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ONLINE COUPONS



What library patrons watched, read in 2019

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At the start of the 2020s and in a digital age, area libraries are thriving.

Libraries in Birmingham, Milford, Novi and South Lyon released 2019 reports that show not only an increase in circulation numbers despite some

challenges, but also reveal an interesting snapshot of what patrons are reading and watching in these communities.

In Novi, children's television shows and thriller and superhero films were the most popularly circulated items.

In Milford, novels in the mystery and thriller genres ruled.

At the Baldwin Library in Birmingham, and at the Salem-South Lyon District Library, "Where the Crawdads Sing," a crime drama novel set in North Carolina topped the list for most checked out item, followed by memoirs from a former first lady and an Idaho woman who received no formal education until she was 17.

**What Novi is reading
and watching**

The Novi Public Library led the four libraries we queried for 2019 circulation numbers, with nearly one million items checked out.

See **LIBRARY**, Page 8A



Firefighters and Nozzlemen motorcycle club members attend the visitation services of Fire Chief Craig Kaska on Jan. 4. They lifted his casket into a fire truck before proceeding to South Lyon Cemetery. PHOTOS BY SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Fire chief remembered for building teams, community

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Chief Craig Kaska was known for the big breakfasts he cooked up for firefighters, police officers, friends, family and more.

He would take charge of the South Lyon Fire Department's kitchen routinely, preparing eggs and bacon at the crack of dawn and welcoming everyone into his circle of camaraderie.

Now, community members are preparing to give a proper goodbye to a man they credit for loving his community and teaching them by example to be better people.

The Army veteran, 70, died Dec. 30 with family by his side. Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St., handled the arrangements this past Saturday.

See **CHIEF**, Page 9A



Mourners crowded the Phillips Funeral Home to attend Kaska's funeral services.

Police: Mom of dead boy has mental health issues

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi police said Saturday they continue to investigate the death of a 2-year-old boy while his mother remains in serious condition at an area hospital.

According to a report from public safety officials, the mother, 36, has a long history of mental health issues.

The Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office has confirmed that her baby's death was a homicide.

A preliminary investigation indicates "no additional involvement in the incident other than the mother and her child," public safety officials said.

The father returned from work to their Seville Circle home Friday to find his wife and son severely injured. The boy was declared dead at the scene.

Originally from China, the parents have lived in the U.S. since 2014.

Police do not consider the husband a suspect. They say he has been cooperative with detectives.

November restaurant inspections released

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

What's going on at your favorite restaurant? You may – or may not – want to know.

Dining out is a huge industry and something nearly everyone in the area does. It's up to county health departments to make sure those restaurants are doing things to keep you happy and healthy.

They inspect – Oakland County does it in-house and Wayne County contracts with Sword Solutions – restaurants during unannounced visits at least twice a year. They're looking for priority violations: the ones that are the worst-of-the-worst that include

See **INSPECTIONS**, Page 9A

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Deputies established a half-mile perimeter around the last sighting of the woman. A drone helped locate the woman.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.



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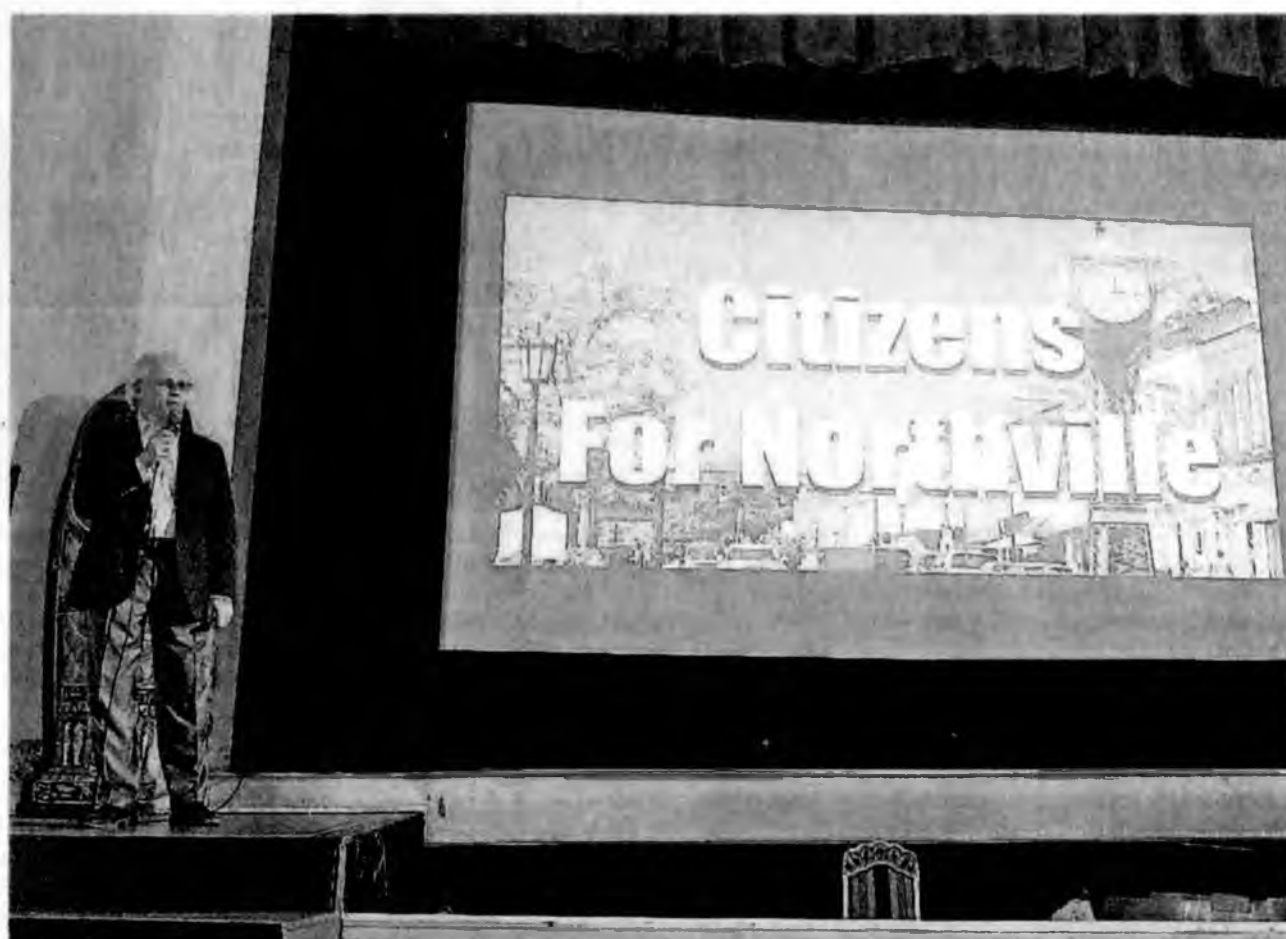
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A resident speaks during a Citizens For Northville meeting in November. COURTESY OF ANTHONY GRINBLAT

feel as much as 100 parking spots short. Furthermore, current parking available to the First Presbyterian Church would no longer be available, which could put the viability of the church at risk.

■ **Proper consideration for the Watermark proposal** of some 300 apartments and townhomes and commercial units on nine acres along Cady Street without having a well developed concept for the balance (39 acres) of the Downs Property is impossible or at a minimum unwise. Watermark, in association with Hunter Pasture, appears to be presenting an improved version of a portion of the same high-density HP June

proposal but only for the Cady Street nine acres. Again, approving The Downs projects in a piecemeal fashion puts the City at risk for unintended outcomes far worse than the Watermark density build-up.

■ What is the best use of the Cady St. property?

There is no data supporting the Watermark apartment-centric concept as the best use of the Cady Street property. The rationale presented thus far states that Northville empty-nesters want to downsize to an apartment and that young people want affordable apartments in downtown Northville (Is \$1,500-\$2,500/month affordable?). We know of no empty-nesters that wish to do so and young people have plenty of apartment opportunities within a mile or two of downtown. Watermark has stated that they do have data regarding housing trends. But even if there is a demand for additional apartment units in and around Northville, such units should be built elsewhere, not on the Cady Street property. Further, additional well thought-out proposals that might include one or more of the following: a limited number of apartments, condos, single family homes and/or commercial should be considered before a determination can be made regarding the best use of this property.

■ **Watermark is apparently a fine company, but with only one product — apartments.** However, there are many other fine companies that offer a wide array of potential concepts. Watermark is not the only game in town. We should not be looking at this proposal as the only way to achieve an adequate revenue stream to the City.

■ **If the Watermark proposal were to move forward, who would own and operate the apartment complex?** Watermark stated that they do own and operate only some of their developments.

Sports gambling at Northville Downs unlikely for now

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Imagine if visitors to Northville Downs could place a \$2 bet on the ponies and a \$100 wager on the Colts, Broncos or any other NFL team.

With the recent legalization of sports gambling in Michigan, adding a sports book to the lone harness-racing venue remaining in the state makes logistical sense.

However, the odds of such a marriage is a long shot due to language in the legislation signed in December by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

As the law stands now, only the three existing casinos in Detroit — Greektown, MGM Grand and Motor City — and tribal casinos spread across the state would be allowed to apply for a sports-gambling license.

"There would have to be an amendment to the current law for (Northville Downs) to be eligible to apply for a license," Michigan Gaming Board Communications Director Mary Kay Bean said.

This reality frustrates Downs owner Mike Carlo, who has been looking to add a complementary form of gambling to his downtown Northville track to help boost business during a time when horse racing's fan base is aging faster than millennials are latching onto it.

"I can only hope so," Carlo said, when asked if one day his establishment would be granted a sports-betting license. "It's about time sports betting has been legalized. It's good to see the governor taking a proactive stance."

"I'm sure there are people in southeastern Michigan who would rather have a (sports-betting) venue closer to their home so they wouldn't have to drive downtown every time," he said.

The 50-acre property that hosts Northville Downs is enduring a pending sale to residential developer Hunter Pasture Homes, however, the transaction has been anything but a runaway due to hang-ups in the

developer's efforts to get site plans approved by Northville's government.

Carlo has vowed to relocate the harness racing venue to another site not far from Northville if the property where the track currently sits is ultimately sold.

"We're in the game and we're definitely planning on staying in the game," he said.

Whitmer signed House Bills 4311-12, 4916-18, 4307 and 4308 into law, legalizing Internet gaming and sports betting through Michigan's casinos. Revenue from online gaming and sports betting will support the school aid fund and First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund.

"My top priority in signing this legislation was protecting and investing in the School Aid Fund, because our students deserve leaders who put their education first," said Whitmer. "Thanks in part to the hard work and leadership of Senator Hertel and Representative Warren, these bills will put more dollars in Michigan classrooms and increase funding for firefighters battling cancer."

"This is a real bipartisan win for our state."

While Whitmer previously had stated her disapproval for legal sports betting in fear that it would take away from Michigan Lottery revenue, she signed the bill and put it into law.

Studies have shown that legal sports betting does not have a negative effect on lottery numbers in other states, which is perhaps a big reason why Whitmer has changed her stance on the issue.

Michigan became the 11th state to legal sports betting. The bill, HB 4307, sets a tax rate of 8.4 percent. Commercial casinos in Detroit will be subject to an additional 3.25 percent city tax.

The bill that Whitmer signed doesn't actually state anything about legalizing "brick-and-mortar" casinos. Sports betting at brick-and-mortar casinos was actually legal in the state when the PASPA ruling took effect last May.

Tax lowered

Class III gaming in Michigan (which sports betting would fall under) was taxed at 22 percent. Now that sports betting has been set at an 8.4 percent tax rate, casinos will be ready to offer sports betting.

Licensing fees are set at \$100,000 with a \$50,000 fee each year after the license is issued (plus a \$5,000 initial fee and a \$2,500 annual fee to state regulators).

The Michigan Department of Treasury estimates that this legalization will bring in \$19 million in new revenue to Michigan. This additional revenue will bolster the School Aid Fund by \$4.8 million and invest an additional \$4 million into the FRPCF, which provides weekly workers' compensation wage loss and medical benefits to qualified first responders that have developed certain cancers.

Additionally, this bill package allows tribal casinos to participate in online gaming and sports betting at an equal level to the Detroit casinos. This revenue will support important tribal community activities.

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



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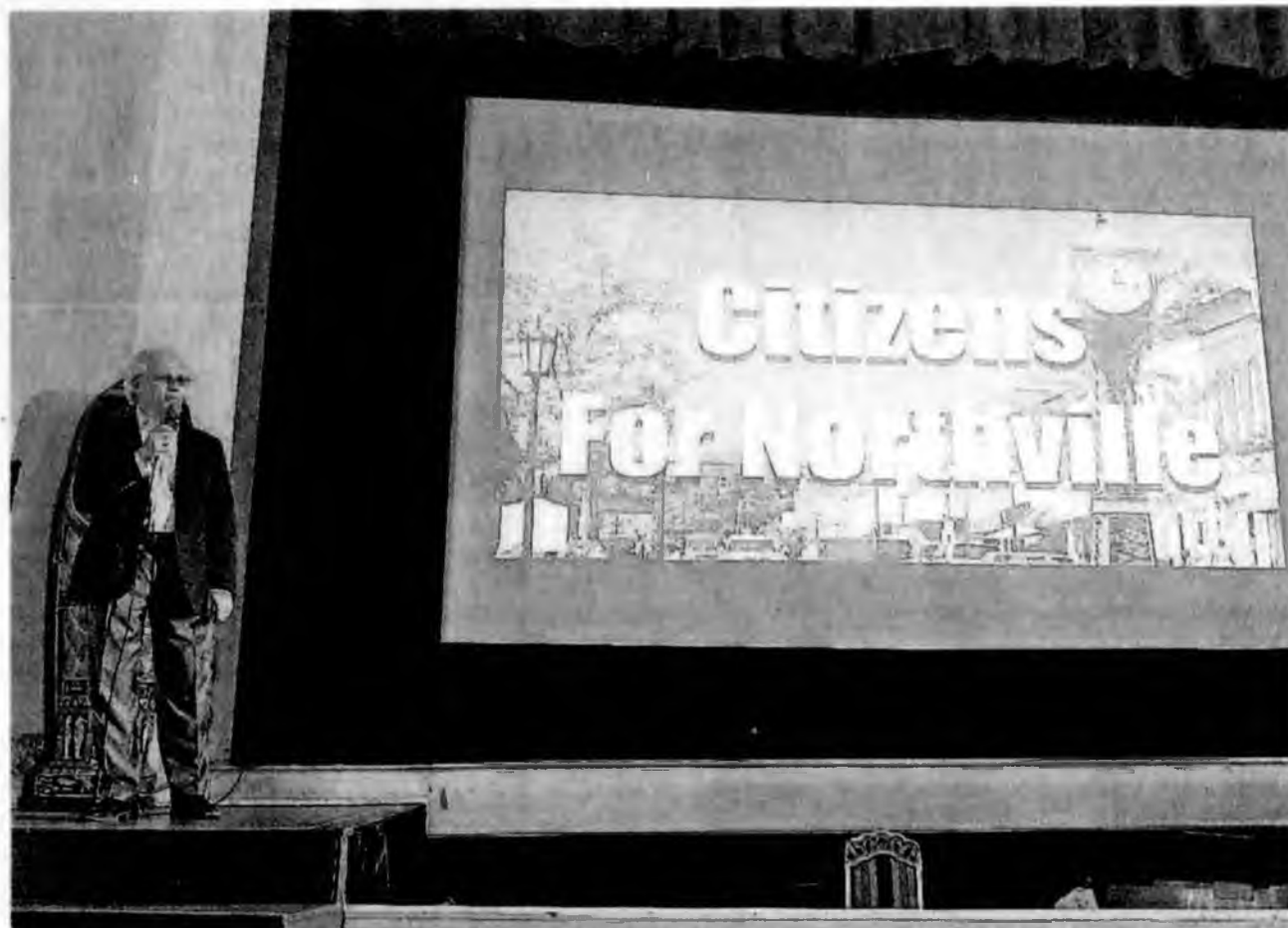
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A resident speaks during a Citizens For Northville meeting in November. COURTESY OF ANTHONY GRINBLAT

feel as much as 100 parking spots short. Furthermore, current parking available to the First Presbyterian Church would no longer be available, which could put the viability of the church at risk.

