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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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ONLINE COUPONS



## Amazon wants to open Lyon facility

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It seems residential developers aren't the only ones seeking prime real estate in Lyon Township.

Seattle-based e-commerce giant Amazon plans to add a distribution and delivery facility along Grand River west

of Napier. The facility, dubbed an "Amazon Logistics" center, would occupy a vacant 86,000-square-foot facility.

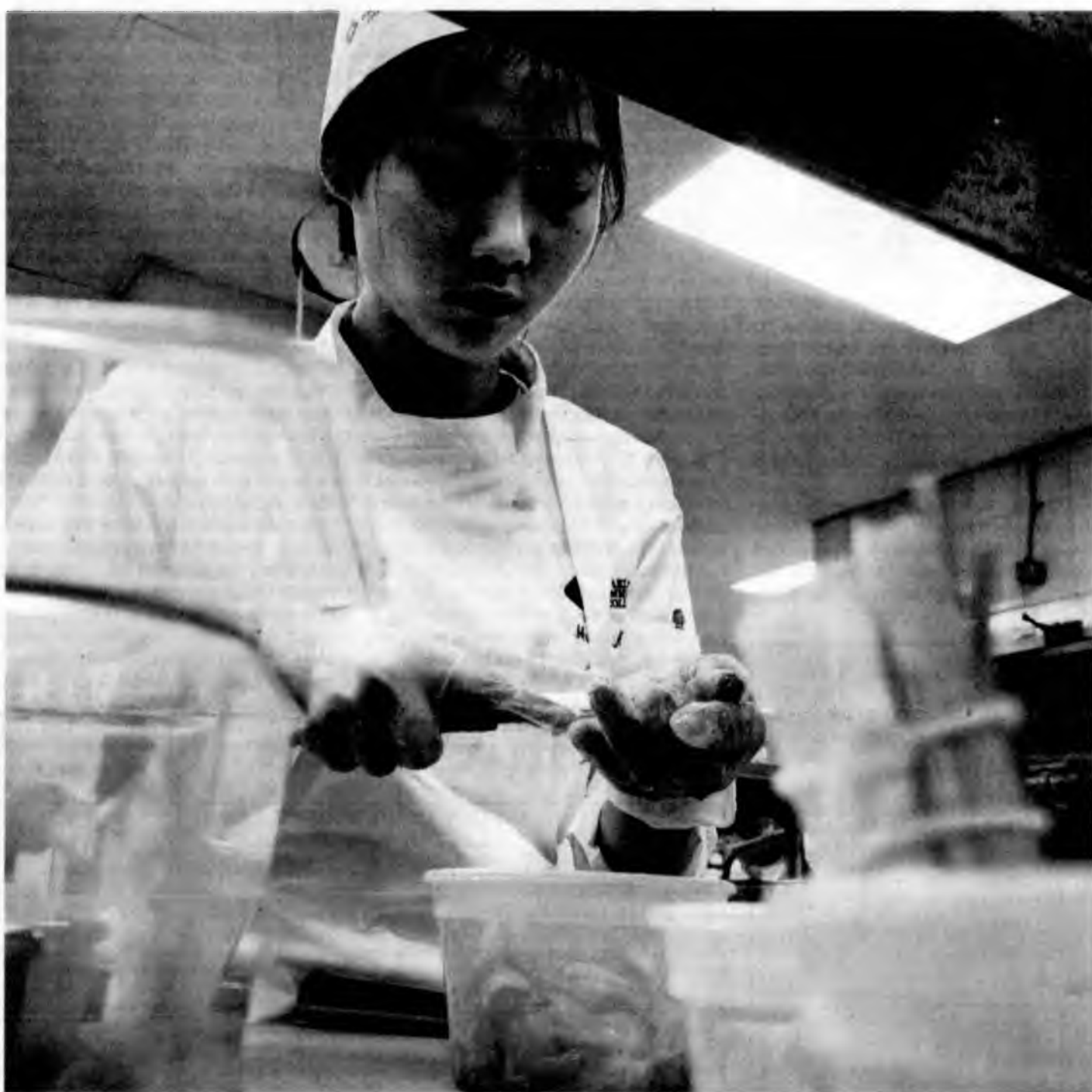
The facility would serve as the final step before packages arrive at customers' doors. Packages would be shipped to the facility from fulfillment centers, such as the one opened in Livonia in 2017, and loaded onto delivery vehicles.

"At our proposed (Lyon) Township facility, AMZL anticipates approximately 12 to 16 line haul (semi) trucks delivering product to the delivery station between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. daily. Packages are then sorted by routes and placed on to movable racks," the company wrote in its application to the township. "Sorting occurs in two shifts, first, taking

place between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. and second, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with approximately 200 Amazon associates entering and departing between those times. ...

"Additionally, there will be approximately 10 full-time Amazon managers supervising operations."

See AMAZON, Page 6A



Oakland Community College Skills Development cook Huyen Hong peels some tomato skins during a culinary class.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## OCC's culinary program leaving Farmington Hills

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The bread and butter of Oakland Community College's Farmington Hills campus will move to a new home in a few years.

The college plans to move its well-known culinary program to Royal Oak.

OCC Chancellor Peter Provenzano said the Farmington Hills campus, also known as Orchard Ridge, will undergo a series of renovations in the next few years that will facilitate the move.

### New home

"It really made more sense to us to

move it to Royal Oak because it would make it more accessible to the public and really allow us to highlight the program more," Provenzano said. "It's in that urban setting right on main street and the accessibility and exposure is tremendous."

See LEAVING, Page 4A

## Twelve Oaks Mall has new owner

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Two of the region's biggest shopping malls are about to change hands.

Bloomfield Hills-based Taubman Centers, which owns Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, announced Monday a deal to sell to Indianapolis-based Simon Property Group, another mall and shopping center ownership group.

A news release announcing the sale states Simon will acquire an 80% ownership interest in Taubman Centers, with the Taubman family retaining a 20% ownership stake in the company.

"We are very pleased to announce this transaction, which will be immediately accretive to Simon's FFO," said David Simon, Simon Property Group chairman of the board, chief executive officer and president, in the release. "By joining together, we will enhance the ability of TRG (The Taubman Realty Group Limited Partnership) to invest in innovative retail environments that create exciting shopping and entertainment experiences for consumers, immersive opportunities for retailers, and substantial new job prospects for local communities. I look forward to partnering with Bobby and the TRG executive team in this exciting new joint venture."

The acquisition will increase Simon's presence in Michigan: the company currently owns and operates Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor and the Birch Run Premium Outlets in Birch Run off Interstate 75.

Taubman Centers said shoppers can experience no changes in the operations at the malls as a result of the sale.

"Both Taubman and Simon will continue to operate as usual and as separate companies until the transaction closes," the company said in a statement sent to Hometown Life. "After the transaction is completed, Taubman expects to operate much as we do today, including related to the ownership of our properties and how we serve our shoppers."

The sale of the company is expected to be valued at more than \$3.6 billion.

In addition to Twelve Oaks Mall, Taubman Centers also locally owns Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills.

"Since Taubman Centers' founding

See MALL, Page 6A

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AD FOR DETAILS





# Change of heart gives Milford Skatepark funds

**Susan Bromley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the end, whether the Milford Skatepark stood a chance of construction this year came down to one vote and a changed mind.

Milford Township Treasurer Cynthia Dagenhardt was the hero, voting yes during a special township board meeting Jan. 28 to approve \$50,000 in funds for construction of the skatepark, reversing a decision made almost two weeks prior to deny the proposal.

"Usually I go home from meetings and feel good about decisions," Dagenhardt said. "I didn't feel good about that one."

