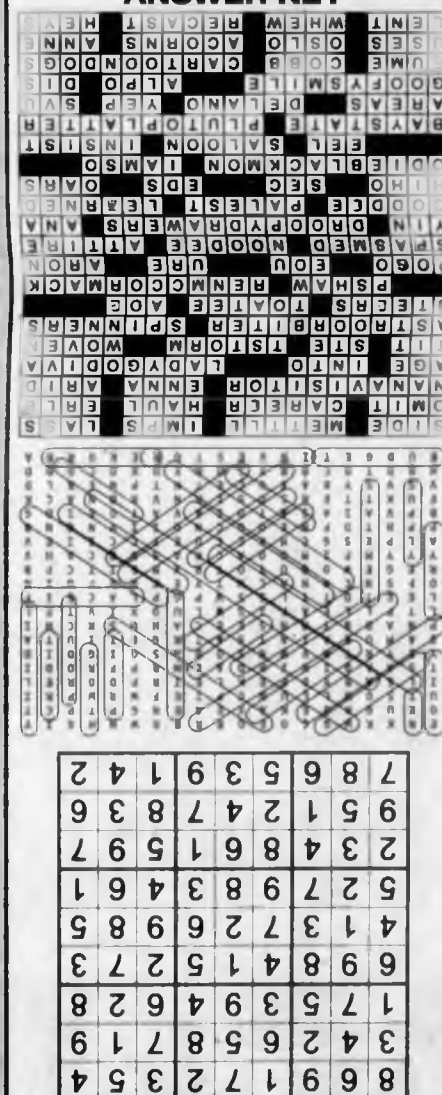


Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## WORDS

ACCOUNT  
ADMINISTRATION  
ASSET  
AUDIT  
BROKER  
BUDGET  
BUSINESS  
CASH FLOW  
COLLATERAL  
COMMODITY  
CREDIT  
DEBT  
DEMAND  
EQUITY  
EXPENSES  
FISCAL  
GROSS  
GROWTH  
GUARANTEE  
INCOME  
INVESTOR  
LIABILITY  
LOAN  
LOSS  
NET  
PAYABLE  
PAYROLL  
PRICING  
PRODUCT  
PROFIT  
RECEIVABLE  
SERVICE  
STATEMENT  
STOCK  
SUPPLY  
TAXES

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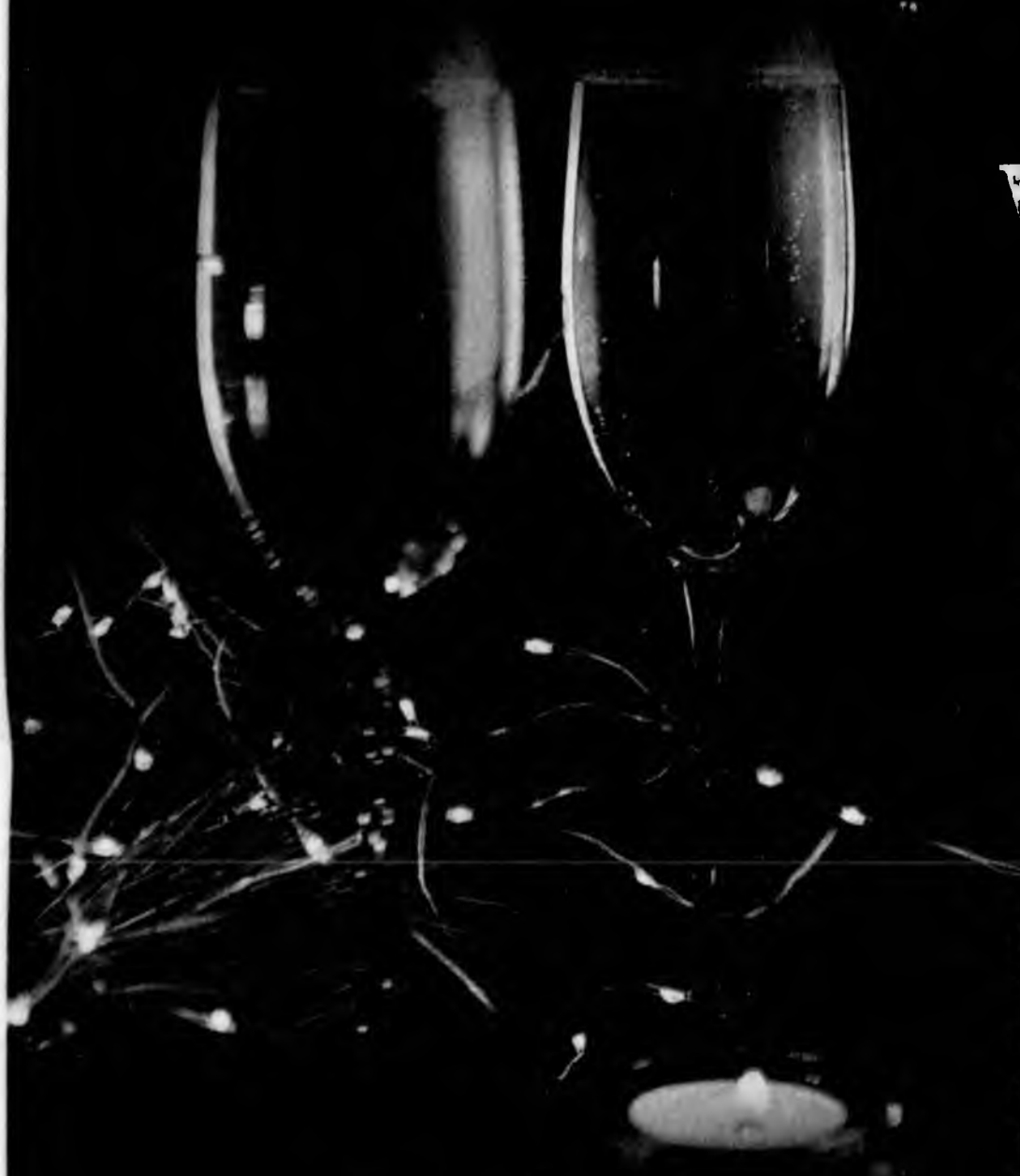
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