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Oak Pointe Church plans \$5M expansion

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Churches are best known for serving up the gospel, but many also are seen as community centers.

Oak Pointe Church is taking the community gathering place to the next level,

with plans to add a coffee shop, play-cape, and VIP room in a \$5 million investment to the facility on Ten Mile road, just west of Wixom Road.

"We're excited to accommodate more people during the week," Daryl Rice, pastor of business operations and finance, said. "We have a lot of activities

during the week, and people want to come and connect, and we are full with kids programs and have used every square inch. We needed something for our community that wants to meet and have coffee and do life on life."

The approved site plans allow for the 16,596-square-foot addition to the cur-

rent 100,000 square-foot building. Rice said construction will begin in late summer and is expected to be completed in a year. The city also approved a future expansion of 11,512 square feet.

Rice said the church has been on

See CHURCH, Page 4A



Musician and Northwestern High Detroit graduate Dileo Jones warms up for his "America's Got Talent" audition Jan. 21. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Thousands want chance on 'America's Got Talent'

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Thousands of people brought their acts and dreams of stardom to the "America's Got Talent" auditions Jan. 21 in Novi.

Hometown Life spoke to nine hopefuls, who ranged in age from 3 to almost 83 and came from near and far with a variety of talents for their chance on the show, a massive NBC audience and a shot at \$1 million.

Show producers anticipated seeing a lot of potential in those trying out, each act given a mere 90 seconds to impress. Those deemed exceptional will be invited to Los Angeles in March to be judged by Simon Cowell and friends for taping of the 15th season of the hit show.

"It's exciting and everyone is hoping to be the next Detroit Youth Choir," Harriet Cuddeford, AGT creative producer, said, referring to last season's runner-



Leah Langnas, of West Bloomfield talks to Hometown Life while she waits for her chance to audition at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

See AGT, Page 2A

Police arrest Milford man suspected in sexual assault

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Law enforcement officers were able to arrest a Milford Township man Jan. 21 suspected of a South Lyon sexual assault following a dramatic getaway at a gas station.

According to Oakland County sheriff's deputies, the agency's fugitive apprehension team spotted the wanted man in a black Ford Contour near West Eight Mile Road and Pontiac Trail in Lyon Township around 10:48 a.m.

He turned into a Shell Gas station, exited the vehicle and entered the gas station. The driver returned to his vehicle and law enforcers tried to surround his vehicle with their vehicles.

The suspect driver reversed, struck an undercover vehicle and pushed past. The suspect fled at a high rate of speed in his damaged vehicle, striking a second vehicle in the process. The chase was terminated due to poor road conditions.

See ARREST, Page 4A

175 eateries cited for priority violations in December report

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 does in the area. 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 and other commercial kitchens 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 spoiled food, incorrect handling and

See REPORT, Page 4A

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Northville resident Russ Dore prepares to showcase his talent as a Mark Twain impressionist during auditions for "America's Got Talent" on Jan. 21.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Gabby Rose Gauruder and her dog, Ginga, of New Hudson are prepare for their audition.



Dancer and musician Svet Radoslavov gets ready for his turn to audition.



Andre Wasson, a dancer, waits for his turn in front of the judges.



Dance troupe Wreck and Roses, from Chesapeake, Virginia, auditioned for "America's Got Talent" on Jan. 21 at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. From left are: Mercedes Spellman, Nylah Smith, Shmoni Williams, Serenity Lamb, and Samafi Spellman.

hometownlife.com

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AGT

Continued from Page 1A

up. "Maybe our winner this season will be from Detroit."

Try-outs at Suburban Collection Showplace were not originally planned for this season's 9-city audition tour, but Novi was added on as the second to last stop in the search for talent due to DYC.

Adam Davis, AGT supervising digital producer, said the show had no specific number of slots to fill, and if there were 100 great acts, they would take them all.

"We take talent that we truly believe in — talent that will inspire, entertain, and shock America," he said. "We're all about entertainment and making sure there is something for everyone — no matter who they are, no matter where they are from, no matter what the talent is."

Here are nine acts that hope they have what it takes:

Wreck and Roses

Ages: 5-18
Hometown: Chesapeake, Va.
Act: Hippoprette (mix of hip-hop and majorette)

Dayjob:

Students
Background: The dance group began performing together in 2015 and have competed in multiple states, including New York and Florida.

Dreams: "We've been watching this show for awhile and we see people do this and we think we can do it, too," said Mercedes Spellman, 14, speaking on behalf of the group. "We hope we make it on AGT."

Leah Langnas

Age: 20
Hometown: West Bloomfield
Dayjob: Wayne State University student, majoring in communications

Act: Singer/guitar player — performing "The One That Got Away," by Katy Perry

Background: Singing since 3, guitar player since 13, some lessons, mostly self-taught. The graduate of West Bloomfield High has performed at school, as well as at houses of worship, including Shaarey Zedek Synagogue in Southfield and Little Rock Baptist Church in Detroit.

Dreams: "I've wanted to go on this show since I was 12 and never had the confidence," Langnas said. "Now I have more confidence in my ability and I've gotta do it now before I have to say, 'I wish I'd done it.' I hope I can look back and say, I did something out of my comfort zone."

Jane Windler

Age: 53
Hometown: Burlington, Wisconsin
Dayjob: Former geriatric healthcare worker, on a break

Act: Comedian in the style of Lily Tomlin and Gilda Radner

Background: Two decades ago, she was performing in Chicago improv clubs, but gave it up to "do the Mom thing."

Dreams: "I took a big hiatus and a

friend of mine tried to commit suicide," Windler said. "She encouraged me to start living my life and I put together something and showed up. I will be an emotional hot mess... My dream is to someday be Melissa McCarthy's aunt in some film or make a career out of what I love. I hope to make it through to the next round. I want that million and I am not afraid to say it."

Russ Dore

Age: 83
Hometown: Northville
Dayjob: Retired psychologist; actor for the past 20 years

Act: Portrays historical characters, auditioning as Mark Twain

Background: Dore has performed as presidents Harry Truman and Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as author Twain and other historical characters in community venues around the area.

Dreams: "I just want to see how far I can get," he said. "It's unusual an 82-year-old guy portaying Twain, I figured I'd make it on the first show... I'd be tickled if I got in the first week. Who knows, I'm not aspiring for Vegas — It's Mark Twain, the wit, wisdom and wife. If I'm not nervous, something's wrong."

Svet Radoslavov

Age: 33
Hometown: Rochester, New York

Dayjob: Electro hip-hop violinist
Act: Electro hip-hop violinist, will perform "Smooth Criminal" by Michael Jackson

Background: Radoslavov, a native of Bulgaria, has been playing violin since he was 3 and said he came to America in 1998 with an American dream. He has been professionally performing for 15 years and has been on AGT before — he made it to Vegas in 2012 and last year was a golden buzzer on Bulgaria's Got Talent.

See AGT, Page 3A

CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF OFFICIAL PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Clerk's Office will conduct a Public Accuracy Test of the Optical Scan tabulating equipment to be used for the Election to be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The test will be conducted at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law. This test is open to all interested parties. For further information, contact the Novi City Clerk's Office at 248-347-0456.

CORTNEY HANSON, CMC, CMMC
CITY CLERK



A dance group performs during auditions for "America's Got Talent" on Jan. 21 at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

AGT

Continued from Page 2A

Talent. He is a 3-year survivor of brain cancer.

Dreams: "My dream is to touch people's hearts with survivorship," he said. "When you're determined to do something unique, anything is possible."

Dileo Jones

Age: 30

Hometown: Detroit
Dayjob: Baker and seller of pound cakes

Act: Violinist, will perform "Those Were the Days," theme song from "All in the Family"

Background: Jones was in choir and band at Northwestern High School where he learned how to read music, but didn't have orchestra. He is a self taught violinist and also drew inspiration from the Motown Museum, which he grew up down the street from.

Dreams: "I've never auditioned for AGT and I don't watch TV, but I want exposure as an artist," he said. "I want to do writing and producing and I want to win a million dollars... I'm a nervous wreck, but I'm just gonna do it for my family and the city."

Saanvi Mandalika

Age: 3

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

Dayjob: Preschooler

Act: Singer, performing "How Far I'll Go," from Moana

Background: Saanvi's parents, Sunil and Geeta Mandalika, said their daughter sings in three different languages, Telugu (Indian), Hindi, and English, and knows 100 different songs. She has sung in competitions hosted by the Telugu Associations of North America and Central Ohio.

Dreams: "I want people to know her talent and I don't care if she wins or loses," said her father, Sunil. "I want to introduce her to the whole world."

Saanvi had already tried out, and rather than cutting her off at the 90-second mark, producers allowed her to sing all of her Moana song. "It was fun," Saanvi said.



Saanvi Mandalika, 3, of Columbus, Ohio, is ready for her shot at stardom. Mandalika planned to sing. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Andre Wasson

Age: 23

Hometown: Detroit
Dayjob: UPS warehouse worker

Act: Hip-hop dancer, performing to "Strip That Down," by Liam Payne

Background: Dancing since he was 5, the Centerline High School graduate has performed around Detroit and said he made the Pistons cheerleading team in 2013.

Dreams: "My dream is to become a famous dancer and choreographer and go around the world," Wasson said. "I'd love to be a background dancer for Nicki Minaj or Cardi B, Madonna or Lady Gaga... I'm very excited and happy, confident in myself and I'm here to broadcast my talents and skills."

Gabby Rose Gauruder and Ginga

Ages: 26 and 1

Hometown: Novi/New Hudson

Dayjobs: Behavior analyst for children with autism; border collie

Act: Dancing and dog tricks-- the pair will perform to "Friend Like Me" from Aladdin

Background: The duo just started practicing their act together a couple months ago in their small living room, but Gauruder said Ginga is a good listener. She has watched AGT for years and was feeling restless when at a Bible study this summer, she said God told her she needed to audition and "now we're here."

Dreams: "My dream is to make God happy and be obedient to the Lord," she said. "Whatever happens is God's plan. You never know with a dog."



The dance group continues their routine.

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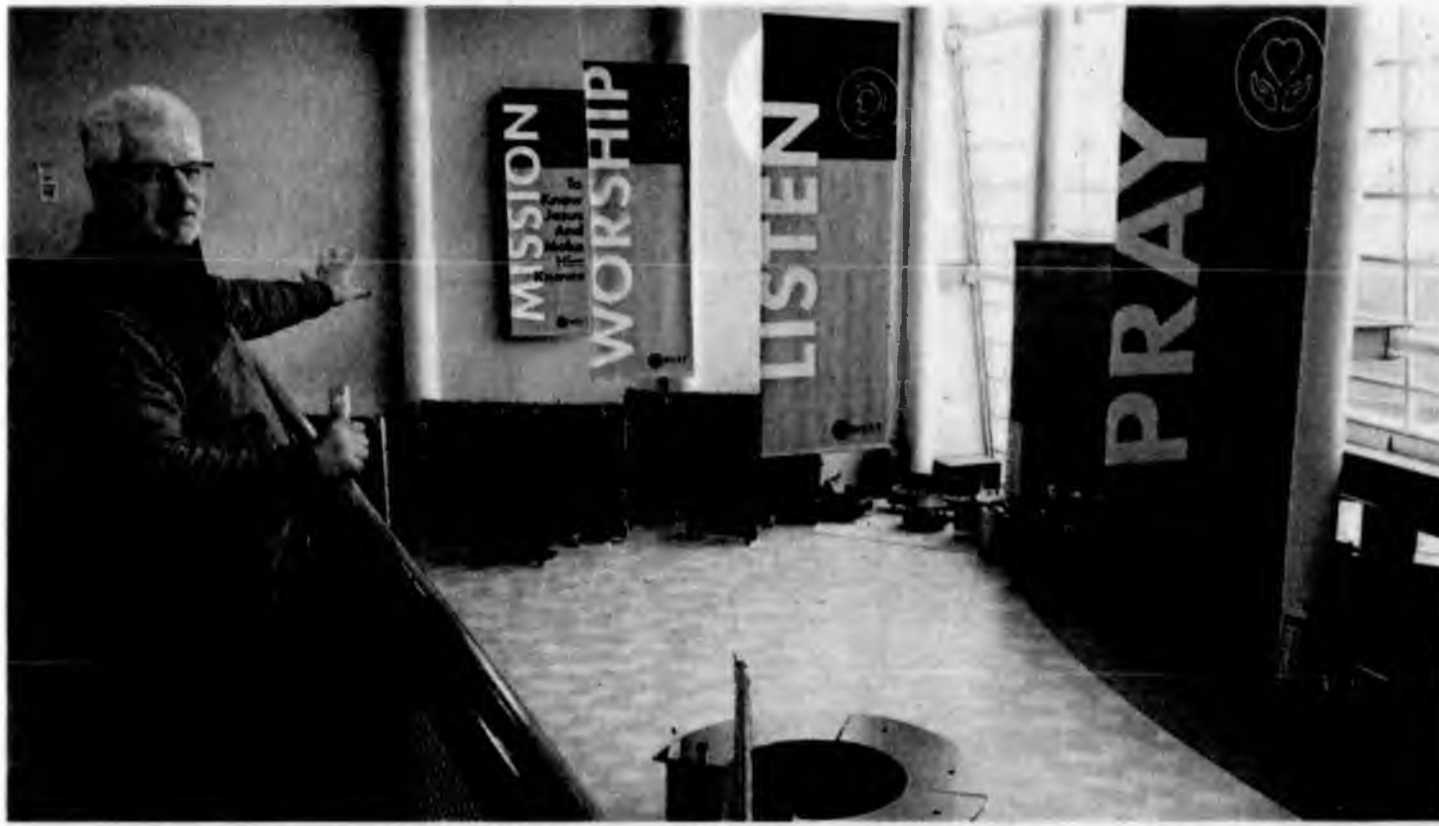


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Daryl Rice, pastor of business and finance operations at Oak Pointe Church in Novi, talks about the church's plans to add atrium space for arrivals and a cafe as part of a \$5 million, 26,000-square-foot expansion. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Church

Continued from Page 1A

"quite a journey" since its humble beginnings in 1997 with services held in Northville High School.

It moved in 2006 into its current building in Novi with several phases of construction planned, many of which have been delayed as Rice said the church has "been pouring money into the community to offer multiple services and meet needs." Additional plans may be altered.

"We originally had 6 phases and one was to build a large worship center, but we're not sure that is appropriate in this

day and age. No one is building huge church auditoriums anymore," Rice said. "There's a lot of data that says if churches get too large, congregations get lost; there's not a sense of community. That is why we are expanding in campuses."

Oak Pointe has a campus in Milford, as well as a campus opening in Canton Feb 2, and one in West Bloomfield planned for later this year. Additional church "plants" are Bell Creek Community Church in Livonia and Mosaic in Ypsilanti.

On the nearly 30-acre site in Novi, Oak Pointe has about 1,600 seats for services, drawing about 3,200 people every weekend. Rice added the church has almost 5,500 "regulars," who he described

as those who attend once or twice a month. This is the current state of affairs with "busy schedules and busy lives."

In nearly 14 years at the current location, attendance has grown, including increases "in leaps and bounds" among millennials, as well as ethnic diversity with many Asian, Hispanic and Indian guests, Rice said.

"We are multicultural and I think that is what is fueling the growth: the international community," he said. "We are not ashamed about letting people know about Jesus Christ. We love Jesus and hopefully people feel that. It's not about religion, it's about a relationship, and that is where growth occurs."

Report

Continued from Page 1A

unsanitary conditions. Those types of violations are ones that can make people sick.

In the Hometown Life area, 175 public kitchens were cited in December. The full list can be found online on our website, hometownlife.com, as they all cannot fit in our print editions. This month, we're adding a few communities we haven't listed in previous editions as well: we've added the priority violations in December found in Redford Township and Garden City.

Here's the summary report of how many establishments locally were cited with those priority violations:

- 13 with priority violations in Northville and Northville Township
- 10 with priority violations in Plymouth and Plymouth Township
- 15 with priority violations in Canton
- 22 with priority violations in Wayne and Westland
- 30 with priority violations in Livonia
- 32 priority violations in the Birmingham/Bloomfield area
- 13 priority violations in Farmington and Farmington Hills
- 20 priority violations in Novi
- Seven priority violations in South Lyon and Lyon Township
- Three priority violations in Milford and Highland townships
- Four priority violation in Garden City
- Six priority violations in Redford Township

Check back every month for the latest available inspections from the eateries in our communities.

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

Arrest

Continued from Page 1A

Detectives and deputies eventually located the Ford Contour inside the Novi

Meadows mobile home community off Napier Road.