So she researched expenditures and how she could justify the township contributing \$50,000 when the village of-

ferred half of that toward construction. She came to the conclusion that with the village's donation of land near the senior center for the park, as well as the cost to the village of wages and benefits for the DPW workers who will maintain the park, it was fair.

"I'm here to represent what the people want," Dagenhardt said.

Otherwise, the dynamics were the same as at the earlier meeting. Trustees Bill Mazzara, Brien Worell and Dale Wiltse voted yes again to the funding. Supervisor Don Green voted no. Clerk Holly Brandt and Trustee Randy Busick were absent.

Green, who had earlier cited concerns over a more-than-\$90 million lawsuit the township is facing, gave another reason for voting no - he had expected the village to contribute \$50,000

as well, and because they were not, he felt the township was "setting a precedent for the way we do business with the village."

Milford residents pay taxes to both the village and to Milford Township. Milford residents living outside the village limits pay only township taxes.

Despite these misgivings, Green noted he had always supported the skatepark and had been involved in trying to bring one to Milford in 2002, visiting a skatepark in Royal Oak and approving of plans that were drawn up by an architectural firm. He noted that when the skatepark was put on the ballot, however, it was voted down.

Kristi Stempien, who has long been involved in bringing the skatepark to fruition as a member of S-park, expressed her gratitude to the board mem-

bers after the meeting, shaking hands and saying "Thank you" again and again.

"I am so grateful for the township reconsidering and for their support," Stempien said. "They've always been supportive. We will have a matching grant (from Patronicity) soon now and we have this (township funding) that we can hit submit. ... This was so pivotal."

Without it, she said, the park group would have been removed from a spring construction schedule by Spohn Ranch for lack of funding. She now expects construction to begin in May.

"I'm happy for the kids," Dagenhardt said. "They will be fun to watch."

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

## hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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## Howell sued over prevention of sober living home

**Sean Bradley** Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The City of Howell has been sued in federal court for preventing a sober living house exclusively for women to open there.

The Amber Reineck House, its founder Courtney Atsalakis, and the Fair Housing Center of Southeast and Mid Michigan filed a disability rights lawsuit against the city, Mayor Nick Proctor and Community Development Director Tim Schmitt.

The lawsuit claims the city, Proctor, and Schmitt took "unlawful actions" to block the Amber Reineck House from opening on the 300 block of South Walnut Street because of the disability of the home's future residents, according to a news release. Drug addiction is considered a disability under federal law.

The lawsuit seeks to allow the Amber Reineck House to open its sober living home in Howell, to be awarded monetary compensation due to the city's alleged negligence on the issue,

and to be awarded money to punish the city for its alleged conduct.

"I founded Amber Reineck House with the goal of expanding supportive housing opportunities in Livingston County, where no recovery residences are currently available to women," Atsalakis said in a news release. "The city's actions have deprived women needing these services of a critical housing opportunity for nearly two years."

The lawsuit alleges the city, Proctor, and Schmitt did not allow the Amber Reineck House and other transitional housing to exist because of "significant community opposition" to the proposed home, the news release stated.

In July 2018, many Howell residents came out against transitional housing, specifically sober living homes.

The lawsuit alleges the city has:

■ Imposed and repeatedly extended a "discriminatory" moratorium on special land use applications that would have allowed unrelated persons to live together in a single-family home, preventing the house from operating.

■ Refused a request by the Amber Reineck House for reasonable accommodations to the city's zoning requirements for residential neighborhoods.

■ Proposed an amended zoning ordinance that would impose a host of "discriminatory, unreasonable, and onerous burdens" on sober living homes and

other group homes for people with disabilities.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, according to a news release.

Lawyers for the Amber Reineck House and the Fair Housing Center of Southeast and Mid Michigan said the efforts by the city, Proctor and Schmitt to not allow the home and others like it are "concerted" and "ongoing" since April 2018, when Atsalakis filed a special use permit with the city to open the sober living home for women.

Proctor deferred comment Feb. 6 to the city's attorney, Dennis Perkins.

"We're on it. We have knowledge of it," Perkins said.

The city will have to file a response to the lawsuit within 21 days from when the lawsuit was filed, Perkins said.

In September, the city introduced new ordinances for transitional housing within the city limits.

The ordinances were later withdrawn and rewritten, while the moratorium - started in July 2018 for one year, then extended multiple times - was extended until nearly the end of February.

Last week, the City Council introduced revised ordinances for transitional housing standards, their licensing, and establishment of licensing fees.

The extended moratorium has not yet been lifted.

### CITY OF NORTHVILLE PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Notice is hereby given that the City of Northville Election Commission will meet on March 2, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-349-1300, to conduct business related to the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary Election.

The Public Accuracy Test for the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary Election will be conducted as part of this meeting. The public accuracy test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to record and count the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of Election law.

DIANNE MASSA, CMC, CITY CLERK  
ELECTION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Published: February 13, 2020

LO-0000155177 345.5

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Planning Commission has prepared draft text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding the following topics:

1. Add ordinance language to Section 15.01, Schedule of Regulations, and Section 15.02, Footnotes to Schedule of Regulations, which applies a Floor Area Ratio maximum to single-family and two-family buildings in the R-1B, First Density Residential District, and R-2, Second Density Residential District. The intent of the new language is to better coordinate the massing of residential construction with the lot size.
2. Modify the ordinance definitions (Sec. 26.02), for "Building Line," "Floor Area Ratio (FAR)" and "Floor Area, Residential," to clarify how the FAR maximum is applied to residential buildings.

The proposed text amendments will be considered at a public hearing conducted by the Planning Commission on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the City of Northville Municipal Building - Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public input on these proposed changes. A draft of the proposed text amendments are available through the Building Department during normal business hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and are also available on the City's website ([www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us)). Written comments will also be accepted at the above address.

STEVEN KIRK, CHAIRPERSON  
CITY OF NORTHVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: February 13, 2020

LO-0000155181 345.5

### CITY OF NORTHVILLE 2020 BOARD OF REVIEW WAYNE AND OAKLAND COUNTIES

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Board of Review of the City of Northville, Wayne and Oakland Counties, will meet at the City Hall, 215 West Main Street, for the purpose of reviewing and adjusting the 2020 Assessment Rolls of the City of Northville on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020: 6:30 p.m. Organizational Meeting (No Appeals)  
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

#### Unless otherwise specified the dates above are for Public Hearings

Pursuant to Act 165 of 1971 and based on the proposed changes to assessed values for 2020, the Wayne and Oakland County Equalization Departments have set the following tentative equalization factors relative to the 2020 Real and Personal Property Assessments: **WAYNE COUNTY** - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00. **OAKLAND COUNTY** - Commercial Real 1.00; Industrial Real 1.00; Residential Real 1.00; All Personal Property 1.00.

**Mail-in Petitions must be received by March 11, 2020 before 2:00 p.m. ALL TAXPAYERS** wishing to petition their property's taxable value or assessment in person with the Board of Review will be seen by **APPOINTMENT ONLY. To ensure every appeal is heard it is requested that appointments be scheduled prior to Tuesday, March 3, 2020.** Please contact the City of Northville Tax Department at (248) 449-9901 for an appointment or with any questions you may have regarding your 2020 taxable or assessed value.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Published: February 6, 13, and 20, 2020

LO-0000155195 344

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Planning Commission has prepared draft text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding the following topics:

1. Add ordinance language, including definitions (Sec. 26.02), which will allow a front porch in the front setback on an existing or new single-family home as long as the garage is located in the rear of the house (attached) or behind the rear building line of the house (detached). The portion of the porch in the front setback will not be included in the maximum lot coverage calculation (Sec. 18.11.8 and 15.02).
2. Add ordinance language, including definitions (Sec. 26.02), for porte-cocheres on single-family dwellings (Sec. 18.11.9.2).
3. Add single-family dwelling unit standards (Sec. 18.26).

