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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020 I HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



COLD CASES Novi homicide investigation going cold

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The crime scene tape appeared along Rousseau Drive during the morning hours of April 7.

Novi police had found Tia Joe, a young mother, 21, dead from a gunshot wound. Her infant son Braxton was critically injured.

Screams had disturbed neighbors in the Oakland Glens community near 13 Mile and Novi roads.

Evidence gained since then hasn't been enough to solve the case. Despite some potential suspects, the investigation is settling into stillness.

"That's coming up on being a cold case very soon," Police Chief David Molloy said. "Most of the evidence evolves

around individuals that she had in her life, whether dating partners and/or friends, that were very close to her."

As police keep trying to solve what threatens to become the department's fourth cold homicide case, the family is coping.

Molloy said Joe's son, Braxton, has undergone about a dozen surgeries and seems to be doing well.

"He's continuing to recover," the chief said. "We're very thankful for that.

"Again, there's a great deal of physical evidence (and) there's a great deal of electronic evidence that we're continuing to look at and analyze."

Hometown Life has not been able to reach family members for comment.

See JOE, Page 7A



Burger King coming to Lyon Twp.

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Burger King, home of the Whopper, has plans to settle in Lyon Township.

The township board of trustees has approved a special land use for 22700 Pontiac Trail, a 2.5-acre parcel north of 9 Mile Road, for a Burger King fast food franchise.

"We have to have all the permits in hand and don't anticipate construction before this summer, but we are optimistic the project will move forward this year," said Mark Mathe, project engineer for the Mannik Smith Group, representing Burger King. "The special land use is one of the most important approvals. It allows neighbors to express concerns."

No objections to the proposed Burger King were expressed at the township board meeting Jan. 6.

Mathe noted some letters had been submitted and a public hearing was

Kroger's Milford store features an updated bakery with display stands, signage, and a self-serve bread-slicing machine. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Kroger celebrates \$2.6M renovation in Milford

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

Jason Hicks was on duty as the store manager at the Kroger in Milford for just a short time when he got word his store would be remodeled.

the interior of the grocery store at 670 Highland completely revamped after a \$2.6 million investment.

"I appreciate (customers') patience for the last four months," said Hicks, who has managed Kroger stores in Lyon See KROGER, Page 8A

Four months later, he's happy to see Township and the Pinckney area. "We did this for the community. They deserve this store. They really do."

> The store celebrated its grand reopening Jan. 8.

Los Tres Amigos opens in downtown Northville

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

1 1 1

The first time Ruffy Ramirez went through Northville, he knew he had to open a restaurant in the charming downtown.

in late December. "It takes time to find a place," Rami-

rez said. "When I did, I said, 'Let's do it.' We're so happy right here in this town. Finally, we're open.'

Los Tres Amigos, a group of Mexican

After eight years, his wish came true restaurants based in the Lansing area, opened its most-recent restaurant Dec. 26 in downtown Northville at 144 Mary Alexander Court, formerly Wok Asian Bistro.

See LOS TRES AMIGOS, Page 8A

previously held at a planning commission meeting in November.

The board approved the special land use on the condition of site plan approval by the planning commission, as well as some additional screening barriers, possibly a berm and more trees, between the property and neighbors to the east.

Mathe said those needs will be met with the additional landscaping in order for Burger King to be good neighbors, protecting adjacent residences from noise and light.

Township Planner Brian Keesey said the project fits the area as the proposed location is also adjacent to a Jimmy John's restaurant and Tuffy Automotive shop. He said he did not anticipate additional traffic beyond what is planned for Pontiac Trail, nor any negative impacts. The project met all review standards, except for need.

"Although there is no specific need, these uses (fast food restaurants) are growing regionally, nationally and locally," Keesey said. "Many folks are excited to have Burger King back on the scene."

Mathe said a revised site plan for the Lyon Township Burger King will be brought to the Jan. 27 planning commission meeting for approval.

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

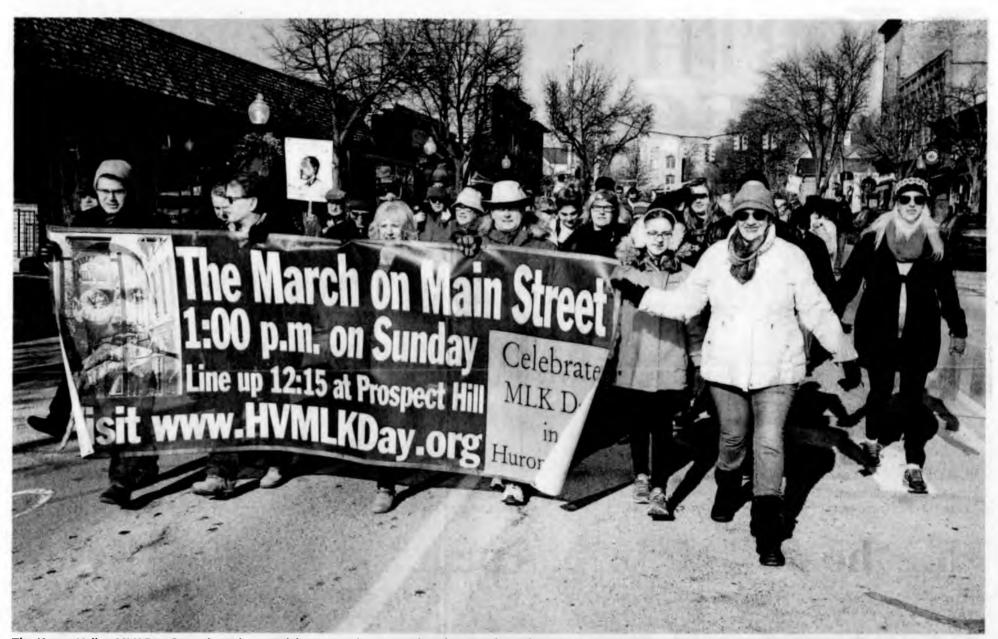
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2A I THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020 I O&EMEDIA (NR)



The Huron Valley MLK Day Committee is organizing several events related to Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Pictured here are participants in the 2017 march. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

How to locally honor King's work on MLK Day

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day gives Americans an opportunity to remember what it means to serve their neighbor and, for some, means a day off work.

The federal holiday falls on the third Monday of every January. The day, also celebrating King's birthday, honors his legacy and shines a light on civil rights



issues. King was assassinated in April day of. 1968 on a motel balcony in Memphis.

On Nov. 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill marking the third Monday of every January as Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Upon its approval, the holiday became the first federal holiday honoring an African American.

Since then, many individuals and businesses have used the day to give back through public service. Here are some local events:

Day of service in downtown Milford

Hosted by the Huron Valley MLK Day

Free movie in Lathrup Village

Along with free music and food, folks can stop by the Lathrup Village Community Room, 27400 Southfield Road, at noon to catch a free screening of a movie about King. The festivities will continue until 4 p.m.

Unlimited play at Zap Zone

Zap Zone locations in Farmington, 31506 Grand River Ave., and Canton, 41953 Ford Road, are hosting unlimited play days to celebrate King. For \$20, visitors to both locations will be given

Farmington Hills will have a host of free programs from 10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. People can gather at the event's start to make peace and remembrance banners to carry during a peace walk, which starts at 11 a.m. at the library and moves along 12 Mile Road.

Throughout the rest of the day, residents will see performances from local students and civil rights leader Gertrude Croom, who worked alongside King, will speak.

For more information, contact the library at 248-553-0300.

Miz Rosie in Birmingham

Kids will enjoy Rosie Chapman's por-

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Committee, this event welcomes the public to honor King's memory through service. From 4-7 p.m. at the Suzanne Haskew Arts Center (SHAC), people can participate in meal assembly.

Meal kits to make soup will go to community members in need following the event. Kids and adults will assemble previously donated ingredients and decorate packages.

The committee will also hold a march from Prospect Hill to the SHAC starting at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Civil rights concert in Canton

Hip-hop artist and TEDx speaker Shaun Boothe is coming to Canton's Village Theater at Cherry Hill at 7 p.m. to perform his "Unauthorized Biography Series." The series shows the lasting legacies of King, Malala Yousafzai and former President Barack Obama, among others.

Tickets are \$15 each and can be bought at cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling the box office at 734-394-5300. Remaining tickets can be bought the



three-hour access to all activities.

For more information, reach the Farmington location at 248-471-6777 or the Canton location at 734-844-7746.

Candlelight walk in Bloomfield Hills

Bloomfield Hills' Roeper School. 41190 Woodward Ave., will celebrate King's values with its annual observance of the day.

Starting at 4 p.m., the free event includes food, family-friendly activities and entertainment. But the big event is the 7 p.m. candlelight walk, where people can share the impact King has had on their lives and talk about the work still to be done.

For more information, contact Kari Papadopoulos, director of communications and marketing, at kari.papadopoulos@roeper.org or 248-203-7303.

Celebration at Walled Lake Northern

Starting at 5 p.m. at Walled Lake Northern High School, enjoy a multicultural dinner prepared by local restaurants

After dinner, enjoy an exhibition of student art, performances and recognition of the district's Alec Bender Friend of Diversity Award recipients. For more information, contact Judy Evola, the district's director of community relations, at judyevola@wlcsd.org.

Day-long celebration at Farmington Hills library

The Farmington Public Library in

trayal of activist, author and King's wife, Corretta Scott King. Chapman, known to kids as Miz Rosie, will be at the Baldwin Public Library at 3 p.m.

Attendees will learn about Corretta's life and the civil rights movement through Chapman's interactive presentation style. Registration is required and can be done at baldwinlib.org.

Freedom Walk in Westland

Starting at 9 a.m. at the Westland Public Library, the community will walk to city hall. Residents can also go to city hall at 8 a.m. and receive a bus ride to the library.