Deputies said they were able to take the suspect into custody and lodge him at the Oakland County Jail because of a three-count warrant for sexual assault from the South Lyon Police Department.

Michigan State Police's West Branch troopers also have been trying to arrest him because of an outstanding felony warrant for assault with the intent to do great bodily harm less than murder.

The unnamed man also faces a new charge of felonious assault with a motor

vehicle because of the crashing that damaged his car.


Novi, South Lyon and Wixom police assisted in the arrest.

No one was injured. Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

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1. H. H. H. and Reed G. (2004) Epidemiology of tinnitus. In: Tinnitus: Theory and Management. Lewiston, NY: BC Decker, Inc. 16-41. 2. Professional fees may apply. Annual subscription begins the first day of trial. Lyric is not appropriate for all patients. See a Lyric provider to determine if Lyric is right for you. 3. Power D. (2018) Is there an effective option for tinnitus? Investigating the benefits of a hearing aid that can be worn 24/7 (submitted for peer review publication)

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How to file your taxes for free



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Probably the only word in the English dictionary that I like more than "on sale" is the word "free." I love free stuff; however, I am always leery any time I get an offer stating something is free.

My general view is that there are no free rides. That being said, there is something many of you should take advantage of that is free, can save you money and has no gimmicks. I am referring to the IRS free-file program.

The IRS free-file program has been around for nearly 20 years, and over 50 million Americans have taken advantage of it. The free file program is a way for taxpayers to use software from private tax preparation companies for free. Most of the major tax software companies participate in this program and basically the only requirement to qualify is that your adjusted gross income must be less than \$69,000.

I know many of you are thinking that if this is a tax preparation program connected with the IRS, there must be some catch; there is not. The software you would be using is the same software these companies sell on the open mar-

ket. Therefore, you don't have to worry that the software is geared to be favorable to the IRS or anything of that nature; that is not the case.

It is also important to remember that the software programs use a question and answer format to make sure you're taking all the deductions you're entitled to. Thus, you don't have to worry if you're not a tax expert. These software programs assume that you are not. For the great majority of people who qualify for the free-tax program, they should have no difficulty in completing their returns accurately.

I've seen numerous ads over the years from companies offering free-tax software or things of that nature. Some of these offers are legit; however, a good portion of them are not. In many cases they are scams seeking to obtain your sensitive information. Therefore, you must be very cautious in using any so called free software. When you use the free-tax file program through the IRS you can be assured you're dealing with reputable companies. That being said, the key to the IRS free file program is that you must link to the software directly through the IRS website.

The question many of you may be asking is who should take advantage of this program. I believe if you have a relatively straightforward tax situation

where you have wages, some interest and dividends along with normal deductions such as mortgage interest, property tax and charitable contributions, this program will work for you. In addition, for those of you who are now taking the standard deduction, the IRS free-tax file program may be perfect for you.

For those with more complex tax issues you may want to look for a different alternative.

For as long as I've been in the financial world my philosophy has always been that money looks better in your pocket than it does anywhere else. Therefore, if you can save yourself hundreds of dollars in tax preparation fees by doing your tax return yourself, why not. Therefore, I encourage many of you to look into this program and take advantage of it. After all, won't it feel great to get something from the IRS that actually saves you money?

One last note, for those of you who are getting a tax refund, the sooner you do your return, the faster you'll get your refund.

Good luck!

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

Michigan's absentee ballots have a new envelope

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan's absentee ballots aren't packed in manila envelopes anymore. The state hopes the new design will be more user-friendly for voters and postal workers.

The new envelopes, white and blue, have city and township clerks worrying people will throw their March 10 ballot away. The return envelopes voters will use are white and green.

"It's new and people know what they're looking for right now," said Susan Nash, Livonia's city clerk, said. "They're looking for their manila envelope and this is something different. We want to make sure we get the information out."

If the ballot happens to get thrown away or gets lost in the mail, there's a way for clerks to fix that.

"If you happen to throw it out or realize you don't have a ballot... We have to have a signed something that says you don't have a ballot and asking to spoil that number for whatever number ballot they had," Nash said. "So we can spoil that ballot and reissue them a new one."

If that spoiled ballot happens to be found and filled out by someone who found it, the ballot number would be seen as invalid and not counted, preventing voter fraud.

Absentee ballots are due by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Absentee voting has surged in Michigan since a no-reason absentee proposal passed in Nov. 2018. Most clerks have said more such ballots have been issued now than ever.

People can now contact their local clerk before the election to vote absentee or can apply to be on the permanent absentee list in their municipality without needing a reason.

In March, Michigan voters will choose on Democratic or Republican nominees for November's presidential election. Voters in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties will vote on tax renewal request for the Detroit Institute of Arts and any local initiatives.

Driver injured in Lyon Twp. rollover crash

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A driver's Jan. 24 rollover crash uprooted a tree in Lyon Township and landed him in the hospital, said Lyon Township Fire Department's Deputy Fire Chief Doug Berry.

According to Berry, the driver was eastbound on Grand River Avenue near Kent Lake Road when he lost control of his vehicle around 11:20 p.m.

His vehicle came to a stop in the ditch between Grand River Avenue and an Interstate 96 entrance ramp.

Crews took about 20 minutes to remove the vehicle's roof and then the driver, who was wearing his seatbelt during the rollover crash.

He was transported to a local hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

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



Lyon Township firefighters were dispatched to this rollover crash on Jan. 24. COURTESY OF LYON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Milford Police: Pontiac man claimed to be hunting coyotes

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Pontiac man told Milford police he was planning to hunt for coyotes to explain weaponry in his vehicle when police recently stopped him for a potential traffic violation.

According to the police report, an officer asked the 55-year-old man for his driver's license when he pulled him over Jan. 3 along South Hill Road.

The man let the officer know his license was suspended. License violations and warrants for his arrest were

discovered.

The man, upon arrest, told the officer he also had a loaded gun in his vehicle. A loaded Remington rifle was taken from the passenger seat. A pellet gun also was confiscated.

The man was previously convicted of larcenies. He was, at the time, on probation and should not have possessed the rifle, according to police.

He has been arraigned on three felony weapons charges, along with a misdemeanor count of driving with a suspended license in 52-1 District Court.



Area firefighters battled a New Year's Eve fire at The Lyon Cantina. COURTESY OF LYON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Investigators: Arson not cause of restaurant blaze

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Oakland County fire investigators have eliminated arson and foul play as reasons for the New Year's Eve blaze that destroyed The Lyon Cantina in Lyon Township.

Capt. Christopher Wundrach of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office's emergency response and preparedness division said the fire seems to have started in an office and spread from there.

"With the roof caving in, it's going to be a lot tougher for them to get an exact reason why it started," he said.

Wundrach added that the sheriff's investigation is over. The cause has been deemed "unclassified."

Firefighters were dispatched to the

Pontiac Trail restaurant around 7:09 a.m. on Dec. 31. Upon arrival, they saw flames shooting through the roof.

Firefighters from Lyon Township and surrounding communities fought the three-alarm blaze, but the building was a total loss, requiring demolition because of hot spots.

Lyon Township Fire Department officials initially said the fire may have started in the kitchen.

Deputy Chief Doug Berry noted the restaurant's office was next to the kitchen.

"As far as we're concerned, they are the experts," he said of the county fire investigators. "They handle all of our investigations."

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

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Stevens, Calley talk business in Livonia

Congresswoman Haley Stevens (D-MI-11) convened a roundtable discussion with local small business owners in Livonia to discuss issues facing the small business community in Southeast Michigan on Thursday.

Also participating in the roundtable were former Michigan Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, President of the Small Business Association of Michigan, and Greg Doyle, who leads Oakland County's One Stop Shop Business Center.

During the event, Stevens led a discussion on healthcare, trade, workforce development and other policy issues that are important to the success of small businesses in Michigan. A wide variety of industries were represented including child care, education, fashion, and health care. Business owners from Clawson, Wixom, Livonia, Waterford and Troy participated in the event.

"Small businesses are such an important part of Michigan's economy, but creating and maintaining a successful small business can be daunting," Stevens said in a press release. "Today, I had the opportunity to hear from a diverse group of small business owners

about the challenges they face, from finding and retaining top talent to addressing the rising costs of healthcare. I look forward to taking the stories I heard today back to Washington to help shape our economic agenda for the middle class."

Former Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, president of the Small Business Association of Michigan, said finding and retaining skilled workers is one of the biggest challenges facing small businesses in Michigan today.

"It's just difficult to find enough people with the skills that line up with what the economy requires these days," said Calley.

Calley also thanked Stevens for voting to pass the USMCA, noting that the agreement is the first U.S. trade deal with a chapter focusing specifically on small and medium-sized exporters, which make up a majority of the businesses that export to Mexico and Canada.

Stevens has been an advocate for Michigan small businesses. In May, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted Stevens' amendment requiring the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to



Congresswoman Haley Stevens, back center, talks with small business owners on Thursday. COURTESY OF CONGRESSWOMAN HALEY STEVENS

include small business owners on their Consumer Advisory Board.

In July, Stevens introduced a bipartisan bill to update and improve two grant programs that are geared toward entre-

preneurs and small businesses. In November, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted Stevens' amendment to help small business impacted by retaliatory tariffs.



Tracy Graham, left, and her husband, Leonard, recently surpassed their goal when they raised more than \$50,000 for an endowed scholarship honoring their son, Leonard III, a Marine, who was killed in 2013. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

MSU nursing scholarship honors late Wixom Marine

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Leonard Graham III served the Marine Corps honorably, receiving several citations for his years of service and time in Afghanistan.

The Walled Lake Western High School graduate returned to his parents' Wixom home more focused than when he left for boot camp.

But his plans to pursue nursing studies at Michigan State University ended with a fatal gunshot wound to the back of his head in September 2013.

Parents Leonard and Tracy Graham created a scholarship to honor their murdered son and his dreams.

Late last year, for the scholarship's five-year anniversary, they exceeded their \$50,000 "I Am Sergeant Graham" campaign goal. The scholarship is expected to be endowed eternally.

"That was our goal to have it continue for as long as possible, even when we leave this earth," Tracy Graham said. "He will be remembered for a very long time. I think he would be really happy that we started the scholarship in his name ... to honor him ... and let him know that we loved him. We're proud of him."

The campaign has raised at least

"He will be remembered for a very long time. I think he would be really happy that we started the scholarship in his name ... to honor him ... and let him know that we loved him. We're proud of him."

Tracy Graham Mother of Leonard Graham III

\$52,000. More than 100 donors have contributed money to the scholarship intended for MSU nursing students who are active Marines, reservists or honorably discharged veterans of any armed military branch.

So far, five have benefited. Each received \$2,000 to use as they'd like.

The Grahams have received gifts and thank you letters from past recipients and hope to offer larger scholarships or multiple scholarships in future years.

"I was privileged to receive your scholarship and meet you at MSU's scholarship banquet in 2018," wrote Rachel Carlock, a recipient now working at

Henry Ford Allegiance Health in Jackson. "You and your family are in my prayers. I hope your daughter's wedding went well and may you all make many new wonderful memories together this season."

Leonard Graham, a Wixom firefighter, expressed rage when Tre Devon Johnson was sentenced for shooting his son, 24, at a party in Southfield.

The rage remains, even though Johnson, 27, was sentenced to life in prison for premeditated murder.

"It never goes away. You just put it in a different basket," Graham said. "You just find a place you can store it, where it doesn't affect you every day and become more of a negative."

"You miss him every day. (But) you learn to keep moving forward. Unfortunately, life doesn't just stop there. It continues to move forward, whether you want to or not."

He and his wife described their son as funny and quiet, with a big heart that kept him helping and looking out for others.

He was a UPS Inc. employee who was taking college classes nearby so that he could transfer to MSU.

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

Kiefer Sutherland saves world, er, Motor City Comic Con

Julie Hinds Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Leave it to Jack Bauer to make a one-day trip — aka 24 hours — to Motor City Comic Con.

The star of Fox's "24" and Netflix's "Designated Survivor" is the first confirmed celebrity guest for Detroit's major comic book/pop culture event, which runs May 15-17 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Sutherland will appear on May 16 to host a panel discussion and provide fans with autographs (for \$80 a pop) and personal photo ops (for \$100).

Motor City Comic Con also put tickets to the upcoming gathering on sale Tuesday at its official site.

Sutherland has appeared in cult-hit movies, including "Flatliners," "The Lost Boys," "Stand By Me" and "Dark City." He's the son of acting icon Donald Sutherland, who millennials might recognize as the white-haired dude in "The Hunger Games" movies.

Stay tuned for more announcements on Comic Con's celebrity and comic book artist and writer lineup.

With any luck, Trenton native Mary Lynn Rajsckub — the intrepid tech whiz Chloe in "24" — will pop up on the list, which will help in case Jack has to deal with a global crisis while he's in town ... oops, sorry, we meant which would make for a great panel discussion.

Police: Woman charged for striking driver

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A tiff over driving habits led to a South Lyon woman being arraigned on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon — her Subaru Outback, according to South Lyon police.

Lt. Douglas Backi said a report states a Glen Meadows Drive resident visited the station shortly after 2 p.m. Jan. 7 to say he had a broken-off mirror and a partial license plate number from the vehicle that struck him earlier in the day in his driveway.

He said a female driver followed him home for a confrontation about his driving habits. She seemed to obey his request to leave, maneuvering to the end of his driveway. Then her vehicle advanced, striking him near his garage door, and drove away.

A neighbor captured the hit-and-run incident on video, and police were able to identify the alleged assailant and arrest the South Lyon woman, 48.

She was arraigned on a felonious assault charge and misdemeanor charges of reckless driving and driving with a suspended license.



The entrance to Auschwitz concentration camp in Oswiecim, Poland. PAWEL SAWICKI/AUSCHWITZ MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM VIA EPA-EFE

Auschwitz survivors tell of time at 'hell on Earth'

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Paula Marks-Bolton stood naked in Auschwitz when she was maybe 15 or 16 years old waiting for a shower. She remembers feeling like her dignity, like her mom, had been taken from her long before that, but she still had this small passport photo of her mother.

So there she was with her, small, malnourished fist holding onto the only belonging and the only reminder of her family she had left when a Nazi noticed that something was in her hand.

"Open your fists! they are ordering me," Paula remembers. "I didn't want to. I knew if I opened my fist they were going to take it away. So I'm holding it tight and I am explaining to the guards, 'I have a little picture of my mother. Let me through. It will hurt nobody.'

"Open your fist! They start to beat me all over my face and my body. They held my wrist, and the picture fell on the floor... When I looked down on the floor, the picture fell with the face up, and I was crying bitterly. I tried to retrieve it. My mother said to me, 'Leave it, you're going to be OK.' She wasn't there to say that, but in my heart she was."

Indeed, Paula was going to be OK. She tells that story of the last time she saw her mother's face often. But to tell the story is to re-experience every detail.

Still, Paula and Sophie Klisman tell their stories, stories of the Holocaust, all the time.

"When I speak about it, I can see it," Paula, who was just 13 when World War II began, said. "Every word I say, I live it. You cannot imagine how hard it is to speak about it. Why I can and others cannot, I don't know."

She and Sophie have powerful, heartbreaking stories they tell students who visit the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills on a regular basis.



Paula Marks-Bolton talks about losing her family, and her experience as a prisoner at Auschwitz during World War II. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

These stories are of cruelty, survival, kindness and family. They're also stories that cross paths with Auschwitz, where historians estimate about 1.1 million people were murdered.

"People should be aware of what hate and prejudice can do and how much suffering it can bring," said Sophie, who was 10 when the war began.

The antisemitism and genocide that define the Holocaust haven't gone away, but both hope that remembering what happened will eventually teach humanity something.

So, they invite you to remember with them. Let's start from the beginning, when Paula and Sophie weren't even old enough to be in high school.

"As I say, can I tell you my story?"

Just like anybody else

Paula's story begins in Orzokow, Poland, where she had three older brothers and two doting parents. Her family was a loving one, just like anyone else.

But, as she says, that didn't last long. "I had loving parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins just like ev-



Sophie Klisman, right, stands with Doug Harvey, one of Auschwitz' liberators, in 2019. COURTESY OF LORI ELLIS

ryone else, but not for long after the Nazis invaded Poland," Paula said. "Two of my brothers were murdered. My oldest brother had two small children, a little boy of 5½ and a little girl of 2½, but not for long."

Sophie was the baby of her family growing up in Lodz, Poland. She had two brothers, a sister and parents.

"I was a happy 10-year-old," Sophie said.

That childhood innocence ended when the Germans invaded Poland in 1939, turning Sophie's hometown into the Lodz Ghetto. For many Jews, this was the beginning of the end of their lives.