The proposed text amendments will be considered at a public hearing conducted by the Planning Commission on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the City of Northville Municipal Building - Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public input on these proposed changes. A draft of the proposed text amendments are available through the Building Department during normal business hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and are also available on the City's website ([www.ci.northville.mi.us](http://www.ci.northville.mi.us)). Written comments will also be accepted at the above address.

STEVEN KIRK, CHAIRPERSON  
CITY OF NORTHVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Published: February 13, 2020

LO-0000155183 345.5

### CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF MARCH 2020 BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the March Board of Review shall convene for the Organizational Meeting at **9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 3th, 2020 in the Mayor's Conference Room/Civic Center** at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll. Appointments are not taken at this meeting.

**Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Mayor's Conference Room at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 9, 10 and 11, 2020.**

**If you or your representative want to appeal in person, you are strongly encouraged to come into the assessing department on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 6, 2020 in order to schedule an appointment to ensure your time before the Board of Review. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less.**

**Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at [www.cityofnovi.org](http://www.cityofnovi.org).**

**NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.**

**Written Appeals:** Letters of protest will be accepted on or before **3:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 10, 2020. Postmarks will not be considered.** When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition along with any supporting information.

All agents protesting values on property other than their own **MUST HAVE** written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at [www.cityofnovi.org](http://www.cityofnovi.org).

#### BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE

**Monday, March 9, 2020 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2020 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2020 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room**

**Located in the Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road Novi, MI 48375.**

Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

Cortney Hanson  
CITY CLERK

Published: February 13, 20 & 27, 2020

LO-0000155191 345.5



# 'One-stop shop' senior expo helps make life easy

Shelby Tankersley

HometownLife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Metro Detroit's largest senior expo is coming back to Schoolcraft College for its 17th year.

The free Spring Senior Expo presented by Castle Wealth Group, sponsored by HometownLife.com, its advertising partner Michigan.com, The Nerve and Disc Institute, Allure Medical and Castle Wealth Group, is a "one-stop shop" for some of the answers to questions that come with later life.

"It's the one place and the one time throughout the year that a senior or a family or a caregiver can go to one spot and get all of the information they're going to need to make really important decisions," said Expo Director Alivia Caplan, with Michigan.com.

The expo, held in Schoolcraft's VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 2.

The event typically draws over 1,000 attendees. This year is expected to be no different. The event allows people to connect with service providers in retirement, senior living homes, estate planning, healthcare providers and more.

"People love having the ability to go to this event and get all of the things they're going to need and get all of the places they want to follow up with when they weigh the decisions they're going to need to be making in the next few years," Caplan said.

Along with speakers, seminars and the slew of vendors that come to the expo, attendees will be able to enjoy some games this year, too.

"We're going to do some fun things this year that are completely new," Caplan said. "We're going to host a bunch of different activities like bingo, where our attendees can win prizes. We're also going to do an informational help desk around the internet and technology."

Plenty of exhibitors have already signed up, but spots are still open.

Dr. Solomon Cogan, owner of The Nerve and Disc Institute, will be speaking at the expo about using new technology for non-surgical solu-



The Senior Expo returns to Schoolcraft's VisTaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 2. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

tions to pain. Cogan said the event is a great way for service providers to meet people.

"It's great," he said. "We meet a lot of nice people. Many people decide to come into our office and see if we can help them. We've got a real simple philosophy in our office: We'd rather not have someone as a patient and fail to get results. So we only take people who we really believe we can help."

Chris Berry is CEO and founder of Castle Wealth Group, which is presenting sponsor for the senior spring expo. Berry will also be speaking at the expo. Berry said he enjoys speaking every year and

thinks the event is a great way to meet new clients. This year, he'll be talking about financially "planning for the second half of life."

"It's a great opportunity to meet the public, maybe get in front of people we haven't had a chance to meet with," he said. "We enjoy the opportunity to present every year."

For more information or to sign up as a vendor, contact Alivia Caplan at 313-223-4038 or ACaplan@michigan.com.

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

"It's the one place ... that a senior or a family or a caregiver can go to one spot and get all of the information they're going to need to make really important decisions."

Alivia Caplan  
Director, Senior Expo,  
with Michigan.com



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### CITY OF NORTHVILLE 2020 BOARD OF REVIEW WAYNE AND OAKLAND COUNTIES

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on the following request in regards to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance: To consider a variance request on premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District, located at 510 Randolph, Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-002-01-0634-000. The applicant is seeking a variance to construct a garage in the side yard setback. The variance needed is 4 feet from the requirements in Section 18.04.

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

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Published: February 13, 2020

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on the following request in regards to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance: To consider a variance request on premises zoned PR-1, Performance Regulated Industrial District No. 1, located at 777 Baseline, Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-22-34-478-001. The applicant is seeking a variance from Section 17.04(i) that requires parking areas, including parking spaces and maneuvering lanes, to be paved in asphalt or concrete pavement. The applicant would like to use an existing gravel area on the subject site for vehicle parking and maneuvers without paving it in asphalt or concrete.

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

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Published: February 13, 2020



## Leaving

Continued from Page 1A

"It is far greater than something we could achieve at any of the other campuses just because of its location."

OCC's Royal Oak campus is located in the city's downtown, which is known in part for its robust restaurant scene.

Provenzano said the culinary program will be housed in a yet-to-be-constructed building attached to the existing campus.

The chancellor said the city's restaurant association is eager to work with students.

College officials hope the location will create opportunities for pop-up kitchens at nearby restaurants, mentoring and internships.

"They've talked to us about job shadowing where students could shadow and determine whether or not culinary is something they're truly interested in," Provenzano said. "There's being a chef and there's owning a restaurant, and those can be two different things."

The program will continue at the Farmington Hills location in the near future as the new Royal Oak building gets constructed.

Provenzano said the early announcement should help make the transition easy for staff and students.

### Orchard Ridge campus plans

Even though the culinary program is leaving the Orchard Ridge campus, Provenzano said OCC will continue to invest in the campus.

In the next few years, boiler replacements, new technology in the theater, repaving in parking lots, new signage and overall modernization of the campus are in the works.

OCC's study abroad program will also continue to be mostly housed there.

The large kitchen in the campus' J Building, where the culinary program is currently housed, will likely continue to operate for catering events.

Though the student-run restaurants in Farmington Hills might continue to operate after the culinary program moves, Provenzano said that is unlikely.

"We have this wonderful kitchen here at Orchard Ridge," Provenzano said. "So I see us using that even if culinary is not headquartered here."



As a large stock pot boils away at right, about a dozen students in OCC's Orchard Ridge campus take part in its Skills Development class on Feb. 3. The college plans to move its well-known culinary program to Royal Oak in a few years. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

**"It really made more sense to us to move it to Royal Oak because it would make it more accessible to the public and really allow us to highlight the program more."**

**Peter Provenzano**  
Chancellor, Oakland Community College

"Because we have the theater here, because this is such a vibrant campus I see us having functions at, I see the need to have a kitchen and some sort of facility to host events."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Twitter: @shelby\_tankk.



Skill Development cook Filton Kelly ties up some vegetables and herbs for a bouquet garnish in OCC's culinary class Feb. 3. The program will continue at the Farmington Hills location in the near future as the new Royal Oak building gets constructed.

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# Many celebrities have called metro Detroit home

**Pamela A. Zinkosky**  
Special to Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If you think all the famous people are from California or New York, think again.