When everyone makes it to city hall, the city will hold a ceremony in honor of King

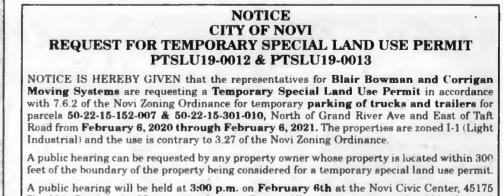
Detroit Youth Choir at Thurston High

Local Alpha Kappa Alpha and Tau Alpha Omega chapters are hosting a prayer breakfast at Lee M. Thurston High School in Redford starting at 7 a.m.

The program will include a performance from the Detroit Youth Choir, which was recently named runner up on "America's Got Talent," and a speech from Silkman Foundation CEO Tonya Allen.

Tickets are \$10 and will benefit the Redford Interfaith Relief Food and Clothing Pantry. To learn more or purchase tickets, email mlkdayofservice@akatao.net.

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



Ten Mile Road in the Mayors Conference Room. All written comments should be directed to Katherine Oppermann and must be received prior to February 5th.

Publish: January 16, 2020

(NR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020 I 3A



Angela Hospice Care Center Threshold Choir director Norma Sander, right, directs her singers during practice Nov. 21. Among them are, from left, Eamonn Moore, Melinda Thornton, and Margot Parr. Parr co-founded the local chapter of the international group with Marti Coplai. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Threshold Choir brings peace, comfort to dying

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

"You are not alone. I am here beside you."

The simple, repetitive songs of the Threshold Choir are meant to bring peace to someone as they step over the line between life and death.

Livonia's threshold singers, part of an international organization that's been around since 1990, practice out of Angela Hospice. The group formed this summer is almost ready to sing bedside to the dying and their families.

"Through that song, that connection brings peace," said Marti Coplai, the president and CEO of Angela Hospice. "It's also peace to the family, just being able to come together around the song and seeing that peace come to their loved one."

The choir was started by Coplai and Margot Parr, the former president and CEO of the hospice. Coplai saw a threshold group serving in Ann Arbor and hoped Livonia could have a similar group one day.

"I always hoped that we could replicate that here in this community," Coplai said. "So when Margot retired, we were able to kind of make our dream come true by having somebody with the time and the resources to get something like this started."

Though the choir operates out of Angela Hospice,



the two are not affiliated. But, the choir will sing faithbased songs like "Amazing Grace" upon request.

"It was designed to be able to sing to anyone regardless of faith, regardless of culture, all of those things," Parr said of the choir.

The musicians, led by Norma Sander as the volunteer music director, is comprised of people who love singing who want to serve or find a musical community. Parr said the group is open to anyone regardless of vocal ability.

"Our voices are not professional voices. ... You have to have a heart to serve and you have to be able to follow directions," Parr said.

When singing bedside, a group of three of four singers will sing Threshold's original songs a capella. People can be sung to as they're dying, but that isn't always the case.

"That does happen, but it doesn't have to be that," Parr said. "It is really meant for individuals at the threshold of their life.

"Most commonly, we think of 'threshold' as that threshold from living to dying. But the choir is also open to singing to individuals who are maybe really debilitated by illness or are hospitalized, that type of thing."

Parr said anyone in the community willing to comfort people in their final moments is welcome to join by contacting her at cthresholdsingers@yahoo.com.

"Threshold singing is really about giving a part of yourself, serving others," she said. "We never perform, if we're asked to we won't. Everything we do is at the bedside."

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

Norma Sander conducts the Threshold Choir during a practice Nov. 21.



Eamonn Moore practices with the choir. Livonia's threshold singers practice out of Angela Hospice.



A choir member sings with the group on Nov. 21.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on a variance request by the property owner of 619 Carpenter Ave., Northville, Michigan, 48167. The applicant is seeking a variance for additional lot coverage to retain an existing shed and other structures on premises zoned R-1B First Density Residential District, parcel number 48-001-02-0022-301. The variance requested is 148 square feet of lot coverage over the maximum requirement in Section 15.01.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the variance request. The variance application is available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, local prevailing time. Written comments pertaining to the proposed variance request will also be received at the above address.

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Publish: January 16, 2020

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on a variance request by the Coves of Northville Condominium Association. The Coves development is located on the east side of Taft Road, between Eight Mile Road and Morgan Boulevard. The applicant is seeking a variance to replace an existing free-standing identification sign in the same location as the old sign, on premises zoned R-3 Third Density Residential District. The sign is proposed within the common area of the condominium (no address) at the Taft Road entrance. The variance requested is nine (9) feet, to allow location of the new sign one (1) foot from the front property line. Section 21.01 requires that free-standing signs be located at least 10 feet from the front property line.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the variance request. The variance application is available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, local prevailing time. Written comments pertaining to the proposed variance request will also be received at the above address.

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Publish: January 16, 2020

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Time to get your financial house in order

Money Matters Rick Bloom Guest columnist

I wish you and yours a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2020. I can't believe it was 20 years ago that everyone was worried about Y2K.

Obviously, things have changed since the year 2000; if nothing more, companies like Uber, Twitter and Facebook didn't exist, and the first iPhone didn't come out until 2007. But what hasn't changed is how important it is for everyone to take control of their finances.

resolutions is deciding this will be the year you get your financial house in order. I think this is a wonderful resolution that everyone should adhere to. I believe there are two things you should do to help you accomplish that resolution: a cash flow statement and a personal balance sheet.

A cash flow statement is a listing of what money is coming in and what money is going out on a monthly basis. Having a cash flow statement allows you to know your cost of living. I cannot stress enough how important it is to know what it costs you to live on a month-to-month basis.

Doing a cash flow statement at least One of the more popular New Year's twice a year will allow you to also see

your personal inflation rate. The government may report inflation, but our individual inflation rate is different.

These numbers are essential in any future financial planning.

The other document you need this time of year is a personal balance sheet. A personal balance sheet is a listing of assets and liabilities. Once you determine your assets and liabilities, you then can determine your net worth. By doing a personal balance sheet at least twice a year, you'll have a better understanding of where you stand financially.

Whether it's doing a cash flow statement or a personal balance sheet, it is important that you put some thought into it. It doesn't do you any good if you put together a cash flow statement that shows it costs you \$3,000 a month to live when, in actuality, it's \$4,000. You may think your house is worth a quarter of a million dollars; however, if it can only be sold for \$200,000, that is what it is actually worth.

As we enter 2020, we all must recognize that personal responsibility when it comes to our finances is more important than ever. Spend some time organizing your finances. I can assure you the time you spend will pay dividends well into the future.

Good luck!

If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

The Lemon Tree opens in new space in South Lyon

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Annie Buchtrup hasn't gotten much sleep the last two months. But you won't find the South Lyon resident complaining about it. She's been excited to get up and get moving.

She's even more excited now that her store, The Lemon Tree, has opened in its new home inside the former Art Craft building at 111 S. Lafayette.

"It's great. It's amazing," she said. "It's a phenomenal thing."

The Lemon Tree, which first opened in 2017 in the Olmstead Place building, marks the first business to occupy the building in decades. Purchased by South Lyon resident Ron Borgman, renovations began last summer. Gone is the green exterior, replaced with a classic look, a project that was part of a massive celebration last month of changes in downtown South Lyon.

The interior has new flooring and new ceilings, but several of the building's former touches are still present: reclaimed wood from the original floor now hangs on the wall, and the doors, which date back to the late 1800s, rest against the wall. Those doors will eventually get hung on the wall, too.



South Lyon resident Faith McMillen looks at items for sale at The Lemon Tree. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"From having the background I have in art, I can appreciate all the different facets that they've done," Buchtrup said

The shop continues to sell boutique items, including plants, books, gifts and other treasures. With a larger space -Buchtrup has added roughly 500 square feet to her operation - additional items can be sold, including larger furniture pieces and more specialty items. She's hoping her current customers - some

from as far away as Lansing and Monroe like the changes.

One of those customers excited to see the store open in the new space was Faith McMillen. She was in Jan. 2, buying a book as a gift for a friend.

'It's my third trip here and they haven't even officially opened yet," the South Lyon resident said. "She has things you can't find anywhere else."

McMillen said she's hoping to spread the word about the shop, especially given that it's opened in a space that's been an eyesore for so many years.

'This has been such a horrible building for so long, and right on the main street," she said. "To see that it's really coming along into the next decade is phenomenal. It helps us all out."

Darlene Joseph, an employee who's been with The Lemon Tree since October. said the new location will be beneficial, as they'll be able to attract those walking by much more easily than in the former spot.

'We were always kind of set behind," she said

The store is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and Saturday. It's open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays. Learn more on the shop's website at thelemontree.shop.

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6A I THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020 I O& EMEDIA (NNNR)

Novi mother arraigned on homicide charges

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Mason Shi was known by some of his neighbors as the quintessential child – pure, innocent and peaceful.

He would wave, smile and blow kisses to passersby. His mother, Chunhui Shi, usually was outside, and neighbors knew them to be out working or playing when the weather was right.

They were shocked to learn Jan. 3 that Mason was dead and that his mother could be the one responsible.

"He was very nice," neighbor Dev Ramannagari said. "He was a lovely, cute little boy."

Chunhui Shi, 36, was arraigned Jan. 6

in 52-1 District Court on two counts of homicide and one count of first-degree child abuse, city officials said in a statement.

She is accused of killing her son with a kitchen knife before harming herself.

Shi has been denied bond and has been in police custody at an area hospital since Friday. She will head to the Oakland County Jail upon discharge.

Her husband returned to their home in the 50900 block of Sevilla Circle on Jan. 3 to find his wife and their toddler son, Mason, 2, violently injured.

Shi apparently had a history of mental health issues, which some neighbors said they never realized, maybe because of language barriers. They heard, though, that she had tried seeking help before Mason died. Shi and her husband are from China.