■ **Proper consideration for the Watermark proposal** of some 300 apartments and townhomes and commercial units on nine acres along Cady Street without having a well developed concept for the balance (39 acres) of the Downs Property is impossible or at a minimum unwise. Watermark, in association with Hunter Pasteur, appears to be presenting an improved version of a portion of the same high-density HP June

proposal but only for the Cady Street nine acres. Again, approving The Downs projects in a piecemeal fashion puts the City at risk for unintended outcomes far worse than the Watermark density build-up.

What is the best use of the Cady St. property?

There is no data supporting the Watermark apartment-centric concept as the best use of the Cady Street property. The rationale presented thus far states that Northville empty-nesters want to downsize to an apartment and that young people want affordable apartments in downtown Northville (Is \$1,500-\$2,500/month affordable?). We know of no empty-nesters that wish to do so and young people have plenty of apartment opportunities within a mile or two of downtown. Watermark has stated that they do have data regarding housing trends. But even if there is a demand for additional apartment units in and around Northville, such units should be built elsewhere, not on the Cady Street property. Further, additional well thought-out proposals that might include one or more of the following: a limited number of apartments, condos, single family homes and/or commercial should be considered before a determination can be made regarding the best use of this property.

■ **Watermark is apparently a fine company, but with only one product — apartments.** However, there are many other fine companies that offer a wide array of potential concepts. Watermark is not the only game in town. We should not be looking at this proposal as the only way to achieve an adequate revenue stream to the City.

■ **If the Watermark proposal were to move forward, who would own and operate the apartment complex?** Watermark stated that they do own and operate only some of their developments.

Sports gambling at Northville Downs unlikely for now

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Imagine if visitors to Northville Downs could place a \$2 bet on the ponies and a \$100 wager on the Colts, Broncos or any other NFL team.

With the recent legalization of sports gambling in Michigan, adding a sports book to the lone harness-racing venue remaining in the state makes logistical sense.

However, the odds of such a marriage is a long shot due to language in the legislation signed in December by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

As the law stands now, only the three existing casinos in Detroit — Greektown, MGM Grand and Motor City — and tribal casinos spread across the state would be allowed to apply for a sports-gambling license.

"There would have to be an amendment to the current law for (Northville Downs) to be eligible to apply for a license," Michigan Gaming Board Communications Director Mary Kay Bean said.

This reality frustrates Downs owner Mike Carlo, who has been looking to add a complementary form of gambling to his downtown Northville track to help boost business during a time when horse racing's fan base is aging faster than millennials are latching onto it.

"I can only hope so," Carlo said, when asked if one day his establishment would be granted a sports-betting license. "It's about time sports betting has been legalized. It's good to see the governor taking a proactive stance."

"I'm sure there are people in southeastern Michigan who would rather have a (sports-betting) venue closer to their home so they wouldn't have to drive downtown every time," he said.

The 50-acre property that hosts Northville Downs is enduring a pending sale to residential developer Hunter Pasteur Homes, however, the transaction has been anything but a runaway due to hang-ups in the

developer's efforts to get site plans approved by Northville's government.

Carlo has vowed to relocate the harness racing venue to another site not far from Northville if the property where the track currently sits is ultimately sold.

"We're in the game and we're definitely planning on staying in the game," he said.

Whitmer signed House Bills 4311-12, 4916-18, 4307 and 4308 into law, legalizing Internet gaming and sports betting through Michigan's casinos. Revenue from online gaming and sports betting will support the school aid fund and First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund.

"My top priority in signing this legislation was protecting and investing in the School Aid Fund, because our students deserve leaders who put their education first," said Whitmer. "Thanks in part to the hard work and leadership of Senator Hertel and Representative Warren, these bills will put more dollars in Michigan classrooms and increase funding for firefighters battling cancer."

"This is a real bipartisan win for our state."

While Whitmer previously had stated her disapproval for legal sports betting in fear that it would take away from Michigan Lottery revenue, she signed the bill and put it into law.

Studies have shown that legal sports betting does not have a negative effect on lottery numbers in other states, which is perhaps a big reason why Whitmer has changed her stance on the issue.

Michigan became the 11th state to legal sports betting. The bill, HB 4307, sets a tax rate of 8.4 percent. Commercial casinos in Detroit will be subject to an additional 3.25 percent city tax.

The bill that Whitmer signed doesn't actually state anything about legalizing "brick-and-mortar" casinos. Sports betting at brick-and-mortar casinos was actually legal in the state when the PASPA ruling took effect last May.

Tax lowered

Class III gaming in Michigan (which sports betting would fall under) was taxed at 22 percent. Now that sports betting has been set at an 8.4 percent tax rate, casinos will be ready to offer sports betting.

Licensing fees are set at \$100,000 with a \$50,000 fee each year after the license is issued (plus a \$5,000 initial fee and a \$2,500 annual fee to state regulators).

The Michigan Department of Treasury estimates that this legalization will bring in \$19 million in new revenue to Michigan. This additional revenue will bolster the School Aid Fund by \$4.8 million and invest an additional \$4 million into the FRPCF, which provides weekly workers' compensation wage loss and medical benefits to qualified first responders that have developed certain cancers.

Additionally, this bill package allows tribal casinos to participate in online gaming and sports betting at an equal level to the Detroit casinos. This revenue will support important tribal community activities.

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



Reflecting on 25 years in South Lyon education

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When Melissa Baker was searching for her first teaching job in 1991, it was slim pickings.

Now there is a critical shortage of teachers.

It is just one of a myriad of changes Baker has seen in a nearly 30-year career in education, almost all of which has been spent in South Lyon Schools, where she stepped down as superintendent last month.

"It is heartbreaking that we don't have people going into this amazing field," she said. "It is hard, hard work, and we don't celebrate the good enough in education."

Baker announced her resignation this fall from the top spot in South Lyon to take a position at the Metro Bureau, where she will continue to work in education.

It is important work that is full of both great rewards and challenges, she noted and has evolved as she has over the years.

Climbing the ladder

Baker felt destined to be a teacher; her mom and aunts were educators, her uncle was an assistant dean at the University of North Carolina and opened his own research and teaching corporation. Her family was all about education and service.

After graduating from Ohio State University with her elementary education degree, she taught kindergarten at a Catholic school in Detroit and as a substitute in and around South Lyon for a year before landing a full-time job as a fifth grade teacher at Bartlett.

She would subsequently teach every elementary grade but first, and was on a track to climb the ladder, attaining her master's degree in educational leadership at Eastern Michigan and then education specialist credentials from Oakland University.

In 1999, she moved into an administrative role at what was then Centennial Elementary, but the following year, left to be a principal at Roosevelt Elementary in Livonia. But she missed South Lyon and returned in 2002 to serve as



Melissa Baker, who is leaving her position as South Lyon superintendent, speaks Dec. 20 about her long career in education. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

principal at Kent Lake Elementary for two years before moving over to the central office. There she served in assistant superintendent capacities for more than a decade before taking the reins in the top job in 2015.

More trauma, burdens on teachers, less money

She has missed being in the classroom, but has met her goal of working with staff, keeping a hand in curriculum and still enjoying interactions with students, whose challenges have also increased over the years.

While kids always have had individual needs to be met, Baker said teachers' workloads have a heavier focus on social and emotional health of children these days, in addition to the academic piece.

"Kids come with poverty, special needs and over the course of 25 years, more students are coming to us with trauma," she said. "I wish I knew why, it's worrisome... There is so much more that is put on teachers now."

Each student requires a different dollar amount to educate as well. A student in special education might need a gen-

eral education teacher in additions to a special needs teacher as well as support services.

This is particularly frustrating in a district like South that gets Michigan's base foundation allowance of \$8,111 per pupil and has inequity with the highest funded districts receiving as much as \$12,000 per student. Neighboring Novi receives about \$729 more per student than South Lyon, equating to \$6 million more per year.

"Until we get to a weighted formula and away from Proposal A, we will have strong differences in the state of Michigan," Baker noted. "It will take the government to really understand and parents and legislators to say, 'Your zip code should not determine your per pupil dollar amount.'"

In the meantime, she will hope for no education funding cuts from the state and remain grateful that South Lyon voters have supported bonds in the district to avoid having to draw from the general fund for capital improvements.

Baker hopes, too, that in addition to taking a look at education funding, legislators will reconsider a state law set to take effect this year that retains students in third grade who are not reading

at grade level.

"Research says there is nothing positive about retention for students and that should never be an answer," Baker said. "I appreciate the intent, but I support coaching and funding more literacy support, not retention."

Good and bad with technology

That support is essential not just at school, she notes, but at home where students need to be read to and exposed to extensive vocabulary.

Parents can also be an advocate for their child by taking a team approach with the school and working collaboratively and honoring that teachers are doing what they think is best for children.

"Parents trust the school for the most part, they are sending their most special gift to it, but what has changed is the rapid amount of information," she said. "My parents just had a report card, they didn't have social media."

Technology, she added, is a great advantage in the ability to gather data, present information and problem solve, but she notes it has its pitfalls for students who in the past could escape issues at school when they went home, but now "it just doesn't turn off for kids, whether it is cyberbullying, or just being on the phones too much."

Even with the challenges in a new day and age, Baker believes the future is bright. She and her family, which includes husband Jim, former Huron Valley superintendent and current assistant superintendent in the Lakeview School District in Battle Creek, are doing what they can to support the power of education and she is excited about continuing the work at the Metro Bureau, where she hopes to impact student learning and teaching in a different light.

"The future is great in South Lyon," she said. "It's a great district with a great staff. Thank you to the entire South Lyon community. You have helped me grow and learn."

George Heitsch was hired as the district's interim superintendent until a permanent replacement is found. Officials hope to have a new superintendent by July.

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Ascension

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Ascension Michigan

Meet the Huron Valley 2019 Citizen of the Year

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Todd Hibberd is the 2019 Huron Valley Citizen of the Year, recognized for his extraordinary volunteer efforts.

Hibberd, who has a long history of giving his time to help others, was nominated by Denise Caprara for his commitment to the Village of Milford and selected by a committee working on behalf of the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce.

"He's always the first at an event, the last to leave, always with a smile on his face and a wonderful attitude," Caprara said. "If I could be more like him, I would be a better person."

Hibberd has been volunteering at the annual Milford Memories for nearly 20 years, working in the beer tent. He also volunteers for other Milford events including the Currents Music Festival and Brewed in Michigan.

He is active in his church, St. Mary's, and also works on behalf of the elderly and animals, volunteering at both senior citizen homes and animal rescues.

Hibberd, a handyman and builder

with his own business specializing in historical home renovation, said people often approach him at events and ask him how he maintains his calmness and positive attitude.

"Milford Memories is a madhouse and you have to keep a smile on your face and make sure everyone is having a good time," he said. "It is the joy of volunteerism. One of the best ways I can describe it is always be a better version of yourself every day. My better version is to always have faith in your life. If you have faith in your life, so many of these things come natural."

Jennifer Hill, special events and communications manager with Huron Valley Chamber of the Commerce, noted that Hibberd quietly works behind the scenes as well, in ways people often don't know, being a mentor, assisting special needs adults and helping raise funds for individuals in need.

"I think he shows people how to volunteer, with spirit, a positive attitude and a commitment that it's important," Hill said. "I know it rubs off on people because he takes it very seriously."

Hibberd is grateful to have received



Todd Hibberd, center, recently was honored by the Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce as the 2019 Citizen of the Year. COURTESY OF JENNIFER HILL

the honor as 2019 Citizen of the Year.

"It's been a heartwarming experience being recognized for my efforts," he said. "It's very important to be a better

version of yourself, and I do that through volunteer work and giving to others."

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Papa Romano's in Milford closing after mere months

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It appears the return of Papa Romano's to Milford was short-lived.

The Commerce Township-based pizza chain opened a new location inside the WOW! gas station at 100 S. Milford Road last summer, including a Mr. Pita. But the location has closed just a few months after it returned to Milford.

The space inside the gas station convenience store has merchandise in front of it and the television screens above it are off. Several Papa Romano's pizza boxes remain stacked inside, though there's no creating of pizza or Bambino Bread. The location still appears on the Papa Romano's website, though the

phone number listed appears to be disconnected. Milford is not listed as a Mr. Pita location.

The location was the return of Papa Romano's to Milford after a decade absence. In an interview last summer with Hometown Life, a spokesman for the company said the company was excited to return to Milford.

A message was left with the company seeking comment on the closure but was not returned by press time.

There are still Papa Romano's locations in several surrounding communities, including Livonia, Farmington Hills and Wayne.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.

Plymouth Ice Festival promises fun

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Predicted spring-like temperatures this week shouldn't melt the excitement for this weekend's 2020 Plymouth Ice Festival.

The annual winter extravaganza that features many of the world's top ice sculptors practicing their craft will be open from 5-10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, but the sculptures will be available for viewing 24 hours a day during the festival.

Early weather reports project rain and a high of 52 degrees Friday with temperatures dipping into the low-40s on Saturday and Sunday.

The festival is advertised as an optimal cold-weather event that attracts shoppers to Plymouth businesses.

Among the highlights are:

■ **Opening ceremony and ribbon-cutting on Friday at 7 p.m.** Visitors are encouraged to join City of Plymouth commission members, Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise and State Rep. Jeff Noble at the opening-night event.

■ **Interactive ice sculptures:** Visitors can get their photo taken throughout the festival with the most eye-popping ice creations. Selfies are encouraged with the sculptures that are guaranteed to blow your mind.

■ **Dueling chainsaw competition:** In this fan-pleasing contest between ice carvers, artists are given 15 minutes and one block of ice to create a blue-ribbon sculpture.

For more information on available hotels, restaurants and shopping deals, visit the Downtown Plymouth website.

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Birmingham grad's film on shortlist for Oscar nod

Susan Bromley [hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Three years ago, Stefanie Abel Horowitz considered giving up her dream of making it big as an artist.

She left New York City and moved back into her parents' Michigan home at 30, teaching pilates at the Townsend Hotel.

Now, the 2004 Birmingham Groves graduate is in contention for an Oscar nomination with her live-action short film, "Sometimes, I Think About Dying."