"If you were Jewish — under the Nazi regime — or your grandfather or grandmother or your great-great-grandmother or great-great-grandfather were Jewish, you had no right to live," Paula said. "Can you imagine?"

Taken from home, separated from family

Not long after Jewish people were forced to wear yellow Stars of David,

Paula remembers her brothers Moishe and Shimik being taken from home.

Whether every few days, hours or weeks, no one knew when Nazis would come and load young men into trucks and take them away.

When Moishe and Shimik ended up on one of those trucks, she found herself running after them.

"I didn't see Moishe, the trucks were filled with people and he was punched down with other people," Paula remembers. "The truck was filled. But I saw Shimik. As they were pulling away, he got up as high as he could and he waved to me."

All these years later, Paula stops at this point in her story to wave the circular wave that Shimik waved to her.

"When I say they didn't come back, I still get a skip in my heart," she said.

Not long after, she and her parents were taken to a school. It was actually the one she attended.

"Alle Juden ruas: All Jews out," the Nazis screamed at them. "We came out from our home with just the clothes on our backs. We couldn't take nothing with us."

While they walked through the streets, people stood by and watched, another of many where people stood by and let the Holocaust happen.

"There were people, unfortunately I must tell you, there were people looking on as we were marching and being beaten," Paula said. "Nobody said nothing."

Once inside the schoolhouse, Paula was pushed into a too-full room with her parents.

She then saw one of what would become many examples of cruelty. Their neighbor, a man named Hans, was there in a Gestapo uniform. Paula's mother asked him for help.

"She begs him, 'Hans, please take out my little girl!' He was actually mad at her. He slammed the door in her face

See SURVIVORS, Page 9A

Holocaust Center's exhibit will be its last in US

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zerkelman Family Campus has announced its newest special exhibit, "Operation Finale: The Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichmann" which runs through mid June.

"Operation Finale: The Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichmann" is a co-production of The Mossad: Israeli Secret Intelligence Service; Beit Hatfutsot, The Museum of the Jewish People, Tel Aviv, Israel; and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.

The exhibit reveals the secret history behind the capture, extradition and trial of one of the world's most notorious escaped war criminals.

Eichmann, the head of the Nazis' homicidal "Jewish Department," who managed the transport of millions of innocent people to death camps, vanished after World War II. Photographs, film and recently declassified spy artifacts reveal the dramatic history behind the daring abduction and globally broadcast trial of a principal perpetrator of The Final Solution, Nazi Germany's plan for the mass murder of Europe's Jews.

"The Holocaust Memorial Center is proud to host Operation Finale and provide our visitors with unprecedented access to artifacts and documents on a critical juncture in history," said Holocaust Memorial Center CEO Rabbi Eli

Mayerfeld. "The unwavering commitment to bring this war criminal to justice was not only inspiring, it also created global awareness of the destruction of European Jewry during World War II."

The multimedia exhibit includes 60 original artifacts and 70 photographs, including maps, printed case files, hand forged documents and a pair of goggles used to obscure Eichmann's vision during his capture.

There also is a replica of the bullet-proof glass booth used during the 1961 trial. Short films within the Operation Finale exhibit will allow visitors to hear the accounts of the abduction team that caught Eichmann and the legal team

that prosecuted him.

Eichmann escaped to Argentina following the end of World War II and changed his name to Ricardo Klement. He was located through the work of a Holocaust survivor and Israel's National Intelligence Agency, Mossad. Operation Finale was the code name given to the Mossad's effort to capture and abduct Eichmann. He was smuggled back to Israel and stood trial for crimes against the Jewish people, where he was found guilty and executed in 1962.

The exhibit is open Sunday through Friday and is free with membership or museum admission. For more information, call 248-553-2400.

Survivors

Continued from Page 8A

and told her he did not know her," Paula remembers. "But the man in the Gestapo uniform was no other but a good neighbor of ours. I went to school with his children. We did our homework together."

She was separated from her parents around 4 a.m. the next day. Paula, at 13, had nothing but the clothes she was wearing and a small passport-sized photo of her mother.

"We were orphans already. We never saw our parents again," she said.

Paula was taken from the schoolhouse to the Lodz Ghetto, where another little Jewish girl, Sophie, already was.

For little Sophie, separation from her family came in the form of death. Weekly food rations were only good for one or two days of eating, so starvation worked its way through the ghetto.

"It was very hard on my mother, seeing her children being hungry," Sophie said. "So, little by little, whatever food there was she would give it to the children. That's the hardest part for me telling this story, because a short time after my mother became weak and sick. There was no medicine, no help whatsoever and as an 11-year-old I had to watch my mother die a slow death of starvation."

A year later, her father met the same fate. Then one of her brothers, Moszek, died from malnutrition as well. Sophie encourages students to imagine being 11 years old and watching three family members die such a slow death.

Life in the ghetto

No matter somebody's age, people who were able to work did so in Lodz. Even though work meant long hours with no pay and little food, to work was to continue living.

"I was fortunate that I worked, because the elderly, children and babies were taken away," Sophie said. "We never heard from them again."

But malnutrition reached everyone. "We were starving," Paula said. "We were scavenging for all kinds of horrifying things, peels from potatoes and stuff like that. We were lucky if we could find it. We called them potato pancakes... They tasted wonderful then, but when I think of it, the garbage we ate was unbelievable."

Sophie remembers the dead, her family included, being taken away in trucks.

"We never knew where they buried them," she said. "We had to just cry and wave goodbye."

Until the truck came, though, the dead just lay among the living.

"There were dead everywhere," Paula said. "So many people were walking around like skeletons. When I was 14 or 15 years old, I was walking around with a cane myself from malnutrition."

Neither girl was completely alone, though. Paula had met a girl a few years older than her named Ruta, who became her best friend. Sophie's oldest brother, Israel Sruelek, and her older sister Faiga, were still by her side.

Eventually, they were all put in cattle cars and taken to their first concentration camp.

Carted like cattle

They both say it's a miracle anyone survived the ride.

"You cannot imagine what went on inside," Paula said, estimating there were 90 people crammed in every car. "So many people suffocated. We were actually laying among the dead. It's a sheer miracle, a miracle, that any survived those rides."

Sophie remembers feeling like she was going to be the next one to die.

"We didn't know if this was going to be the end, we're just going to die in this car," she said.

When the doors finally opened, they all came face-to-face with hell on earth.

Auschwitz

"I see women. Women, they look like from outer space, with prison dresses, most of them barefoot with shaven heads," Paula remembers. "They screamed out and waved to the new arrivals in different languages. They shout to us, they scream, they want to tell us what is happening."

"In different languages they say, 'My God, where are you coming from? It's sheer hell here.'"

People from all over Europe were taken to this massive concentration camp, where crematoriums burned day and night and experiments were performed on elderly, Gypsies, homosexuals, pregnant women, babies and twins. Paula said you could always smell burning flesh in the air.

As they came from the cars, Nazi



Lori Weisberg explains the emotional weight the boxcar at the Holocaust Memorial Center holds. The boxcar was donated to the center by her in-laws. SHELBY TANKERSLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

guards with "vicious" German Shepherd dogs by their sides would order people, "Rechts, links, rechets, links." Right, left, right, left.

During that separation, Sophie and Faiga held onto their brother Israel Sruelek for the last time.

"This huge Nazi, a frightening-to-look-at soldier, tore our brother away from us," she said. "Tore, really, because we were holding onto him and so scared."

Israel Sruelek waved to them as he was led away with the other men. He died later at Bergen-Belsen, but this was the last time they saw him.

From the cars, people were either taken to gas chambers or to have a shower. Paula, Faiga, Ruta and Sophie all had showers, where Paula had to say her own goodbye as she parted with that little picture of her mother. After years of separation, that photo was all she had left of her family. Of course, it was later taken from her in the showers.

"She had it in her pocket and when we were marching to that school, being beaten to march faster and faster, she knew that we were going to be divided," Paula says of her mother. "She took out that little picture from her pocket and stuck it in my pocket. Something to remember her by."

"I always had it in front of my eyes," Paula said as she stops to wipe a few tears away. "I usually don't cry, I'm sorry. This is the only thing that I had. I looked at it, and what I would have given then to see her face again."

Neither Paula nor Sophie was in Auschwitz very long. Despite the short time, Sophie said she was lucky to escape that place with her life. During a selection of who looked too sick or too young, Sophie was almost sent to die. After quickly moving through the crowd, a Nazi guard looked at her and took pause.

"When it came to me, he yelled out 'Stop! Stop.' Needless to say I was petrified," she said. "I thought I had done something wrong, and he had a rifle. He was in full Nazi uniform. I thought right there and then that he's going to shoot me. Shaking, unbelievable fright entered me."

"He came up and he asked me how old I was. Well, I was 15 like I said when we arrived at Auschwitz. By some miracle, I said I was 18. After, maybe it took a second or two, to me it felt like my lifetime, he motioned for me, a miracle, to go to the right. I don't think I looked 18, being malnourished for so many years, but he motioned for me to go to the right. ... Little did we know if we're going to live or we're going to die. But we were together."

Ladies at Auschwitz had nothing but a dress and a pair of wooden shoes. No socks, no underwear. In their barracks, it was a wonder anyone could sleep, with several prisoners grouped together on a single piece of wood, without sheets or pillows.

In the middle of the night, guards would call on the ladies to undress and head outside to be counted. Paula said the prettiest girls were taken away, not to be seen again.

Paula's best friend, Ruta, was taken on one of those nights. She died at Auschwitz.

Soon enough, Sophie, Faiga and Paula were off to another camp.

Muhlhausen

Before arriving at Muhlhausen, where historians say anywhere between 122,000 and 320,000 people were murdered, Paula was taken to Ravensbruck, where historians say near 50,000 women were killed. What happened there is too painful for her to talk about.

She said Muhlhausen had its horrors as well, but the story Paula tells of it is one of kindness. She worked in a factory there, and she says her foreman saw a human being rather than a "little Jewish girl."

"My foreman was the kindest German I had met at the Nazi regime," she said. "He always stopped at my station and talked to me, and he always made sure guards are far away so he could stop and talk to me. He was a grandfather, and he had a granddaughter named Paula. She was about my age."

Whenever he could, the man brought her bread, fruit or rags for her feet because she had no socks. Paula never learned his name, but that foreman might be one of the reasons she's still alive.

Those small conversations reminded Paula that good people existed in a world where so many were cruel.

"I say to the people I speak for, look how one person can make such a difference on your life," she said. "One person can change your life, even if you don't know his or her name."

However, Paula had to leave the foreman behind when she was taken to Bergen-Belsen.

Bergen-Belsen

Sophie and Faiga were also taken to Bergen-Belsen, where it's estimated 50,000 people were murdered. The camp is probably most known as the place where Anne and Margot Frank died.

At Bergen-Belsen, they got one piece of bread every day. At her young age with so little food, Sophie soon came down with what she thinks was strep throat. Getting sick was terrifying, because if a Nazi noticed, they might kill her for it.

"At that time, I was ready to give up," Sophie said. "I told my sister, I said, 'I can't take it. God, please take me out of this misery. I am in such pain, such suffering.'"

But Faiga wasn't about to let that happen.

"My sister leaned over and she said, 'You're all I've got,'" Sophie remembers. "You can't leave me. You can't die."

Sophie says her sister's reliance upon her restored her will to survive. But with no medicine, there wasn't really a way to get better. Another prisoner, who Sophie suspects may have been a nurse before the war, encouraged her to take some unconventional, revolting medicine.

"She said, 'Look, there's no water, there's no salt water. Why don't you, when you urinate, gargle with your own urine,'" Sophie said. "I did, and somehow I think that saved my life. After two or three days, my throat felt better."

Paula also remembers finding a little rejuvenation through desperate means at Bergen-Belsen. She said she was lucky enough to be one of 40 girls sent to work in the kitchen, and that meant a lot of scraps were around to eat.

"We were sent into a kitchen to peel potatoes. Heaven, right?" she said. "We have peels, raw peels of potatoes, we have something to eat. We stuffed our raw peels of potatoes into our mouths as fast as we could."

They all got 25 lashes for eating the scraps.

Paula stayed at Bergen-Belsen until the day of liberation, but Sophie and Faiga's story has one more stop.

Salzwedel

The sisters worked 12-hour shifts in an ammunition factory at the Salzwedel labor camp, where over 90 people were found dead upon liberation. With the long hours, Sophie collapsed one day before going to the factory. A female Nazi guard told her to go back to bed.

But, another woman came to wake Sophie and bring her back to the harsh reality of her young life.

"She screamed and yelled and pulled me off. 'You've got to go to work,'" Sophie remembers. "She was so angry with me because she had to make a special trip to the factory."

It was about a mile walk from the barracks to the factory. She had to make

that special trip with me, so she started hitting me and beating me every step of the way. I felt blood gushing, my eyes got swollen. It's miracle number three that I survived."

The beating was bad enough that the teenager collapsed again and had to be dragged the rest of the way. But once Sophie arrived, Faiga noticed her and hid her, because Sophie wasn't supposed to be there that day anyway. Tucked under a work bench, Sophie slept the 12-hour shift away after her sister cleaned her up. The nap gave her some life, and she was able to work again after that.

They kept working day in and day out, having no idea when or if the war would end before their lives did.

"We had no knowledge that the war was coming to an end, that the Nazis were losing the war," Sophie said.

But the sweet moment finally came.

Liberation

"April 14, 1945, I'll never forget it, and I'm 90 years old now," Sophie said, triumph in her voice. "That was the day when we saw tanks and trucks coming toward the camps, toward the door and we called them angels. These were American soldiers."

Paula remembers her moment, on April 15, 1945 at Bergen-Belsen, with the same glee.

"This wonderful moment of liberation: Beautiful young soldiers are jumping off their Jeeps right in front our kitchen and storming in," she said. "They screamed out with joy, 'You are free! You are liberated!'"

Soldiers fed and medicated the prisoners, though people still died of illness afterward. Many prisoners went into displaced person (DP) camps until they could get back on their feet, Paula, Sophie and Faiga included.

Paula met her first husband, the late Martin Bolton, at one of those DP camps. Sophie and the couple both found themselves in Detroit in 1949 and are part of the tight-knit survivor community in the metro area today. While in America, Paula learned that one of her brothers, Shmeril, had also survived by fleeing to Russia.

Sophie attended night school at Central High School in Detroit, where she met her husband, the late Bernard Klisman, and Paula was gifted a diploma by a high school in Toledo in 2017. Today, Sophie lives in Walled Lake and Paula lives in West Bloomfield. The biggest thing America gave them both was a chance to move on, which Sophie said was incredibly difficult for Faiga, who died in 2016.

Sophie, attempting to keep a burden off her children's shoulders, didn't tell them about her past for years.

"We never wanted to talk to our children about what we'd been through," Sophie said. "We wanted them not to feel sorry, not to feel the pain that we felt. We wanted to raise them to be normal and happy."

Sophie eventually shared her story with her children and her daughter, Lori Ellis, wrote a book about her mother's life called "4,456 Miles to Closure." Sophie also located where some of her family was buried and put up a tombstone for them back in Lodz. She has returned to Auschwitz twice, which she said was important for her to do.

However, the thing that gives Paula and Sophie the most closure is telling students their stories and encouraging them to remember.

"God gave me this gift to speak, to teach others," Paula said. "That's why I have to do it. I have a mission which, after the war, I promised the six million who have perished, innocent men, women and children, that I was going to do something if I survived."

Remember

This year brings a series of occasions as different survivors observe the 75th anniversary of their liberation. These survivors, many well over the age of 85, want to make sure their stories aren't forgotten as their lives come to a natural end.

"I feel an obligation that I have to speak even though it's painful and it's emotional," Sophie said. "I am one of the few lucky ones that survived the Holocaust."

Paula said the main lesson she offers is one her parents taught her when she was a little girl.

"It should never make any difference what nationality a person is, what religion a person is or what color skin a person has," she said. "We are all connected, we are all God's children."

Both ladies show students and, frankly, anyone who meets them, that kindness and bravery can overcome even the worst trauma. Paula and Sophie said kids regularly come up after their lectures to say they'll never forget them. That is their reason for reliving the horror of the Holocaust.

Nurses fear for their safety at work

Michigan medical staffers seek tougher laws to protect them

Elena Durnbaugh Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In Sandra Dorsey's 40 years as a nurse, she's been kicked and grabbed and spit on. She's seen another nurse being thrown across the room by a patient who had broken out of leather restraints.