They came to the U.S. in 2014, police said.

Neighbors said the couple moved into the Andelina Ridge subdivision home less than two years ago. Shi's husband apparently works at Denso International America, Inc., an auto body parts supplier in Southfield.

One neighbor, who did not want to give her name, said she rarely saw the couple together, but frequently saw Shi and Mason together. Shi would hold the child in her arms as she walked near their home.

The neighbor said she was horrified

when police showed up. Shi was taken out of the house on a stretcher. Her husband was in the back of a police vehicle, and he wasn't handcuffed. And there was no sign of Mason.

Chunhui Shi faces life in prison if convicted on the charges of homicide – felony murder, homicide – first-degree premeditated murder and first-degree child abuse.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Novi Police Department at 248-348-7100 or remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800- SPEAKUP.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.







Oakland County Animal Control Manager Bob Gatt on Jan. 3 shows the "quarantine kennel" where a pit bull mauled a shelter supervisor in December. PHOTOS BY BILL LAITNER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Pit bull shot to save life of animal shelter worker

Bill Laitner Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

When three Oakland County dog shelter workers couldn't dislodge a raging pit bull mauling the kennel supervisor, a police officer shot the dog in the head, saving the supervisor's life, officials said Friday. The pit bull, with a history of biting family members in Troy, fell to the floor and shelter personnel pulled Shelley Grey to safety last month, as shown on a dramatic video, before she was rushed off in an ambulance. Yet, the 80-pound dog - after being shot "at point-blank range, between the eyes," seemingly rose from the dead, Oakland County spokesman Bill Mullan said. As the video shows, when the officer returned to the special hallway where six kennels house dangerous dogs, the pit bull had regained consciousness and now posed a fresh threat. "The officer saw it was now a wounded animal and the possible threat played through his mind, so he immediately ended its suffering" with a second shot that was fatal, Mullan said. Still, "the first shot was effective because it got this dog off Shelley; it saved her life," he said. That account was the core of a story told Jan. 3 by Oakland County officials, following initial reports of the Dec. 12 attack. It occurred inside a "quarantine kennel" where cages hold dangerous dogs, and where the pit bull had been caged after Troy police responded to a report that 4-year-old Roscoe had attacked an adult and two children of the family that raised him as a puppy. Officials said the attack prompted them to add safety equipment and new procedures "to make sure this kind of incident never happens here again," said Bob Gatt, manager of Oakland **County Animal Control.** The incident "traumatized everyone here and we're still dealing with that," Gatt said, adding: "This is the first time anything of this magnitude has happened here, to my knowledge." Grey, 52, the injured supervisor, is a 25-year veteran of animal control and care, still recovering at home from serious injuries to her right arm and shoulder as well as to her left hand and one leg, Gatt said. She suffered a broken left finger as well as muscle damage to her right forearm, both requiring surgery, according to a county news release. Will she ever come back to work? "I sure as heck hope so," Gatt said. Since the attack, the shelter has improved training for all staff who enter the facility's two quarantine kennels,

each of which has six cages that individually house "dogs that have bitten people," Gatt said. Cages are now double locked.

Those who enter must have attached

Sunday, January 26, 2020

12:30pm-3pm



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to their clothing "an audible alert device" that summons help instantly; and now hanging nearby for fast access are emergency protective devices, including clear plastic shields, dog snares for capturing a loose dog from a safe distance, and break sticks used to force open the jaw of a biting dog, Gatt said.

"But I've seen pit bulls bite and I don't think those would be able to open some dogs' jaws," he said. Pit bulls can make gentle family pets, but any dog that shows a tendency to bite "for no apparent reason, you're best bringing it to us — that dog is going to hurt someone," he said.

Officials did not identify the Troy family that owned Roscoe. They said the family, even after the dog seriously bit the family's mother and two children, refused to give permission to the county to euthanize their pet.

"What we heard is that the mom was on the phone and they said the dog bit her because she was talking too loudly," and then turned on her two children, Gatt said. The woman drove herself to Henry Ford Hospital in Troy, after which EMS transported her children to Troy Beaumont Hospital, according to a police report.

Responding officers found the pit bull "loose outside the residence," the report said. They caught the dog using a snare device, holding it in the home's basement until a county officer arrived to take the dog to the Oakland County shelter in Pontiac.

A man living at the house, not married to the mother, according to the police report, told police that the dog had "been aggressive before in the past and has bitten people/family members."

The following day, Roscoe bit an Oakland County animal control officer in the back and leg as the officer tried to remove the dog's leash inside the shelter's quarantine kennel, according to the county's news release.

Yet, when shelter staff visited the man the next day and asked whether the county could get custody of the dog, as a step toward euthanizing it, the man refused, according to the release.

Later, by telephone, the mother who'd been bitten also declined to surrender ownership of the dog to the county, the release said.

When the dog attacked Dec. 12, "we were just about to go to court to get custody of this dog, and we're quite sure the court would've granted it," Gatt said.

(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM & THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020 # 7A

South Lyon teen charged in I-75 porn billboard display

Meredith Spelbring Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

Two teens have been charged in connection with a pornographic billboard display along I-75 in September.

Auburn Hills Police Department charged a 16-year-old from South Lyon and an 18-year-old from Sterling Heights, said Auburn Police Department Lt. Ryan Gagnon.

The 16-year-old, who was responsible for going into the shed and posting the display, was placed in a juvenile diversion program. If he complies with the program, he will not face formal charges, Gagnon said. The 18-year-old was charged with trespassing.

Gagnon added the department was able to identify the two teenagers through anonymous tips.

The teens entered the building where the billboard controls were located about 10:49 p.m. Sept. 28 and were in the space for about 15 minutes, according to police.

Police received reports of pornographic videos being displayed on the electronic freeway billboard on the east side of I-75 south of M-59 about 11 p.m. By the time officers arrived, the videos had been playing for 15-20 minutes, according to Auburn Hills Police.

The teens entered the space through the 6-foot fence, which had been previously damaged. The shed was unlocked



A 17-second video shows two suspects breaking into the shed under a billboard on I-75 to put a pornographic video on the billboard. COURTESY OF PDTF

when they entered because people from the company that owned the shed had forced their way into the building when the locks froze over and never replaced them, Gagnon said.

The billboard was operated by a laptop in the shed as opposed to being operated remotely like most digital billboards. Gagnon said it has since been changed to be accessed remotely.

"That is unclear how exactly they thought about this or why they chose this, other than you can obviously see a shed underneath the sign and maybe curiosity piqued their interest whether or not they could get in, maybe that ran the billboard," he said.

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Duo suspected of raiding 11 vehicles arrested

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Northville Township police have arrested two men they say are responsible for stealing items from 11 vehicles parked in the Northville Colony Estates neighborhood including cell phones, credit cards and a shotgun.

They said vehicle owners left doors unlocked when the crimes happened in late November.

Marwin Lee Chambers, 21, of Pontiac and Ethan Edwin Thompson, 22, of Waterford were arraigned last month on four felony charges each – two for alleged identity theft and two for alleged stealing/retaining of a financial transaction device. Chambers' case remains in 35th District Court. Thompson waived his pre-



Marwin Lee Chambers Jr., left, and Ethan Edwin Thompson. COURTESY OF NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP POLICE



liminary exam and his case is now being managed by the Third Circuit Court in Detroit.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.



Novi police were dispatched to this Rousseau Drive home in April after neighbors reported hearing screams. Police found Tia Joe dead inside. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Joe

Continued from Page 1A

Neighbors said Joe's mother moved from the mobile home where she, her daughter and grandchild were living.

A GoFundMe page portrays Joe as a loving mother.

"This is an effort to raise money for the burial of Tia and to assist with the many medical expenses anticipated for her son," the page reads. "Thank you for anyone who can and will help."

Molloy welcomes tips from the public.

"Sometimes, people get so busy, I think, in their everyday personal (and) professional lives," he said. "Unless they're a family member or unless they're connected somehow with the victim, they kind of lose thought of it."

If you have information, call Novi police at 248-348-7100 or CrimeStoppers

About this series

This is suburban Detroit, and area police agencies have a few cold cases to investigate.

Cases get colder and tougher to solve as time passes without significant clues. And there's the turmoil from bodies missing, evidence lacking and crime scenes still to be found. Crime statisticians warn of a cold case crisis. According to the U.S. Department

of Justice, the nation has about 250,000 unsolved murders, and the number rises by several thousand each year.

This is part of a series of stories looking at some of the cases in metro Detroit.

of Michigan at 1-800-773 2587.

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

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Independent coffee shop opens in Novi

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

If your New Year's resolution is to get a more local cup of coffee in the morning, Novi resident Rao Esarla has just the business for you.

Esarla opened Sip and Joy, a coffee house, in early November in the Novi Plaza at 41467 10 Mile. The shop offers specialty coffee drinks, including some with local monikers, such as a Novi Red Velvet or a 10 Mile White Mocha. Esarla moved to Novi several years ago when his wife's work brought them to Michigan. He's operated a coffee shop in Connecticut, and served as a general manager for Dunkin' Donuts. With both a culinary and business background, he decided he should open his own shop.

When Little Caesars moved a few storefronts west to a larger space in the plaza, it allowed Esarla to sign a lease and begin renovations. Renovating the space from a pizza shop to a coffee house took about six months, he said. In addition to coffee, the shop offers baked goods made in-house.

Esarla said business has been good so far. He's hoping to attract more business in the coming months, especially as word gets out about Sip and Joy.

The shop is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. More information, including a menu, can be found at sipandjoycoffee.com.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.



Sip & Joy sports some fun, colorful coffee art on its walls for its patrons to enjoy. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Los Tres Amigos

Continued from Page 1A

The restaurant joins others in Farmington, Plymouth Township, Canton, Livonia and Howell. The company owns more than 20 restaurants in the state.