The film, the second short film Abel Horowitz has directed, has already far exceeded any of her expectations by making it on the Oscar shortlist, which she learned Dec. 16 from an Instagram direct message.

"My old theater partner said, 'Holy s**t, congrats on the shortlist,'" Abel Horowitz said. "I screamed in the car and I called everybody. I called my Mom and I couldn't get the words out, and I called the producer and had to act all cool. And then I switched over to Katy (Wright-Mead, who plays the lead in the film) and she was crying, and I said, 'I know.'"

Wright-Mead co-wrote the adapted screenplay with Abel Horowitz, and plays Fran, a severely depressed woman, in the 12-minute movie that packs an emotional wallop.

Starring opposite Wright-Mead is Jim Sarbh, who plays Robert, Fran's co-worker and romantic interest.

"Sometimes, I Think About Dying" was originally written as a play by Kevin Armento. Abel Horowitz directed the 2013 stage production in New York City.

Abel Horowitz graduated in 2008 from Emory University in Atlanta, where she studied theater and spent the next eight years in New York City doing off-off Broadway work, but came to a crossroads.

"I was feeling this is a very hard life. Living in the most expensive city in America doing experimental theater is not a way to make money," she said.

Although she loved her company and the work they did, she wondered if she loved theater enough to always need to work a second job, and decided to move back to Michigan.

But the desire to create wouldn't die.

Instead, she shot her first short film, "Up North," in Oscoda, and a short time later, moved to Los Angeles, where in 2017 she began to consider "Sometimes, I Think About Dying" for her second short film.

Abel Horowitz and crew shot the film over five days in May 2018 in Maine, on a total budget of \$17,000, with every location free except for a diner.

While there were many difficult small moments, they are mostly forgotten, except a scene in which Sarbh, who doesn't have a driver's license, had to drive an old vehicle with an engine so loud he couldn't press the gas pedal and speak at the same time.



Abel Horowitz



The cast and crew of "Sometimes, I Think About Dying" work on set in Maine. Stefanie Abel Horowitz, a Birmingham native, left, directed the film, which now has a place on the shortlist for an Oscar nomination. COURTESY OF STEFANIE ABEL HOROWITZ

Abel Horowitz said the sound was frustrating as she and crew members were lying in the back of the truck to film the scene.

In general, she said, directing is all decision-making, and the most important decision was just to make the film, which just over a year ago was accepted into the Sundance Film Festival, an Oscar-qualifying festival.

Out of 191 live-action short films that qualified for Oscar consideration, "Sometimes I Think About Dying" was one of only 10 to be shortlisted.

From Jan. 2-7, voters in the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences will vote on films that will make the final five, with nominees announced Jan. 13.

Another round of voting then takes place, with the winner announced during a broadcast of the 92nd Academy Awards on Feb. 9 from Los Angeles.

Abel Horowitz is hoping "Sometimes, I Think About Dying," the shortest of the films nominated in the live-action short category, is among the final five nominees, helped by buzz from those who have viewed it and its resonance with Academy voters.

Abel Horowitz said she chose to direct the film because she is interested in how people connect, what intimacy is and feels like, and how we share with people.

This film, she said, is about vulnerability and empa-

thy, and being there for each other.

"The universal message about this movie is we are all sad or scared someone won't love us or something about us makes us wrong or bad," Abel Horowitz said. "I see from comments that people respond to sharing the feelings that (Fran) has, they want more closeness and more intimacy, more shared experiences and more feeling like you're not alone. ... That is part of the discussion."

"Whatever scale of darkness and sadness you have, someone creating a space for you is a solution to so much of our emotional pain."

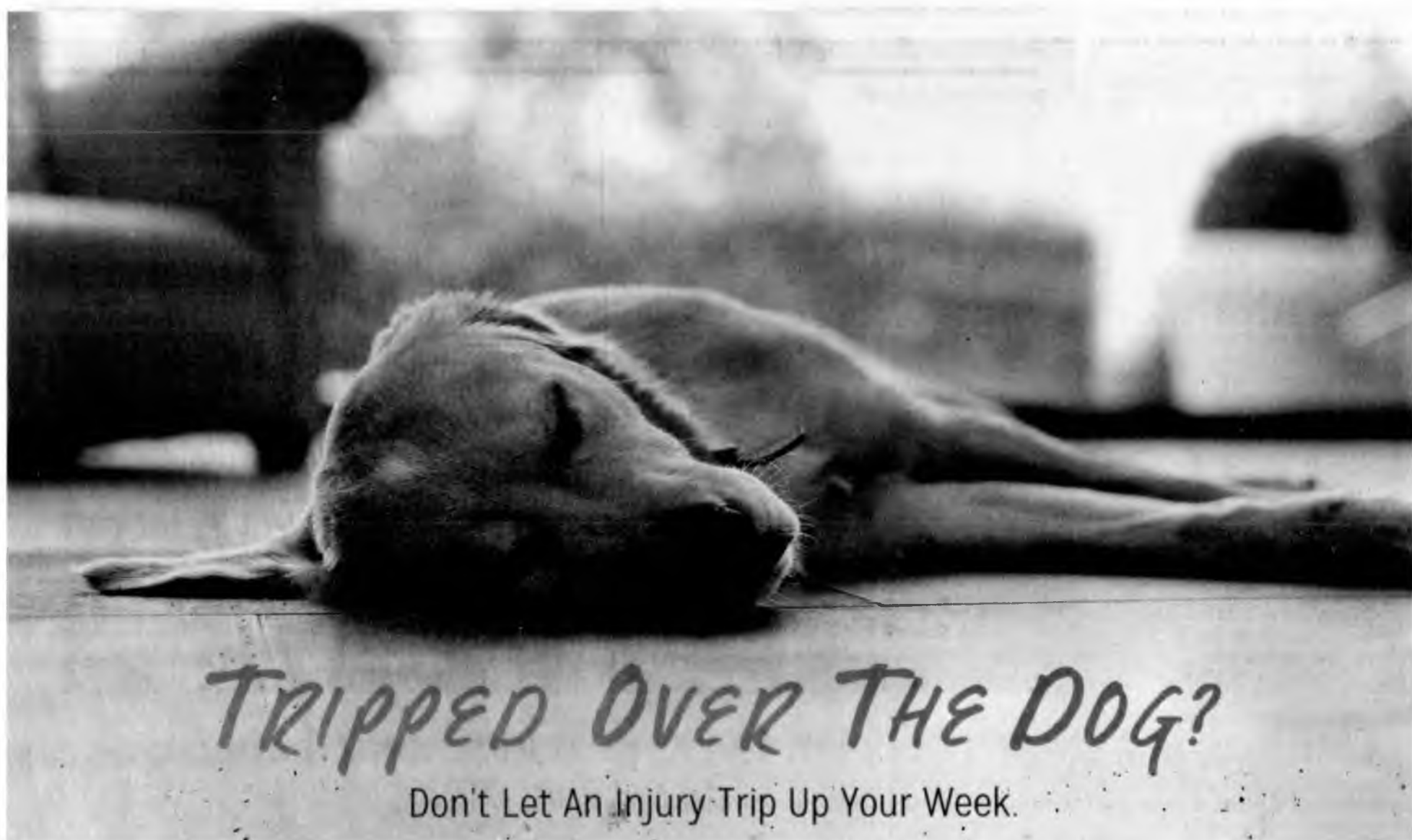
Abel Horowitz said she does not have depression, but she is feeling a bit anxious about the Jan. 13 announcement.

She will be in Vancouver that day, shadowing a director for a TV show, and is looking forward to continuing her creative endeavors and chasing her dream as she encourages others to do the same.

"Don't give up," she said. "Do the craziest, dumbest things you can think of, they might just work. ..."

"It will be very cool if we are nominated and I will be thrilled out of my mind, but if not, this has been the most wonderful ride we could not expect."

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



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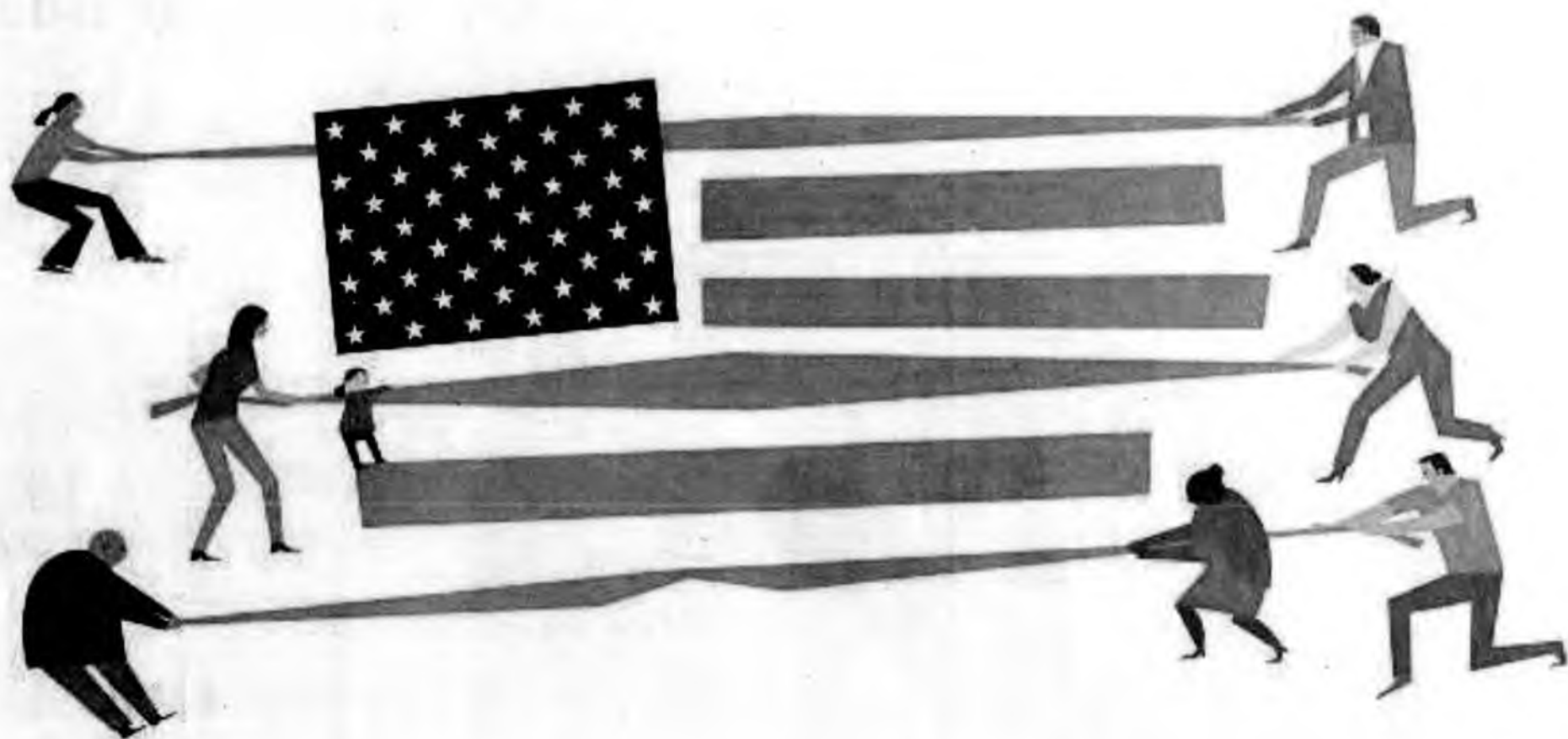
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Which affects elections more: hard work during the campaign or political party affiliation? GETTY IMAGES

Will political changes of 2019 stick in 2020?

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For much of western Wayne and Oakland counties, change has come.

Just look at 19th District State Rep. Laurie Pohutsky, 7th District State Senator Dayna Polehanki, Farmington Hills Mayor Vicki Barnett, Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan, U.S. Congresswoman Haley Stevens, U.S. Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin, the Oakland County Commission and 40th District State Representative Mari Manoogian.

They're all Democrats, and they all represent flipped seats.

There's another election on the horizon this November.

The question is, will change last?

How change came

Pohutsky, for instance, is the first Democrat to land her seat since the 1970s.

In large part, she said, she got there by willing to push the political status quo.

"It doesn't have to be business-as-usual politics," she said. "I think that's encouraging people to vote for a type of candidate that has not, historically, done really well here in Livonia."

But it's a lot of little things too. Pohutsky, Stevens, Slotkin and Manoogian ran in the 2018 midterms when the voting trend nationally skewed toward women and left-leaning candidates.

Metro Detroit is getting younger and perhaps wants younger candidates, another plus for these women.

But local political players say what really makes someone a good candidate, regardless of party affiliation, is being willing to put their boots on the ground and assure people they have their neighborhoods in mind, whether they're working at city hall, in Lansing, or in Washington, D.C.

"Laurie is one of the hardest-working candidates I've ever seen," Kate Shishkovski, president of the Livonia Democratic Club, said of Pohutsky. "She is one that goes out and door knocks, she has the coffee hours, she reaches out to constituents, she makes herself available and she's very intelligent."

Pohutsky said she knocked on over 17,000 doors in 2019. Brosnan, on her way to becoming Livonia's mayor, knocked on 47,000 doors. In close elections like theirs, the work put in by these Democrats in a traditionally-Republican community can push an atypical, change-making candidate over the top.

"We just knock on people's doors and find out what issues matter to them and what they think with what's going on in Lansing, any issues they've been having," Pohutsky said. "I think that that matters. People know that whether or not they agree with every stance that I take, I'm working for them."

But in today's polarized political climate, these Democrats who flipped seats might have an especially uphill battle to get re-elected.

How long can change last?

"My overwhelming attitude toward it is, regardless of what happens at the national level, I work for you here in the State of Michigan," Pohutsky said.

But, the national social issues that created today's "us versus them" mentality can seep into offices where partisanship doesn't necessarily matter so much, like a city council seat.



SUBMITTED



HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS



19th District State Rep. Laurie Pohutsky, top left, Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan, and U.S. Congresswoman Haley Stevens are among several Democrats who represent flipped seats. Will the changes stick when November comes around?

"The first question you get asked is 'Are you a Democrat or a Republican?' or 'Are you pro-life or pro-choice?'" said Brandon McCullough, a Democrat who was elected to Livonia City Council in 2019. "I would explain that it's Livonia. It's not partisan."

Wild rumors circulated on both political sides.

McCullough faced accusations of wanting to turn Livonia into a sanctuary city during the election, which he says isn't true.

Laura Toy, a Republican who ran to be Livonia's mayor, dealt with stories linking her to President Donald Trump and her participation in his inauguration. That's also not true.

"The climate is so poor right now," Toy said. "We're not Washington, D.C. We're local Livonia, where we've always stayed positive."

Job responsibilities as an elected official depend on the position; the politics involved with navigating the job differ, too.

Partisan issues are more at the forefront for those in Congress like Stevens and Slotkin.

But those party affiliations trickle down to state races regardless.

The president's impeachment may spell a more competitive race for Pohutsky and Manoogian, who serve at the state level, just because they're Democrats.

"I think that national politics can certainly seep into local politics," said David Dulio, a professor of political science at Oakland University. "I don't think that there is a large number of voters out there that say to themselves, 'I don't like Trump so I'm voting Democrat for the city council.'"

"But I think that it can enter into somebody's calculus."