"There's so many different ones and different kinds of violence ..." said Dorsey, who lives in Howell and is a critical care nurse at University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor. "I'm never used to it. And I wish that it never existed."

Nurses are four times more likely to experience workplace violence than other private-industry employees, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Compounding the problem, hospitals are required to provide treatment to anyone seeking medical care and can't turn patients away, even those who have a history of assaulting staff.

Despite the risks, there are few legal protections in place for nurses, and, because their attackers are often patients seeking medical care, their cases often aren't prosecuted.

The Michigan Legislature is considering bills that would increase penalties for assaulting a nurse and require hospitals to have violence-prevention plans in place.

Nurses support it. Some lawmakers aren't sure new laws will stop the violence.

Dorsey said that workplace violence is so prevalent, it can feel like it's a part of the job, just like listening to patients' lungs or giving them their medicine.

"Nurses, and I think sometimes institutions, feel like it's just a part of our job. And really, as a caring profession, we need to do away with the expectation that it's a part of the job," she said. "I think that there is an expectation that because patients are ill, their behavior is excusable, and that's not true. Violence should not be tolerated in any way, shape or form."

'We have to take care of whoever comes through our doors'

It is a felony to assault police officers, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics.

Despite the high risk for nurses and other health-care professionals, Michigan law provides no specific protection for them.

Nurse advocacy groups, including the Michigan Emergency Nurses Association and the Michigan Nurses Association, are working to pass legislation that would.

In practice, there are often fewer repercussions for people who assault nurses because they are patients and prosecutors often don't bring charges.

Federal law requires hospitals to admit anyone who comes to an emergency room seeking treatment. This means nurses must treat everyone, even if they have a history of violence against hospital staff.

"We have to take care of whoever comes through our doors, so that's why it's so important to really be working to protect our healthcare workers," said Bronson Hospital Vice President of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer Dorothy Malcolm. "These are people who went into business to help people, not get hurt on the job."

Malcolm is in charge of patient care services at Bronson in Battle Creek and oversees nursing, the emergency department, surgery and the inpatient unit. She worked as an ER nurse for 15 years.

"We're seeing more and more violence in the emergency department and in the hospitals in general," she said.

Jamie Brown, president of the Michigan Nurses Association and a registered nurse at Ascension Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, said the rise in violence makes it harder for nurses to do their jobs.

"It's more of the overdoses, the alcoholics, the families of people that are in car accidents... They are taking out their frustrations on the nursing staff and it's hard to deal with them," she said. "As you walk in, you start looking around and trying to see if anyone looks like they might cause problems."

For many nurses, the expectation of violence is leading to burnout, Brown said.

Violence on the rise

Violence in hospitals is a growing problem.

"Nurses, and I think sometimes institutions, feel like it's just a part of our job. And really, as a caring profession, we need to do away with the expectation that it's a part of the job. I think that there is an expectation that because patients are ill, their behavior is excusable, and that's not true."

Sandra Dorsey, Critical care nurse at University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor

For every 10,000 full-time registered nurses, there were 8.7 reported cases of intentional injury caused by another person in 2018, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's just under the rate for 2017, which was a five-year high at 8.8 cases per 10,000 workers.

The rate of violence against nursing assistants is even worse: 26.3 reported cases for every 10,000 full-time nursing assistants in 2018. That's nearly two-thirds the rate for police officers.

The national average for reported cases of intentional injury caused by another person across all industries in 2018 was 2.1.

Katie Pontifex is a registered nurse at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing and sits on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Nurses Association. She's been a nurse for 11 years and said she sees some sort of violence nearly every day she works.

"You won't find a single nurse or health-care professional who hasn't experienced some form of workplace violence," she said. "We've become a little bit desensitized to it because it's such an everyday occurrence."

Nurses want to see fewer excuses

Pontifex had a violent interaction with a patient last year that kept her from her regular duties for three months.

The patient was known to be violent but wasn't medically stable enough to be discharged.

Pontifex said she was walking by the patient's room when she heard yelling.

"I responded and caught this patient attempting to stab one of our patient care techs with a pen," she said. "In the process of intervening and attempting to get the object away from the patient, I was deeply scratched on my hand and wrist."

She filled out the proper incident reports and thought the injury wouldn't be a big deal, but a week later her hand was infected and still swollen. In the struggle, her tendon was twisted. She had to undergo occupational therapy to get the use of her wrist back.

"My wrist is still weak, but I get by," she said. "It's not my dominant, and I'm very fortunate."

Pontifex was not able to pursue charges against her assailant because she said the patient had been found incompetent to stand trial in a different assault case involving her coworker.

The Ingham County Prosecutor's Office said that patients can be found incompetent to stand trial based on a recommendation from the state Center for Forensic Psychiatry. In some cases, the defendant can continue to undergo psychiatric treatment with the goal of attaining competency, and if that patient can be found competent, the case can proceed.

Legislation would increase penalties

Thirty-five states have workplace violence laws in place that set stricter penalties for assault of nurses, and nine states require employers to run workplace violence programs, according to the American Nurses Association.

Lawmakers in Michigan have considered such legislation many times in the past. Just last year, four bills were brought before the House. Four have been brought before the Senate since 2013. None were signed into law.

House Bill 4327 and Senate Bill 80 would make it a felony to assault a nurse. Both bills have been in committee since early 2019.

House Bill 5089 and Senate Bill 303, which would require health facilities and local health departments to provide training and report injuries to law enforcement, are also both in committee.

Sen. Peter Lucido, a Republican who represents Michigan's 8th District, is



The Michigan Legislature is considering bills that would increase penalties for assaulting a nurse and require hospitals to have violence-prevention plans in place. COURTESY OF AUSTIN THOMASON/UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

the Senate majority whip and chair of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. He's also a cosigner of Senate Bill 80.

Lucido said that he supports nurses, but he isn't sure legislation would deter people from assaulting them.

"I know there's an obligation in the health-care industry to go ahead and make people well, and you can't turn away people when you have an obligation. But if somebody is also mentally or emotionally or medically unstable and they create the assault ... how do you handle those that don't have the requisite intent to create the crime?" he said. "Where do we stop with the carve-outs? ... How about a customer service representative or a greeter over at Walmart?"

Even if stricter penalties are put in place, Lucido said, that wouldn't guarantee that prosecutors would bring charges against people who assault health-care workers.

"So, me making a law that says it's stricter penalties if you assault a medical professional, my question is: Is that going to make the prosecutors prosecute? And the answer is, I doubt it," he said. "What good is making a law if no one's going to enforce it?"

Rep. Jim Haadsma, a Democrat who represents Michigan's 62nd District, said he was concerned about penalty creep, the continued incremental increase in the state's penalties and sentence lengths.

"I think nurses should be entitled to the same protections as first responders. This kind of mandate, however, does take away a lot of discretion from judges, and what's more significant, the fiscal obligation on the state for incarcerating these alleged criminals."

Does legislation work?

The data on whether having stricter penalties in place leads to lower rates of violence against nurses is inconclusive.

State-level data on occupational injuries is not as detailed as it is at the national level due to changes in Bureau of Labor Statistics survey participation each year and insufficient sample sizes. That means that occupational incidence rates can't be broken down as narrowly by job type, which prevents a direct comparison.

Limited data also prevents a comparison of incidence rates before and after laws went into effect. Data on intentional injury caused by another person isn't available prior to 2012, and some states have had laws in place for longer than that. In other states, stricter penalties only recently went into effect.

Along with stricter penalties for people who assault nurses, some states have also introduced reporting requirements for hospitals, which also prevents a direct comparison.

Pontifex said that, although it may take some time for laws to deter violent behavior, she believes they would.

'The patient always comes first'

Brown, the president of the Michigan Nurses Association, said violent interactions with patients happen on a regular basis, about two out of every three days that she works.

"Recently, a pregnant woman did get kicked in the stomach upstairs, and then just this last weekend, I had a patient that was confused and tried to hit, kick and bite the nurses, including myself," she said.

The violence makes it difficult for nurses to do their job, she said.

It's helpful when management is able to stand behind nurses and a police report can be filed, Brown said, but that's a rarity.

"Very rarely do people file police reports, and I do believe I was told it won't go anywhere because it's not a big enough deal to follow up with the legal process," Brown said. "The patient al-

ways comes first. It's kind of like the customer-is-always-right type mentality."

In the past year, nine employees at Bronson Hospital have filed police reports for assault, according to Lt. Doug Bagwell of the Battle Creek Police Department. Most of them were non-aggravated assault and many involved an individual who was intoxicated or mentally ill.

Cayley Winters, a former certified nurse assistant at Bronson, said that it's common for nurses to be discouraged from filing a report.

"When health-care providers do get assaulted, you can press charges, but... it takes so long for the courts to do anything, a lot of cases end up getting dropped, and often, this is something I experienced, management didn't want you to," she said. "Just, nothing's done about it. It was exhausting."

"Working 12s and nights is exhausting enough, working three, four days is exhausting enough ...," she said, "and then to go to work and to be so discouraged and feel like your dream was a sham because management and the law doesn't stand behind you? It sucks."

Hospitals put safeguards in place

Many hospitals, like Bronson, are trying to do more to protect their workers, Malcolm said.

Bronson posts signs in its emergency room stating the hospital's expectations for patients' conduct. They have security around the clock.

"We've done a lot of things to further protect our employees over the recent years as violence has escalated, things like offering self-protection and deescalation training, we do that. We've expanded our employee assistance program after traumatic events," she said.

Sparrow Hospital put a visitor management system in place to help with violence prevention. Between 4 p.m. and midnight, all hospital visitors are required to check in with a photo ID and wear a badge that includes their name and where they're going, Pontifex said.

Sparrow also has mandatory violence prevention and deescalation training in place and encourages employees to report workplace violence.

Pontifex said having those systems makes health-care workers feel supported and has created a positive culture change at the hospital.

Not all hospitals provide that kind of training, though.

Brown said that Borgess trains security guards, nursing aides and psychiatric nurses on how to deal with violent patients, but floor nurses, ER nurses and critical care nurses don't receive any training.

In a statement, Borgess Hospital said, in part, that "With workplace safety a top priority, all Ascension Borgess associates complete annual required safety education, including mandatory de-escalation training for all nursing staff to help prepare them for addressing any potential violent behavior."

Burnout

The expectation of violence is causing nurses to leave the field.

"You're constantly looking and double checking your ways out of the room before you ever walk in," Brown said.

The number of nurses leaving the field each year has grown steadily, from around 40,000 in 2010 to a projected 80,000 by 2020, according to a 2015 study by Montana State University.

"Every year it seems to be getting worse for the nurses to go into their job," Brown said. "I'm hoping that the policies will be put into place, as well as legislation on how to deal with violent patients. I also hope the legal aspect comes into play ... if you attempt to assault a nurse, that it is a felony, just like the other emergency service workers."



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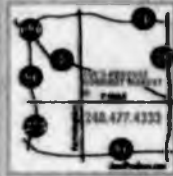
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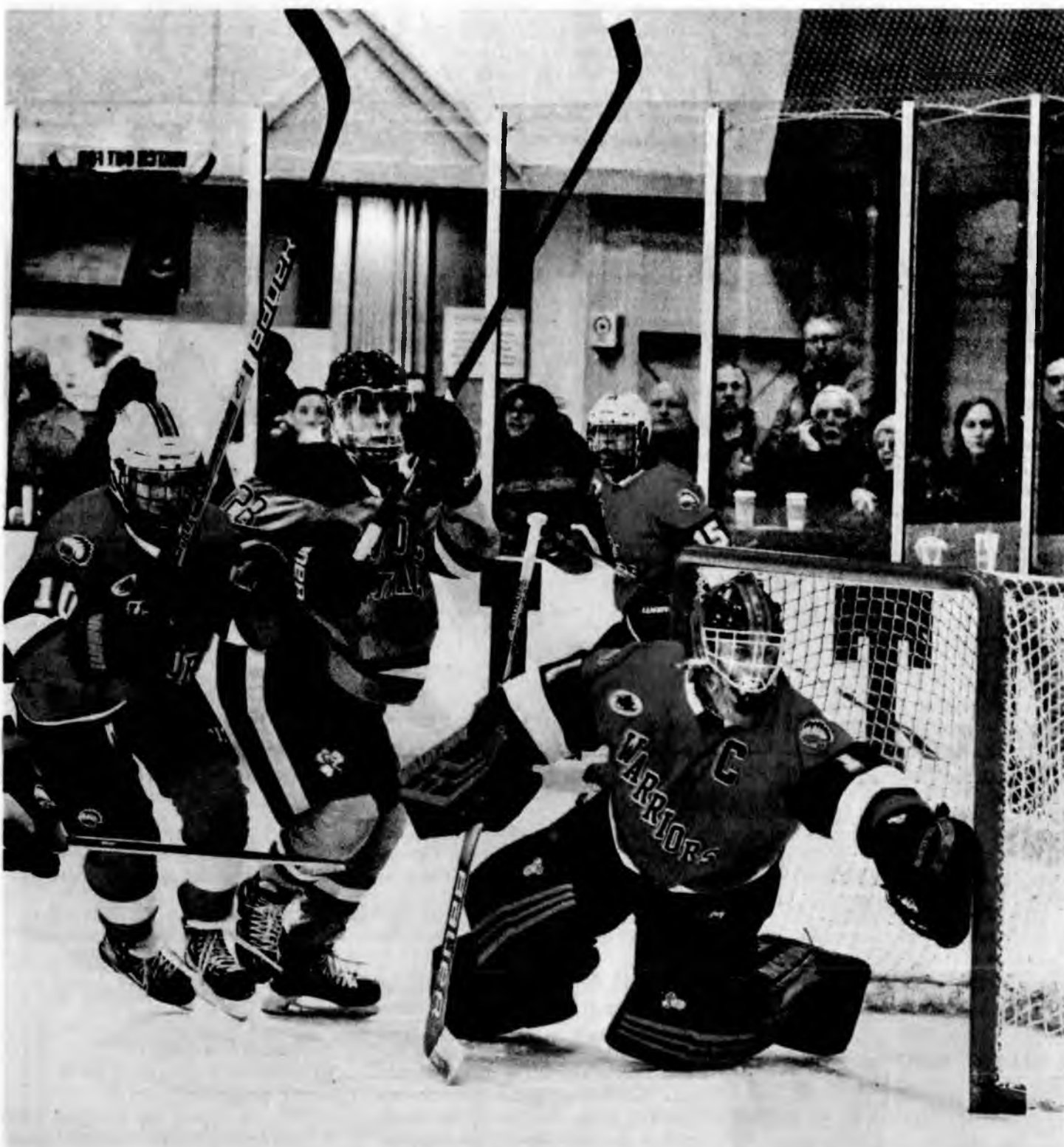
Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Awesome. Incredible. Selfless.
When asked to describe Jess Mruzik, these are the words that came to the minds of her former Mercy Volleyball teammates. However, for junior outside

hitter Charli Atiemo, one word encapsulated every feeling: superhero.
"I thank God every day that I was able to live this with her," Atiemo said.
Despite leaving Mercy to enroll early and play volleyball at Michigan, Mruzik returned to Mercy High School Jan. 22 to cap off her high school career, being

named the Gatorade Volleyball National Player of the Year.
Through this award, Gatorade recognizes the nation's most elite high school athletes in 12 different sports. Past winners include Peyton Manning, Abby Wambach and Derek Jeter.
The Mercy Athletics Department also

announced that Mruzik's No. 33 would be retired.
"Looking back on it, I'm just so blessed and honored to be a part of such an amazing volleyball community and so highly respected among my peers
See VOLLEYBALL, Page 3B



Brother Rice goalie Cooper Duncan keeps an eye on the puck as teammates and Catholic Central players whip by his net.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Brother Rice uses defense to win season series against CC

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coming off a loss on the road to Calumet, Brother Rice hockey had a chance to revive morale against its top rival: Detroit Catholic Central.

With the Shamrocks outscoring the Warriors 6-5 in two games, splitting the first two games of the three-game series, a win for either team would secure a leg up on the MIHL North division lead.

After allowing an average of 2.7 goals per game since its most recent shutout on Dec. 12, the Brother Rice defense (12-

2-1) stepped up against Catholic Central (9-5), defeating the Shamrocks, 2-1, Jan. 22 at home.

"It always feels good to come out and get a win against that group," Brother Rice head coach Kenny Chaput said. "They work hard and they make you earn whatever you get."

In the first two periods, the Warriors had their fair share of chances to take a lead, but thwarted four power-play attempts in the first 25 minutes of game play.

But 61 seconds is all it took to turn the tide.

With 4:39 left in the second period,

Warriors forward Max Brown took the puck off a rebound after a miss from Matt DeTar, tipping it in the back of the net for the first score of the day.