In Northville, the interior of Los Tres Amigos had to be completely redone to suit a Mexican eatery. The dining room, which seats 90, is decorated with murals of Mexican celebrities from the mid-1900s, including Pedro Armendariz, Pedro Infante and Frida Kahlo.

Patrons can enjoy traditional Mexican fare, including fajitas, burritos, tacos and chimichangas.

Ramirez said the Northville restaurant's opening has inspired the chefs to add several new items to the menu, including three vegan dishes. Guests can choose from Tacos De Chorizo, made with soy chorizo; Tacos De Peschado, plant-based fish tacos; or beefless tacos, made from plant-based beef.

Ramirez said the vegan options have been popular among guests so far. He attributes part of that to his chefs, who have made the dishes appetizing.

"It tastes exactly the same," Ramirez said.

Ramirez said the new dishes will start in Northville and may become part of the other Los Tres Amigos' menus in the coming weeks.

The bar boasts 17 types of tequila to make its signature margaritas.



An enchilada with refried beans and rice is prepped for a lunch order.

Los Tres Amigos will offer some patio seating in warm months, overlooking the Northville Town Square.

The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. More information, including a menu, can be found at lostresamigosonline.com. The restaurant continues to hire employees; stop by the restaurant for an application.

Ramirez said he hopes to bring another Los Tres Amigos to the area, aiming to open in downtown Plymouth.

Ramirez said he knows it will be a challenge going there, given the low number of vacancies, but believes he can if he finds the right opportunity.

"It's going to be hard, but we're still looking at that," he said. "People like it. So we keep going."

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



Los Tres Amigos waitress Mayra Garcia pours a margarita at the new restaurant in Northville on Mary Alexander Court. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Milford's Kroger produce stands have been updated for a farmers-market feel. The store had its grand reopening Jan. 8 to celebrate the \$2.6 million renovation project that began in September. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Kroger

Continued from Page 1A

Work began renovating the store in the beginning of September. The 53,501square-foot store with 23 aisles now sports a refreshed look with new signage and decor, along with new shelving, refrigerators and coolers.

The last renovation to the Milford Kroger took place in 2010, Hicks said.

The store still carries all the same products as before', though it now has a greater variety, Hicks said. He also said many of the "Nature's Market" items, which used to be in one area of the store, are now organized by product.

There's also a new "culinary kiosk" near the deli that allows patrons to select fresh meals and side dishes.

The pharmacy has expanded and now includes a counseling room.

Amy Luna, a district manager with Kroger, said she was impressed with the work ethic of the employees at the Milford store during the remodel.

"It takes a village. And at Kroger, it takes an army. And you guys have done it," she said. "To see the teamwork, the dedication and really the commitment to each other the past few months, it tells me a lot about who you are and how you take care of your customers."



The store has aisle marking signs with better visibility for customers' ease.

The refreshed look comes as several Kroger stores across the region have received face lifts in recent years, including in Commerce Township and Farmington Hills.

Village Council member Kevin Ziegler spoke during the grand reopening, praising Kroger for making the investment in the village. He said he remembers not being able to locate an item in the store during the remodel and approaching Hicks to ask him where it was.

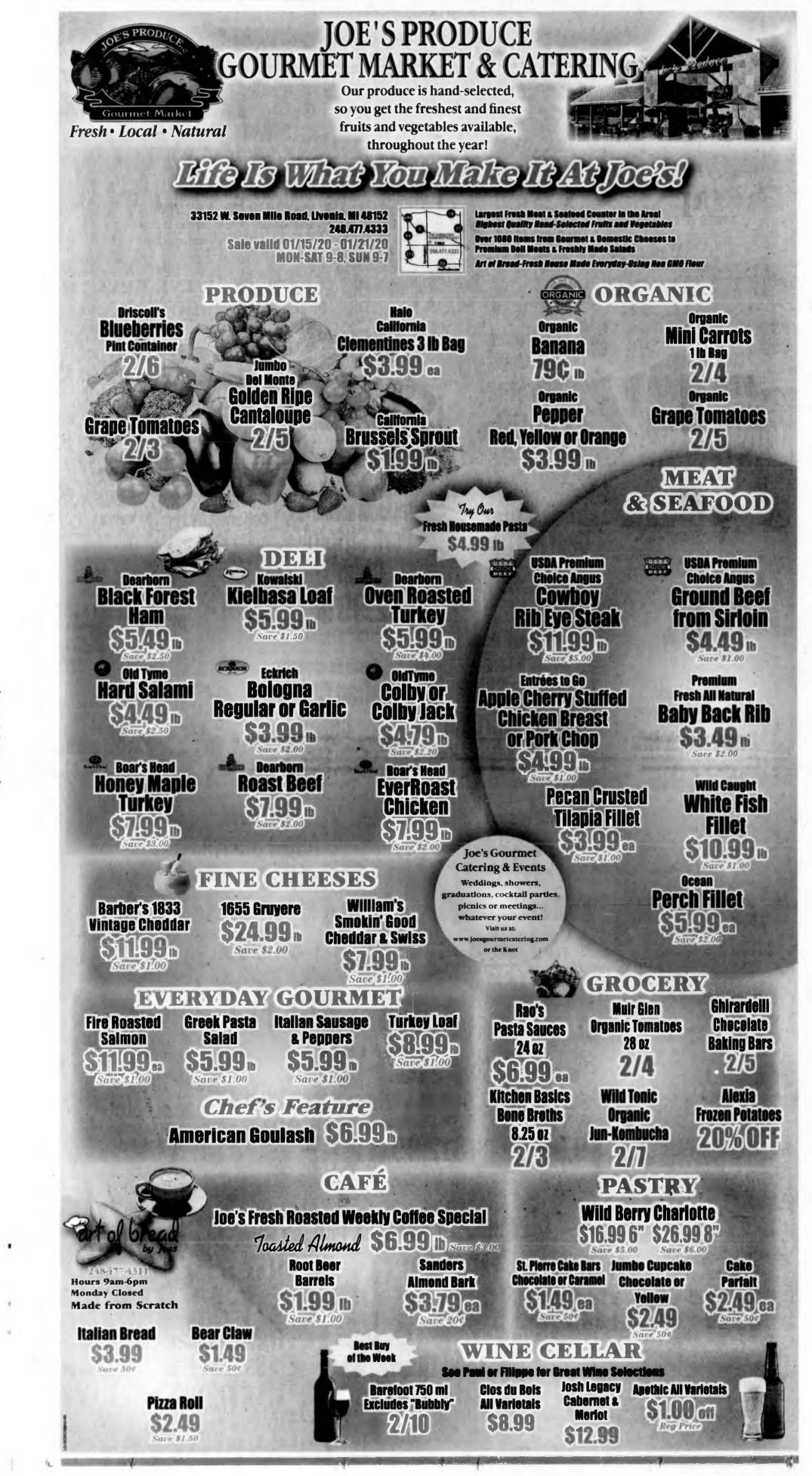
"It looks great. Thanks for reinvesting in the community, Kroger," he said. "Let's sell some food."

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

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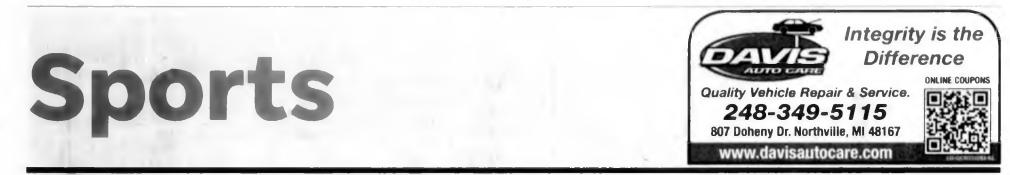


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USA TODAY SPORTS



PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thompson helps Northville dominate Novi

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

The Northville girls basketball team's game plan seemed straightforward: get the ball inside to senior Morgan Thompson

From the first offensive possession of the game the 6-foot-3 forward made her

presence known, grabbing two offensive rebounds off two misses, scoring the first Mustangs basket off a layup.

When Thompson was on the court, she was the center of attention, scoring 12 of Northville's 29 first-half points, leading the Mustangs (3-3) to the 45-26 win against Novi (3-3) at home Friday. Thompson finished the game with 15

points, most of which came in the paint, holding a legitimate size advantage over the Wildcat forwards

"She's having a really nice start to her season," Northville head coach Todd Gudith said. "She's doing a nice job finishing her shots around the rim. I think that's giving her confidence."

Led by Thompson and senior Ellie See GIRLS, Page 2B

Thallman, who recorded 10 points in the first half, Northville amounted to a 29-5 first-half lead.

After allowing scores from Novi point guard Jenna Daschke and a lavup by forward Miranda Baumbrick in the first quarter, the Mustangs exploded on a



CC hockey ends streak in loss to Grosse **Pointe South**

Colin Gay Hometownlife com **USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN**

Seventeen periods, 289 minutes.

That's the time Detroit Catholic Central hockey has spent on the ice since it had allowed its last goal, recording a six-game shutout streak heading into its matchup against Grosse Pointe South.

When the puck was dropped against the Blue Devils, that shutout streak only lasted three minutes and 20 seconds longer.

On a fastbreak, Grosse Pointe South senior forward Keegan Spitz set up junior forward David Rivard, getting the puck past Catholic Central goalkeeper Louis Finnegan for the 1-0 lead.

During the 2019-20 season, Catholic Central has not won a game in which it had allowed a goal. That streak continued Jan. 8.

Despite coming back, tying the game with two third-period goals within 40 seconds of each other, the Shamrocks (7-4) allowed the gamewinning tip-in with 2:13 to go in the game, falling to Grosse Pointe South (12-2), 4-3, at USA Hockey Arena. "I didn't see the team that we have seen," Catholic Central head coach Brandon Kaleniecki said. "Once again. you are not going to have your best game every single night and you hope to find a way to gut it out. In the end, we came back and we showed a lot of good things. I liked that. Then kind of a weird bounce at the end ends up in the back of the net.