From Birmingham to Livonia to Novi, local officials say their partisanship doesn't matter in a mayor's office or council chambers.

The argument can also be made that being in the state House versus the U.S. House doesn't mean the same thing on a partisan level.

"There's no Democratic or Republican way to pick up trash," Brosnan said. "I can't think of a single issue during my last term on city council that had a Democratic or Republican leaning."

Whether trash pickup is partisan or not, candidates said voters appreciate having someone who represents their

values, no matter how partisan the office is or isn't.

And today, that can mean caring about a state representative's opinion on impeachment or Second Amendment rights.

"I wasn't involved in politics at all, even in terms of any activism, up until that 2016 national election," said Sonia Patel, president of the Canton Democratic Club, who mostly helps local Democrats. "I think there are people more willing to run now because of that, I think there are people getting more active because of it."

Regardless, Pohutsky, who is facing a reelection campaign along with Manoogian, Slotkin and Stevens this year, said she's up for whatever lies ahead.

"I always assume that this is going to be competitive and I've never taken any of that for granted," Pohutsky said. "So I'm just doing my job and working as hard as I possibly can to represent the people of this area."

"I'm well aware it's going to be a hard fight."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby_tank.



A Novi Public Library volunteer stacks some books in the Friends of the Library used book area. In Novi, children's television shows and thriller and superhero films were the most popularly circulated items of 2019. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Library

Continued from Page 1A

"We are very excited to see that our numbers have steadily increased over the past three years," Dana Brataniec, NPL communications director, wrote in an email. "With the introduction of downloadable materials, we have seen a huge jump in the number of items circulated throughout the library."

This past year's circulation number of 937,715 represents an increase of more than 100,000 items over 2018's final haul of 820,900 items. In 2016-17, the library recorded 787,063.

The top 10 most circulated items from the Novi Library in 2019:

- 1 "PAW Patrol: Summer Rescues" (DVD)
- 2 "Hotel Artemis" (Blu-ray)
- 3 "Olaf's Frozen Adventure" (DVD)
- 4 "Avengers: Infinity War" (DVD)
- 5 "PAW Patrol: Halloween Heroes" (DVD)
- 6 "Mule" (DVD)
- 7 "PAW Patrol: The Great Pirate Rescue!" (DVD)
- 8 "Novi Storytime Backpack #32 Construction" (Kit)
- 9 "Peppermint" (DVD)
- 10 "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (DVD)

Novi's top five fiction in 2019:

- 1 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens
- 2 "The Reckoning" by John Grisham
- 3 "Dark Sacred Night" by Michael Connelly
- 4 "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng
- 5 "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah

Novi's top five non-fiction in 2019:

- 1 "Becoming" by Michelle Obama
- 2 "Educated" by Tara Westover
- 3 "Girl, Wash Your Face" by Rachel Hollis
- 4 "Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup" by John Carreyrou
- 5 "The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business" by Charles Duhigg

Trending in Birmingham

At Baldwin Library in Birmingham, roughly 555,000 items were checked out in 2019, representing significant increases over the 510,801 items in 2018, and 481,799 items in 2017.

Associate Director Rebekah Craft cites multiple reasons for the increase, including a recovery from a renovation of adult services at the facility and a return to the shelves of 45,000 items that had been kept in storage and a new library catalog system that gives auto-

matic renewals.

She also anticipates a rise in circulation numbers this year and next with completion of a youth room expansion and another 40,000 items returned to the shelves.

Digital items being checked out have also increased significantly, making up more than a quarter of all items circulated at Baldwin.

Top 10 circulated items in 2019 at Baldwin Library in Birmingham:

- 1 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens (novel)
- 2 "Becoming" by Michelle Obama (memoir)
- 3 "Mary Poppins Returns" (film)
- 4 "A Star is Born" (film)
- 5 "Science" (magazine)
- 6 "People" (magazine)
- 7 "Nine Perfect Strangers" by Liane Moriarty (novel)
- 8 "Aladdin" (film)
- 9 "Bohemian Rhapsody" (film)
- 10 "Vice" (film)

Top 5 fiction in Birmingham:

- 1 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens
- 2 "Nine Perfect Strangers" by Liane Moriarty
- 3 "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng
- 4 "Mrs. Everything" by Jennifer Weiner
- 5 "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelid

Top 5 non-fiction in Birmingham

- 1 "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean
- 2 "The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers who Brought the American Ideal West" by David McCullough
- 3 "Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup" by John Carreyrou
- 4 "Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Company That Addicted America" by Beth Macy
- 5 "Girl, Wash Your Face" by Rachel Hollis

Top 5 biography/memoir in Birmingham

- 1 "Becoming" by Michelle Obama
- 2 "Educated" by Tara Westover
- 3 "Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love" by Dani Shapiro
- 4 "Save me the Plums: My Gourmet Memoir" by Ruth Reichl
- 5 "Life Will Be the Death of Me...and You Too!" by Chelsea Handler

Digital demand in Salem-South Lyon

At the Salem-South Lyon District Library, circulation of physical items has been on the decrease, while check out of digital books and eMagazines are on the uptick.

In 2019, 202,116 physical items were

checked out from SSLDL, compared to 230,883 in 2018, and 266,186 in 2017. However, the number of eBooks jumped from 30,908 in 2017, to 40,189 in 2018 and peaked in 2019 at 48,722. Likewise, eMagazine checkouts have more than doubled from 3,370 in 2017 to 6,877 in 2019.

Director Donna Olson said she believes this year's circulation of physical items saw a decrease because of expansions to the children's area at the library.

The top 10 physical items circulated in 2019 at the Salem-South Lyon Library were:

- 1 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens
- 2 "Educated" by Tara Westover
- 3 "Fairy Tail" (Teen graphic novel)
- 4 "Past Tense" by Lee Child
- 5 "Aquaman" (DVD)
- 6 "Disney Princess" (magazine)
- 7 "Bohemian Rhapsody" (DVD)
- 8 "Look Alive Twenty-Five" a Stephanie Plum novel by Janet Evanovich
- 9 "Pokemon Adventures Diamond and Pearl Platinum" (juvenile graphic novel)
- 10 "Beautiful Music" by Michael Zadorian

The most popular eBook titles checked out during 2019 at SSLDL:

- 1 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens
- 2 "Educated" by Tara Westover
- 3 "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah
- 4 "Nine Perfect Strangers" by Liane Moriarty
- 5 "Tattooist of Auschwitz" by Heather Morris
- 6 "The Alice Network" by Kate Quinn
- 7 "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng
- 8 "Becoming" by Michelle Obama
- 9 "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate

Milford likes a good mystery

In Milford, Library Director Tina Hatch noted that circulation is often cyclical. Through November, the library had 180,732 checked out items, up from the previous year's total of 176,875. Year-end totals were not available.

She attributes the change to increased hours, including on Sundays from September through May, as well as additional budgeting for materials, including e-content and the library eliminating overdue fines in January 2019.

In Milford, the top 10 circulated items were all novels:

- 1 "Look Alive Twenty Five" by Janet Evanovich
- 2 "Long Road to Mercy" by David Baldacci
- 3 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

- 4 "Past Tense" by Lee Child
- 5 "Run Away" by Harlan Coben
- 6 "Reckoning" by John Grisham
- 7 "Spark of Light" by Jodi Picoult
- 8 "Connections in Death" by JD Robb

Top 5 biographies/memoirs in Milford:

- 1 "Becoming" by Michelle Obama
- 2 "Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love" by Dani Shapiro
- 3 "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive" by Stephanie Land
- 4 "Educated" by Tara Westover
- 5 "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance

Top 5 non-fiction in Milford:

- 1 "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean
- 2 "Killing the SS: The Hunt for the Worst War Criminals in History" by Bill O'Reilly
- 3 "Hero Dogs: How a Pack of Rescues, Rejects, and Strays Became America's Greatest Disaster-Search Partners" by Wilma Melville
- 4 "The Plant Paradox Quick and Easy: The 30-Day Plan to Lose Weight, Feel Great, and Live Lectin-Free" by Dr. Steven Gundry
- 5 "Instant Pot Fast and Easy: 100 Simple and Delicious Recipes For Your Instant Pot" by Urvashi Pitre

Baldwin bonus:

Past decade top picks

Baldwin Library staff released their top picks for the past decade. Looking for your next read? Here are some recommendations:

- "City of Thieves" by David Benioff
- "The Dog Stars" by Peter Heller
- "The Dovekeepers" by Alice Hoffman
- "Exit West" by Mohsin Hamid
- "The First Conspiracy" by Brad Meltzer and John Mensch
- "A Little Life" by Hanya Yanagihara
- "Maybe You Should Talk to Someone" by Lori Gottlieb
- "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" by Arundhati Roy
- "The Nature of Crops" by John Warren
- "The Space Between Us" by Thrity Umrigar
- "Tiny Beautiful Things" by Cheryl Strayed
- "The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet" by David Mitchell
- "Vinegar Girl" by Anne Tyler

Check out your library in the new year and happy reading!
Reporter Susan Bromley's favorite read of 2019 was "Lonesome Dove" by Larry McMurtry. Contact her at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412.

New year means time to review finances



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Happy New Year!

As we enter 2020, we will all face our fair share of challenges when it comes to personal finances. My goal in writing this column is to tackle a variety of issues that affect your finances and to provide you the best independent information I can. Of course, it's important to remember that you should apply the information to your individual situation.

When it comes to understanding your personal financial situation, review and redefine your individual goals and objectives from an investment standpoint. To be successful when it comes to investing, you must be able to articulate what you're looking for from your money.

Age is relatively immaterial when it comes to investing because it does not tell you what you should do with your money; it's your goals and objectives that define how you invest.

If you're 90 and you're saving for college for a brand-new great-grandson, your portfolio should mostly contain equity type investments. On the other hand, if you are 60 and need income from your portfolio, your portfolio should contain a sufficient amount of bonds and fixed income investments.

This is a great time of year to make sure you know what you're trying to achieve with your portfolio.

Establishing your risk tolerance level goes hand in hand with establishing your goals and objectives. Risk tolerance is not based upon age but upon time and comfort. Every investment has risk. The key is to understand that risk and make sure your portfolio is diversified from a risk standpoint.

The stock market may be risky and volatile if your goals are one year down the road; the market is a lot less risky if you're looking 15-20 years ahead.

Even investments like CDs and U.S. treasuries have risks to them. No, the U.S. government is not going to default on its obligations, and yes, CDs are insured which means you are going to get your money.

The risk in these investments is that the interest rate is extremely low, which means by the time you pay your taxes and factor in the increased cost of living, your investment is actually losing money when it comes to purchasing power.

If it costs you \$3,000 a month to live today, I can guarantee that 10 years from now your cost of living will be substantially higher. As a result, if your investments don't reflect that reality, you may find that down the road you have the same amount of money; however, it buys substantially less.

Investing is sort of like planning a vacation. When we plan a vacation, we don't pack first and then decide where we want to go. Rather, we decide where we want to go, and then we pack accordingly. The same thing applies to your investments.

Before you buy investments, you first have to know what your goals and objectives are for that money.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is bloomasset-management.com.

Inspections

Continued from Page 1A

spoiled food, incorrect handling and unsanitary conditions.

In the Hometown Life area, 203 public kitchens were cited in November.

The full list can be found on our website, HometownLife.com, as they all cannot fit in print.

Here are the number of establishments in each community that had priority violations:

- 15 in Northville and Northville Township
- Eight in Plymouth and Plymouth Township
- 22 with in Canton
- 21 in Wayne and Westland
- 42 in Livonia
- 34 in the Birmingham/Bloomfield area
- 27 in Farmington and Farmington Hills
- 20 in Novi
- Five in South Lyon and Lyon Township
- Nine in Milford and Highland townships



South Lyon Fire Chief Craig Kaska was honored with a 21-gun salute at South Lyon Cemetery during his funeral services Jan. 4. PHOTOS BY SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Chief

Continued from Page 1A

A South Lyon fire truck carrying his casket trailed a police and motorcycle escort to the South Lyon Cemetery, where a 21-gun salute honored him.

Kaska is survived by his wife Sharon; children Bobby Kaska and Lisa Bashor; grandchildren Leah, Liam, Lincoln and Gage; brother Dale Kaska; and sister April Copeman.

They will forever remember the man they said suffered from Agent Orange exposure and lived longer than doctors expected. He had served as a military police officer during the Vietnam War.

"My father was all about team," Bobby Kaska said.

He and his sister said they grew up at the South Lyon fire hall, feeling their father's love while they learned the value of working for what they wanted and not expecting handouts.

"He was just an amazing man," Lisa Bashor said. "He just wanted to help people."

Kaska served the fire department from 1980 to 2010. He was chief for more than half of those years before he retired.

He also was a member of the Nozzlemen Motorcycle Club, which has raised money for the Great Lakes Burn Camp; a founding member of the South Lyon Panthers football organization; and a freshman football coach at South Lyon High School.

Michael Weir, who now serves as South Lyon's deputy fire chief, met Kaska in 2003.



Kaska served the fire department from 1980 to 2010 and was a member of the Nozzlemen Motorcycle Club and a founding member of the South Lyon Panthers.



South Lyon Fire Chief Craig Kaska died Dec. 30. COURTESY OF THE KASKA FAMILY

"I remember thinking how strong of a personality he had, and later learned how soft of a heart he had," Weir wrote in an email. "Chief Kaska was a caring and committed fire chief that held us accountable while instilling a 'service above self' mentality, one that I strive to impart on our staff today."

"He was a chief, but, more than that, he was a friend that took the time to learn about his employees' lives and families. His passing is a big loss to the city and he will be missed."

Family friend Connie Burke made sure to interview Kaska last summer. She wanted to hear his life story.

Some of his proudest moments as a firefighter included working with about

100 firefighters from the region to stop the Thermofil Inc. plastics fire off of US-23 in the late 1990s and delivering a baby girl at an apartment complex. In retirement, he missed the action and non-stop go.

"He was still very alert," Burke said. "His mind was completely active. He seemed to really light up. He really liked telling those stories."

Kaska told Burke that he couldn't have accomplished what he did without his wife Sharon because she had patience, selective hearing and good booze. Plus, she loved being on a motorcycle with him and traveling Michigan to fish.

Howell resident Chris Jeruzal will

miss his friend's advice and wit the most.

The co-Nozzlemen spent much of their time together.

Kaska, he said, always took the time to coach people and share his knowledge so others could become better people.

He's looking forward to escorting his friend's casket to the cemetery "come hell or high water."

"We're his brothers and that's what brothers do," he said. "That's a motorcycle club tradition and that's what he wanted."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

Livingston road budget includes Old US-23, Clyde Road projects

Jennifer Timar Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livingston County Road Commission officials have budgeted about \$26.4 million to repair roads and bridges as well as work on trails and sidewalks.

Officials adopted the 2020 budget late last month. Depending on the project, either township, county road commission, state or federal funds, or a combination, will cover project costs.

Livingston County Road Commission Managing Director Steve Wasyk said he expects more road projects to happen in 2020, as they wait to find out exactly how much funding they can expect from the state.

Wasyk also said he expects to catch up on projects that were stalled by labor disputes involving unionized employees of Rieth-Riley Construction Co., a firm the county uses for roadwork.