A good share of famous television personalities, sports legends and other well-known people were either born here in metro Detroit or lived a good part of their lives here.

Let's take a look at some of these celebrities, their connections to our towns and what was going on in history in their time.

Here are several of them.

## Birmingham

**Christine Lahti:** Lahti, an actress known for her role on the long-running drama "Chicago Hope" but also for many movies, was born in 1950 in Birmingham.

She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1972, just before CREEM, a rock 'n' roll magazine that significantly influenced American music culture, moved its editorial offices to Birmingham.

**Tim Allen:** Allen, best known for his starring role on the television show "Home Improvement," was born in 1953 in Denver but moved to Birmingham when he was 13 years old and attended Seaholm High School.

His move to the Detroit area preceded the Detroit riots, brought on by racial tensions in the city and coming to a head in 1967.

## Farmington, Farmington Hills, and Novi

**Pam Dawber:** Dawber, best known for her role in the "Mork & Mindy" television show with Robin Williams, was born in Detroit in 1951, but later lived in Farmington Hills, graduating from North Farmington High School in 1968 and later attending Oakland Community College.

During her high school years, her home town was still a township, as it was not incorporated as the city of Farmington Hills until 1973.

**Ernie Harwell:** Legendary baseball



**Phoebe Patterson, an early proponent for women's rights, was elected the first female justice of the peace in 1919. A Detroit lawyer claimed a woman could not hold that position. The case went to the Michigan Supreme Court, where Phoebe, and all women, prevailed.** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

announcer Ernie Harwell was actually born in Washington, Georgia, in 1918.

He moved to Detroit and later Farmington Hills, finally retiring to Fox Run in Novi.

While the Detroit Tigers announcer was growing up in Georgia, Farmington Hills and Novi were on the cusp of becoming cities rather than farming towns, with plenty of open spaces — much different from the suburbia he settled into later in life.

Harwell died in 2010 and is buried next to his wife, Lulu, in Farmington's Oakwood Cemetery.

## Plymouth

**Phoebe Patterson:** Patterson, the first female justice of the peace, was born in Phoebe Ely in 1857. She first lived in Superior Township and Ypsilanti, but moved to Plymouth when she married



**Comedian John Heffron, a 1988 South Lyon High graduate, started out performing in metro Detroit.** GETTY IMAGES



**Christine Lahti, actress and author, hails from Birmingham.** COURTESY OF HARPER WAVE



**Tim Allen, who stars on "Last Man Standing," moved to Birmingham when he was 13.** COURTESY OF FOX



**Pam Dawber is a North Farmington High graduate.** FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES



**Mary Jackson, of Milford, played Emily Baldwin on "The Waltons."** FILE PHOTO



**Legendary baseball announcer Ernie Harwell was born in Georgia, but moved to Detroit and later Farmington Hills, finally retiring to Fox Run in Novi. He died in 2010.** DETROIT FREE PRESS FILE

Melvin Patterson.

There, she was active in many local women's organizations, including the League of Women Voters and the Women's Christian Temperance Union, in addition to becoming a judge in 1919.

Patterson died in 1931, just one year before Plymouth became a city, and is buried in Plymouth's Riverside Cemetery.

**Edward Corwin:** You may not recognize the name immediately, but Corwin was president of the American Political Science Association.

The Princeton University professor wrote many of today's authoritative books on the Constitution, due process, vested rights and other legal issues.

He was born in Plymouth in 1878, a couple years before Riverside Cemetery, where he's buried, was converted from farm land to a city-owned cemetery. He died in 1963.

## South Lyon, Milford

**John Heffron:** Heffron, a comedian who's appeared on "Last Comic Standing" and "The Tonight Show" as well as on Detroit radio, was born in 1970 in New York City but grew up in South Lyon and graduated from South Lyon High School in 1988, the year the Iran-Iraq war came to an end.

**Mary Jackson:** This actress was best known for her role as Emily Baldwin in "The Waltons."

She was born in 1910 in Milford and, during the Great Depression, was a school teacher before pursuing her acting career. A charter member of the Milford Historical Society, she willed her historic home to the organization upon her death in 2005.

*Have an idea for a history article? Contact Pamela A. Zinkosky at pazink@yahoo.com.*

# Canton-based tequila brand growing

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

It's been a wild year for Canton resident Don Ferguson.

The co-CEO and co-founder of Teeq Tequila debuted his line of tequila product in late 2018. After growing slowly across Michigan and receiving plenty of exposure, Ferguson's line of tequila is on the move to warmer and sunnier climates.

The Canton-based tequila company run by Ferguson and his wife, Nayana, and launched with co-founder Michael Rowoldt, will grow its tequila empire by two states beginning next month: Florida and California. Those two locations, Ferguson said, were targeted because of their high intake of the agave-based spirit.

Having fewer logistical challenges in those states helped as well, Ferguson said.

"We wanted to pick two states that were easily accessible to us," he said. "Under our importation, we have access to those states immediately. We can directly import to a warehouse in California and in Florida."

Tequila lovers in those two states can begin to find the beverage on store shelves and at restaurant bars beginning in February.

In addition to the two styles of tequila launched by Teeq at the beginning — coconut lime blanco and reposada — a third has been added to the line: a blanco, which works well when mixed for cocktails such as margaritas but can also be drunk straight. That line was added in October.

"It's the purest form of tequila," Ferguson said. "It doesn't have that bite. It's really smooth so it can be sipped on ice."

The line has grown from 100 locations last year to more than 375 across Michigan. Teeq Tequila can be found at restaurants and shops across metro Detroit as well as the areas around Lansing, Livingston County, Grand Rapids, Port Huron and Battle Creek.

The company's success began to truly grow, Ferguson said, after Hometown Life published a story on Teeq Tequila in January 2019.

He said people still mention that story to him when he's in western Wayne



**Don Ferguson, of Canton, and his wife, Nayana Ferguson, partnered with Michael Rowoldt to produce Teeq Tequila. The company has seen such success in Michigan that it has expanded its product availability.** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

**"If you would have told me we're getting ready to expand to California, Florida ... all these different things, I wouldn't have believed it."**

**Don Ferguson**  
Co-owner, Teeq Tequila

County, and he takes a copy with him when he goes to tastings in other communities, such as Livonia and Canton.

"It really did start with that article," he said. "I put it up and people read it, and say 'Wow, you're in Canton.'"

In the new states, tequila drinkers will be able to find Teeq Tequila in markets such as Tampa and Miami in Florida, and in San Diego and San Francisco in California.

Being in the San Francisco market in the coming months is key, Ferguson said, as the company plans to enter the San Francisco World Spirits Competi-

tion in March, a prestigious competition that could boost the spirit company's profile if it does well enough.

"If we win, I want people to be able to buy it," Ferguson said.

He said he hopes to grow the business more, not only across Florida and California, but to other parts of the country. He said he's currently in negotiations to expand to three more states.

Those looking to purchase Teeq Tequila can search for locations on its website, teeqspirits.com.

Not even Ferguson expected such success so fast when the company began. He's looking forward to everything that's planned for the company in 2020.

"It's been pretty aggressive," he said. "If you would have told me we're getting ready to expand to California, Florida ... all these different things, I wouldn't have believed it."

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

# Mall

Continued from Page 1A

70 years ago, we have built a portfolio of high-quality assets and continuously adapted to the evolving retail landscape. I am proud of all that this company's talented employees have achieved and am thrilled to have the opportunity to join together with Simon through this joint venture," said Robert S. Taubman, chairman, president and CEO of Taubman Centers, in the release. "Over the last few years, David and I have developed an excellent personal relationship and importantly, Simon shares our commitment to serving retailers, shoppers and the communities in which we operate. The Board and I are confident that Simon is the ideal partner to help us build on our progress."

[dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com)

# Amazon

Continued from Page 1A

The plans call for two phases to the project: the first phase would retrofit the vacant building to be suitable for a package distribution facility. The second phase would construct parking lots for employees.

Company plans were on the schedule earlier this week for the Lyon Township Planning Commission. Amazon is seeking special use permission, as well as site plan approval.

Katherine Des Rochers, the Lyon Township Planning Department coordinator, said the planning commission would give the final say on the site plan and would recommend a decision on the special land use to the township board.

She said the building Amazon wants to use was constructed without a specific client in mind.

If all approvals are granted and permits secured, the parking project is expected to commence construction this summer.

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



# Jersey Mike's opens in Milford

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Gary Staub believes Milford Road is the perfect spot for his next Jersey Mike's restaurant.

The franchise owner, who also operates a Jersey Mike's in Novi, began looking to open a new location several years ago. He looked in New Hudson, but was contacted by the landlord of the former Big Boy property on Milford Road. After looking at that property, he and his operating partner, Dan Gallimore, realized Milford was the place to be.

"The small-town feel in how we operate our business ... really lends itself to small towns," Staub said. "We came up here and said, 'You know what? We'd love to be in a small town/big town USA.'"

"I think that's where the brand's root are."

The restaurant, one of several dozen that operate in Michigan, opened Feb. 5 in the shopping center next to Starbucks, which opened last spring.

Located at 164 S. Milford, the shop boasts a variety of sandwich options, ranging from their popular cold subs to hot cheesesteaks.

Customers can choose from a variety of freshly-sliced meats before toppings such as tomatoes, lettuce and onion, along with the shop's signature red wine vinegar sauce - applied liberally - are added.

"It kind of reminds you of the old deli concept in the boroughs in New Jersey and New York," Staub said. "All the sandwiches are made fresh to order."

Hot sub sandwiches are grilled fresh, from Mike's Famous Philly and the Buffalo Chicken Cheese Steak to the Big Kahuna Cheese Steak.

Newcomers may be a bit confused by the sandwich order numbers, but Gallimore said each has a significance in the company's history and become favorites among regular customers.

He cited the No. 43, the Chipotle Cheese Steak, which has great significance for one of the shop's founders.

"That was his high school football number," he said. "That's why that one's on the board."

The restaurant also offers gluten-free bread, a feature the company has provided customers for a few years.



Jersey Mike's of Milford manager Jackie Cardno slices some deli meats.  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Jersey Mike's began in New Jersey in the 1950s but is a recent addition to the Michigan dining landscape, Staub said. The sandwich chain began opening stores in Michigan seven years ago, and currently operates 45 across the state. Other Jersey Mike's locations in the region are in Novi, Livonia, Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Township, Plymouth, Canton and Birmingham.

Staub is in the midst of construction of another new store near Brighton, one he hopes to open in the spring.

Staub will kick off the grand opening celebrations for the Milford shop this week with some charitable giving. From Wednesday through Sunday, the res-

taurant will give away free subs to those with a coupon and who make a \$2 donation to Five Points of Hope, Johnson Elementary School or Kurtz Elementary School.

Staub said he's hoping to become a hub of the community and get involved in the activities and groups across Milford moving forward. He said that's an important aspect of operating a Jersey Mike's shop.

"It's why we're here," he said. "It's about the relationships."

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

# Oakland sheriff pulls over alleged fake officer

Andrea Perez Balderrama  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard noticed something unusual Feb. 6 about what he thought was a police car that turned out to be a copycat.

He activated his emergency lights and pulled the vehicle over.

"His initial response was, 'Who are you?' " Bouchard said. "And I said, 'I'm the sheriff, who are you?' "

Bouchard says he originally thought the car was a Bloomfield Township police SUV, but then he noticed some irregularities and became suspicious.

"The front windows were so tinted out I couldn't see who was driving it, and I've never seen that on a marked car," Bouchard said.

The driver's door also sported a decal saying "emergency response," which Bouchard found odd.

"I called in the plate and it came back to an individual and a home, and that was my clue that this clearly wasn't a police car but it certainly looked like one," Bouchard said.

The driver, he said, had gone to extreme lengths to make his SUV look like a police car.

"In the back, it said 'police interceptor,' on the sides it had four numbers like it was part of a fleet," Bouchard said.

The driver was also in possession of a loaded handgun and a knife but didn't hold a concealed pistol or weapons license, according to Bouchard.

"His initial response was that he helped police sometimes, but I don't know what that means, so we are going to have detectives running this down a bit more," he said.

Adrian Afriyie Ansah-Asante, 23, of Waterford was arraigned at the Oakland County Jail and charged for carrying a concealed weapon and using and possessing flashing lights on his vehicle, according to the sheriff's office.

# Livonia Sears store closing

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Fans of the Sears at Seven Mile and Middlebelt in Livonia have always exhaled a sigh of relief when the store did not appear on the list of closures put out the the company a few times a year.

But it seems their luck has run out.

Signs currently adorn the interior of the store, the last vestige of the old Livonia Mall that closed more than a decade ago, announcing a "store closing" sale. The store has marked prices down 10% to 40%.

A sign on the front door states Sears points may be redeemed on purchases, though no new points will be issued.

Several other Sears in the area have already closed, including the store at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi last year. The Sears Optical in the front of the store has already closed.

There was no word on when the store would shutter its doors. A media relations representative for TransformCo,

which bought Sears last year, declined comment.

The closure will leave just two Sears stores open across Michigan, though several smaller Hometown stores are open across the state. The two Sears department stores left are in Grandville and at the Westland Shopping Center in Westland.

Dan West, president of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said officials have been bracing for the news that the store could close.

"Looking at the trends over the past decade with Kmart and Sears, this news was not a surprise. Mayor (Maureen Miller) Brosnan, myself and others were involved in the Livonia Vision 21 process that provided a multiple-use guide for what to do with the Seven Mile-Middlebelt area, anticipating that Sears would eventually close," he said. "While it is never good to see a business close, it always provides new opportunities for ideas and development."

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Retired Delta pilot David P. Schilstra poses with a model biplane at the Oakland/Southwest Airport in New Hudson on Dec. 27. On that day, he received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for more than 50 years of incident-free flying for carriers and private flights. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Retired Delta pilot celebrates 50 years of incident-free flight

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

David Schilstra remembers the moment years ago when he had an epiphany of sorts about the strangers who had put their lives in his hands.

It came when the Delta pilot was thousands of feet over the Pacific Ocean, in the dark, flying an Airbus 330 from Osaka, Japan, en route to Honolulu, Hawaii. If there were an emergency, there were only two possible islands on which to land: Wake or Midway.

"Here you are in the left seat in the front of the airplane, with 300 people behind you, out in the middle of the Pacific," he recalled. "You realize how significant you are in the world."

In more than 50 total years of flying, everything has gone right for Schilstra. The 66-year-old Lyon Township resident was recently honored by the Federal Aviation Administration for a perfect career safety record, receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.

Schilstra has had a remarkable career, free of any major crises. The biggest drama? Medical issues with individual passengers, such as the time on a flight to Amsterdam a woman was having trouble breathing and the flight attendant had to ask if there was a doctor on board.

"Here you are, 2 or 3 a.m., and you think, 'Great, hopefully things don't go south or I'm gonna have to land in Reykjavik at 0 dark thirty, and you don't want to do that,'" he said.

He never had to divert for a medical emergency, but did have to turn around once for some Kansas City birds.