Brother Rice then found the back of the net again, as senior Dylan McNulty scored the second goal of the game off an assist from Brother Rice forward Ryan Murphy.

"Every time we play CC, it's a special memory," McNulty said. "Being a senior, being the last time we are playing them, you got to come out every shift and give it your all."

See HOCKEY, Page 2B

John Glenn basketball collapses, survives Stevenson

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coming off an eight-point loss to KLAA East-leading Belleville on a few days earlier John Glenn basketball felt like it had learned from its mistakes, leading the charge Friday against Livonia Stevenson and holding a 33-19 halftime lead.

A 14-point deficit would not prove to be enough to keep off the Spartans Stevenson roared back, going on a 17-4 run in the fourth quarter to give the Spartans a 52-51 lead late.

But John Glenn (6-2) answered with two layups in the fast-break offense, leading to a stop with four seconds to secure the Rockets' sixth win of the season, a 55-54 dogfight against Stevenson (6-4), who suffered its first loss since Jan. 14.

Here are three takeaways from the back-and-forth KLAA battle:

See BASKETBALL, Page 2B

Howell taps Plymouth's Lewis to be football coach

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Friday was an emotionally exhausting day for Brian Lewis.

Along with the excitement of being named Howell's new football coach earlier in the day came the sobering responsibility of informing his now-former players at Plymouth that he would no longer be their coach.

"It was hard," Lewis said. "As a guy that is authentic, I try to pride myself in building relationships with people, especially with our kids. It was a very difficult day for me to talk to our Plymouth kids. Kids don't always understand exactly what's going on when you get older."

After breaking the news to the players at Plymouth, Lewis headed to Howell to catch a girls basketball game and begin immersing himself in his

See LEWIS, Page 2B

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Hartland hockey drops 2nd tilt against Stevenson

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

LIVONIA — Hartland's best chance of winning a third straight state Division 2 hockey championship might be for someone else to do the dirty work of taking down Livonia Stevenson.

Stevenson, quite simply, has become the Eagles' Kryptonite.

While Hartland has fared quite well against other powerhouse programs in the state, the Eagles can't seem to figure out Stevenson.

The second-ranked Spartans beat fourth-ranked Hartland for the fifth straight time in decisive fashion, 7-0, Wednesday night at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena.

It's the second time this season that Stevenson has beaten Hartland. The Spartans beat the Eagles, 5-2, on Jan. 4 at Hartland Sports Center.

"What they have is a constant compete and we don't," Hartland coach Rick Gadwa said. "What's the difference between them and us? They compete and we don't."

The rivals could meet two more times this season. Stevenson or Salem will host Hartland or Brighton in the KLAA championship game. A fourth encounter could take place in the state semifinals March 12 at USA Hockey Arena.



Hartland's Andrew Larson fights for the puck against Stevenson's Nick Justice during a game Jan. 22.
TIMOTHY ARKICK/FOR HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The manner in which they were dominated Wednesday will bring about some soul-searching by the Eagles as they head into the most important time of the season.

"It's about what we do now moving forward," Gadwa said. "Some guys can sink, some can rise to the occasion. We have a lot of work to do. We just got our butts beat."

"You can learn a lot from losses. We're going to look to do that, but this is a big one. This is a game where it looks like, do you have anything? Where's a

response here? It's not there. Where's the compete at? It's not there. So, it's one of those things where we have to really dig deep to go find that."

Stevenson coach David Mitchell tried to not read too much into Wednesday's result, even if it was the continuation of a trend against Hartland.

"Again, they're the back-to-back state champs for a reason," Mitchell said. "Until someone takes that away from them, they're the defending state champs. They have what everybody wants. One game at a time to try to get to that point."

Stevenson smothered Hartland, which was unable to generate consistent puck possession in the offensive zone. The Eagles managed only 12 shots on goal against Stevenson goalie Brenden Stroble. Stevenson had 26 shots on net.

"We've been working on some things, and there are nights like that where things just click," Mitchell said. "We'll take it. We could just as much be on the other end of something like that with a team like Hartland. It ebbs and flows, and tonight was a good night for us."

The Spartans seized momentum just 69 seconds into the game when Jack Smith turned and fired home a shot from the slot. Seth Lause, who scored three shorthanded goals in the previous

meeting with Hartland, made it 2-0 at the 4:15 mark.

Tanner Liptow, who finished with two goals and two assists, and Nick Justice scored in the second period to make it 4-0.

The Spartans were in a position to end the game by the eight-goal mercy rule when Tate Kovacs, Carson Kleven and Liptow scored three goals in a 2:19 span to increase the lead to 7-0 with 8:59 remaining in the game.

The Eagles didn't allow another goal, but they did lose by at least seven goals for only the second time in their last 157 games dating back to the 2014-15 season. A positive for Hartland was that it embarked on its first state title run after ending the 2017-18 regular season with an 8-0 loss to Detroit Catholic Central.

Hartland's inability to beat Stevenson stands in contrast to its record against some of the other premier programs in Michigan. The Eagles have beaten Brighton seven straight times, are 5-1-1 in their last seven games against Trenton, have three straight victories over Orchard Lake St. Mary's and are 2-1 in their last three against Birmingham Brother Rice.

Stevenson (14-1-1) extended its winning streak to 13 games, allowing two goals or less in 12 of them. Hartland fell to 11-3-1.

Hockey

Continued from Page 1B

Despite only scoring two goals, its second-lowest output of the season after its 4-0 loss to Catholic Central on Dec. 7, the Warrior defense stepped up.

Brother Rice allowed only five shots on goal in the first period, limiting the Shamrocks' chances to get good looks.

Catholic Central ended Brother Rice's chance at its second shutout of the season 16:17 into the final period, as Shamrocks forward Blake Salamon found the back of the net off an assist by Dylan Dooley.

While senior goalkeeper Cooper Duncan made the stops when he needed to, he said the Brother Rice defense, as a whole, put on a show, especially after allowing eight goals in its past two games.

"They made it very easy on me and it made a huge difference how great we played defensively because all we had to do was score two goals to win a game," Duncan said.

Chaput said the Warriors defense "kept it simple," concentrating on limit-

ing space that the Shamrock offense had to work with instead of being careless with the puck and in transition.

While the output of each of the three games between Brother Rice and Catholic Central have been close, Shamrocks head coach Brandon Kaleniecki is not focused on what the score of each matchup dictated.

"I would like to think if we played them again, sure, we would be on the other side of it, but that is just the nature of it," Kaleniecki said. "We have a great rivalry, two very close teams. The score, 7-7 between the two games, shows that, but for us, we are looking at it that we lost two of them."

It was the wins and losses not the score differential that gives Brother Rice the upper hand in the MIHL North for the remainder of the season, something that had created an extremely confident locker room moving toward playoffs.

"We just got to be that top team," McNulty said. "We got to come into every game with that swagger and know that we're the best team right now and everyone is feeling that way."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710.



Brother Rice captain DJ Dixon, right, fights through the defense of Catholic Central's Kaden Hemme to get to a loose puck. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

The final stop

Holding onto a slim one-point lead, John Glenn head coach Jerret Smith challenged his team: make a stop.

It was something the Rockets did for the first 24 minutes of the game, limiting Stevenson to 35 points in the first three quarters, making an impact in transition, recording turnovers and making stops consistently against a team that averaged 57.3 points per game.

The fourth quarter was a different story for the John Glenn defense.

Starting with Spartans senior guard Steven Shimko's 3-point make to start the quarter, Stevenson was off, making six field goals in the final quarter, one less than the amount of field goals the Rockets allowed in the entire first half.

A finish and a foul by Evan Bradford, who finished the game with 13 points, gave the Spartans the lead with less a minute to go.

After John Glenn guard Kyle Holt and forward Deonta Pearson each recorded a layup in fastbreak transition, giving the Rockets a one-point lead, Smith called for his team to come out of the hole it had dug itself into.

"I told my kids, 'You have to find a way to get a stop,'" Smith said. "We had repetitive stops for 24 minutes and then for eight minutes, we didn't know how to get a stop."

Stevenson head coach Kareem Smart was dialing up a play, trying to spread out the John Glenn defense on an inbound and get to the basket with relative ease.

However, Smith, self-described as "not a gambling man," took a risk. He took out center Brendan Belko and inserted center Trey Smith, the biggest player on the roster, into the game and in front of the Spartan inbounder.



John Glenn's Deonte Pearson tries to get a shot up while being guarded by two Wayne Memorial players.
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

After being encouraged on the bench to be like an oak tree, putting his hands up and standing tall in front of the Stevenson player, Smith did just that, disrupting the Spartans enough to keep the lead for the final four seconds of the game.

Second-half success

Despite the comeback in the second half, Smart simply put that Stevenson's first-half performance was poor.

"We were bad, everybody was trying to do one-on-one stuff," Smart said.

After John Glenn amounted to a 14-8 lead after the first quarter, the Rockets offense started to click.

Four second-quarter 3-pointers, including three by junior forward D'Angelo Stoxsill, gave the Rockets a 14-point halftime lead.

When he left for the locker room at halftime, Smart's message to his team was simple.

"I told the guys, 'This is one of the teams that are in our district,'" Smart said. "We can lay down to them now so they will think they have the upper hand on us, or if you want to compete for a district, you gotta show these guys that you are ready to play."

"I think that's what they did in the second half."

Smart said Stevenson began to share the ball, becoming more energized offensively, which gave life to the defense as well.

The Spartans outscored John Glenn 35-22 in the final 16 minutes.

Despite taking the loss, Smart said Stevenson wanted to set the tone for future matchups against John Glenn and other division opponents.

"They just don't want to be known as quitters," he said.

The full 32

In the final four seconds of the game, leading by one, Smith said it was like playing chess, trying to make a move better than the one Stevenson made.

But the thing is, he never wanted to get to that point.

"At the end of the day, I never want to play chess, especially when it comes to the situation where you get them in the deficit that you get them in," Smith said.

The first-year John Glenn head coach said consistency has been his team's biggest struggle through the first part of the regular season.

He said the first three quarters of the game against Stevenson were representative of what the Rockets could be.

"Like we can be really good," Smith said, "but until we get 32 minutes hard work, all the time, we are going to continue to have hard grind-out games like that."

Lewis

Continued from Page 1B

new community.

The reception he received confirmed why he wanted to come to Howell in the first place.

"I got to meet some people and shake some hands," Lewis said. "That was extremely exciting for me. As sad as I was to tell the kids in Plymouth and as emotional as that was,



Lewis

the flip side was getting to Howell and getting the excitement and burning passion and desire I feel, because I get to see people who are true community. I could really sense that."

One of the reasons Lewis left Plymouth after two seasons to coach at Howell was the commute from his home in Pinckney is considerably shorter. He also likes that Howell is a one-school town, whereas Plymouth is one of three high schools sharing the same massive campus.

Howell hasn't made the state football playoffs the past three seasons, but Lewis said: "The potential is great, or else as a competitor I would not have pursued this job. Howell's still got freshman, JV and varsity; that is becoming more and more uncommon. Having the ability to have freshman, JV and varsity brings a different dynamic for me. I'm excited being able to work with that. The youth football program is still strong."

Lewis was 15-6 at Plymouth, getting the Wildcats to the state playoffs each season and winning the KLAA West championship last fall. His teams were known for defense, allowing 13 points or fewer 12 times in 21 games.

"Over the last few years, we've seen the growth the Plymouth program has had," Howell athletic director John Young said.

Volleyball

Continued from Page 1B

and coaches and everything," Mruzik said. "This is just unreal."

Taking Mercy to the next level

Mercy head coach Loretta Vogel knew Mruzik was going to make an impact the first time she saw her.

To Vogel, it was the way she passed the ball, the way she attacked, the way she jumped. The Mercy head coach was floored: she was in seventh grade.

"You've got to remember, she was 12," Vogel said. "Jumping and attacking that we take years to show other girls and Jess could do it right away."

Julia Bishop was already aware of Mruzik's skill, playing against her in middle school.

After shadowing her and eventually deciding to join Mruzik at Mercy, Bishop felt right away that this setter and outside hitter pairing would do big things in their high school tenure.

"She always was that player where she's going to be big. She's going to go far," Bishop said. "But it never kicked in how far she could actually go."

Mruzik came into her high school career knowing the pedigree of Mercy volleyball, that consistent success was expected.

The reputation of the program was extremely high, but the expectation of what Mruzik wanted to bring was even higher.

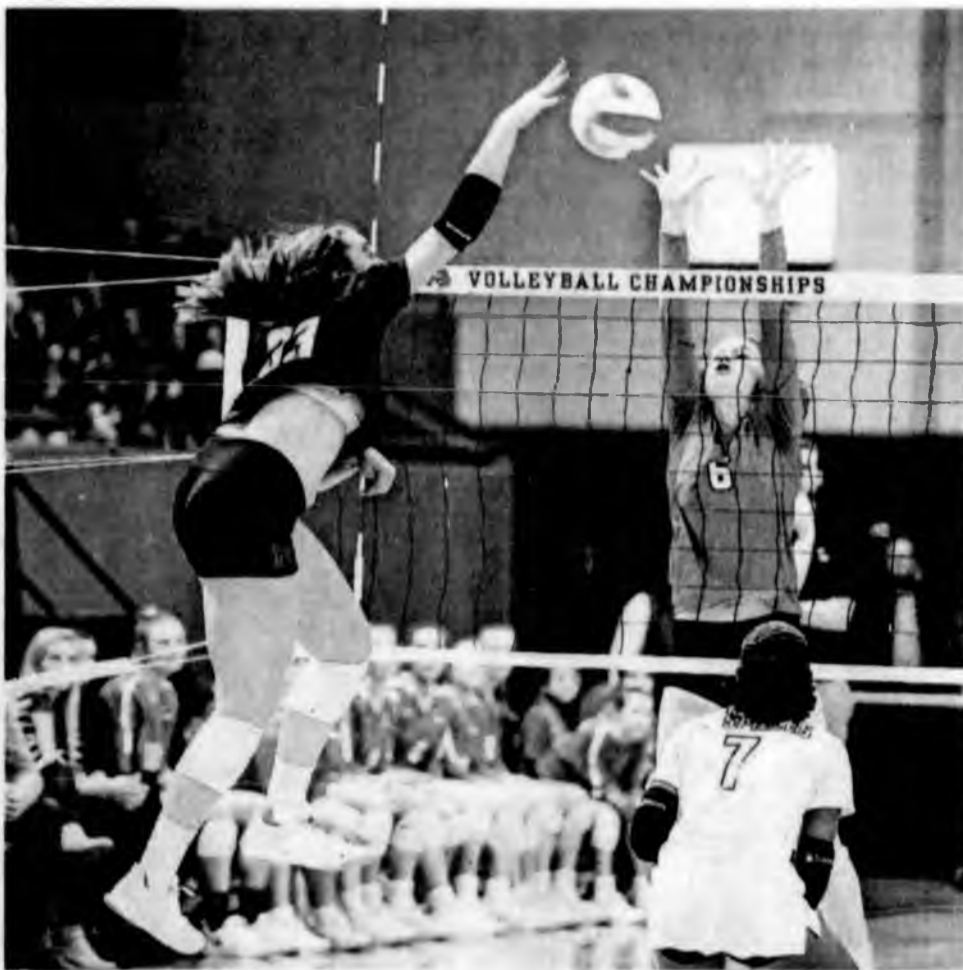
"I came into this program wanting to build it up," Mruzik said. "I just wanted to take it to the next level."

Coaches and teammates knew what Mruzik could do, starting and verbally committing to Michigan her freshman season and leading Mercy to a state semifinal appearance in her sophomore and junior seasons.

For her parents, her dominance on the volleyball court was something new.

"People were telling us, coaches and so forth, that she had a very high ceiling," Jeff Mruzik, Jess' father, said. "Having not experienced it before, we were like 'that's great, that's great.' Every time she did something, she did something else on top of it."

During the 2019 season, the 6-foot-1 outside hitter led the Marlins to a 59-1 record and Mercy's first state title in



Mruzik's Jess Mruzik, left, hits one over the net during the MHSAA Division I State Finals against Lowell at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek last season.

AL LASSEN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

school history, compiling 495 kills, 209 digs, 47 service aces and 19 blocks. She also posted a .635 kill percentage and a .540 hitting percentage.

Mruzik also served as captain of the USA Volleyball Youth National Team, leading Team USA to the gold medal at the FIVB Girls U18 World Championships in Egypt and earning tournament MVP honors.

Along with the state championship, Mruzik was named as Miss Michigan Volleyball for the 2019 season.