The commission budgeted a total of about \$50.5 million total to cover roadwork, preventative maintenance, equipment and administrative expenses in 2020.

2020 primary county road projects

■ Old US-23 between Spencer Road and Leo Drive in Brighton and Green Oak townships; \$11.6 million to fix and widen the stretch of road to five lanes for about 2 miles. Federal aid will cover about \$1.88 million and Brighton Township will contribute \$3.2 million.

■ Hamburg Road between Winans Lake Road and the Brighton city limit in Hamburg Township; \$1.3 million to repair about 3 miles. The township will cover \$600,000 of the cost.

■ Chilson Road between M-36 and Pettysville Road in Hamburg Township; \$932,000 to repair about 2.5 miles. The township will cover \$400,000 of the cost.

■ Sharpe Road from just east of Fowlerville Road to Cemetery Road in Handy Township; \$254,000 to repair about a half-mile. The township will cover \$110,000.



About 2.5 miles of Chilson Road in Hamburg Township is one of several road projects in the Livingston County Road Commission's adopted 2020 budget. JENNIFER TIMAR/LIVINGSTON DAILY

■ Nicholson Road from near Allen Road to Chase Lake Road in Conway Township; \$219,000 to repair about

1 mile.

■ Patterson Lake Road between Cedar Lake and Toma roads in Putnam Township; \$180,000 to repair about 1 mile. The township will cover \$80,000 of the cost.

■ Pingree Road between Schafer and E. Vines roads in Marion Township; \$153,000 to repair about 1 mile.

■ Clyde Road east of Fenton Road to Tipsico Lake Road in Hartland Township; \$116,000 to repair about 1 mile.

■ Bishop Lake Road from Cunningham Lake Road to a Brighton State Recreation Area park entrance in Hamburg Township; \$61,000 to repair about a half-mile.

Primary and local bridges to be repaired in 2020 with approximate costs

Eager Road bridge in Oceola Township; \$2.2 million. The township will cover \$1 million of the cost to replace the bridge, which failed and was closed to traffic.

Pleasant Valley Road bridge in Brighton Township; \$699,000. The township will cover about \$326,000 of work on the bridge, which failed and was closed to traffic.

Marshall Road bridge in Green Oak Township; \$222,000. Federal aid will cover \$152,000 and state aid will cover \$28,500 of the bridge rehabilitation work.

Rushton Road bridge in Green Oak Township; \$100,000. Federal aid will cover \$68,000 and state aid will cover \$12,750 of the bridge rehabilitation work.

Fairlane Drive bridge in Green Oak Township; \$64,000. Federal aid will cover about \$40,000 and state aid will cover \$7,650 of the bridge rehabilitation work.

Local subdivision roads in special tax assessment districts with completed contracts, with approximate costs

■ Shenandoah subdivisions in Brighton Township; \$1.1 million with a \$990,000 local contribution.

■ DeMaria West in Brighton Township; \$466,000 with a \$400,000 local contribution.

■ Meadowood subdivisions in Brighton Township; \$461,000 with a \$395,000 local contribution.

■ Lake Oak Farms subdivision in Green Oak Township; \$439,000 with a \$375,000 local contribution.

■ Bullard Lake Woods subdivision in Hartland Township; \$183,000 with an approximately \$153,000 local contribution.

■ Curdy Road between Latson and Mack roads in Oceola Township; \$127,000 with a \$110,000 local contribution.

■ Curdy Road between Mack and Argentine roads in Oceola Township; \$127,000 with a \$110,000 local contribution.

Non-motorized projects in 2020

■ Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park extension in Green Oak Township; \$1.5 million with about \$732,000 in federal aid and an approximately \$609,000 local contribution.

■ Sidewalk extension along Grand River Avenue in Genoa Township; \$388,000 with about \$201,000 in federal aid and an approximately \$134,000 local contribution.

In addition, the road commission budgeted \$2.7 million toward repairs to more local roads. Each spring, the road commission helps townships pay to improve primary paved roads by matching 50% of the cost up to \$100,000.

The road commission also budgeted an additional \$583,000 for miscellaneous projects expected to come up throughout the course of 2020.

County road officials expect to receive at least \$22 million in state Michigan Transportation Fund gas and registration tax revenue. That estimate is based on the amount they received in 2019.

Wasyk said the \$22 million is a "conservative estimate."

"Typically, we get about 3% to 5% more year-to-year," he said. "We'll budget that money where we're more confident it will be there."

The road commission's total budget is up about \$2.5 million from 2019.

Wasyk said some road repairs that were scheduled to be done will carry over into 2020 due to a labor dispute.

Operating Engineers Local 324 workers, who operate heavy equipment and asphalt plants, went on strike against Rieth-Riley, an Indiana-based firm that works on state projects, as well as projects across Livingston County.

"They're still at a standstill, but they're telling us they will be ready to go, one way or another, on projects that are under contract," Wasyk said.

"Unfortunately, Rieth-Riley stalled some projects, but hopefully we'll get them this year," road commission Steve Crane said at Monday's budget hearing.

Wasyk said another big reason budgeted expenses are up this year is an increase in federal aid.

Federal aid will cover a total of about \$3 million in road repairs and bridge work in the county in 2020. That is up approximately \$1.7 million from 2019.

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Fillet**
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Save \$1.50

Boar's Head
OvenGold
Turkey
\$7.99 lb
Save \$3.00

Dearborn
Honey
Turkey
\$5.99 lb
Save \$4.00

Kowalski
Olive Loaf
\$5.49 lb
Save \$1.90

Old Tyme
American Cheese
Yellow or White
\$4.49 lb
Save \$1.50

USDA Premium
Choice Angus
New York
Strip Steak
\$9.99 lb
Save \$7.00

Fresh All Natural
Leg of Lamb
\$6.99 lb
Save \$2.00

Fresh All Natural
Bone-in Center
Cut Pork Chop
\$2.99 lb
Save \$1.50

Premium
Fresh All Natural
Chicken
Leg Quarter
89¢ lb
Save 40¢

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Save \$2.00

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CC wrestling continues dominant streak

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The reigning Division 1 state champions have not let up.

Starting the season with two wins and two first-place finishes at the Oakland County Tournament and the Brecksville Invitational, the Detroit Catholic Central wrestling team con-

tinued its dominance in its first event in 2020, taking first place at the Catholic Central Invitational.

The Shamrocks recorded a tournament-leading 284 points, above Davison (225) and Brighton (195), both of which are top-20 wrestling teams in the country.

With eight Shamrocks remaining as the tournament headed into the final

round, four Catholic Central wrestlers finished in first place: senior Josh Edmond (140), sophomore Manuel Rojas (171), Brandin Yatooma (215) and Steven Kolcheff (285).

Catholic Central has won three-straight MHSAA state team titles and came into the invitational as the No. 3 wrestling team in the country according to Intermat Wrestling.

Edmond explodes to first place

Edmond calls his first move a little funky.

He gets extremely low to the ground, bursting toward the lower body of his opponent, putting himself in attack mode from the first whistle.

See WRESTLING, Page 2B



North Farmington's Eddie Lenton III, background, Farmington's Siddiq Abulmajeed, and a potential rebound all go flying.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

North Farmington carries on hot start

Takes down rival Farmington, 56-48

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

"Just like football."

The chant echoed through the at-capacity North Farmington gym, as the Raiders boys basketball team (6-0) came back from an eight-point deficit in the third quarter, outscoring Farmington (1-4) 18-6 in the final eight minutes, to continue its win streak and to secure the 56-48 victory in the only matchup between the cross-town rivals during the regular season.

Here are three takeaways from the North Farmington win.

Fourth-quarter comeback

North Farmington head coach Todd Negoshian had a number in mind: 50. For the Raiders, it was the make-or-break number.

"If they get to 50, we're going to be in trouble," Negoshian said to his team before the start of the fourth quarter.

North Farmington had allowed 42 points through the first 24 minutes, failing to stop Farmington junior guard Jaden Akins, who scored 18 points in the first three quarters.

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Farmington's Jaden Akins, an MSU recruit, dribbles to the basket guarded by North Farmington's Prince Jackson.

Stevenson senior's rare hat trick sinks Hartland's hockey team

Bill Khan LivingstonDaily.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was a performance that had on-lookers racking their brains afterward, trying to recall if they'd ever seen it happen before.

The consensus: Nobody could remember another hockey player doing what Livonia Stevenson senior Seth Lause achieved Saturday night.

Lause scored three shorthanded goals for the second-ranked Spartans in a 5-2 victory over third-ranked Hartland at Hartland Sports Center.

There are no MHSAA records listed for most shorthanded goals in a game. In the 102-year history of the National Hockey League, a player has scored three shorthanded goals only once (Calgary's Theo Fleury on March 9, 1991).

Lause's first goal gave Stevenson a 2-1 lead with 6:44 left in the second period. With Hartland in a position to tie the game on a power play, Lause scored two goals 1 minute and 29 seconds apart to put the game out of reach in the third period.

"It's all up to the guys who found me in those places," Lause said. "(Adam Heard) gave me that pass up through the middle in the third is one example. (Ian) Kimble set me up down low from the board. Without my other teammates setting me up, there's no way I would be able to execute, so I'm grateful for that."

On his first goal, Lause carried the puck out of the Stevenson zone to lead a two-on-one break. He took a shot coming down the right side and knocked in his own rebound.

On his second goal, Lause took a pass behind the goal line from Kimble and banked in a shot from the side of the net with 7:52 left in the game to give the Spartans a 4-2 lead.

He completed the hat trick when he took a long outlet pass from Heard and scored on a breakaway with 6:23 remaining.

"He works on his penalty kill, he works on his game tirelessly," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "He's always on the ice, always trying to do extra. He was rewarded today. It's nice to see players rewarded like that."

Lause's performance put Hartland on the wrong side of a historic performance.

"That stuff can't happen," Hartland coach Rick Gadwa said. "We haven't had three shorties on us I don't think ever in my time here. It's just one of those things that happens. It's one of

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Different team, same standard for CC wrestling

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In 12 years as the Detroit Catholic Central wrestling coach, Mitch Hancock has earned seven state championship rings, including one in each of the past three seasons.

Once he earns them, he said, each one goes to the same place.

"They are in my junk drawer at home, to be honest with you," Hancock said.

It is not that Hancock is dismissive of the things he has accomplished during his tenure — leading a team with a Division 1 record seven individual state champions in 2019. To him, it's more about defining the future.

It's about never being satisfied.

It's starting from scratch each season, moving forward, setting and attaining new goals, but always approaching the new team with the same expectation that history has set.

"You walk around here, the halls speak to you," Hancock said. "People want to be successful because they want to leave a legacy. There's a little bit of pressure for our guys to do that."

To start the 2019-20 season, Catholic Central has continued that expectation.

With four returning state champions, the Shamrocks are undefeated, earning first-place finishes at the Oakland Country tournament, the Brecksville Invitational and the CC Invitational, earning four individual first-place finishes in their latest tournament.

According to Intermat Wrestling, Catholic Central is the No. 3 wrestling team in the country, one of three Michigan teams in the top 20.

To reigning heavyweight state champion Steven Kolcheff, who has been with Catholic Central for four years, it comes



Catholic Central celebrates its CC Invitational victory. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

down to two sayings: keep climbing and "the standard is the standard."

"Our standard is winning championships here. We apply that every day. We repeat it every day," Kolcheff said. "We say keep climbing, keep getting better. Our standard is our standard. Our standard is way above everyone else."

Senior Brendin Yatooma, who is coming off an individual state title at 215, has known the standard from when he was a kid. The South Lyon native's father went to Catholic Central, saying he grew up around the culture of the Shamrocks.

But in his freshman season, he saw what separated Catholic Central apart

from other programs across the state and country.

"When I saw the upperclassmen doing every little thing right and doing everything they needed to do to be successful, I realized that's really what's going on here," Yatooma said. "This place is here to breed men, breed people to be successful people in a sport or in life."

One of the key words ingrained into Catholic Central athletes is brotherhood.

To sophomore Manuel Rojas, brotherhood represents bringing each member of the team up to the standard of the overall program.

"We look out for each other and we know that the only way to be a good brother is to push each other," Rojas said.

Much like the saying "the standard is the standard," Yatooma approaches success as a gap. Every day, he is either closing or widening the gap, separating yourself from the rest of the competition.

This past season, the gap was 34-19, defeating previously unbeaten Brighton in the Division 1 state finals by winning nine of the 14 head-to-head bouts.

While domination was on the minds of many Catholic Central wrestlers as the calendar flipped to 2020, it was not in the aspect of individual wins and losses. For Hancock, it's much bigger than that.

"He says, 'Forget that year. We have a new year, new team,'" Kolcheff said. "Our team really applies that to us. This isn't last year."

Instead of looking at the macro approach, aiming to win his second-straight individual state title and the fourth-consecutive team state title, Yatooma dumbs it down, focusing on scoring points, dominating when it's his turn to be on the mat.

That's Catholic Central in a nutshell.

Instead of focusing on the big picture, it's focusing on each of the steps to get to that place, individually, and expecting another ring to be the outcome.

Kolcheff bluntly stated Catholic Central is not there yet. But he did not say it with worry.

The senior heavyweight said it with a hint of excitement, like the process is still in front of them.

"We may not be there right now, but I promise you we will get there by post-season," Kolcheff said.

Wrestling

Continued from Page 1B

"I just want to get out there, score, get ahead, make him come to me, finish clean," Edmond said. "That was the game plan."

When asked about the first move of his senior reigning state champion, Catholic Central head coach Mitch Hancock did not use the word funky. He simply called it explosive.

"When he is wrestling with the right pace and intensity, he is hard to stop," Hancock said. "There are not a lot of guys that have the ability he has."

In the final against Brighton's Zach Johnson, Edmond launched his body when the first whistle blew, earning two takedowns in the first 15 seconds to develop a quick lead he would not give up, recording a fall 91 seconds into the match for the victory.

It's the first move that granted the Catholic Central senior the most outstanding wrestler award in the lower weight class for the tournament. It's the first move that granted Edmond a full-ride scholarship to wrestle at Missouri.

It's the first move that grants Edmond the confidence to say no opponent can wrestle with him on their feet.

"I just want to leave a legacy: to try and dominate everybody," Edmond said.

State champs shine

Hancock called Yatooma and Kolcheff "consistent." However, both wrestlers, who are coming off individual state championships, had the chance to overcome adversity.

For Yatooma, it was in the middle of his match.

The 215-pound senior was matched pound-for-pound with Brighton's Grayson Stevens, a matchup of the No. 1 and No. 2 in the 215 weight class in Division 1, earning the only overtime game of the tournament, tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation.

However, Yatooma stepped up early, earning the takedown 10 seconds into the period for the win.