"We were taking off and came out of the cloud deck layer, and we ran into geese, or they ran into us," he said. "Next thing you know, here the geese are — all we heard is boom, boom, boom, boom. They were hitting the windshield and everything else."

"We returned to make sure there were no geese pieces in the engine."

Schilstra has logged more than 30,000 hours in the air.

He said the most dangerous part of his job was driving his vehicle down Interstate 275 to get to the airport.

"Airplanes are extremely reliable, but the safety of aviation is based on preplanning, pilots are always planning for what do we do if this goes wrong," Schilstra said. "There are surprises, but con-



Pilot Wayne Sorenson, right, congratulates retired Schilstra on the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award he received Dec. 27.

**"Airplanes are extremely reliable, but the safety of aviation is based on preplanning, pilots are always planning for what do we do if this goes wrong. There are surprises, but contingency plans. There is a Plan B for everything."**

David P. Schilstra Retired pilot

tingency plans. There is a Plan B for everything."

He and other pilots are prepared through extensive flight simulator training, through which they must react calmly in engine fires or failures and more.

Schilstra, the son of Netherlands immigrants, was the first in his family to show an interest in aviation. His father was a farmhand for a wealthy New Jersey family and they lived on the estate until he was 13, when they moved to suburbia, where his father was a landscaper and his mother a homemaker.

Young Schilstra gravitated toward the airport to watch airplanes take off and land. He cut lawns and unloaded railroad cars to earn the money for flying lessons, of which his mother was not in favor. He recalled she was a nervous wreck when they drove Schilstra, not even old enough for a New Jersey driving license, to the airport on Aug. 28, 1969, for his first solo flight on a two-seater Cessna 150.

He graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science. He worked as a flight instructor and flew for two commuter airlines before the 1978 Airline Deregulation Act created a hiring spree. Then, he landed a job with North Central Airlines, which became Delta through various mergers.

Over the course of his career, Schilstra flew four planes extensively, starting as a first officer on the Convair 580, a 48-passenger plane flying throughout the upper Midwest. He progressed to flying and captaining a DC9 for about 100 passengers. He then was captain of an Airbus 320, carrying 148 passengers, for nine years, and finally, became captain of his largest plane, a 300-passenger Airbus 330, which he flew for three years before retiring.

Schilstra has flown throughout Europe, Africa and Asia and only regrets not getting to Australia or South America.

His longest non-stop flight was De-

troit to Tokyo, about 13 hours, and his favorite destination was Amsterdam in his parents' homeland, where Schilstra enjoyed immersing himself in Dutch culture.

The hardest thing about being an international pilot was the physical challenges of all the time zone changes.

"It beats up on your body," Schilstra said. "We would leave Detroit at 7 p.m., land in Amsterdam at 7 or 8 in the morning, get off the plane and on a bus to the hotel, go to sleep, and be leaving Amsterdam within 24 hours to fly to Bombay or Mumbai, India, where the crew would stay 24 hours before leaving at 1:40 a.m. India time to fly back to Amsterdam."

His longest stretch ever gone from home was 12 days, and around that time, he said, "you take bets on what day of the week it is."

He was always grateful for the support of his wife of 42 years, Lois, who also received recognition when Schilstra was honored with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award last month.

"They know the dedication it takes from the whole family," Schilstra said.

He and Lois are parents of one daughter, Stefanie, who loves to travel.

Schilstra retired in 2013 at age 60, and saw many changes in aviation during that time — incredible advances in technology, and dramatic changes in security in a post-9/11 world.

He still flies his own airplane, a single-engine, four-passenger Cessna 182, most often to visit his mother-in-law in New Jersey, although not as much in the winter.

"I don't want to end up in a farmers' field in a ball of steel after a successful career," he joked.

In good weather, he enjoys flying to Mackinac Island or Beaver Island, and seeing all the farmers' fields and the windmills over central Michigan.

Up in the sky, he leaves his cares below.

"There are no shootings or robberies, no one cutting you off," Schilstra said. "There's a God's eye view and you sit back and look at the world. I just don't get tired of it, there's always something to see — a sunrise, sunset, cloud formations. It's peaceful."

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



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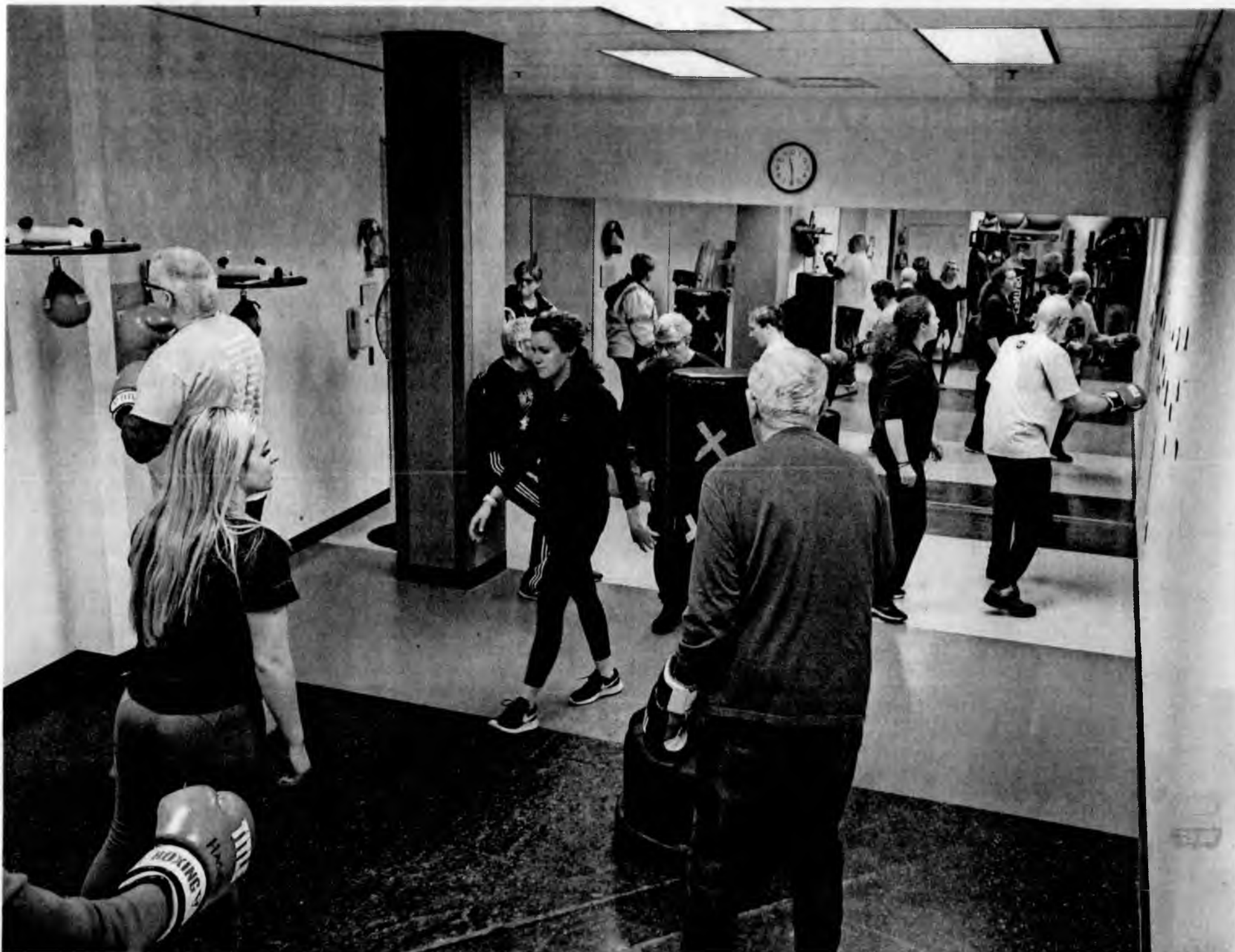
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The Recovery Project has Rock Steady classes at all three of its locations; the business has facilities in Clinton Township and Lansing, as well.  
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Rock Steady boxing group punching past Parkinson's

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Those with Parkinson's disease have to prepare themselves for the likelihood they'll someday lose control of their body.