A quartet of South Lyon and South Lyon East players scramble for a loose ball in the second half of their game Jan. 10. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

South Lyon edges East in rivalry game

Andrew Vailliencourt Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In front of a nearly packed house Friday night, South Lyon and South Lyon East battled for an edge in the Lakes Valley Conference standings.

After overcoming a slow start, it was South Lyon that came away victorious, beating South Lyon East 58-44 at South Lyon East High School.

The win boosted the Lions to 4-3 overall and 2-1 in conference. South Lyon East fell to 3-2 overall and 1-2 in the LVC.

"It feels great," South Lyon coach Troy Weidman said. "I always say that this is like playing our cousins. These guys grow up and play travel basketball together and you always want to beat your brothers when you're playing against them. I'm really proud of ourguys."

Here are three takeaways from the game:

See RIVALRY, Page 2B



South Lyon's Connor Fracassi, left, tries to strip the ball from Drake Willenborg.

"Once again, they deserved those bounces tonight."

After Catholic Central junior forward Collin Scheuher tied the game in the first period with a tip-in, Grosse Pointe South took advantage of the Shamrocks on power plays.

Twenty-nine seconds into the man advantage early in the second period, Blue Devils forward Dean Therriault beat Finnegan again, giving Grosse Pointe South the 2-1 lead heading into the third period.

And after starting the third period with a power play, the Blue Devils connected again with six seconds left before Catholic Central would have returned to full strength.

In the first five minutes of the third period, Kaleniecki said he did not see that hunger needed for the Shamrocks to come back and have a chance, desperately calling to his bench for a spark.

The Catholic Central head coach got his wish.

Forward Jack Estfan connected on a

See HOCKEY, Page 2B



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Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

13-foot slap shot to bring the Shamrocks to within one goal. Forty seconds later, forward Tommy Shea tucked the puck in the back of the net to tie the game at three.

However, after the Blue Devils hit the game winner on a scrum near the goal, Kaleniecki said it was a well-deserving win for a Grosse Pointe South team that had been playing extremely well.

"That was my first message: they deserved to win, in my opinion, and I really didn't feel like we did," Kaleniecki said.

Catholic Central has been in this position before.

After a 5-2 loss to Brother Rice on Nov. 27, the Shamrocks had more than a week before another game, giving time for the team to regroup and find itself on defense, leading to the six-game shutout streak.

Kaleniecki said the loss to Grosse Pointe South is just a part of the learning process.

"That's what my challenge was to them: OK, we had another setback. Whatever the reasons were or why they happened, now it's important to bounce back even stronger," Kaleniecki said.

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

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Detroit Catholic Central's Kyle Gaffney gets a shot off on goal against Grosse Pointe South. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Girls

Continued from Page 1B

14-0 run, stopped only by a free-throw make by the Wildcats in the second quarter.

Northville held Novi to no field goal makes in the second quarter, and the Wildcats made only 1-of-7 attempts at the free-throw line.

Coming off a 46-point loss to KLAA West foe Brighton in the division opener, Gudith said the Mustangs did the opposite of what it did against the Bulldogs: bringing effort and hustle, something he said they have to bring to every game.

"What we lacked in the Brighton game, we lacked hustle. That's what we brought today, and we are going to bring it every other game now," Thompson said. "Brighton taught us a lesson. Every game, we learn something new." Just over two minutes into the third quarter, Daschke hit a three, giving Novi its first field goal since the first half. With that the Wildcats started to show up offensively, going on a 10-1 run.

But after a timeout taken by Northville, the Mustangs answered back.

"We told them at halftime that it's not over yet. Novi is not going to give up. It's a rivalry game for one, so it gives a little extra juice to it," Gudith said. "We knew they were going to put a little bit of pressure on us. It was just a matter of us keeping our heads."

A four-point swing — a jumper by Sophia Jeromsky and a layup by Avery Tolstyka — allowed Northville to keep a dominant lead, holding an 18-point advantage at the start of the fourth quarter.

For Novi, Daschke led the way offensively, scoring 11 of the Wildcats' 26 total points.

While the hustle came in waves in the second half, the Northville head coach said the Mustangs did what it needed to do.



"When push came to shove, we kept our cool as much as we needed to," Gudith said.

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

Northville forward Morgan Thompson is triple-teamed in the paint against Novi. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Rivalry

Continued from Page 1B

Bouncing back

It was South Lyon East that got off to a fast start.

The Cougars didn't score the first basket, but went on a 10-0 run to take a 10-2 lead. A stunned Lions team called timeout to regroup.

"It wasn't any X's and O's, I just pulled them over and told them to breathe, told them to stay in it and do the little things that we talked about in the game plan, it wasn't anything new, there wasn't any adjustment," Weidman said. "It was just breathe and know it's a long game."

It was a different ballgame from that moment on, as South Lyon scored the first quarter's final five points to narrow East's lead to three. In the second quarter, South Lyon continued its scoring, taking a 19-17 lead at halftime. Brothers Connor (senior) and Quinn Fracassi (sophomore) both came up big in the quarter, each hitting a three.

Quinn wants to make playing with his brother as memorable as possible, especially with Connor graduating in the spring.

"It feels great. It's a life-changing experience, I might never have it again," Quinn said. "I just like to live it to the fullest."

Seeing triple

There was one clear difference on offense between the two squads: threepoint shooting.

South Lyon made eight triples compared to East's two, setting the Lions apart.

The sharpshooting was especially

La solonita de la contra de la



South Lyon and South Lyon East players jump for a rebound Jan. 10 at East. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

important in the fourth quarter when the Lions outscored the Cougars 24-13.

Quinn Fracassi led South Lyon with 15 points and three made three-pointers. His first three of the game tied the game at 12 and the Lions never looked back.

"I feel confident every time I shoot and feel like it's going in every time I shoot it," Quinn said.

Senior Joseph Carano notched 12

points for South Lyon, Logan Doty had eight and Connor Fracassi had seven. Senior Darien Maynarich knocked down two triples for six total points.

"I would call us a bit of a streaky three-point shooting team," Weidman said. "Quinn has been a little up and down but tonight he really hit those and it really opened up the post for us. We have the potential to be a really good three-point shooting team."

and the second s

Defense takes charge

Maynarich's biggest impact on the game didn't come on offense, despite his six points. He made his mark on the defensive end, where he took three charges and led a stout defensive effort on the inside, especially against East senior big man Nick Branton, who is 6foot-8 and was a force in the post.

Branton was held to eight points despite his clear advantage in the middle.

"Darien Maynarich played a heck of a game," Weidman said. "We always nominate who the defensive player of the game is, all the players in there, and there's never been a time where it's been unanimous but tonight it was unanimous. He just went to battle and took the challenge."

South Lyon East's leading scorer was junior guard Bryce Bird, who scored 11 points.

"Defensively we stayed disciplined and didn't gamble, we wanted to wear those guys down for the fourth quarter," Weidman saīd. "Offensively, we were in the right spaces, they came out with their trap and we adjusted well, we had a guy in the high post. Our spacing was really good, that execution and attention to detail really helped us."

South Lyon is now in third place in the LVC, while South Lyon East drops to the bottom half of the standings. South Lyon's next game was Jan. 14 against Waterford Kettering, while East next plays Friday at Walled Lake Northern.

"It was a big win, we all trusted each other as a team and picked each other up when things went wrong," Quinn Fracassi said. "We made the shots down the stretch and played as a team."

Contact reporter Andrew Vailliencourt at availlienc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Twitter: @Andrew-Vcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Northville continues home win streak against Novi

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Novi wasted no time.

Senior Ashton Smith fired from the corner, silencing the Mustang faithful with a quick three-point make. After Northville senior Domenic Rodriguez answered with a quick layup, Wildcats senior Shrey Devulapalli hit another three, giving Novi the quick 6-2 lead on the road against the undefeated Mustangs.

Then Northville senior Zach Shoemaker took control.

The 6-foot-5 senior scored sixstraight points, giving the Northville (6-0) a lead it would never give up, beating KLAA rival Novi (2-4), 49-38, Friday night.

Here are three takeaways from Friday night's game.

Shoemaker starts, Withey finishes

Coming into the first game against the two KLAA West rivals, Shoemaker had the most experience with it.

Having started in the game as a sophomore and starting every game for Northville as a junior, he expected the big crowd, the loud noise. It's something he said he canceled out and just did what he did best.

When Northville struggled in the first half against the WIldcats, Shoemaker carried the Mustangs.

The senior forward scored 10 of Northville's 14 first-quarter points, ending the quarter with a steal and a slam dunk that electrified the gym.

Shoemaker finished with a teamhigh 24 points.

"When we needed somebody to step up when we couldn't score, it was certainly him," Northville head coach Todd Sander said. "A lot of our stuff, it's no secret, runs through him, and he executed."

But Northville needed another energy boost. Even though the Mustangs held a six-point lead heading into the final quarter, Smith, the leading scorer for the Wildcats with 12 points, hit a 3 for Novi at the end of the quarter, shifting momentum a bit the other way. That was when senior Brady Withey took the baton from Shoemaker.

"Brady said we weren't going to lose," Sander said

He scored 10 of Northville's 17 fourthquarter points, performing "unbelievable finishes" at the rim, according to his head coach.

To Withey, he just did what brought him to the Novi game Friday night.

"We try and not forget what got us here, which is playing crazy: going for every loose ball, fighting for everything, giving 100 percent every time," Withey said.

Rivalry as advertised

Novi head coach Chris Housey left the court thinking what could have been.

• With a six-point deficit in the middle of the fourth quarter, one his his players put up a three-point attempt. The ball went halfway in and out.