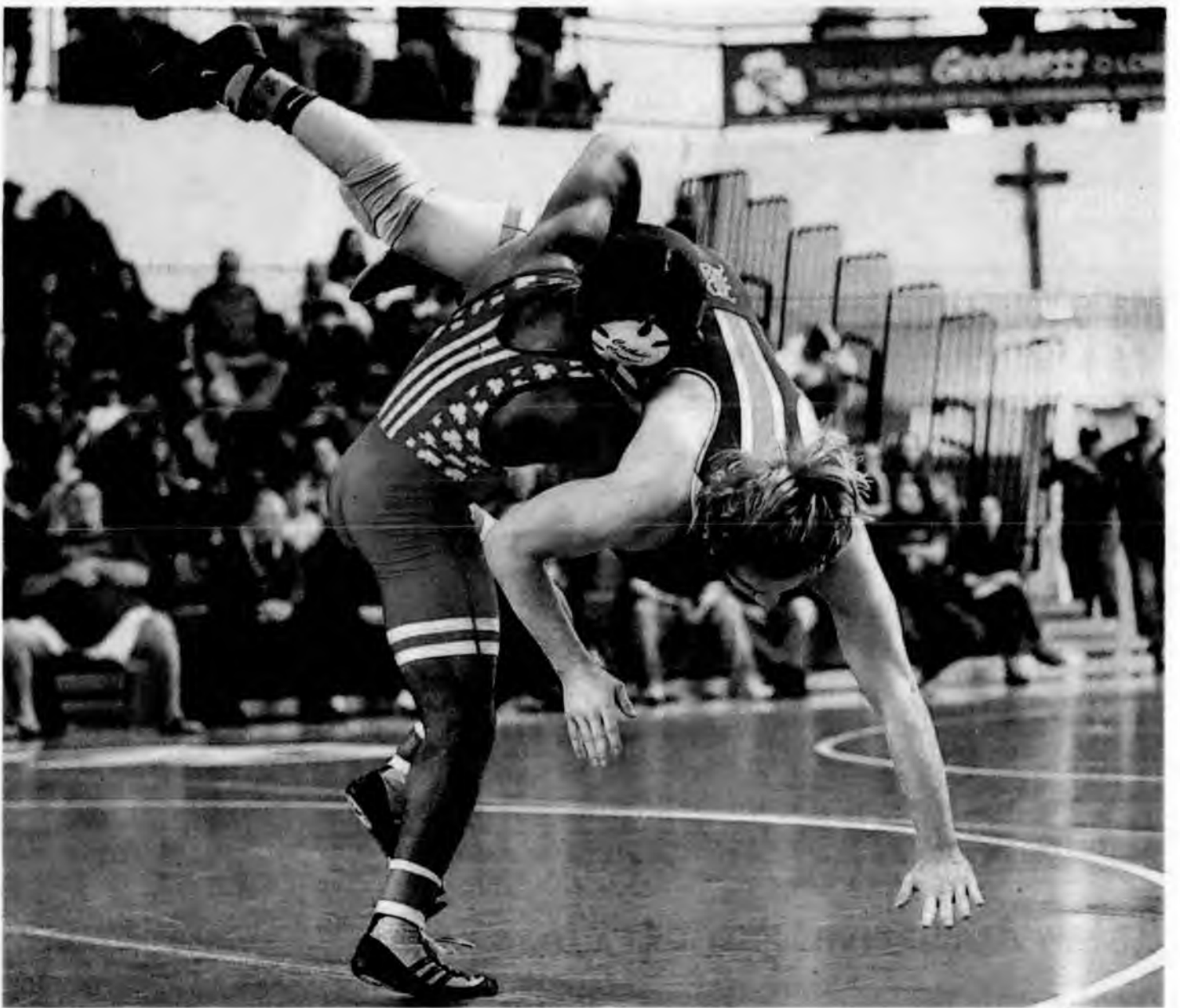
"I knew I had to go in there and be confident, not have to worry, don't stress out, stay calm under pressure," Yatooma said. "I knew I was going to win the match."

For Kolcheff, he had to bounce back from something he had been sitting on since Dec. 29.

The No. 1 ranked heavyweight in Division 1 lost in the final at the Brecksville Invitational, the last event in 2019.

He came back in a big way Saturday, earning an 11-1 win and the fall 5:22 into the match.

"This team, man, we're learners," Kolcheff said. "We learn from our mistakes, we learn from our success and we are extremely proud of that."



Catholic Central senior Josh Edmond flips Brighton's Zach Johnson. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Rojas steps up

With the senior-heavy and state champion-filled lineup, Hancock was most impressed with the only underclassman to win a final at the invitational for Catholic Central: Rojas.

Ranked as the No. 4 wrestler in the 171-pound weight class in Division 1, Rojas earned the 6-3 win against La Salle's Dillon Walker, the No. 7 wrestler in the state of Ohio.

After an even start to the match, Rojas exploded in the third period, earning a takedown to earn the three-point victory, using endurance as a key part to his game.

"I know they can't keep up with me, so I try and break them then," Rojas said. "That's when I do most of my scoring."

Team results

1. Detroit Catholic Central 284
2. Davison 225
3. Brighton 195
4. Lowell 155
5. La Salle (OH) 112

6. Rockford 98
7. Whitehall 86
8. DeWitt 68
9. Westland John Glenn 67
10. Hudson 66

Individual results

103: Drew Heethuis (CC) falls to Aden Williams (Davison), 4-2, in the first-place match.

112: Anthony Walker (CC) defeats Auggie Anderson (Clarkston) after a fall five minutes into the match in the third-place match.

119: Dylan Glicher (CC) defeats Caleb Youngblood (Romeo), 3-1, in the third-place match.

130: Dru Willson (Warren Woods-Tower) earns the sudden-victory win against Tatum Bunn (CC) in the fifth-place game with an 8-6 decision.

135: Camden Trupp (CC) defeats Caden Natale (Hudson) on a fall 42 seconds into the third-place match.

140: Josh Edmond (CC) defeats Zach Johnson (Brighton) with a fall 1:31 into the first-place match.

145: Marc Shaeffer (CC) falls to Austin

Boone (Lowell) after a fall 5:28 into the match.

152: Logan Sanborn (CC) loses to Josh Barr (Davison), 15-8, in the first-place match.

Shawn Brown (John Glenn) falls to James Fotis (Lowell) in a forfeit.

160: Alex Facundo (Davison), awarded as the most outstanding wrestler in the higher weight class, defeats Derek Glicher, 9-3, in the first-place match.

171: Manuel Rojas (CC) defeats Dillon Walker (La Salle), 6-3, in the first-place match.

189: John Browning (CC) falls to Harley Berne (Brighton), 4-2, in the fifth-place match.

215: Brendin Yatooma (CC) earns the 3-1 overtime victory against Grayson Stevens (Brighton) in the first-place match.

285: Steven Kolcheff (CC) earns the first-place victory with a fall 5:22 into the match against Luke Stanton (Brighton).

Mike McVay (John Glenn) defeats Ben Blevins (La Salle) with a fall 20 seconds into the fifth-place match.

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Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

those quirky games. I'm not making a joke, it felt like a circus. Sometimes that happens. There's a lot of yelling going on between the benches and the referees and the coaches and the players and all that. We have to be able to check ourselves, check our emotions and take care of business."

Stevenson once again won the special teams battle to beat Hartland for the fourth straight time. In addition to three shorthanded goals, the Spartans scored a power play goal while holding a two-man advantage.

Hartland's Gabe Pietila scored the only goal of the first period before Stevenson got second-period goals from Nick Justice, Lause and Brenden Heard.

Seth Ferguson got Hartland within 3-2 with 9:43 left in the game. The Eagles had a chance to tie it when Stevenson's Danny White was penalized for cross checking with 8:10 to go, but Lause scored two shorthanded goals to put the game out of reach.

Hartland, the two-time defending



Stevenson's Seth Lause, right, celebrates one of his three shorthanded goals with teammate Adam Heard in a 5-2 victory over Hartland.

Division 2 champion, fell to 7-2-1. Its two losses have come against the top two teams in Division 2, Birmingham Brother Rice and Stevenson.

"You always learn from losses," Gad-



Hartland's Jack Schaecher, center, and Stevenson's Adam Heard chase a loose puck during game action Jan. 4. PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

wa said. "I don't want to go undefeated. I like losing in the regular season. Why? Because we learn from them. Every team makes the playoffs."

Stevenson is 9-1-1, winning eight straight games since tying top-ranked Brother Rice.

"There's a long way to go," Mitchell said. "They're always there at the end. You can see they put a lot of pieces together. They will get better, they will do the right things, they will be heard from again. They're two-time state champions for a reason."

Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

The Raiders came out in the final quarter with a four-point deficit and slowly chipped it away with a focus on defense.

North Farmington did not allow Farmington to record a field goal until 6.6 seconds left in the game, when Akins was awarded a basket on a goaltend. Other than that, the Falcons only converted on four free throws.

"We had a lot of open looks. We just didn't knock them down," Farmington head coach Terrance Porter said. "Those are usually shots that we work on every day that we normally knock down."

Seemingly by himself, junior Basheer Jihad used his 6-foot-8 frame to get inside the post and become a familiar face at the free-throw line. He hit five-of-eight attempts from the line, adding a three-point make and a layup to score 10 of the team's 18 fourth-quarter points.

Negoshian praised North Farmington's approach, forcing the Falcons to speed up and play at the pace the Raiders dictated, allowing them to come back and earn their sixth-straight win.

"We got to get them to go with it and get them out of their comfort zone," Negoshian said.

High emotions

In his four trips to the line in the fourth quarter, Jihad did not only go because of his physicality in the paint.

Farmington forward Demarko Coakley and Jihad were forced to be separated after trading words after a physical play, leading to Coakley being removed from the game and two free throws for the North Farmington junior.

For Porter, this level of intensity and emotion was something he expected from his players.

"It's always going to be a physical game," Porter said. "It's a lot at stake when we play."

It was not only on the court, but in the

stands as well.

Both Farmington and North Farmington had sections overflowing with students. While Farmington started the game with a "Little Brother" chant, North Farmington students carried signs, including one that said "Izzo is pulling your scholarship," directed toward Akins, who holds a Michigan State offer.

With the closing of Harrison High School, the rivalry between Farmington and North Farmington has been heightened, selling out not only football and volleyball games, but volleyball matches when the two schools face off.

While it was to be expected for Negoshian, it was still something he considered to be unbelievable.

"I just told them, 'When you come out for warm ups, you are not going to believe the atmosphere that you created in our district,'" Negoshian said.

Hot start

Negoshian did not think his team

would start this strong at the beginning of the 2019-20 season.

Many of the members of the North Farmington basketball team were also members of the Raiders football team that won nine of its 10 games in 2019.

"Guys were tired," Negoshian said. "We figured it might take us to the first of the year ... to get going."

It turned out to be the exact opposite.

The Raiders boys basketball team has won each of its first six games, only two of which came within single digits.

When asked about the reason behind the early-season success, the players and coaching staff agreed. It was the amount the Raiders retained from this past season's team.

"We took time in the offseason — lifting hard and training hard. That team bond, we have shown it in every six games, including this game," senior Eddie Lenton said. "Even when times got tough, we came up."

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Shifting schematics



Harrison High head coach John Herrington waits for a referee's call with the scoreboard reading 20-0 during the Hawks' final Homecoming game in 2018. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Coaches adapt to changes in high school sports

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Chris Kelbert needed to change something.

After making the playoffs each season from 2007-10, advancing as far as the regional final, the Livonia Franklin head coach struggled offensively to find success. Kelbert's offense did not eclipse more than 200 points in the next three seasons, failing to make the playoffs each time.

In 2014, it started off as more of the same. In the midst of a self-described offensive slump, Kelbert had seen enough.

"We were tired of banging our heads against the wall and trying to run the football into loaded boxes," he said.

Kelbert merged his old, run-first offense with ones becoming more and more popular: option-based, spread offenses with reads on every play from the

line of scrimmage.

With the change, Franklin jumped from 23.3 points per game in 2014 to 38.2 in 2015, the program's best offensive showing in school history. With the schematic shift, Franklin has made the playoffs five straight seasons, advancing as far as the state title game in 2017.

High school athletics are fluid, with coaches and players in the various sports using the latest trends and approaches, on and off the field, in an attempt to get a leg up on other opponents in the area, to get new generations of athletes better equipped for potential success at the next level.

Many of the longest-tenured coaches in the area agree these are trends they have had to adapt to, not for the benefit of their personal glory or the wins or losses, but for the betterment of the student-athletes they coach.

See COACHES, Page 5B

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Northville basketball coach Todd Sander talks to his team during a timeout.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Groves coach Brendan Flaherty points to where the football landed after a field goal attempt. He said safety is among the game's biggest changes over time.
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS

Coaches

Continued from Page 4B

Coaching maturity

"It was a dream come true when they hired me as a head coach."

Todd Sander graduated from Northville High School in 1999 and did not want to leave. He lived and breathed Mustang boys basketball, taking the head coaching job when he was 28.

At the start of his coaching tenure, he said his focus was on the Xs and Os, doing everything he could to bring sustaining success to the single-high school town.

Sander said each coach in his position comes in thinking they know everything, but realize they know nothing at all.

"It's really about forming great relationships with your players. You want to be completely honest with them," Sander said. "We are old school: we are demanding, we push our guys to be the best they can be and we hold them accountable."

Livonia Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman calls it coaching maturity, combining the desire of winning games and putting out a successful product, while making the experience enjoyable for the student-athletes involved.

When he played high school basketball, it was something Mike Soukup did not see. After growing up with a head coach whose sole focus was on wins and losses, the Plymouth head boys basketball coach saw how he did not want to run his program.

Different coaches approach this in different ways.

For Sander, it's reminding his players of the rich tradition in the Northville community, to emphasize to the players that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

For North Farmington assistant coach and former Harrison head coach John Herrington, it's taking an interest in the players on and off the field.

He said that has been an approach he has kept since he started in 1962, as a 21-year-old coaching 17-year-olds.

"I was able to relate to them, not be their buddies," Herrington said. "That's one thing: right now I'm 79, so I don't need a 17-year-old friend. But I want them to know that I am behind them and I will support them."

The 10,000-hour rule

The general approach of a high school head coach has not changed much. However, the approach of the high school athlete has changed dramatically.

No matter the sport, more and more athletes choose to specialize in the sport they are best at, putting in the time and effort to get noticed and hone the skills on one sport year round.

Birmingham Groves head football coach Brendan Flaherty referenced the



Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman says his job is coaching maturity, combining the desire of winning games and putting out a successful product, while making the experience enjoyable for the student-athletes involved.

Malcolm Gladwell book "Outliers: The Story of Success" and the 10,000-hour rule saying that practicing a certain skill for 10,000 hours leads to expertise.

The trend of two- or three-sport athletes has declined as more high school athletes are focusing on specialization in one sport.

"I was one of those guys," Walled Lake Western head boys basketball coach Denny Butcher said. "I gave up being a three-sport athlete to follow basketball because I knew basketball was my route."

Butcher knows that specialization has elevated the skill level of players across the board. But, like many area coaches, prefers those players who are multi-sport athletes.

"You get guys that are multi-sport athletes, in this case football guys, they bring a different mentality, a different level of toughness," Butcher said. "But more importantly, a different level of camaraderie and teaminess, unity."

The general consensus among coaches is despite preferring those players who participate in multiple sports, each team has its own set of demands, making it hard for the players to keep up.

Whether it's 7-on-7 or spring conditioning for football or getting into the gym to shoot baskets, every sport is constant even if it's not in season.

"There's so many demands on all sports. Football, you know, it's a year-round thing. All these camps, all these personal trainers, it's really changed how high school athletics is," Herrington said. "I don't necessarily think it's for the better, but I am old school."