While being appreciative of the accolades, it's not something Mruzik aims for.

"It's definitely super amazing to have won all these awards this year throughout my volleyball career, but I know it's not why I play the game," Mruzik said. "I play the game because I love the sport and I love my teammates and the competitive atmosphere that comes with playing volleyball."

Bishop does not need awards to tell her the quality of the teammate she has set for over the past few years.

"Me being her setter, it was an insane experience, such a beautiful thing to do, but also it opens your eyes that, I got to play with the best player in the nation right now," Bishop said.

Mruzik's legacy lives on

Vogel was asked once if Mruzik had a "big head" because of all the success the star outside hitter had accomplished.

In response, Vogel laughed and said, "She's not made that way."

"She's just been a joy to have. She's just a good kid. Her family's a good family," Vogel said. "With Jess receiving many awards, you wouldn't know. She's always Jess."

The 2019 season for Mercy will be remembered for the success on the volleyball court, the dominance of Mruzik in



Former Mercy outside hitter Jess Mruzik, right, celebrates her Gatorade National Player of the Year award with head coach Loretta Vogel.

COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the front, the demolishing of opponents each step of the way.

However, for players and coaches, Mruzik will be remembered more by her actions off the court, by the amount of love she brought her teammates and coaches, the way she cared about each and every one of them.

To Jeff Mruzik, this means more than the volleyball accolades.

"As a parent, without a doubt that is one of the most incredible things anybody could tell you is that your child is not only a great athlete, but a great person and a great teammate," Jeff Mruzik said. "To us, that even goes deeper than some of the successes for volleyball."

Jess Mruzik did not know when she would be back to Mercy after enrolling early at Michigan.

However, when she opened the door, saw her teammates and coaches, the emotions came flooding back. With a trophy in hand, her teammates surrounded her, mobbing the senior outside hitter in a way similar to how they mobbed each other after earning the state title.

To Mruzik, walking back through the doors of Mercy High School, she realized that she didn't realize what she had until it was gone.

"I wouldn't be here without them," Mruzik said.

But Mruzik's legacy will never truly be gone from Mercy. The expectations have been set, with Mruzik's No. 33 hanging from the rafters in the gym, flying high above each and every volleyball player to wear a Marlins uniform.

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Brother Rice turns tide in CC hoops rivalry

Colin Gay HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The first edition of the Brother Rice and Detroit Catholic Central rivalry was a race to 60.

Neither the Warrior nor the Shamrock basketball teams have won a game in the 2019-20 season scoring less than 60 points, but it seemed that both teams were on opposite trajectories.

Catholic Central had lost each of its past five games, averaging 49.6 per game, while Brother Rice came into the game on an offensive roll, winning four of its past five games and scoring more than 75 points in each win.

While senior guard Antonio Nikprelaj made sure that 60-point win streak would continue with four seconds left in the game, Brother Rice (7-3) had Catholic Central (2-7) handled well before that, beating the Shamrocks, 60-45, on the road Tuesday night.

With the win, Brother Rice earns its first win against the Shamrocks since the 2014-15 season.

Here are three takeaways from the first meeting between the two foes:

Playing with emotion

Brother Rice head coach Rick Palmer described his team's performance in the first half as "emotional."

The Warriors allowed 16 first-quarter points, including two runs — a 7-0 run to start the game and a 6-0 run at the end of the first quarter — to hold a six-point lead after eight minutes. After allowing 10 points in the second quarter, Brother Rice left for halftime with a two-point deficit.

Palmer re-energized his team in the locker room, calling for them to copy the Shamrocks by playing with fire instead of allowing the fire to dictate play, like the Warriors did in the first half.

From the start of the final 16 minutes, the Brother Rice head coach saw a different team.

"In the second half, we played with the emotion you would expect in a rivalry game," he said.

Brother Rice freshman forward Curtis Williams exploded out of the gate in the second half, scoring the first 10 points for the Warriors to set the tone offen-



Brother Rice freshman guard Henry Garrity finishes at the rim against Detroit Catholic Central. Brother Rice won, 60-45. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sively.

Brother Rice used 16 points in the third quarter to turn a two-point half-time deficit into a nine-point lead heading into the final eight minutes.

Williams finished the game with a Brother Rice-high 13 points.

"When I get scoring, our team really gets going," Williams said.

That offensive momentum carried into the fourth quarter, as the Warriors outscored Catholic Central 20-14 in the final eight minutes to secure their fifth win in six games.

Defense rises to the occasion

Catholic Central sophomore forward Cooper Craggs: that was the target for

the Brother Rice defense the entire second half.

Shamrocks coach Brandon Sinawi said his team tried to give different looks, such as using two big men at the same time — something Catholic Central has not done all season — to try and dissuade the pressure on the Shamrocks' leading scorer.

But it was to no avail.

Catholic Central was limited to five points in the third quarter, recording only two field goals. Craggs was limited to two points in the entire game.

"We did it with our man pressure," Palmer said. "We finally came out and played the way I expect to play in a rivalry game."

Riding a six-game losing streak, hav-

ing not won a game since a 62-55 victory against St. Clair Shores Lake Shore on Dec. 15, Sinawi said the second half collapse represented what Catholic Central has been through as of late.

"It's, kind of, been the story of our season," Sinawi said. "We come out with a good gameplan, we come out fired up and with energy. We carry a half, and we just can't seem to shake the second half."

Changing the tide

It's been awhile since Brother Rice beat Catholic Central on the hardwood. The last win the Warriors had against

See RIVALRY, Page 5B

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SLE cheer finishes 5th at LVC competition

With a new competitive cheer coach, South Lyon East made an impact in the first Lakes Valley Conference competition of the year.

On Jan. 15, the Cougars finished fifth with a score of 673.48, competing at Lakeland High School.

"South Lyon East impressed me to-

night," South Lyon East competitive cheer head coach Julia Tilt said. "They put team tucks out for the first time ever in schools history. Day by day, they are getting stronger and more competitive. I can't wait to see what our future holds."

Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Rivalry

Continued from Page 4B

the Shamrocks on the basketball court was a 59-53 home win on Jan. 16, 2015. Since then, Brother Rice has lost seven-straight games to its rival.

But Williams and Thomas, who recorded 12 points for the Warriors, have seemingly brought new life to Brother Rice, a team that has not had a winning record since the 2014-15 season and has won two Catholic League games in its past four seasons.

"They said this is a rival game, so we had to show them," Thomas said. "They

said that we had no team chemistry, so we had to show that we could win together, play together."

But Williams is not focused on bringing Brother Rice back to prominence. He wants to exceed expectations for his freshman season, to set the tone for his remaining three years with the Warriors.

"As a team, we are getting a lot of momentum from these league games," Williams said. "We really want to win the Catholic League, trying to get to the Breslin."

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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Matcats find success in busy weekend

Colin Gay hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

This past weekend was a busy one for the Michigan Matcats wrestling team.

The dual-meet teams traveled to Linden for their annual duals, the first time the Michigan Matcats have taken three age-based teams: 8U, 10U and the middle school team.

With nearly 40 wrestlers, the Matcats completed the sweep of the event, winning championship titles in each division.

It was the first time the 8U team had competed in the event.

"We just decided to enter this team, really at the last moment," Derek Aluia, head coach of the 8U team, said. "These kids were prepared and showed that their age does not define their ability. Each dual meet was won by double digits."

"There are so many young leaders on this team. From Porter McCormick, to Gunnar Pollins to Seth Lawrence and everyone in between, this group is special and we expect great things for years to come."

The 10U team continued its undefeated run with another championship, defeating Hartland, 75-6, Fenton, 64-19, and Linden, 84-0.

"These kids really work hard." 10U head coach Frank Shinkonis said. "We don't have a single hole in our lineup. Every kid contributes and their intensity is contagious with the team."

While we have several hammers, Jaxon Moe really showed why 58 pounds is his spot in the lineup. He works hard at practice, he really leads by example."

The 15U team put on a clinic of its own, winning the middle-school division.

"We had a couple of kids missing from the lineup. Normally, most teams would be expecting a difficult road. Our kids embraced the lineup changes and went to work." 15U head coach Justin Kimling said. "We had every opportunity to fold, but never did These kids were



Easton Hardesty participates in a competition in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Campden Pinter wrestles an opponent as a part of the Michigan Matcats wrestling team. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

tested a few times but got better with each match. Super proud."

MMWA

A small MMWA team traveled to Montrose for an individual event, leading to several champions Anthony Maddaferri and Wesley Honiss who both won the tournament handily.

"These two are very tough, very fast and two of the hardest workers in the room," Michigan Matcats head coach Steven Richardson said. "No doubt in my mind that they would win gold at Montrose."

Alma College

A small team traveled to Alma College for its annual youth duals.

Taking a young and inexperienced team, coach Ed Hardesty viewed it as a learning experience.

"We got our butts kicked early, but the kids bounced back and the team chemistry started to gel," Hardesty said. "The second to final match was against Clare. Our kids had fun and really performed well, beating them. Again, led by leadership from Gunnar Pollins, Gavin Bolter and RJ Green, these kids earned a chance to compete again real soon."

Tulsa

One Michigan Matcats member traveled to Tulsa, OK for the Tulsa Nationals event.

This three-day tournament hosts over 2,500 wrestlers, one of the biggest in the country.

Easton Hardesty is not only our first Matcat to compete, but he qualified for the final day earning some great victories in the preliminary rounds.

"This is Easton's last year with the Matcats and he had made a choice to find the biggest and most competitive events in the country to help challenge himself and represent our club along the way," Richardson said. "There is no bigger stage for that than in Tulsa. This event is televised and included fireworks and smoke as part of the action. Truly the big stage. We're so proud of Easton for showing the Matcats are more than Michigan."

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.

HOMETOWN LIFE WINTER SPORTS SCOREBOARD

Here is a look at how Hometown Life area schools are performing in winter sports such as boys basketball, girls basketball and hockey. Please send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com to keep the scoreboard regularly updated.

Boys basketball

Jan. 17

Salem 66, Plymouth 55

Livonia Stevenson 63, Wayne Memorial 55: Wayne Memorial connected on only 8-of-20 from the free-throw line, falling to the Spartans despite 20 points from Dante Foreman.

Canton 78, Novi 65

Jan. 21

Brother Rice 60, Detroit Catholic Central 45

Brighton 55, Novi 45: Novi loses its fourth KLAA West game of the season. Bruce Turner led the Wildcats with 16 points.

Livonia Stevenson 47, Livonia Franklin 39: After amounting to a 15-5 first-quarter lead, Stevenson could not be stopped led by seven-point performances from Nathan Waligora and Steven Shimko.

Canton 49, Hartland 43 OT
Lakeland 58, Walled Lake Northern 37: David Jabiro led Lakeland to its sixth win of the season and its fifth win in Lakes Valley Conference play with 21 points.

Jan. 24

Howell 50, Canton 48

Plymouth 64, Novi 54: The Wildcats gained traction in the fourth quarter to earn its fifth win of the season. Plymouth was led by Matt MacLellan, who scored 16 points, and Jacob Smith, who scored 11.

John Glenn 55, Livonia Stevenson 54
Brother Rice 60, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep 53: Brother Rice earned its eighth win of the season with a career-high 25 points by Curtis Williams.

Birmingham Seaholm 49, Royal Oak 45

Girls basketball

Jan 17

Plymouth Christian Academy 58, Southfield Christian 16, Anna Fernandez helped the Eagles to their eighth win of the season with 24 points, nine steals and six rebounds.

South Lyon East 51, Walled Lake Northern 34: After starting the first quarter with a 12-4 lead, the Cougars earned their fifth win of the season, led by Lucy Cronin, who had 18 points.

Farmington Hills Mercy 46, Lutheran 33: Maya White scored 13 points en route to the Marlins' 10th win in 10 games.



North Farmington's Eddie Lenton III, background, Farmington's Siddiq Abulmajeed and a potential rebound all go flying at the same time.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Garden City 45, Robichaud 38

Jan. 21

Northville 44, Plymouth 41: Despite 14 points from Ella Riley and nine points from Kyra Brandon, Plymouth loses its fourth KLAA West game of the season.

Hartland 66, Canton 18
Lutheran Northwest 44, Plymouth Christian Academy 39: Plymouth Christian Academy suffered its second loss of the season, as Anna Fernandez recorded 16 points and four rebounds, while Morganne Houk scored 13 points with four rebounds.

Farmington Hills Mercy 52, Warren Regina: Maya White paced the Marlins with 14 points and six rebounds, while Jill Smith added nine points for undefeated Mercy.

Taylor 56, Garden City 30

Jan. 24

Plymouth 56, Novi 41: The Wildcats improved to 5-5 and were led by Sophie Zelek, who scored 19 points, and Ella Riley, who scored 13 for Plymouth.
Garden City 53, Melvindale 22: Ella Bowman led all scorers with 15 points, while Siena McNitt, Allyssa Sanner and Rylan Dolan added eight points each.

Hockey

Jan. 18

Detroit Catholic Central 2, Cranbrook Kingswood 1: Blake Salamon and Dylan Dooley scored two goals for the Shamrocks, allowing a goal by Cranbrook Kingswood with 20 seconds left in the game.

Jan. 22
Brother Rice 2, Detroit Catholic Central 1

Livonia Stevenson 7, Hartland 0

Brighton 3, Salem 0

Walled Lake Northern 4, Milford 2

Jan. 23

Walled Lake Western 7, Milford 2: After trailing Walled Lake Western 4-0 one minute into the second period, Mavericks freshman Mack Musialowski scored the first goal of the game. But the Warriors scored three goals in the first six minutes to hand Milford its ninth loss of the season.

Detroit Catholic Central 5, Orchard Lake St. Mary's 1: Catholic Central had five different goal scorers, adding 10 assists in the Shamrocks' third win in four games.

Jan. 25

Farmington United 6, Milford 2: Despite

outshooting Farmington United, Milford had a difficult time getting the puck by goaltender Bryn Sommerfeldt, who recorded 35 goals, scoring a goal as well for Farmington United.

Detroit Catholic Central 4, Detroit U-D Jesuit 1

Bowling

Jan. 17

Garden City 27, Melvindale 3: Brandon LaBean led the Cougars with games of 193 and 235. Reece Bramigk (178, 223) and Ian Will (193, 188) also helped with the victory for Garden City.

Jan. 19

Livonia Franklin took first place in the Wayne County tournament, led by junior Ken Kloth (234, 237, 237), sophomore Ian Cain (205, 274, 214) and senior Aaron Wright (245, 238, 201). The Patriots defeated U-D Jesuit, Belleville and Salem in the final to secure the tournament victory.

Jan. 20

Garden City 20, Romulus 10: The Garden City boys bowling team remained perfect with Reece Bramigk (188, 210) and Ian Will (176, 210) leading the way to victory.

Swim and Dive

Jan. 16

Novi 131, Canton 55: Senior simmer achieved two state qualifying times in the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly, while senior Connor Johns earned a state qualifying time in the 100 backstroke, helping Novi to its seventh-straight dual meet win.

Jan. 23

Novi 114, Brighton 72: Novi earned its eighth win in eight meets with a win against No. 10 Brighton. Connor Johns, Sam Stefanek, Adam Carozza and Michael Prahin earned state-qualifying times in the medley relay.

Gymnastics

Jan. 25

While Farmington United came out with the first-place finish, Huron Valley United Gymnastics finished in third place in a state tournament it hosted Saturday. HVU finished with a score of 140.825, behind Farmington United and second-place finisher Fowlerville-Byron-Pinkney-Perry. Senior Rachel Palaian and junior Nicole Graham, both from Lakeland, placed in all events and all-around. Milford junior Laura Nowicki won the floor event by scoring a 9.425. Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

PBS finally gets on YouTube TV

Jefferson Graham
USA TODAY

PASADENA, Calif. — You wanted to watch Monday's episode of Frontline via streaming and signed up for the \$50 YouTube TV cable alternative app because you heard that PBS is now available on the cable TV alternative service.

Uh-oh. You could have been in for a rude surprise.

Yes, PBS did finally enter the digital age and make its programming available to cutting-the-cord fans in December, with an app that offers the complete lineup of local PBS stations. But add a big qualifier because in the nation's second-largest TV market, Los Angeles, many of the signature shows are either not available in first run (such as "Masterpiece"), or are, like "Frontline," but several days later.

And PBS still isn't available on other streaming services including Sling, AT&T Now or Hulu with Live TV.

The answer from PBS: There's an app for that, and it's called PBS. Arguably the best bargain in streaming.

The PBS streaming app, which is available on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV Stick and other platforms, has the complete lineup of PBS shows, but again with caveats.