While he admitted it would have changed the complexion of the game, he was proud of the effort the Wildcats put forth.

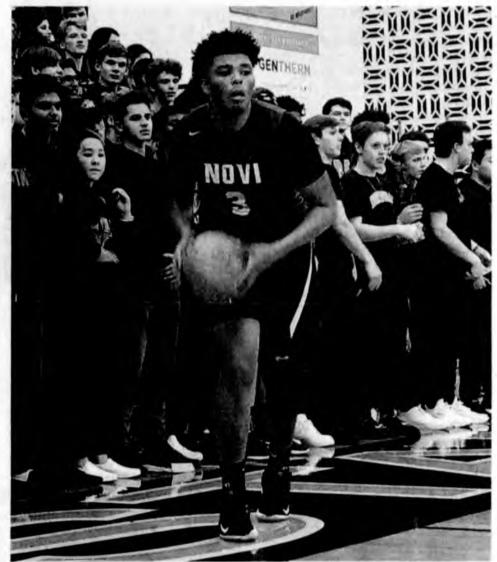
"We talk all the time about overcoming adversity and they were able to come through and fight back," Housey said. "There were a couple of times where they came down, hit a three and it felt like a backbreaker, we came down and answered right back. We kept fighting."

But no matter the deficit Novi faced, no matter if it came to within one possession like it did in the second and third quarters, Northville never wavered, seemingly always answering with a run of its'own to secure a substantial lead.

Sander said that kind of back and forth is just a testament to the rivalry.

"Both teams play sloppy, but with so much energy than it makes up for so many of those little mistakes," Sander said. "I felt we were a little awestruck at first. We have many guys where it was their first time playing significant minutes in a Northville/Novi game."

Shoemaker, the three-year Northville/Novi veteran sees it a bit differently.



Novi senior forward Bruce Turner tries to throw the ball as the the Northville student section looks on during Friday night's game. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"It's our last home Novi game for the rest of our lives," Shoemaker said. "We played like we wanted to win."

Northville continues to win

The Mustangs have taken advantage of their home-friendly schedule to start the 2019-20 season. Northville has started the season 6-0, playing each of their games at home.

However, a big test came next for the Mustangs when they visited Canton Tuesday (after press time). Sander said it will be another example of how difficult the KLAA is and how Northville's schedule will not let up.

However, Withey thinks the Mustangs' latest win will provide some reassurance moving forward.

"This win is bigger than all of the previous five, so we know we have a lot of momentum heading into the second half of the year," Withey said.

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



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WRESTLING

Cepak, Garcia celebrate 100th win at South Lyon East

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

At the South Lyon Alumni dual meet, South Lyon East junior wrestler Matthew Cepak and senior AJ Garcia each celebrated their 100th career wins on the mat.

Both Garcia and Cepak were members of the Michigan Matcats program. The 100-win milestone has been accomplished by nearly two dozen wrestlers in the area.

"One hundred wins in a high school career is a huge achievement. Wrestlers almost have to be on starting varsity their entire four years for the chance to earn a century," South Lyon East head coach Matt Cepak said. "Both Mathew and AJ are leaders on and off the mat. It's fitting to see both earn a hundred wins at home in front of friends and family."

Along with Garcia and Matthew Cepak, the Matcats have produced stateranked wrestlers at South Lyon, South Lyon East, Whitmore Lake, Walled Lake and Brighton.

cgay@hometownlife.com



South Lyon East wrestlers Matthew Cepak and AJ Garcia celebrate their 100th career wins on the mat. SUBMITTED

Matcats wrestling finds success at Bullock Creek tournament

The Michigan Matcats recently traveled north for the Bullock Creek tournament hosted by the North East Michigan Wrestling Association.

This is the seventh consecutive year the Matcats earned most wins, most pins and total match points at this event.

"We've almost come to call Bullock Creek our second home," Michigan Matcats head coach Steve Richardson said. "Our kids really perform well here. In fact, we had over a dozen brackets with more than one Matcat finishing in the top four."

Some of the team's best performances included Emmett Fournier, who had arguably the best match of the day. "Emmett works hard in practice ev-

ery day. Sometimes it's hard to believe he's as young as he is," Richardson said.

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Richardson said that the team travels a lot, but this annual event is very important for the club as a whole.

First, it's great competition," Richardson said. "Our kids get some really great matches, and a lot of them Second, after the tournament, we all stay at the same hotel for some team fun. Winning is nice, but the real memories are hanging out with friends, families and teammates."

Other top first-place finishers included Connor White, Jacob Kruse, Griffin Cunningham, Peyton Searing, Mason Aluia, Gavin Boller, Bronson Shinkonis, Carter McGlinch, Jackson Kelly, Andre Belcher, Anthony Madafferi, Tayden Plave, Brandon Oliver, Skylar McGlinch, Julien Kimling and Easton Hardesty. Dozens of other Matcats placed in the medal rounds.



Sam Cowgil and the Michigan Matcats earned most wins, most pins and total match points at the Bullock Creek wrestling tournament recently. SUBMITTED





(NNNR) HOMETOWNLIFE.COM I THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020 I 5B

Gamers score varsity status at Oakland U.

Frank Witsil Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

In a digital age, colleges have been increasingly offering virtual classes. It was only a matter of time before they also would be giving students a chance to try out for virtual sports.

Oakland University is Michigan's first Division I school with a varsity e-sports team.

But more than the pride of being first, OU's announcement — and its \$100,000 initial investment into esports — indicates growing academic acceptance of video games and a changing definition of athletics.

"Oakland University strives to be entrepreneurial and open to new approaches to teaching, the student experience, and learning, including novel areas of exploration," Oakland University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz said.

OU said it plans to capitalize on the interest, and this fall will start with a 12player team of men and women, a parttime coach and individual student scholarships of up to \$2,000 to help recruit the best esports athletes.

It also has a formal partnership with the Renegades, a professional esports team, to use its Auburn Hills gaming center — and get its help in training OU's esports athletes.

The value of video games

"My first reaction to it five years ago was: Is this going to create a generation of couch potatoes?" said Pescovitz. "I'll tell you candidly I was very concerned about that."

Yet over time, she acknowledged, research has shown her that the games can be beneficial. They help develop hand-eye coordination, critical thinking skills and an interest in academic disciplines, including science, engineering and technology.

Studies, she added, show that gamers make outstanding neurosurgeons.

Translation: It's possible to be a Fortnite champion — and a skilled physician.

Fast-growing, high-profile games

Three times now, since the Golden Grizzlies decided to become a Division I school in 1998, OU has advanced to March Madness.

Each time, it put the university in the national spotlight.

Video gaming offers the same potential, boosting enrollment, school spirit, sponsorship if the team wins, and the ability to tap into a growing \$1 billion esports market.

But unlike traditional sports programs, there are perhaps fewer restrictions and more opportunities.

In August, Michigan Tech, a Division II school that turns out some of the state's top engineers, announced it was the first public university in the state with varsity esports.

Other Michigan universities also offer esports, but not at a varsity sport level. Western Michigan University last fall opened a new arena for its esports club, featuring gaming machines with highresolution monitors, headsets, keyboards and ergonomic chairs.

Metro Detroit high schools, including Ferndale, Birmingham Seaholm, Oxford, Lake Orion and the University of Detroit Jesuit High School, have or are developing esport teams.

At the collegiate level, more than 130 colleges and universities, as well as 3,000-plus student-athletes, belong to the National Association of Collegiate Esports, the group founded in 2016 to help develop gaming standards.

Initially, OU said it plans to start competing in three games: League of Legends, Rocket League and Super Smash Bros. It aims to compete with other college esports teams online and face-to-face in arenas like the one at Western Michigan.

OU expects it will add other games as the program grows.

One advantage esports has over traditional NCAA athletics is that it offers more opportunities to players who might have a disability or aren't as physically fit — or strong.

But just like other sports, it offers its own rules, lingo and sportsmanship.

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Police say man faked stabbing at synagogue

Apple Watch helps confirm suspect's story didn't add up

Bisma Parvez Detroit Free Press USA TODAY NETWORK

A 26-year-old man faked his own stabbing at the West Bloomfield synagogue where he worked

and then reported he was attacked because of his Jewish faith, authorities say.

Now Sean Samitt is facing a felony charge of filing a false police report,

according to West Bloomfield Police.

Samitt

Police said Samitt's Apple Watch helped them solve the case.

Samitt was arrested Dec. 20 and arraigned the same day before Magistrate Julie Nelson-Klein at the 48th District Court in Oakland Country on one count of falsely reporting a felony, a crime punishable up to four years. According to authorities, his \$7,500 bond was posted by Samitt's mother.

He appeared Jan. 2 at the 48th District Court for a probable cause hearing. He is expected to appear for the preliminary examination Jan. 14.

Samit reported he was attacked and stabbed in the abdomen by a man in the parking lot at the Temple Kol Ami, where he worked as a music director.

He reported the crime Dec. 15, telling police he was confronted about 7 p.m. as he was leaving work by a white male in his late 30s to early 40s.

Samitt said that the alleged attacker shouted, "You Jews!" and said "too many immigrants are here," according to the police report obtained by the Free Press through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Samitt said he escaped by kneeing the attacker in the groin and pushing him away, then drove himself to Henry Ford Hospital.

Police said officers searched the parking lot for evidence but came back negative.

While searching Temple Kol Ami, detectives found bloody tissues in Samitt's office and the men's bathroom. They also located a knife in the kitchen area with blood on the tip of the blade.

Suspecting Samitt's wounds were self-inflicted, officers obtained surveillance footage from a house across the street and confirmed that no assault Officers were able to obtain information from Samitt's cellphone health application that was synced to his Apple Watch, confirming he did not lose consciousness. Samitt then admitted to intentionally stabbing himself, police said.

took place.