But, rigorous exercise, from martial arts and cycling, can slow the disease's progression and let someone maintain independence. That's what the Rock Steady Boxing program tries to give people.

"It can be a devastating diagnosis," said Steve Styes, the wellness program coordinator at the Recovery Project, a physical therapy center in Livonia. "I've seen people come and they may be quiet and just not really confident. But I think once they get into a group of people and see what they can actually do and they see how they improve, it builds that confidence."

The Recovery Project has Rock Steady classes at all three of its locations; the business has facilities in Clinton Township and Lansing, as well. The program combines boxing techniques with exercise meant to help someone maintain independence.

"We've seen improvements with gait and walking and just functionally moving," Styes said. "The side of it that tends to get overlooked is really the non-motor symptoms. With Parkinson's there can be a lot of depression and anxiety that comes along with it, and you see improvements there."

For the students, the program means huge turnarounds.

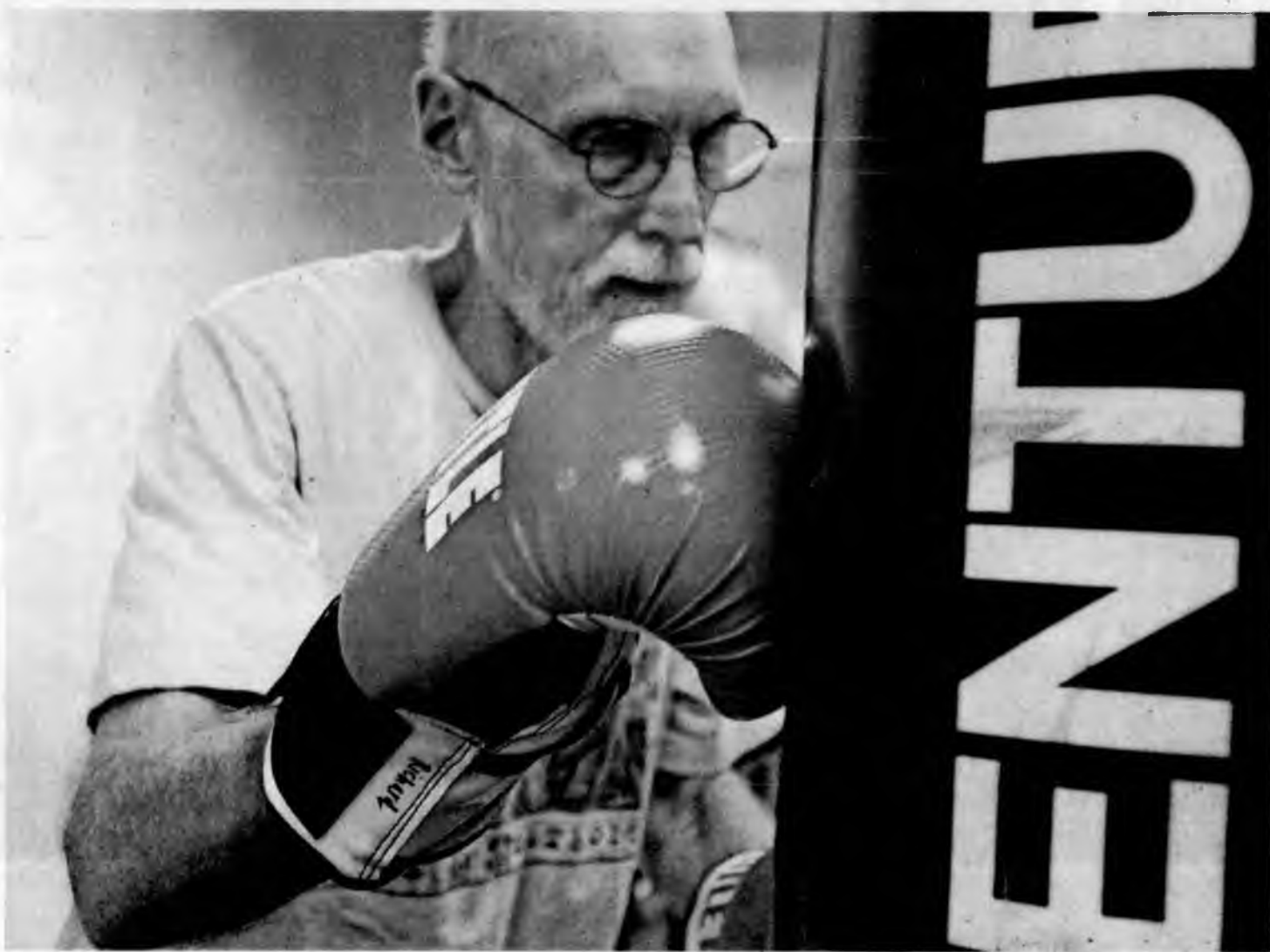
"I can do things now that I couldn't do," said Jim Quinn, who was diagnosed about 18 months ago and has been boxing about a year. "I'm going to be back driving my car and things like that that I couldn't do before."

Being a physical therapy gym, the Recovery Project has its class taught by physical therapists used to working with dementia patients.

"We always incorporate boxing into the program, but there's a bunch of agility training, balance training, strength training and then cognitive exercises as well," Styes said.

Aside from the workout, students also get a support group environment.

"I really feel like when I'm not here, the motivation isn't there," said Gloria Bielicki, who was diagnosed in September 2017 and has been boxing for two



Richard Riggs works out during a Rock Steady class Jan. 15 at the Recovery Project.

years. "Mentally and physically, it definitely makes a difference when you're not here. When you're here it's like a judgment-free zone. We all have the same issues going on."

Students said the therapists are great and supportive, but it's special to be around so many people who understand what they're going through. Together, they make sure the disease they have doesn't get to define them.

"It's the most physically and mentally supportive group I've ever attended," said Nancy Hasek, who was diagnosed in April 2019 and has been boxing ever since. "It's just very motivational and helps us with the rest of our day."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.



Meghan Malley, DPT, shows some Rock Steady participants how they should work the speed bag during a training session Jan. 15 at the Recovery Project.





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## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Vickerses lead Canton charge over Northville

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

All Zach Shoemaker was trying to do was recreate Northville's first game against Canton on his senior night: coming back from a 10-point deficit to earn the Mustangs' seventh-straight win to begin the season.

Facing a seven-point deficit in the fourth quarter, the senior forward went for a layup, scored the basket and the foul, hitting a free throw to bring the Mustangs' deficit to within four.

However, Canton's Cole Vickers proved the difference, leading the Chiefs (10-4) on a five-point run to keep Northville at bay, handing the Mustangs

(11-3) their third loss of the season with a 57-48 road win.

With the victory, Canton holds sole possession of second place in the KLAA West with an 8-2 record against conference opponents, sitting right behind Howell, who lost to Hartland Friday night, yet holds the win advantage over the Chiefs.

Here are three takeaways:

### Vickers brothers shine

Jake Vickers watched as his brother Cole Vickers secured the victory for Canton.

See BASKETBALL, Page 2B



Franklin dual-sport athlete Jake Swirple pushes himself as he works some heavy ropes during a pre-wrestling warmup.  
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# Franklin dual-sport star striving for greatness

Andrew Vallilencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Jake Swirple has one thing on his mind as the state wrestling playoffs begin: winning a state championship.