Programs come and go fast, unless you donate a minimum of \$5 monthly to your local PBS station as a "Passport" member, or one-tenth of a monthly payment to YouTube.

By comparison, CBS' All Access app, which offers all of its shows, with ads, costs \$5.99 a month, and Hulu, which offers an ad-supported home to watch network shows from ABC, NBC and Fox, usually one day after initial airing, is \$5.99.

The Passport app has no ads.

PBS' challenge is making folks aware of it.

Ira Rubenstein appears often on industry panels extolling the virtues of Public Broadcasting's role in the digital universe.

But when he mentions that PBS app and how involved the mostly publicly funded network is in digital, "people are shocked," says Rubenstein, PBS' chief digital officer. "We're like a big secret."



Ira Rubenstein, the chief digital officer for PBS. JEFFERSON GRAHAM

He chalks it up to network and streaming service advertising budgets versus what he has to work with.

"It's my job to elevate that," he says.

He estimates that some 5% to 10% of the total PBS viewership is now streaming and says the audience would be larger if more younger viewers were aware of the app.

He figures it's a "generational" thing, where young adults just aren't regular PBS viewers. So Rubenstein has been testing ways to reach them where they live.

He recently posted complete episodes of "Frontline" on the free YouTube service, where "it's reached a much younger audience," he says. "Those viewers may never go back to broadcast, and that's OK; they're consuming the content. What I think we can do, and have to do, is make sure the content is available everywhere."

To help achieve that goal, PBS launched on YouTube TV with 100 stations and the PBS Kids app, but now there are over 200 stations there as well, with just over 100 more to go.

PBS says those stations will join the lineup shortly.

But in some markets where there are multiple PBS stations, like L.A., where there are four, they all can't fit. KCET, the other main L.A. PBS affiliate, got the nod, along with PBS Kids, because it offers more locally produced programming that's unavailable on other platforms, says Rubenstein.

He says he's looking into a fix for the L.A. market.

"The cheapest alternative to cable is to just buy an antenna," says Luke Bouma, the editor of Cordcuttersnews. Antennas start at around \$40 and are way more powerful than the old rabbit ears of years past because they come with tuners to boost the signal.

With an antenna, you can pick up all the local stations, but because it's linear television, viewers are forced to watch the programs when they air.

Meanwhile, the PBS app is free and has some archived shows. But beyond news programming, many of the programs tend to be preview clips unless you pay to support your local station.

On the app, Rubenstein has been experimenting with "bingeing" programs, similar to how apps like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video do it, letting viewers

watch an entire season in one swoop, instead of waiting weekly for the latest.

The newest Masterpiece, "Sanditon," which premiered Sunday, is available on the PBS app (not YouTube TV) in full-season binge mode, with all eight episodes.

When Ken Burns' "Country Music" documentary premiered last year as a four-part series, each edition aired on PBS stations weekly, while all four were available on the app.

"It was an effort to build awareness," Rubenstein says. Whether it's an effective programming strategy, "the jury is still out."

As for the other cable TV alternative services, Rubenstein says cutting deals with the likes of Hulu with Live TV and Sling is a priority. "Our goal is to get on as many as we can."

For now, beyond the various apps, fans of PBS and "Frontline" could go old school and visit the PBS website on computers or the mobile web, where the complete first episode of Monday's documentary and the polarization of America was available in the afternoon, along with next Monday's episode as well.

Streaming amps up demand for guitars

Manufacturers hope to draw old and young fans

Talking Tech
Jefferson Graham
USA TODAY

ANAHEIM, Calif. — There are no guitar heroes anymore. Current chart sensations Lizzo and Billie Eilish don't stand on stage with guitars around their neck like Eric Clapton, Slash from Guns N' Roses or Bruce Springsteen did (and still do.)

So what are guitar makers to do to keep their factories humming? Turn to streaming, classic rock and YouTube to reach tomorrow's guitar player.

The NAMM show, a collection of music store operators, music professionals and tens of thousands of fans concluded this weekend in Anaheim, where guitars of every color and imaginable shape were on display. The goal for many guitar makers: to either get older folks to shell out more money to add even more guitars to the collection, or better yet, get tomorrow's generation excited to start playing with new shapes.

At NAMM, which attracts some 150,000 people, we saw guitars that were filled with water (more on that in a minute) a model that resembled a mirror with strings, and a model with multiple holes in the back, for sound purposes.

For the person who has everything, there's a \$530,000 gold-studded Fender Stratocaster for sale. Back down on Earth, there were \$300 starter guitars, or handmade jazz guitars aimed at those who don't mind a starting price of \$6,500.

The challenge is to realize the baby boomer audience that has fueled the guitar industry for so many years has only a couple of decades left, and guitar makers have to reach new audiences.

The good news? "The consequences of streaming," is that young music fans are re-discovering guitar heroes through such services as Spotify and Apple Music, notes Andy Mooney, the CEO of Fender, the company that popularized the electric guitar for rock and roll in the 1950s. (



A Fender display with a replica of George Harrison's "Rocky" guitar
PHOTOS BY JEFFERSON GRAHAM



Howard Paul, CEO of Benedetto Guitars, is looking to schools for the next generation of guitarists.

"Everybody has a platform now. They don't have to wait for a gig. They can just start a YouTube channel, show their stuff on Instagram and Facebook."

Tom Sumner,
president, Yamaha Corp. of America

Becker playing his tasty riffs live on "Josie" and other hits.

Beyond that, tons of guitarists (yours truly, included) like to go on YouTube and just play songs, either for the fun of it, or to teach others how to play. That, in turn, has fueled new guitar sales, says Tom Sumner, the president of Yamaha Corp. of America.

"Everybody has a platform now," he says. "They don't have to wait for a gig. They can just start a YouTube channel, show their stuff on Instagram and Facebook. Even if you don't play live, you can

still record a video in your bedroom. People see that, and they get inspired and want to start playing."

According to MusicTrades, an industry publication that tracks music store sales, some \$2 billion worth of guitars were sold in 2019, up 5% from the prior year.

The market is flooded with cheap knockoff guitars, which helps stores like Walmart and Kmart sell inexpensive models. For the serious fan, many brands have moved to selling guitars endorsed by heroes, such as Ibanez's new "Signature" model from Kiss frontman Paul Stanley. Price tag: just under \$10,000.

For a relative bargain of just more than \$6,000, Benedetto Guitars of Savannah, Georgia will sell you a custom-made jazz guitar. The audience is doctors, lawyers, folks in their 50s, 60s and 70s, whose kids have grown up and are out of the house, who loved playing when they were younger and want a signature guitar to call their own.

Howard Paul, the CEO of Benedetto, says he's looking to music departments at schools for the next generation of players "because if you're going to get a great education, you need the right tools," like a well-built guitar, he says.

Meanwhile, the \$530,000 Fender will sell, insists Mooney, because it's unique. And those new water-filled guitars?

It seemed like a good idea to Brian Blair of Texas-based Bryan Guitars. He realized that different variations of how much water he poured into the guitar body would give him different sounds, so he made a prototype and brought it to NAMM, hoping to entice dealers — and to sell them for \$500.

There's just one problem. Water is heavy. And based on our user tests, we are sad to report that these puppies are really, really heavy around the neck.

They look great, though.

In other tech news this week

Attention dating fans: Dating apps such as Tinder, OkCupid and Grindr are sharing users' "highly personal" data such as sexual preferences and location with advertising partners, according to the Norwegian Consumer Council.

Superintendent talks about 'Titans' coach dad

Ed Wright hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One morning approximately 20 years ago, Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt received an unexpected phone call from her dad, Herman Boone, the real-life coach of the Alexandria, Virginia-based T.C. Williams football team made famous in the Disney movie "Remember the Titans."

A few weeks prior to the phone call, Disney announced Denzel Washington would portray Boone in a movie about the 1971 team that overcame racial tensions on the way to a 13-0 season.

"My dad said to me, 'Yeah, I just talked to Denzel and he wants to stop by the house and spend some time with me,'" Merritt recalled. "I told my dad, 'What!? You have to be kidding me! I'm on my way!'"

Merritt, a teacher in Southfield at the time, laughed as she recounted the memory.

"I go to my principal and say, 'I'm a person of integrity and I will not lie to you. I am not sick,'" she said. "I don't know what kind of leave I can take — I'll take an unpaid day if I have to — but I'm going to Virginia tomorrow!"

She said meeting the superstar actor, who wanted to spend time with her dad to learn his mannerisms, was "wonderful. He is such a humble, down-to-earth man."

The anecdote was one of many Merritt shared while reflecting on the remarkable life of her father, who died Dec. 18 at age 84.

One memory triggered the escape of a tear that trickled down her cheek. Most, however, resulted in smiles and laughter.

"When you look at his portrayal in the movie, he was very stern ... and that was definitely my father," Merritt said. "He was always a coach. But he had an incredibly soft side, too, especially when it came to his three daughters. We used to say God knew what he was doing when he didn't give dad any boys because they never would have seen his soft side."

"My dad couldn't stand to see people cry, something my sister learned to manipulate. If she thought she was about to get in trouble, she'd make her lip quiver like she was about to cry and he'd turn to butter."

Merritt said the first time she watched "Remember the Titans" was an "amazing, surreal" experience.

"The very first time I saw it was at the premiere at the Rose Bowl in California," she said. "Before the movie started, my



Monica Merritt and her family still keep in touch with Denzel Washington, whom she first met in 2000 while he was portraying her dad, Herman Boone, in "Remember the Titans." PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MERRITT FAMILY



When Merritt was asked what her dad taught her about leadership, she replied: "Everything. ... He had a way of uplifting people, getting the absolute best out of them." Boone died Dec. 18 at age 84.

dad was one of the people riding around in cars on the track that circled the football field, waving to the crowd. Denzel

was there. The movie was shown on the big screen at the stadium and as I'm watching it, I'm thinking, 'That's my life.'

"It was so beautiful. I felt so blessed to be a part of it."

Always a coach

Although teaching prevented Merritt from attending the actual filming of the movie, Boone and Merritt's mom, Carol, were in Atlanta with an up-close-and-personal view of the proceedings.

"I've been told that at times my dad was actually coaching the actors on the set," she said, smiling. "Once a coach, always a coach."

Merritt said her favorite scene in the movie — although she confessed it was hard to pick just one — unfolded when her father took his team to Gettysburg before delivering an unforgettable speech about coming together, regardless of the color of your skin.

"The only thing that didn't happen in reality in regards to that scene was that the team toured Gettysburg on a bus," Merritt said. "My dad said, 'There was no way I was going to make them run

through a graveyard at 3 o'clock in the morning!'"

Merritt confirmed that a brick was thrown through the front window of the Boones' Alexandria home, as depicted in the movie, "but my dad didn't run out of the house with a big rifle in his hands," she said.

A malicious, racially-motivated act against the Boone family that didn't make the film, Merritt remembered, was the placing of a toilet seat on their front yard with feces in it.

"My parents did a great job of keeping their kids insulated from the racial tensions at that time," Merritt said. "It wasn't until I watched the movie that I realized just how tense the situation was."

Boone's pride in his daughters was never doubted, Merritt said. But the depth of her dad's pride was repeatedly confirmed during the services that led up to the widely-beloved educator's funeral.

"I had so many people approach me and say, 'So you're the schools superintendent from Michigan,' and they'd tell me details about my job and my life that my dad shared with them," she said. "Just hearing that from people I didn't even know showed how much our dad talked up my sisters and I to his friends."

Importance of respect

When Merritt was asked what her dad taught her about leadership, she replied: "Everything."

"He could bring out qualities in people that they didn't know they had," she said. "He had a way of uplifting people, getting the absolute best out of them."

"Of all the gems my father left me with — including the value of humility, integrity and giving back — I think that respect was the most important. He'd tell us you must respect everyone as human beings and that you're no better than anyone else. Period."

"We all have a role to play to make this world a better place."

A short time after the movie debuted in 2000, representatives of Disney warned Boone and his family that the limelight would probably last a year, at most, Merritt said.

"And now look, it's 20 years later and people are still talking about my dad and his team," she said.

Anyone who has watched the movie will likely never forget Herman Boone and his Titans.

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

Obituaries

Cynthia Miller

Cynthia Miller, the kindest, most loving person I have ever known, passed away at home this past Wednesday evening at the age of 73. She endured a long and difficult battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Cindy was born in 1946, grew up in Grosse Pointe, but lived in Milford most of her life. She received her Bachelor's degree from Adrian college, later a Master's degree from Oakland University. She was a 5th grade teacher in Walled Lake for the majority of her career, a job which she adored. She had two sons, Travis and Steven.

Cindy touched the lives of so many people over the course of her life. Not the least of whom her children, to which she dedicated her life first and foremost in being an exceptional mother. She loved to teach, it was her calling, and through doing so positively effected countless lives. She was gifted musically, loved to sing, play and teach the piano. She loved plays and concerts. An avid swimmer through college, she enjoyed sports, was a dedicated U of M and Wings fan, attended many games with her friends. Cindy greatly cherished her friends, being with them or simply talking with them. People mattered to her, not things. She cared for animals as well, took in many rescues through her life. She was incredibly generous, countless times sacrificed for others without ever a second thought. Cindy had an unforgettable smile, laugh and sense of humor. Truly was a beautiful kind soul as all that knew her would attest. She deserved so much better from life, but despite all the disease slowly took away, her loving and gentle heart remained till the very end.

As her son, I am eternally grateful to have known her, so incredibly lucky that she was my mother. Grateful to have had the honor to care for her at her home throughout her illness. Thank you for everything mom, will forever love and miss you.

Cindy was preceded in death by her son Travis. She is survived by her son Steven. She'd want to include Roz here as well, her dearest longest friend, considered family, for her loyalty, compassion and help to both her and Steve throughout all.

A public, informal memorial gathering will be held at 3:30 PM on February 3rd at the Milford United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers or such, donations to Alzheimer's research or elder care charities would be much appreciated.



Survey: Some drivers want to keep no-fault

JC Reindl detroitfreepress.com
USA TODAY NETWORK

An online survey has found that many Michigan drivers intend to keep buying no-fault medical benefits with their auto insurance, even after a new law gives some drivers a first-ever option this summer to opt out and save money.

The statewide survey of 1,005 drivers, conducted last September with results announced Wednesday, found that just over half — 51% — of those who had auto insurance planned to continue buying some no-fault benefits once the new, narrower options become available in July.

Currently, all Michigan drivers are required to buy potentially unlimited, lifetime medical benefits.

Of those insured drivers surveyed, 24% said they intend to completely opt out of no-fault benefits and instead rely on their own health insurance after an auto accident, such as private health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid.

The other respondents (25%) said they weren't yet sure what they will do.

The survey quoted an unnamed respondent who plans to continue buying no-fault benefits.

"I have seen how (no-fault) coverage has been invaluable to persons with devastating injuries in accidents not their fault," the respondent said.

The 15-minute online survey, conducted by market research firm Escalant, offers one of the first indications of how consumers will respond to the new auto insurance options. The results were released Wednesday by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association.

Among uninsured drivers, the survey found that 43% intend to completely opt out of no-fault benefits and 28% expect to buy at least some benefits. One unnamed respondent said, "I can't afford insurance to begin with so I would choose whatever option would be the cheapest."

No-fault benefits cover things that most private health insurance plans don't, such as extensive in-home attendant care, lost wages replacement, home and vehicle modifications and long-term custodial care in specialized rehabilitation centers.

Starting July 2, Michigan drivers who are on Medicare or have commercial health insurance that covers car crashes (and with a per-person deductible no higher than \$6,000) can choose to completely opt out of no-fault medical benefits.

Other drivers will be required to purchase some no-fault medical coverage, known as personal injury protection or PIP, with their auto insurance.

They can pick from several options:

- \$250,000 in no-fault medical benefits.
- \$500,000 in no-fault medical benefits.
- Unlimited no-fault medical benefits.

■ \$50,000 in no-fault medical benefits — but only for those on Medicaid or with health insurance that covers auto.

Insurance experts say that most Michigan drivers will have to wait until late spring or even summer to find out how much money they might save under the new law.

Their first indication will likely be in their insurance renewal option paperwork, which typically arrives in the mail 30 to 60 days before an existing policy expires.

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

Cruise hails its self-driving Origin robotaxi

Marco della Cava
USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO — The world's first self-driving electric-powered ride-sharing vehicle is here, but no word on when you'll actually be able to app-hail this robotaxi.

Cruise, the self-driving car division of General Motors, unveiled the Origin on Tuesday night in a former Honda dealership. The six-passenger vehicle looks like a small bus, has no steering wheel or pedals, and offers a cavernous area where two rows of three passengers face each other.