When he started coaching at Plymouth in 2008, Soukup said all but two of his players were multi-sport athletes.

Heading into the 2019-20 season, he said only half play multiple sports.

To Soukup, collegiate programs want to see high school players play the sport that "may not be your 'sport'."

"How do you compete when you are not the best one in the room?" Soukup said. "When you go to college, you are not going to be the best one in the room. They recruited five other guys who are as big, as fast, as strong as you."

"Really, what is going to separate you is your ability to fail and retry. Your ability to compete. Your ability to find a way despite lack of size, lack of skill, lack of experience."

Keeping players safe

Ever since Flaherty started coaching at Groves, player safety has always been a topic of conversation.

"When I first started, everybody was like 'We're talking safety,'" Flaherty said. "But you were still emphasizing and pumped up by big hits and people getting after it."

Now, he said everything is designed for keeping the players safe, from the drills run at practice — limiting the amount of contact made on the practice field — to concussion protocol to teaching new tackling techniques.

"It's as safe as we can make the sport," Herrington said.

But while there is contact every play in football, Stevenson hockey coach David Mitchell pointed out that hockey is the only sport where "you are on a sheet of ice with blades and you are going really fast."

Mitchell simply said the goal is for one team to keep the puck away from the other, emphasizing the shift in priority toward speed and puck movement

instead of hard hits against the glass, allowing players to be involved in every aspect of the game.

"I think we are heading in the direction of, not necessarily positionless hockey, but kind of that way, right, where the defensemen are interchangeable and the defensemen are not just big, bruising guys that are responsible for just defending," Mitchell said.

Community remains

To Mitchell, Michigan has always been a hockey state, from the Red Wings to the Wolverines and the Spartans.

For the high school level, he said programs across the area are finding significant success, creating this level of buzz the sport has not seen before.

"High school hockey is, without a doubt, growing," Mitchell said. "Better players are choosing to play high school hockey."

While basketball is likely to remain relatively consistent in the short-term future, Herrington has seen a drop in participation in football with players and families worried about the future of the sport and the long-term effects it could have on a participant.

He said he has had meetings with the coaching staff about how North Farmington has had trouble fielding full junior varsity and freshman teams.

"I'd like to be more optimistic, but I am concerned," Herrington said.

While more trends such as "school of choice" and transfer rules have affected how players approach high school athletics, the reality remains the same for many student-athletes. For most, high school is the only opportunity they get.

"For most of the players that we get, it's going to be the last time they play competitively," Sander said. "Such a small percentage go on to play college or at the next level."

It's about the memories made that will last.

It's the people you meet, the teams you are a part of, something Herrington will not forget.

No matter the future of individual high school sports, the goal of high school athletics as a whole likely will remain the same: to give students an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than themselves, to represent the community and make memories that last a lifetime.

It's what brought Sander back. It's what encouraged Soukup to correct the mistakes made by his high school basketball coach. It's the community Herrington wants to recreate with his own players.

"I still go back and talk to my friends from 1958 about our 1-8 record that we recorded," Herrington said.

No matter what changes, on or off the court, the community of high school athletics is not likely changing anytime soon. These coaches will not let it.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Matcats wrestlers start 2020 on a high note

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The South Lyon Matcats, a youth wrestling club with participants ages 5-14, kicked off the new year with some big victories.

The Matcats started their 33rd season over the weekend with a slew of events for all levels of the club.

First, the competitive dual meet teams competed Jan. 4 at Brighton High School. The 10U team coached by Steve Yurkunas won the championship, defeating Brighton, 73-6, Tecumseh, 69-3, and Hudson, 54-30. The 10U squad is young but has several veterans who have a lot of national level experience.

"This early test will help us get ready for the team state finals in just a few weeks," coach Steve Richardson said. "Of our many leaders, Gavin Boller and Bronson Shinkonis went undefeated on the day. These two are really explosive and start our team rolling at the lower weights. They are really exciting to watch."

Next, several Matcats entered the Mid-Michigan Wrestling Association (MMWA) individual tournament at Mount Morris. This season opener is generally one of the most competitive of the season and a great test to see where the wrestlers are in their training. Of the 28 Matcats that competed, seven earned championships with nearly every other Matcat placing.

"We usually send around 75-80 kids to the event," Richardson said. "With the Brighton duals falling on the same day, we had a limited number competing, mostly our older kids in the Middle School division. Included in our champions was Mackenzie Medallis. This young lady works really hard in our room. She's in her second year, but already shows veteran leadership. I expect some great podium finishes from her in the near future."



Matcats wrestler Mackenzie Medallis takes down an opponent. The Matcats started their 33rd season over the weekend. SUBMITTED

pect some great podium finishes from her in the near future."

On Jan. 5, the novice wrestlers competed at the annual Swartz Creek event hosted by the MMWA. The Matcats were the largest group there with over 30 athletes.

"With that many wrestlers we usually end up competing against ourselves in the medal rounds," Richardson said. "This year, our new kids showed that

they are not so new. Our winning percentage was over 75 percent for the tournament, unheard of with a club this large. Our group is really working hard. The veterans are getting the new kids up to speed fast and our new kids are absolutely up to the test."

One of the highlights of the day was a match between two Matcats: Owen Miller and Sam Cowgill. They ran through the tournament to meet each other in

the championship round.

"The match was great," Richardson said. "I can honestly say that these two may be doing this with each other for years to come. Our future is bright with this group."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at availleenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Twitter: @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Hartland basketball continues strong start with win

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kyle Hamlin can no longer take the basketball court under a cloak of anonymity.

That might have been the case a year ago when he was a sophomore playing his first varsity season for Hartland.

But after an impressive debut as a 10th-grader and a hot start to his junior year, Hamlin will be a marked man for the rest of his career with the Eagles.

Getting the star treatment from opponents has been an adjustment, but one that has gone smoothly for Hamlin and his team.

He scored a team-high 13 points Jan. 3 as Hartland kicked off a new decade with a 43-35 victory over Walled Lake Central.

Eleven of his points came in the first two quarters before the Vikings did a better job denying him the ball in the second half. His only two points after halftime came on two free throws in the final minute.

"I've been noticing some more pressure on the wing, people face-guarding me, stuff like that," said Hamlin, who hit three 3-pointers in the first half. "It's just going to open up plays for my teammates. It's going to create new things where we can get points."

"It's just going to make me want to work harder and be able to figure out how I can be the best player I can be while also being guarded pretty hard."

After averaging 10 points a game last season, Hamlin has averaged 16.5 through the first four contests this season. While the Vikings aren't in the same conference as Hartland, they knew Hamlin was the player who needed extra attention on defense.

"He can definitely shoot and score from anywhere on the court," Central coach Chuck Spolsky said. "He hit some 3s and he finished well. The guy's a good basketball player."

Another big difference this season is that Hamlin's individual success is leading to team success for the Eagles.

Hartland was 6-15 last season and is 13-31 over the last two campaigns. The Eagles are off to a 3-1 start, the lone loss being a one-point decision at Walled Lake Western.

"This year there's a lot more chemistry and there's more energy and people are willing to put in the extra work," Hamlin said. "It's really good, because we're becoming a family; that's how you win games. You always want to work hard when you're losing. It's definitely more motivation when you're winning games to continue to put in that hard work."

The Vikings (2-3) scored eight



Hartland's Trevor Lewis goes into traffic to attempt a shot in a 43-35 victory over Walled Lake Central on Jan. 3.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

straight points to take an 8-5 lead with 5:09 left in the first quarter, but Hartland took the lead for good by responding with a 13-1 run.

Hamlin hit back-to-back 3-pointers to give Hartland a 24-14 halftime lead. Central closed the deficit to 29-24 with three minutes left in the third quarter and was within six points midway through the fourth, but got no closer.

Both teams struggled at the free-throw line in the first game back from Christmas break, Hartland going 7-for-20 and Central going 2-for-8.

"We've been OK this season, and we

have our guys who are better than others," Hartland coach Kevin Blouin said. "It's not been an issue. I don't know what it was tonight. Maybe it was Christmas break; I don't know what. We'll work on it. I think we'll be fine. It was one of those weird nights."

Senior Jacob Batten provided a spark off the bench, scoring eight points for Hartland.

"He's one of those team guys," Blouin said. "He's got a ton of energy, he can come off the bench, he can run, he can block shots, he can play great defense. He'll run through a wall for you. His

brother (Lucas) is the same way. It's nice to have him come off the bench. It's just a luxury, honestly, for me as a coach."

Nathan Kenya scored 15 points, hitting five 3-pointers, to lead the Vikings. Central had seven 3-pointers, but only six shots from inside the arc.

"We just had a hard time putting the ball in the bucket, finding multiple ways to score...", Spolsky said. "If you give up 43 points in a high school basketball game, you'd think you'd have a pretty good opportunity to win. We played some good defense. Offensively, we just weren't clicking."

Orchard Lake St. Mary's boys can't avoid being No. 1

Mick McCabe
Special to Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

There was no cake or candles, and there really wasn't any singing, but Orchard Lake St. Mary's boys basketball team was in a celebratory mood Saturday when it defeated Grand Blanc, 69-66, in the GottaGetIt Hoops Classic.

"We grew up last night," St. Mary's coach Todd Covert said. "We've been playing OK, but what I liked the most is when we hit some adversity, we got a little bit tougher. The kids really kind of came together. It seems like they come together more when there's adversity than when things are perfect."

The "perfect" aspect is St. Mary's 5-0 record, which means the Eaglets are ranked No. 1 in the state in both the Free Press' Super 10 and Division 1 rankings.

While some coaches might detest being No. 1 so early in the season, even Covert couldn't argue with the ranking after his team also beat No. 2 Clarkston earlier this season.

"Those are both top-10 teams," he said.

This was an especially significant victory because No. 3 Grand Blanc, led by sophomore Ty Rodgers' 18 points, has the potential to win a state title.

St. Mary's guard Lorne Bowman, who has signed with Wisconsin, sank two free throws with two seconds left and finished with 28 points to lead the Eaglets to the victory.

"He rebounded, defended Ty a lot when Julian (Roper) got in foul trouble," Covert said. "If he's not leading Mr. Basketball, he should be pretty close to it. He's had four big-time wins already this year."

Bowman has excellent support from juniors Roper and Peter Nwoke and sophomores Kareem Rozier and Jason Drake, all of whom have Division 1 offers.

In another Saturday matchup at the GottaGetIt Hoops Classic, Clarkston defeated Flint Carman Ainsworth, 65-56, led by Fletcher Loyer (29 points, five 3-pointers) and Matt Nicholson (21 points, 20 rebounds).

"They did an absolutely phenomenal job running that showcase," Covert said. "It was a great atmosphere for high school basketball."

The Eaglets have a formidable lineup mid-month, with U-D Jesuit on Jan. 17; Division 3 powerhouse Flint Beecher at Ferndale the next day; and Warren De La Salle on Jan. 21.

"That was not the smartest thing we've done," Covert said, laughing at his scheduling. "It's very similar to what a state tournament could be like."

Speaking of Beecher: The Buccaneers handed Divisions 2's Benton Harbor its first loss of the season, 76-62, in Kalamazoo. Earnest Sanders led Beecher with 28 points, and Jalen Terry, who missed most of the fourth quarter after being shaken up by a hard foul late in the third, added 19. Scooby Johnson scored 32 for Benton Harbor.



The East Lansing girls, celebrating Dec. 20 after beating DeWitt, had to face a tough test Tuesday against Detroit Edison.
NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

East Lansing girls face early test

There is a degree of familiarity in the girls rankings. Detroit Edison (Division 2), Pewamo-Westphalia (D-3) and Adrian Lenawee Christian (D-4) are all ranked No. 1 or No. 2 and all are defending state champs.

Then there is Division 1, and that is pretty much a free-for-all.

But someone has to be No. 1, so the early choice is East Lansing.

"Nobody wants to hear that they're supposed to win it, so we don't want that title for sure," East Lansing coach Rob Smith said, laughing. "We're definitely in the conversation. That's the fun part, just being in the conversation, but understanding that we're focused on getting better."

The unbeaten Trojans are without 5-foot-11 junior Annelise Lebeda, who tore her ACL, but recently welcomed back sophomore Soraya Timms from an injury.

"We're trying to get Soraya healthy because if we're healthy we're really hard to beat," Smith said. "But we're deep enough that we have other kids picking up the slack and that's been cool."

Aaliyah Nye, who has signed with Illinois, is the team's best player, and Sanya Gregory is a standout point guard. The X-factor is Lamariyee Williams, a transfer from River Rouge who has signed with Oakland.

Boys' Super 10

SCHOOL	REC	DIV
1. Orchard Lake St. Mary's	5-0	1
2. Clarkston	4-1	1
3. Grand Blanc	4-1	1
4. Grand Rapids Christian	6-0	2
5. Grand Rapids Catholic Central	4-1	2
6. River Rouge	3-1	1
7. Ypsilanti Lincoln	3-1	1
8. Detroit Douglass	5-1	2
9. Detroit Cass Tech	4-1	1
10. Flint Beecher	4-1	3

Girls' Super 10

SCHOOL	REC	DIV
1. Detroit Edison	6-0	2
2. East Lansing	7-0	1
3. Hartland	4-0	1
4. Birmingham Marian	5-0	1
5. Grand Rapids Christian	7-0	2
6. Hudsonville	6-0	1
7. Flint Carman-Ainsworth	6-0	1
8. Grass Lake	6-1	3
9. Macomb Dakota	6-0	1
10. Pewamo-Westphalia	4-2	3

If she can define her role on this team, the Trojans might win their first state title since 2010.

"She was in a situation where they needed her to score a lot and was the focal point," Smith said. "For us she's a kid with a lot of potential that's learning. She does some really awesome things

with her passing and her moves around the basket. She's really working on her 3-ball, trying to improve that."

Williams' skill level is not an issue, but learning where she fits is a work in progress.

"She's just trying to fit in and be a part of a system, understand what our kids have been going through for four years," Smith said. "She's like a freshman in terms of the knowledge. You've got the athleticism, you've got the talent, but now you need the knowledge. It will come. It's an interesting dynamic."

East Lansing is 5-0, but could get its first loss Tuesday when the Trojans host Division 2 Edison (6-0), the No. 1 team in the Super 10.

They struggled in a scrimmage against Edison, and this will serve as a good measuring stick.

"They're extremely talented and very aggressive and very confident and hard to match up with," Smith said. "They're a little bit better at every position than a lot of teams. Even if you can match them at two or three places, they usually have a couple of places where they can get you. For us, it has to be a collective effort."

Smith wants to beat Edison, but understands that state titles aren't awarded until March.

"I'm doing everything in my power to have these kids have to go through what it takes," he said. "My thought is if we lose a game or two, it's not a bad thing."