Police said Samitt admitted to making up the attack and said he lost consciousness and accidentally stabbed himself while he was washing dishes at the synagogue. He said he lied about the incident because he was being harassed at work about his medical condition.

The second story also turned out to be fabricated, police said.

Officers were able to obtain information from Samitt's cellphone health application that was synced to his Apple Watch, confirming he did not lose consciousness. Samitt then admitted to intentionally stabbing himself.

He told police he wanted out of his contract with Temple Kol Ami and this was his way out.

Temple Kol Ami Executive Director Cheryl Friendman told police that Samitt had been an employee for about 1½ years.

A member of the synagogue told the Free Press, "Sean resigned on Dec. 16 and there is no other information."

When contacted by the Free Press, the Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit would only say it takes these matters very seriously.

"We are so very grateful for our law enforcement in Detroit who takes every hate crime seriously," Assistant Executive Director Heidi Budaj said. "We are fortunate to have a partnership with West Bloomfield Township Police who acts to keep our community safe."

The Anti Defamation League states on its website that a false case "could have a detrimental impact on those actual victims of bias crimes who seek justice in the future.

"Bias crimes ... are intended to intimidate the victim and the victim's entire community..."

Obituaries

Sonny Grey Edwards

Sonny Grey Edwards a former resident of Milford currently residing in Mt Pleasant Michigan passed away January 10, 2020 at the age of 84.

Preceding him in death are his wife of 60 years Patricia, Brother Coda (Beryl) Edwards, and Grandson Mason Lee, He is survived by daughters Cheryl Lee of White Lake Township, Linda (Stephen) Bollinger of Commerce Township, Jill (Jack) Sutton of Mt Pleasant, Michigan, six Grandchildren Ryan (Missy) Lee, Lauren Bollinger, Stephen Bollinger, Trever Sutton, Shane Sutton, Tiffany (Jeremy) Ford, four Great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

While residing in Milford Sonny attended the Milford Methodist Church. Sonny was a Graduate of Michigan Technological University, and was in ROTC while attending, later serving in the United States Air Force as a Navigator obtaining the rank of Captain. Sonny retired from the General



Motors Proving grounds and enjoyed retirement life at Canadian Lakes, Mecosta County Michigan. While at Canadian lakes Sonny served on the Property Tax Review Board, participated in the Bridge Club, and enjoyed fishing on the local lakes with an occasional fishing trip to Lake Michigan. Sonny also enjoyed building projects, participating in building three houses and two garages while in retirement.

A Funeral Service will be at Lynch & Sons Funeral, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford on Saturday, January 18 at 1 PM. Friends may gather from 11AM until time of service. Burial will take place at Milford Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the Family is requesting donations in Sonny's name to Alzheimer's Disease Research Bright Focus Foundation or Prestige Centre Assisted Living Mt Pleasant Michigan.

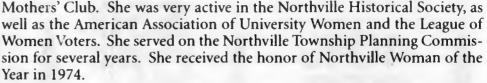
For further information please call Lynch & Sons Funeral Home at 248-684-6645 or www. LynchFuneralDirectors.com

Patsy Dorman Wright

NORTHVILLE - Patsy Dorman Wright, a 63-year resident of Northville, died on January 9, 2020 at home in the presence of her loving family. Pat, the youngest of 3 daughters was born to Guy and Besse Smith Dorman in Lansing Michigan on September 26, 1926. The family moved to Highland Park and lived there until 1943 when they moved to Detroit. She attended Lincoln High School in Ferndale where she met her future husband, Harold (Hal) Wright in an eleventh-grade algebra class. She graduated from Lincoln in 1944 and enrolled in a science curriculum at Wayne State University. She stayed there

one year and then transferred to the University of Michigan from which she graduated in 1948 with a BS in zoology. She then worked in a biochemistry laboratory at Park Davis and The University of Michigan. After marrying Hal in 1950 they moved to Highland Park for one year and then moved to Great Lakes, IL. When she became pregnant with their first child, David, she stopped working and stayed home to take care of her son and subsequent daughter, Lisa, and son Peter. When her youngest child was in high school, she went back to work at Park Davis in clinical research. Later she co-owned and operated West End Company in downtown Northville for 11 years with Gordon Forrer, which specialized in antique lamps. She always said she had three jobs in her lifetime: biochemist, antique collector, and most important being a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. She did an excellent job at all three but particularly the latter as she was a devoted family member, caring for all the members of her family.

Pat volunteered for many community organizations including Northville Cooperative Preschool, Northville Library, Northville School projects, and Mothers' Club of Northville. She served as president of the preschool and



Pat had many special interests. She was an excellent seamstress and her specialty was embroidering copies of old family samplers of which she made approximately 25 for various family members. She was an avid Tigers fan and was designated as the "mail lady" for the Mayo Smith Society. Pat enjoyed attending the theater, musical events, and lectures. She loved traveling with family and friends.

Pat had a long fruitful life until the last few years when her multiple illnesses, particularly Parkinson's disease curtailed many of her activities. Pat will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, father and two sisters and she is survived by her husband, Harold L Wright Jr, three children David Wright (Julie Quinn), Lisa Engles (Leif), Peter Wright (Susan), six granddaughters Elizabeth Engles, Andrea (Sean) Meyer, Kelsey Wright, Amelia Wright, Tori Wright, and Kelly Wright, one great grandson Elliot Meyer, and her devoted Brussels Griffon, Lucy.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate memorial contributions to Mothers' Club of Northville Life Members Scholarship Fund, 45766 Fermanagh Dr., Northville, MI 48168.

Please share condolences at www.casterlinefuneralhome.com



iPhone sales fall but still on top

AirPods, Amazon Echo on year's best-seller list

Jefferson Graham USA TODAY

Once again, the Apple iPhone ended the year as the best-selling tech product, with sales of some 185 million units, according to Wedbush Securities.

That's down from previous years, which had topped 200 million, says Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives, who compiled the chart for USA TODAY of the best sellers for 2019.

Apple released three editions of the iPhone, the entry-level iPhone 11, which starts at \$699, the iPhone 11 Pro at \$999 and 11 Pro Max at \$1,099. However, they weren't released until September, so the decline in sales happened for the first three quarters of the year, says Ives.

For much of the year, Apple's iPhone engine was driven by the XR, a 2018 model that has the lowest list price of current models, starting at \$599. According to Counterpoint Research, the iPhone XR has been the top-selling phone globally since its initial release, and contributed to over one-quarter of total Apple sales during the recent sales quarter.

The rest of the top 6:

No. 2 Apple AirPods

With estimated sales of 65 million units, the pint-sized Bluetooth earbuds were the unsung hero for Apple this year, rising greatly over the previous

Apple AirPods APPLE



CEO Tim Cook introduces the iPhone 11 Pro in September. APPLE

year, when it sold just under 30 million music reproduction for Echo speakers. units. "We believe it will be 90 million next year," says Ives, crediting the success to working within the 900 million members of the Apple iPhone ecosystem and selling accessories to owners of iPhones.

The AirPods are designed to work seamlessly with Apple products, and in fact, are not compatible with other phones, like the Samsung Galaxy line. The AirPods line got a boost in the fall with the release of the new AirPods Pro, which sell for \$249, and sport a different design, with noise-canceling and improved audio. They are sold out through Jan. 29, according to Apple.

No. 3 Amazon Echo speakers

With sales of 60 million speakers, no company pushed the connected smart speaker harder than Amazon, and it paid off, says Ives. The lineup starts with the Echo Dot speaker, which sells for between \$25 and \$50, depending upon the time of the year and promotions, and goes up to \$200 for the highend Echo Studio, which sports the best

It's sold out through Jan. 6.

Amazon has been battling Google for market share, but Amazon grew its base, while Google was flat, says Bret Kinsella, the editor of the Voicebot.AI website, which tracks voice computing. "Google isn't as focused on smart speakers as it is on the Google Assistant for Android," he says, "While Amazon is all in." Market share is Amazon with 61.9% by the third quarter of 2019, to 23.9% for Google, Kinsella says.

No. 4 Apple iPad

Another veteran product from Apple, with sales of 45 million units, in a year that didn't see Apple pushing the envelope for the category. But the entry level tablet now starts at \$329, and many parents find it an acceptable alternative to buying their kids a smartphone, while still bringing them the world of apps.

No. 5 Galaxy S phones

With sales of 30 million for the premium Galaxy S line, Samsung had a "soso" year that's down somewhat from previous years, which were just over 30 million, Ives said. This comes despite having several innovations (like three lenses in the Galaxy S10 phones) that Apple copied for the iPhone II Pro. Samsung got a black eye mid-year with a "disastrous" launch for the Fold phone, a nearly \$2,000 device that was found to fall apart when critics first checked it out and then saw its release delayed.

No. 6 Apple Watch

Yes, sales of the iPhone took a hit, but Apple made it up with increased sales for the AirPods and Apple Watch. Ives said Apple sold some 25 million watches, which were helped by lower price tags (\$199 on the entry level series 3 edition) and health aspects like tracking sleep and steps, and notifications if you fall down.