Cruise CEO Dan Ammann, a former president of GM, told a crowd made up mostly of company employees that the Origin "is a production vehicle," adding that an announcement about where and when manufacturing will begin is coming soon.

Kyle Vogt, Cruise's co-founder, said that being the first automotive or tech company to introduce a dedicated autonomous ride-sharing car doesn't guarantee success.

"There are pros and cons to being the first mover on this," said Vogt. "Our plan is to keep investing on the self-driving software side of things, to the point where that becomes the thing that really makes a difference to the experience."

Consumers have yet to warm in huge numbers to sharing Uber or Lyft rides with others, and Ammann said that Origins can be hailed by a single rider.

But Vogt felt confident that the roomy and clubby nature of Origin's interior would "cut into the friction and discomfort that often comes with cramming into the back seat of a car with someone you don't know, and therefore increase the adoption of these vehicles."

Cruise's announcement comes at a time when excitement in the past decade over the prospect of self-driving EVs has gradually turned to skepticism.

In 2018, Cruise, which has been testing a fleet of Chevrolet Bolt EVs throughout San Francisco, announced that a ride-hailing service would kick off in 2019. Currently, such a service is available only to Cruise employees.

At the presentation, Vogt showed off a device that was attached to the front of the Origin when he said was capable



Kyle Vogt, co-founder of Cruise, GM's self-driving car division, shows off sensor technology at the unveiling of the self-driving Origin. MARCO DELLA CAVA/USA TODAY

to "superhuman" abilities when it comes to scanning for nearby pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

Cruise's technology came in for scrutiny last summer, when The Information, a technology-focused media site, reported that cautious Cruise vehicles sometimes took 80% longer to complete rides than a standard ride-sharing vehicle and that software glitches often required human safety drivers to take control of the vehicle.

"We've made a lot of progress, but we haven't cracked that superhuman

threshold yet, so tomorrow it's back to work," said Vogt.

GM bought Cruise at arguably the height of the self-driving car craze. Not wanting to get caught out, some automakers opted to buy their way into the autonomous game, with Ford buying Argo AI in 2017 with a \$1 billion-over-five-years deal.

Cruise has been fueled by a series of major investments in recent years, including a \$2.2 billion infusion from Japanese investment firm SoftBank and \$750 million from Japanese automaker

Honda.

The company has a valuation of \$19 billion, much of that predicated on the promise of delivering a ride-hailing service that will greatly undercut the fares of Uber, Lyft and other human-driven services.

Cruise executives said the modular and low-speed nature of the Origin EV means that each vehicle will cost less to produce (about half of what it takes to build an electric SUV, according to Ammann) and be able to run 24/7 for up to 1 million miles.

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Are you ready for freelance life? Ask these questions

Erik Titner
 thejobnetwork.com

There's no denying it, the work world has witnessed seismic shifts in recent years. There are lots of factors contributing to this radical change – everything from unpredictable economic forces to massive waves of technological innovation have changed the way people approach the very notion of work.

This shift exists on both ends of the spectrum, as employers and employees alike are thinking about hiring and employment in new and innovative ways. The rise of the gig economy, in which employment is handled on a temporary, per project basis, is a perfect example of this.

Depending on your situation and perspective, these shifts can either be ideal or a source of real anxiety. Although today's workers have a greater degree of flexibility to incorporate varied types of interesting work and projects into their schedules, it often comes at a cost. Drawbacks to a more ad hoc schedule for workers include decreased stability, a need to perpetually hustle for work, and a lack of the sorts of benefits that typically come with full-time employment.

For employers, although they can structure and tailor their hiring practices to meet their precise needs at any given time and can often save some money in the process, they also run the risk of working with less engaged contract employees who aren't familiar with the intimate ins and outs of their day-to-day operations.

It's a real "push and pull" arrangement, and only time will tell if this setup will persist over the long haul. But for now, and into the foreseeable future, you have the option of considering if a



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more flexible work arrangement is the right move for you. This includes freelancing. More people today are freelancing than ever before, whether out of economic necessity, a desire for greater work flexibility, or just to try something different and explore new employment options.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, which recently released a report on contingent and alternative employment arrangements (which includes freelance employment), contingent workers accounted for 1.3% to 3.8% of total employment, independent contractors accounted for 6.9 percent of total employment, and on-call workers accounted for 1.7% of total employment in the United States. There's no doubt about it – for millions of workers across the nation and around the world, freelancing is a viable work option.

Are you ready to join the ranks of freelancers? If you're eager to get started and live the freelance life (or if you've just started thinking about it and are wondering if it makes sense for you), be sure to consider the following before jumping in.

Know your industry

The truth is, when it comes to freelancing, not all industries are created equal. While some have been early and eager adopters of hiring freelancers to meet their needs, others have been slower to embrace the arrangement – which means that your opportunities for securing freelance employment can vary wildly depending on what field you're pursuing. Therefore, your best bet is to do some research before getting started to determine if freelancing is a widely accepted standard in your industry. Also make an effort to figure out if the sorts of projects typically handled by freelancers in your field make sense for you based on your background, experience, and skill set. The desire to freelance is great, but it really helps to have the requisite background, expertise, and network if you're going to make a serious go at it.

Know your needs

Before diving headfirst into freelancing, make sure to first determine if it fits your current (and future) needs and life-

style.

Ask yourself some key questions:
 Are typical project fees commensurate with your living expenses?

Does your projected annual earnings potential help you meet your short- and long-term goals?

Is the lack of employer-provided benefits (e.g., medical and dental insurance coverage, 401(k), etc.) something you can live with?

Will you enjoy freelancing? (For some, freelancing can be too isolating and the constant need to network and secure new clients can be exhausting.)

If after asking yourself these questions you feel that freelancing is a good fit for you, then it may be something worth pursuing seriously. If your answers left you with doubts, then proceed with caution.

Start small (and be realistic)

Don't forget, becoming a freelancer doesn't have to be an "all-in" affair. You don't have to quit your day job (if you have one) in order to dip your toe into the freelance waters. Consider starting small and taking on a project that you can realistically manage, just to see if you enjoy freelancing and can see yourself making a serious go at it. Then build from there and gradually increase your involvement in freelancing, all the while checking in with yourself and asking all the right questions. The key point here is that it's wise to take your time and start off small in order to determine if freelancing is right for you – before changing your life drastically.

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

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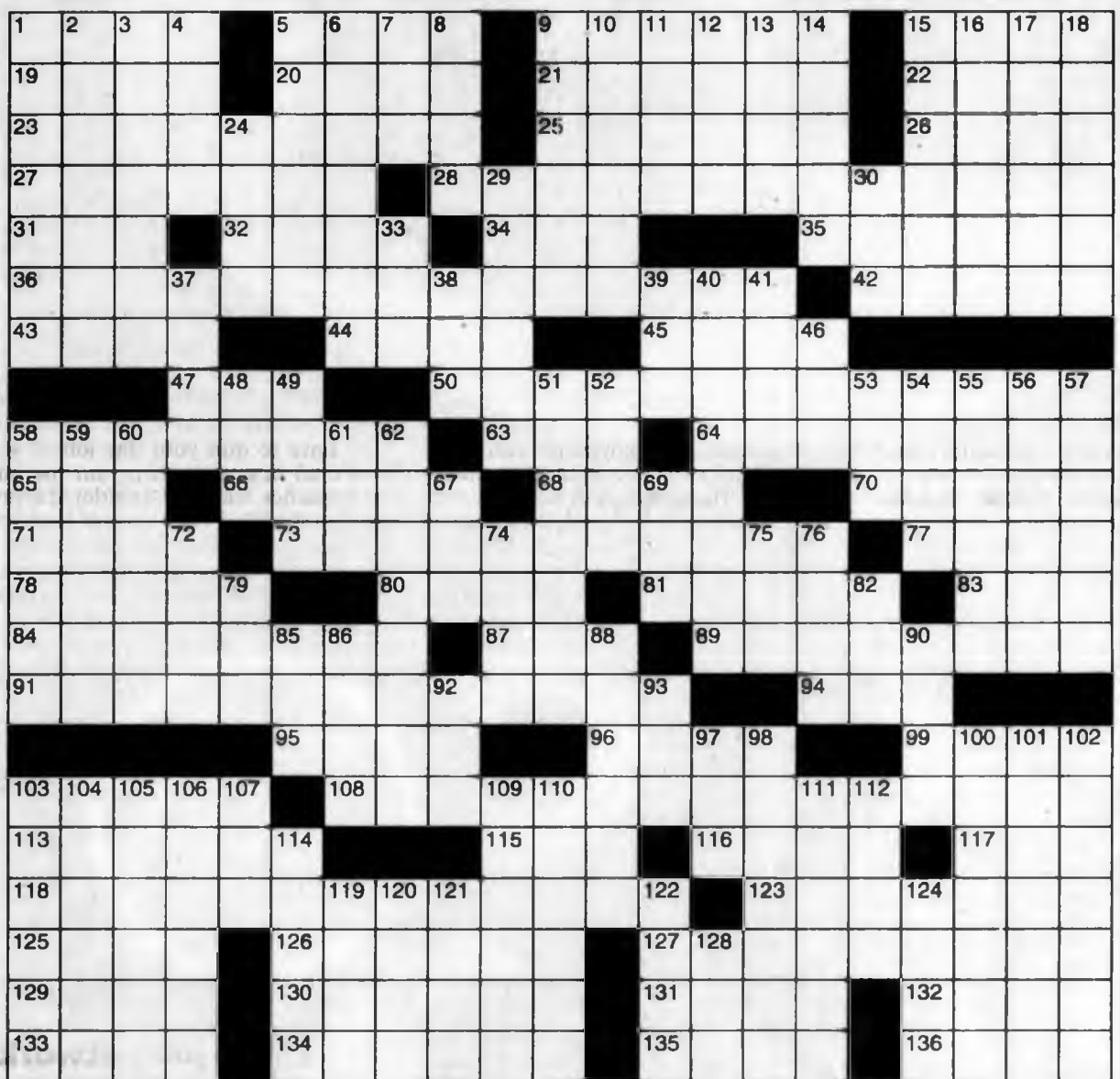
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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Musical McEntire
 - 5 Bank acct. underwriter
 - 9 Skate parts
 - 15 Church seats
 - 19 Students at Yale
 - 20 — avis (one of a kind)
 - 21 Actor Shaw
 - 22 Take one's leave
 - 23 Photoelectric cells used for IDing
 - 25 Title heroine of a 2001 French film
 - 26 Onetime rival of Nintendo
 - 27 Charges to get some quick cash
 - 28 Property of a body in motion
 - 31 Vardalos of the screen
 - 32 Morales of "Bad Boys"
 - 34 Roman 1,501
 - 35 Noisy toy
 - 36 Principles of household management
 - 42 Rooted (in)
 - 43 Hidden obstacle
 - 44 Kitchen flooring, lo a Brit
 - 45 Sullen
 - 47 Gore and Pacino
 - 50 Humorous impact
 - 58 Tightens, as one's fist
 - 63 Track circuit
 - 64 Chute-deploying jumper
 - 65 Goth foe
 - 66 Fixed fashionably
 - 68 Dollar part
 - 70 Author — Rogers St. Johns
 - 71 Taj Mahal locale
 - 73 Person on a most-wanted list
 - 77 Geraint's patient wife
 - 78 Averse (to)
 - 80 Swanky
 - 81 Diplomat
 - 83 Suffix with ethyl
 - 84 Strong coffee
 - 87 Suffix with fact
 - 89 One frosting a cake, e.g.
 - 91 All-out attempt
 - 94 Potentially shocking fish
 - 95 Discontinued iPod
 - 96 Rock concert equipment
 - 99 Speak like Daffy Duck
 - 103 Hits, as a fly
 - 108 Imaginary band on the earth's surface
 - 113 Form a single file
 - 115 "— tu" (Verdi aria)
 - 116 Healing sign
 - 117 Drink in a schooner
 - 118 Luge, diving and biathlon
 - 123 Saintry
 - 125 Sit heavily
 - 126 Clause's cousin
 - 127 Face-off area in hockey (or what's found in eight answers in this puzzle)
 - 129 Article in Germany
 - 130 Yamaha products
 - 131 "— girl"
 - 132 The Bradys' Alice, e.g.
 - 133 Elk relative
 - 134 Sharply focused
 - 135 Low in pitch
 - 136 Poker cost
- DOWN**
- 1 Sends back into custody
 - 2 Euphoria
 - 3 Female honcho
 - 4 "You wish!"
 - 5 Most liberated
 - 6 Go on a brief yacht outing
 - 7 Furious state
 - 8 Wine vessel
 - 9 Marlon of film
 - 10 Chinese noodle dish
 - 11 Aid in wrongdoing
 - 12 Sandwich shop
 - 13 Actor Bana of "Munich"
 - 14 Control the course of
 - 15 Pre-euro Spanish money
 - 16 Puts forth
 - 17 Move like a hula dancer
 - 18 Didn't leave
 - 24 Ho-hum grades
 - 29 "No worries, dude"
 - 30 Catch red-handed
 - 33 Here, to Yves
 - 37 Pulitzer-winning novelist Jennifer
 - 38 Ltr. extra
 - 39 Uncanny
 - 40 Wets a bit
 - 41 "Ew, gross!"
 - 46 Marina del —, California
 - 48 PC screen type
 - 49 Frigate, e.g.
 - 51 Ralph of "The Karate Kid"
 - 52 Duel weapon
 - 53 Govt. med approver
 - 54 Bona —
 - 55 Smoothed (out)
 - 56 "My Heart Will Go On" singer Dion
 - 57 Brokerage employee
 - 58 Alpine abode
 - 59 "The Raven" co-star Bela
 - 60 Absorbed
 - 61 Academy URL ending
 - 62 Writ for court appearance
 - 67 Arafat's gp.
 - 69 Dayton-to-Toledo dir.
 - 72 Trac II successor
 - 74 "Time — the essence"
 - 75 Team VIP
 - 76 Olden times
 - 79 Clucking bird
 - 82 "— hawl" (rodeo shout)
 - 85 Bad deed
 - 86 Swindle
 - 88 "Doggone!"
 - 90 Penne — vodka
 - 92 Mental haze
 - 93 "You're oversharing," in texts
 - 97 They may run Windows
 - 98 Some trig functions
 - 100 Like "penne" and "graffiti"
 - 101 Seek pleadingly
 - 102 Go ahead of
 - 103 Went uphill or downhill
 - 104 Baseballer Mays
 - 105 "Who's interested?"
 - 106 Tone down
 - 107 Have dinner
 - 109 Liam of film
 - 110 Author Hemingway
 - 111 Australia's main airline
 - 112 Force along
 - 114 Kid-lit's Longstocking
 - 119 Uppercut landing area
 - 120 Part of QED
 - 121 Windmill part
 - 122 Healing sign
 - 124 Columnist Bombbeck
 - 128 Socrates' "H"



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

SUDOKU

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

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!

DIET PLAN WORD SEARCH

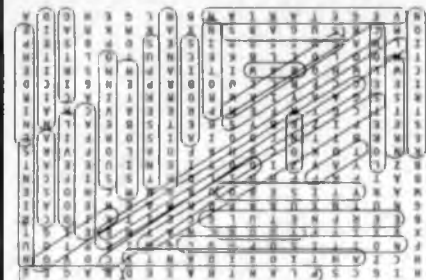
H I G C S P L A N T B A S E D N A G E V
H C Z A N T I O X I D A N T S C D V O N
F N O I T I S O P M O C G M I E P T O U
X V X I Y P Y D O B C N A T I E E I G T
B E E R F N E T U L G C E I T K I D C R
G N U T N X U B B P R R M A E H E O A I
W A B Y T I S E B O U A R H M C N O S E
B A T F K F P H B I O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

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

WORDS

- AEROBICS
- ANTIOXIDANTS
- BODY
- CAFFEINE
- CALORIES
- CASCARA
- CATECHOLAMINE
- CHOLESTEROL
- COMPOSITION
- DIETICIAN
- DIURETIC
- EPHEDRINE
- FAT
- GASTRIC
- GLUTEN-FREE
- KETO
- LIVE-FOOD
- LOW-CARBOHYDRATE
- MACROBIOTICS
- MACROS
- MEDITERRANEAN
- METABOLISM
- NUTRIENTS
- OBESITY
- OMNIVOROUS
- PLANT-BASED
- PROTEIN
- RAW
- RESTRICTION
- SUGARS
- SUPPRESSANT
- VEGAN
- VEGETARIAN
- WESTERN ZONE

ANSWER KEY



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

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