Boys, girls high school basketball: Mick McCabe's state rankings

BOYS

Division 1

SCHOOL	REC	LW
1. Orchard Lake St. Mary's	5-0	—
2. Clarkston	4-1	—
3. Grand Blanc	4-1	—
4. River Rouge	3-1	—
5. Ypsilanti Lincoln	3-1	—
6. Detroit Cass Tech	4-1	—
7. Ann Arbor Huron	4-0	—
8. Hudsonville	5-0	—
9. Muskegon	2-1	—
10. Mount Pleasant	4-0	—

Division 2

SCHOOL	REC	LW
1. Grand Rapids Christian	6-0	—
2. Grand Rapids Catholic Central	4-1	—
3. Detroit Douglass	5-1	—
4. Benton Harbor	6-1	—
5. Williamston	5-1	—
6. Clio	5-0	—
7. Goodrich	4-0	—
8. Croswell-Lexington	4-1	—
9. Bridgeport	5-0	—
10. Hudsonville Unity Christian	3-1	—

Division 3

SCHOOL	REC	LW
1. Flint Beecher	4-1	—
2. Hanover Horton	3-1	—
3. Detroit Edison	2-2	—
4. Iron Mountain	4-0	—
5. McBain	3-0	—
6. Maple City Glen Lake	4-1	—
7. Adrian Lenawee Christian	4-0	—
8. Detroit Loyola	6-0	—
9. Schoolcraft	5-0	—



Southfield Christian players Greg Hines and Malcolm King hug to celebrate their 63-39 win over Frankfort in the MHSAA Division 4 final last season.
DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

Division 4

SCHOOL	REC	LW
1. Southfield Christian	2-2	—
2. Kingston	4-0	—
3. Frankfort	3-0	—
4. Hale	4-0	—
5. Dollar Bay	5-0	—
6. Camden-Frontier	5-1	—
7. Lake Linden-Hubbell	3-0	—
8. Mio	4-1	—
9. Hillsdale Academy	4-1	—
10. Pellston	4-0	—

GIRLS

Division 1

SCHOOL	REC	LW
1. East Lansing	7-0	—
2. Hartland	4-0	—
3. Birmingham Marian	5-0	—
4. Hudsonville	6-0	—
5. Macomb Dakota	6-0	—
6. Flint Carman-Ainsworth	6-0	—
7. Midland	6-0	—
8. Brighton	4-0	—
9. Muskegon Reeths-Puffer	7-0	—
10. Detroit Renaissance	6-1	—

Division 2

SCHOOL	REC	LW
1. Detroit Edison	6-0	—
2. Grand Rapids Christian	7-0	—
3. Buchanan	5-0	—
4. Williamston	6-2	—
5. Three Rivers	4-0	—
6. Montague	6-0	—
7. Wayland	6-0	—
8. Bay City Glenn	6-1	—
9. Parma Western	5-1	—
10. Menominee	7-0	—

Division 3

SCHOOL	REC	LW
1. Grass Lake	6-1	—
2. Pewamo-Westphalia	4-2	—
3. Kent City	6-0	—
4. Ypsilanti Arbor Prep	6-3	—
5. Flint Hamady	4-1	—
6. Lake City	5-0	—
7. Maple City Glen Lake	4-1	—
8. Gobles	6-0	—
9. Niles Brandywine	6-0	—
10. Manton	6-0	—

Division 4

SCHOOL	REC	LW
1. Adrian Lenawee Christian	7-0	—
2. St. Ignace	4-1	—
3. Kingston	5-0	—
4. Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart	6-0	—
5. Athens	9-0	—
6. Martin	6-0	—
7. Pittsford	7-0	—
8. Bellaire	5-0	—
9. Fowler	5-1	—
10. St. Joseph Michigan Lutheran	5-0	—

New auto show: Vehicular variety, no frills

Eric D. Lawrence Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A big warehouse of cars.

That's one way to think about the newest edition to the regional Detroit auto show landscape, the inaugural Southeast Michigan Auto Show this past weekend at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

It's a phrase Nathan Hartness of Washington Township mentioned as he considered the differences between the show outside of Detroit and the North American International Auto Show, which is moving to June this year after its long January run at TCF Center, formerly Cobo, in downtown Detroit.

"This definitely is a little more open, more of a raw car show," said Hartness, thinking back to the shows he's seen elsewhere in the Midwest.

The openness and lack of glitz wasn't a turnoff for Hartness, who said he came to see cars, not multimillion-dollar displays.

That expense for automakers is one reason auto shows are in a period of



There are 201 cars on display in 200,000 square feet of space at the Southeast Michigan Auto Show at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. The event offers the chance to get up close and personal with the latest current models.

ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

See AUTO SHOW, Page 9B

Obituaries

Marshall "Mac" Michael Milosch

HAMBURG - His Legacy... Marshall (Mac) Michael Milosch, 84, passed away January 5, 2020. He was born on June 20, 1935, in Detroit, Michigan to Jess J. Milosch and Josephine Agnes (Wszolek) Milosch. Mac married the love of his life, Elizabeth Jane Bailey, on July 13, 1957, in Wayne, Michigan. He will be remembered as being the best loving husband, father, and grandfather. Mac took care of his family with love, a dry sense of humor and hard work. He graduated from Wayne High School in 1953 and is a graduate of Eastern Michigan. From there, he went to work for Ford Motor Company and became the Manufacturing Paint Engineer. He developed the first robotic paint plant for Ford Motor at Wixom. Mac loved to fish, play golf, hunt, travel, and kept busy always. He was Jane's best friend and they had a wonderful life together for 63.5 years.

His Family... Mac will be missed by his wife, Jane Milosch; his children, Gregory (Suzanne) Milosch, Linda (Ken Schulte) Milosch, and Stephen Milosch; siblings, George Milosch and Antionette (Harry) Tubbs; and grandchildren, Sarah Milosch, Alex (Braydon) Dennis, and Blake (Greg Johnson) Lukowski. He is preceded in death by his parents, Jess and Josephine Milosch and his loyal dog, Rocky.

His Farewell... Mac's family and friends will gather Wednesday, January 8, 2020 from 12:00-9:00pm at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel. His Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 10:30 (9:30am gathering) at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 711 Rickett Road, Brighton, Michigan. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Last Chance Rescue, Howell, Michigan. Please leave a message of comfort for Mac's family at 1-877-231-7900, or sign his guestbook at www.borekjennings.com.

 Borek Jennings Funeral Home
A HEALING CAREWELL CENTER



Doug Schumann

His Legacy... Doug Schumann, age 80, passed away January 1, 2020. He was born on November 18, 1939 in Ann Arbor, MI to Howard and Mary (Bertsos) Schumann. Doug married the love of his life, Diane (Gauthier) Schumann, on June 30, 1962, and they raised their family in their hometown of Whitmore Lake. He was active in community service, serving on the Board of Education for many years. Doug was foremost a family man. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, as well as a gifted teacher.

Growing up with his brother, Dennis, in Ann Arbor, Doug enjoyed all sports and was a proud member of the state championship football team at Ann Arbor High. He was an avid jazz music fan and talented saxophone player, playing with various groups to earn extra money. Doug spent many summers in the competitive fast-pitch softball leagues in Ann Arbor and was a hard worker all his life, often working two or more jobs to pay for school and provide for his family. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University and taught elementary school for 44 years in Huron Valley Schools. Doug was adored by the more than 1,000 students who had the privilege of learning in his classroom. He teamed with innovative teachers to take education on the road, to museums, science centers, and camps. Year-long fundraising was organized so all students could go on trips to Toronto, Camp Innisfree in Northern Michigan, Mammoth Caves in Kentucky and destinations near and far. In recent years, Doug enjoyed connecting with former students and families through social media.

Doug loved being a dad to Dawn and Brad and later relished being involved in the lives of his grandsons, Colin and Graham. He especially cherished time



reading (and reading) to them, playing on the computer together, sending letters and surprise gifts, and organizing various "Grampy" collections. He never missed their activities, showing up (sometimes loudly) at every game, concert, or event. Wherever Doug's family was, there you would find him. He had many life-long friends with whom he enjoyed traveling, playing cards, bowling and eating at favorite restaurants. After retirement, Doug and Diane were frequent travelers, including cruises to the Caribbean and Alaska. Among their more adventurous destinations were Singapore and Borneo to visit teacher friends.

His Family... Doug will be dearly missed by his daughter Dawn (Richard) Northrup; brother, Dennis (Beverly) Schumann; grandsons Colin and Graham Northrup; sister-in-law Kay Baker; and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Diane; beloved son, Brad; and his parents Howard and Mary Schumann. The family would like to thank the dedicated care team at Vibrant Life Senior Living for their compassionate care during the last few months of Doug's life where he enjoyed making new friends, participating in activities, and especially the food.

His Farewell... Doug's family and friends will gather on Friday, January 3, 2020 from 3:00PM-6:30PM at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel. His Community Farewell will be on Saturday January 4, 2020 at 3:00 PM (2:00 PM Gathering) at Dexter United Methodist Church (7643 Huron River Drive, Dexter, Michigan) with Rev. Dr. Matthew Hook serving as celebrant. Memorial contributions may be given to SpringHill Camps, P.O. Box 100, Evart, MI 49631. Please leave a message of comfort for Doug's family at 1-877-231-7900, or sign his guestbook at www.borekjennings.com.

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Auto show

Continued from Page 8B

transition. Shows around the globe are trying to stay relevant in the face of an evolving focus on auto tech and a desire by automakers to get the biggest bang for their display dollars.

The traditional Detroit show, while still drawing hundreds of thousands of people each year, had faced pressure from its proximity to the consumer electronics mecca CES in Las Vegas and a spate of European automakers dropping out in recent years.

But those who think the Southeast Michigan Auto Show might easily replace the North American International Auto Show's January experience will need to consider what they mean by that.

This is not the auto show you've seen for years in Detroit.

And that might be OK. It just depends on what you want in a car show.

On Friday, for a reporter walking through the doors at the new show for the first time, the difference was stark. Rather than automaker displays, some of which were elaborate and memorable, like the Kia Telluride drive course at Cobo last year, the vehicles are grouped basically by make or dealer. It's a couple of hundred cars, not the 750 that were on the Detroit show floor last year.

No big media events or new vehicle unveilings.

But there's eye candy, including exotics, which are roped off, and the chance to get up close and personal with the latest current models, everything from Ford to Jaguar to Cadillac to Toyota. Most of the cars are what you'd see on a dealer lot, pretty much as the organizers described when they announced the show last year. Not competition with the big international show, they said, but something to fill a gap for dealers and give people in the area something to do in January.

There's a row of bounce houses and a track with 22 little cars for kids to drive. Getting those kids cars in place was apparently a Herculean task because of delivery issues. It's a nice touch, and shows that the organizers put some thought into making it a family event. There's also face painting and balloon animals.

Dan Lay and his wife, Margaret, of Li-



Tomas Calderon, a product specialist for Cadillac, talks to car shoppers about the 2020 Cadillac XT4 at the Southeast Michigan Auto Show Jan. 3 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. PHOTOS BY ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

vonja were out looking for a new vehicle, and had stopped to check out a Jeep Gladiator. Nice, he said, but at more than \$54,000, the midsize Jeep pickup is out of his price range.

Lay is in the final five months of a lease on a Chevy Colorado and would like to buy something. He's thinking about a full-size truck because it's tight in the back of the Colorado.

Lay said he always looked forward to going downtown to the other show in January.

What does he think about the Novi show?

"About what I expected, maybe nicer," he said.

Margaret Lay offered her own take. "At least you can get in the vehicles," she said.

At the other show, people would be lined up.



People walk around checking out the various cars and trucks on display.

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Rev. Marsha M. Wootley, Lead Pastor
www.fumcnorthville.org

first united methodist church 640 S. Lafayette
south lyon, mi (248) 437-0760
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Rev. Arthur Ritter, Senior Minister
L.O. 061032494-01

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www.milfordumc.net

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Phone: 248-437-2983
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Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Jason Meaux
Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com
• Email: fbcsouthlyon@bcbglobal.net
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Sunday 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Fr. Robert A. LaCroix, Pastor
Fr. James Houbeck, Associate
Parish Office: 248-348-8847 www.holyfamilynovi.org

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
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How to talk about strengths, weaknesses in interview

Kate Lopaze
thejobnetwork.com

You're in an interview. It's going well — you aced the small talk, and you have solid, thoughtful answers to all of their questions about your resume. Now things start to get a little more abstract in the questions: Tell me more about yourself. And then there's the one that can feel like a friendly, professional trap: What would you say your biggest strength is? Your biggest weakness?

Strengths tend to be a little easier; you probably already know what you do well and can sing your own praises on that one. But weaknesses can be trickier — you want to keep making a good impression no matter what, and weaknesses are (quite literally) not your best moments. Here's how to approach the good and the bad together in an interview.

Be positive

No matter what you answer, it's important to give it a positive spin. If your strength is that you're a good leader, you don't need to suggest that you're always right or tend to overpower people around you. Emphasize your skills with working on a team while steering things in a productive direction.

For example: "I really enjoy the politics of making sure everyone is working together to get a project done. I love putting together a project plan and setting up touchpoints to make sure we're all doing our part."

For weaknesses, positivity can be more of a challenge. That doesn't mean you should go with something glib, or obviously fake (like "My biggest weakness is that I work too hard," or "My biggest weakness is chocolate!" *wink*).



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Instead, phrase it as something you continually work on or are striving toward.

For example: "I tend to have tunnel vision when it comes to important projects, so I make it a point to reach out to others to make sure we're all on the same page. Or I try to do everything at once, so I've learned how to negotiate and prioritize to make sure that I'm working on the right things at the right time, and not getting overwhelmed."

Be honest

Most interviewers have pretty good baloney detectors. If you're exaggerating strengths that aren't backed up by your resume, your interview, or your references, it won't be long before someone figures out your ruse. Your strengths should be realistic and should align with the narrative you're trying to tell in your resume.

For example: "One of my best assets has always been my organizational eye.

I can come into a chaotic situation and am never happier than when I can help set up a system that makes everything clear and organized."

For weaknesses, honesty is especially key. They're not asking you this question because they're going to take your answer as ultimate truth — they're asking it because they want to know how you view yourself and how you express that.

This is not a place to air your worst faults, but it's a chance to show an area that you know is a challenge for you that you want to improve.

For example: "My biggest weakness is that I sometimes work too fast, without asking necessary questions to make sure I'm aligning with the ultimate goal. That's something I learned the hard way in my first job out of school. It has taught me that I need to be honest about any questions or points of confusion I may have before I get started. It's made me a better listener and asker."

Tell a story

Again, because most of the point of this question is how you answer it, not necessarily the words you say, you don't want to give an answer that's too short or one that rambles on and on. Think of it as a short story. Tell them your strength (or weakness), add a brief example from your career to support it, and summarize with a sentence or two explaining how it aligns with the specific job you want. This is where a little pre-research can come in handy: knowing the job description and a bit about the company culture can help you tailor that last bit. And whatever story you're telling, make sure to get (and stick) to the point fairly quickly.

And finally: don't overthink it

The good news is that this is a question you can easily prepare in advance. Before the interview, come up with a list of three strengths and three weaknesses, and know them cold. That way, they'll feel more organic when they come up in conversation, and you'll be able to gauge which one you can use at the time. For example, if the interviewer seems like a stickler for order and organization, that's the theme you'd pick for your strengths.

Your strengths and weaknesses are both already part of you. It's just a matter of finding the right story to tell and becoming comfortable in singing your own praises and speaking frankly about where you need to grow professionally.

Kate Lopaze is a career advice journalist for *TheJobNetwork.com* where this article was originally published. She investigates and writes about current strategies, tips, and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.

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