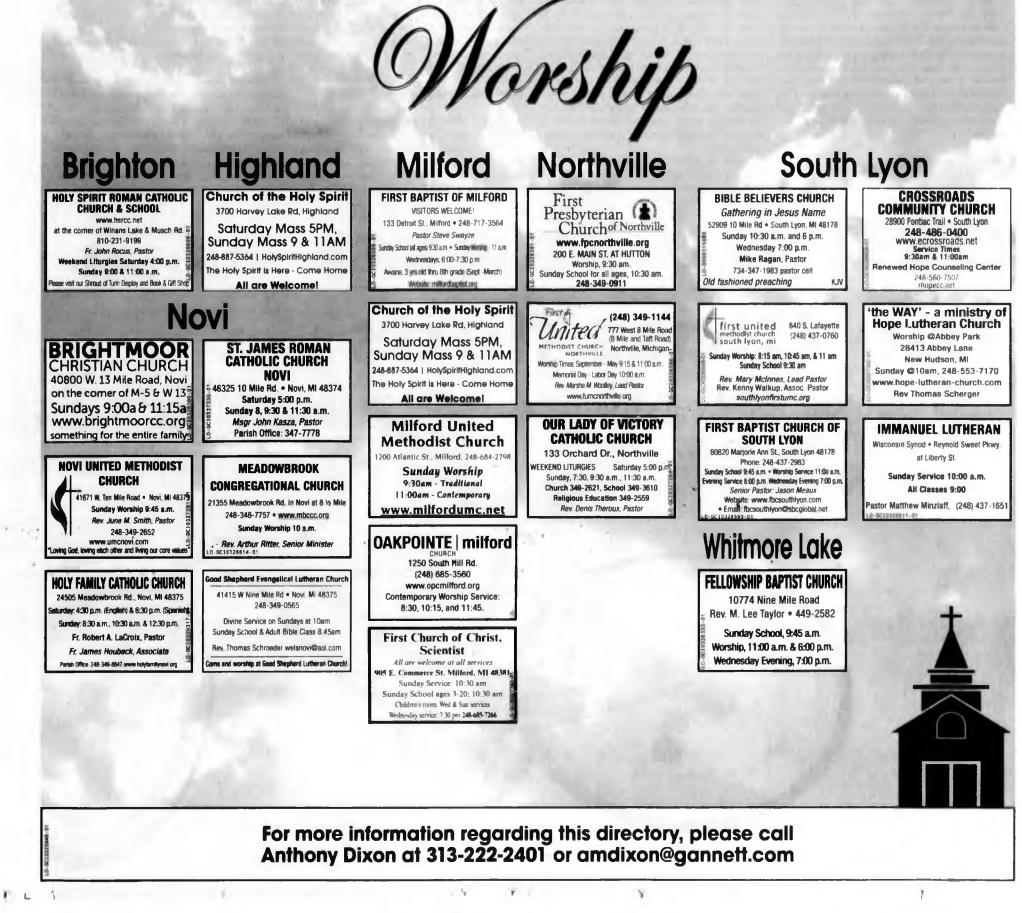


Roku Ultra TJ DONEGAN

Missing from the chart?

Amazon's Fire TV Stick is one of the two best-selling products for the E-tailer, but with an install base of 34 million, Ives said sales were under 10 million units, ditto for Roku and the gaming consoles from Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo.

One of the most popular sellers for the holidays was the Oculus Quest virtual reality headset, if you could get it. Facebook, the company that makes it, was caught by more demand than it could handle. The unit is sold out through February.



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the job network

How to age-proof your resume when looking for a job

Kate Lopaze thejobnetwork.com

In an ideal world, age would have no bearing on how you're perceived as a potential employee. Skills and experience should count for, well, everything. And technically, it's illegal for any potential employer to ask you your age. Yet the professional world is riddled with the same kind of biases as you'd find in other areas of life - whether they're made consciously or unconsciously. And if you're an older job seeker hitting the market, you may hit roadblocks where people make assumptions about your longevity or your qualifications. Ageism is, unfortunately, alive and well and working against older workers.

However, your age doesn't have to define your job hunt. If you're looking to create an age-agnostic resume, there are ways to do it that will let your qualifications, not your birthdate, shine.

Avoid dating yourself

Some dates in a resume are necessary, especially in the work experience section - the reader will want to know when and how long you worked somewhere. But dates aren't nearly as obligatory in other sections. For example, when you're listing your education or certifications, you don't need to provide a year to validate them. A high school or college graduation year likely gives the reader a very strong sense of your age, and it's just not crucial information. It's fine to list just the school or program and the degree or certificate you received.



the work experience section of your re- the most relevant job experiences - a sume), you still have options to make good resume rule of thumb for job seekyour age more ambiguous. One of the

biggest things you have going for you is

your history of experience, potentially

going back many years. That means you

can be selective about what you feature.

There's no reason to go back through ev-

ery job you've ever had, especially if

your older jobs aren't particularly rele-

vant to the job you're applying for now.

Generally, 10-15 years of information is

usually enough to show a wealth of ex-

really refine what you're presenting

from your history, so you keep it to only

Editing like this can also help you

ers of all ages. You may have enjoyed

your internship or part-time job way

back when, but unless it's directly ap-

plicable to the job you're seeking now all

these years later, there's no real reason

to include it.

Don't be afraid to brag

throughout your career, rather than focusing on when they happened. Having a results-oriented approach to your resume lets you set the narrative for the reader and emphasize the parts that you want to show off.

Don't fear gaps

The longer we work, the more likely it is that many of us will have a gap at some point - illness, taking time off to care for family, unemployment, etc. It's a fact of life, and interviewers understand that. Rather than try to hide your gaps, it's more useful to own them and frame them yourself as part of your cover letter or interview. Gaps can be massaged a bit by minimizing the dates in your resume (using year ranges instead of month/year), but if you have, say, a five-year gap, it's going to require a bit of explanation.

You should also think about alternative ways to fill those gaps. Did you volunteer at all while you were out of the workforce? Take a class or learn a new skill? Thinking outside of your linear work experience can help round out your resume and show that you've been engaged all along - even if you weren't

Keep it recent

When you do have to list dates (like in

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perience.

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active verbs and clear explanations of results to make the reader focus on your wins and your accomplishments

FIND ADVICE

skills with tips and ideas

Improve your search and interview

Focus your resume on skills and

achievements, not on dates or periods

of time. Punch up the language by using

actively employed at the time.

By taking a bit of extra care with your resume and emphasizing quality over chronology, you can position yourself as a strong, vital candidate, whether you're 25 or 55.

The inherent ageism in hiring won't magically disappear, but you don't have to let it intimidate your job search.

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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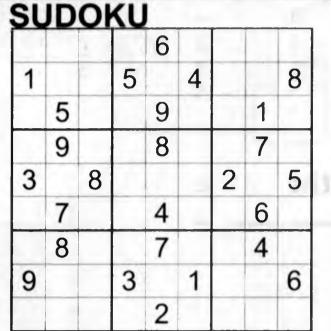
ACROSS **1** Cries noisily 5 Stuff in steel 9 Horse cousin 12 Oftensmoked food 15 U.K. neighbor 18 "As above," in citations **19** Extremely deep sleep 20 Pavarotti of opera 22 U.S. neighbor 23 Make every effort to be obliging **26 Vivacity** 27 Mosaic work 28 — - TURN (road sign) 29 — Mason (asset management firm) 30 BLT offerer 31 To any extent 76 Marisa with 32 Revolution of Triton with respect to Neptune 36 Author Anaïs 37 Twosome 39 Not tidy 40 Two-pip card 41 Pressing it moves a cursor to the previous character 2

99 At full speed, DOWN **46** Shorelines 47 Off the shore old-style 100 A deadly sin 48 Justice Sotomayor 103 "Patience ---49 Program virtue" using ".doc" 104 Pro vote files, for short 105 Do a 180, 52 Mu - pork say 54 Horace 110 Rapper with Greeley's the album advice for "Press Play" 112 Old Italian American expansion stage actress 60 Huge aid Eleonora 64 In base eight 113 1953 Leslie 65 She's a star Caron film 114 "- always aria singer 66 Palme say .. (Cannes film 115 Jeopardy award) 116 "- my fault" 67 Bus driver's 117 Parent's order mind game 73 Ship like with a child (or what you Capt. Nemo's 74 To have to use (exactly) to solve this puzzle?) an Oscar 122 Even score 123 Guys rowing 77 Cadences 79 Irritate **124** Smartphone 85 Suffix with downloads 125 Suffix with hell 86 More pasty well 87 Horse opera 126 States, 89 Arthur of informally 127 Singular of tennis 93 Singers Idol "Mmes." 128 Beltway VIP and Ocean 96 Sticker 129 Watery castle message on protector a rented VCR 130 Once, in tape olden days

42 Do laundry 43 Jillian of TV 1 Bro's kin 44 Spanish aunt 2 Strange things 45 Relatives, 3 Former Fed informally 46 Light bed head Ben 4 Little 49 Mixed breed 5 "Ugh"-worthy 50 Zest or Ivory 6 Bird of myth 51 "Ben-Hur" director 7 Muscat resident William 8 Honcho 53 The woman 9 Lager cousin 55 "Understood" 10 Nissan 56 S.Sgt., e.g. 57 Yeam (for) Rogue, e.g. 11 Bawls out 58 Female cell 59 Talks idly 12 Irritable from being 60 Yrly. giftgiving time ravenous. 61 Greek "I" slangily 13 Lay - (really 62 Heightened 63 — dish (bio fail) 14 Wild crowd lab item) 15 Stimulus 68 T. - Price 16 Vote in for a 69 The "E" of another term EMT: Abbr. 17 Lapses 70 Snide **21** Notions snicker 71 Sixths 24 Ralph — Emerson doubled 25 1921 Karel 72 Method: Capek play Abbr. 30 Feared a lot 75 "Liberté, ---, **31** Author Seton fratemite" 32 Bull in a ring (France's 33 Cockney's motto) residence 78 Bangkok 34 Oftencitizen smoked food 80 "Bye Bye **35** Stenches Bye" band 38 Actress Andress of surprise

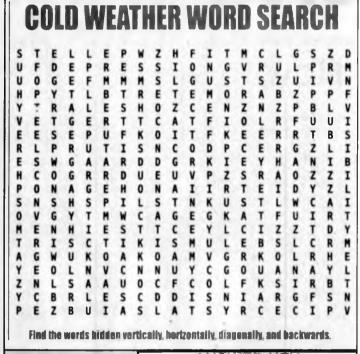






Here's How It Works:

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











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