The Livonia Franklin senior heavyweight, who is also a star football player, has had winning a state title on his mind ever since he lost in triple ultimate overtime in the state semifinals a year ago and finishing third in Division I.

For Swirple, third place wasn't enough.

Since that defeat, Swirple has accomplished a lot. He signed to play football and wrestle at Division-2 Minot State University in North Dakota. He competed as a two-way starter on the Franklin football team which advanced to a district final. He won another individual KLAA conference wrestling championship over the weekend to improve his season record to 48-1.

See GREATNESS, Page 4B



Swirple, left, won a 5-1 decision over Brighton's Luke Stanton in January.  
TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY



Swirple, left, blocks a Spartan during football game action last season.

# CC has record 28 college signees

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

While many Detroit Catholic Central athletes signed on the early signing day in November, the Shamrocks found time on National Signing Day to celebrate the successes of its athletic program.

Catholic Central had a school-record 28 student-athletes sign to play college sports.

While a few more athletes are expected to sign late, bringing the school's total to more than 30, athletic director Aaron Babicz said it was awesome to honor the successes of each student that has signed.

"It's just awesome to do stuff like this for the kids," Babicz said. "When it comes down to it, regardless of if you are in a public school or a private school, it's got to be about the kids. So any way you can celebrate them and celebrate something that really is a dream of theirs, it's a no-brainer."

Catholic Central lacrosse led the way with seven signees, while the baseball team recorded six and the wrestling team tallied five.

Mario McDonald, a swimmer who signed at Ohio State, said the feel of the campus and the program proved to be a good fit for him.

"When I took my visits, it was just I knew," McDonald said. "People always tell you that when you go on your visits, you will know when you are at the right place. For me, that was there."

For Connor Baratta, a Shamrocks lacrosse player signed with Rutgers, he said the school fit him well, crediting the campus and the coaching staff for his level of comfort.

With the expectations Catholic Central provides, lacrosse player Ryan Sullivan, who will play collegiately for Michigan, said the Shamrocks prepared him to make such a large leap into Division I athletics.

"CC is a really difficult high school to go through," Sullivan said. "All the practices that we do together, and I'm playing against good competition every single time. I know they prepared me for the next level, and I just have to go show it."

### St. Germain makes school history

When Shawn St. Germain signed with Western Michigan Wednesday, he did something no other Catholic

See SIGNEES, Page 2B



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# Wixom St. Catherine cheer team shines at Lakeland Invitational

Colin Gay [hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In the Division 3 competition at the Lakeland Invitational, St. Catherine of Siena Academy made school history. The SCA Stars achieved first place in their division Feb. 1 with a record score of 717.76 at Lakeland High School. With no players on the team with prior cheer experience or a background in

the sport, head coach Chelsie Romanescu was extremely impressed with the performance of her team. "I am so proud of the team's hard work and dedication" Romanescu said. "Pushing themselves to learn and execute new skills has proven to be a great accomplishment." "It is truly amazing to watch the team develop. I look forward for what's to come as we approach finals."



The St. Catherine of Siena Academy cheer team finished in first place at the Lakeland Invitational on Feb. 1. SUBMITTED



Detroit Catholic Central celebrates National Signing Day with a record 28 students who signed letters of intent to play college sports. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Signees

Continued from Page 1B

Central athlete has ever done: sign with a college to play rugby. The Catholic Central rugby team was established four years ago, and while participants have gone on to play at the college level, no Shamrock had signed a letter of intent to play. Four years ago, St. Germain was a freshman wanting to play football. However, the sport of rugby provided him an opportunity football would have never given him. "I was usually a lineman at football, so I never got the ball," St. Germain said. "In rugby, I could run the ball." Coming in without any experience, he quickly fell in love with the intensity of rugby.

"It means a lot to me," St. Germain said. "I've been working my butt off since my freshman year. I didn't know the sport at all, and over the four years, I have just grown and progressed. Now I'm going. It's exciting for me." With Catholic Central, St. Germain has had the chance to travel to Texas, Ohio and Illinois, competing against the highest level of competition in national tournaments. Babicz said St. Germain is an example of how a new sport can impact a high school. "We have had a huge buy-in at this school for the rugby program," Babicz said. "It's exploded in numbers, we have a fantastic coaching staff. It's just awesome to see another opportunity for the kids." Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.

## Catholic Central signees

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Baseball</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cooper Donlin: Mesa Community College</li> <li>■ Adam Falinski: Ashland</li> <li>■ Tyler Harris: Hillsdale College</li> <li>■ Daniel Rumberger: Trine</li> <li>■ Blake Salamon: Northwood</li> <li>■ Jake Zeeb: St. Clair County Community College</li> </ul> <p><b>Basketball</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Josiah Smith: Carnegie Melon</li> </ul> <p><b>Cross Country</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Luke Perelli: Michigan State</li> </ul> <p><b>Football</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Zachary Carey: Grand Valley State</li> <li>■ Cody Daraban: Michigan Tech</li> <li>■ Cole Price: Wayne State</li> <li>■ Easton St. Clair: Heidelberg</li> </ul> | <p><b>Lacrosse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Connor Baratta: Rutgers</li> <li>■ Sean Cunningham: Hope College</li> <li>■ Marco Mularoni: Hope College</li> <li>■ Jack Rioux: Aquinas College</li> <li>■ Jacob Sposita: Colgate</li> <li>■ Ryan Sullivan: Michigan</li> <li>■ Ethan Zupko: University of Massachusetts Lowell</li> </ul> <p><b>Rugby</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Shawn St. Germain: Western Michigan</li> </ul> <p><b>Swim and Dive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Connor Brownell: Oakland</li> <li>■ Mario McDonald: Ohio State</li> <li>■ August Thielking: Kalamazoo College</li> </ul> <p><b>Wrestling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Josh Edmond: Missouri</li> <li>■ Derek Gilcher: Indiana</li> <li>■ Steven Kolcheff: Old Dominion</li> <li>■ Logan Sanom: Bucknell</li> <li>■ Marc Shaeffer: Old Dominion</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

After Shoemaker's and-1 conversion, Cole Vickers hit two free throws, recording an and-1 play himself on the ensuing possession, keeping the Chiefs ahead by seven points. "We would be practicing in the driveway all day, and I was beating him up," Jake Vickers said. "Now that we are on the same team and everything, it feels great. I love seeing him succeed. And I know all that work we put in is going to pay off and I know he's going to get even better and I can't wait to see what he does next." The younger brother made a late impact to secure the Chiefs' fourth-straight victory, the elder Vickers proved to be a factor in the paint all night. The senior forward recorded 15 points and 12 rebounds, giving Canton a 12-point lead with 1:09 left in the game after drawing a foul after a layup. As pick-and-roll partners for many of the Chiefs' offensive possessions, Cole Vickers has had a front-row seat to what Jake Vickers can do all season for Canton. "He's really big," Cole Vickers said. "He's a heck of a guy to play with."

### Defense becomes priority

Since its two-point loss to Howell on Jan. 24, Canton shifted its focus to defense, limiting opponents to under 50 points in each of the past three games. That streak continued against Northville as Canton allowed only 21 first-half points to a Mustang offense that came in averaging 51.9 points per game. "We've really tightened things up defensively," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "We've got a greater sense of urgency, what we are doing defensively. We have simplified some things and our guys have, kind of, bought in and we've started to dig in and guard." From the start of the game, that proved to be the focus for the Chiefs, expecting the offense to come later. "We were talking about just playing good defense and rebounding," Cole

Vickers said. "I think in the first quarter, the first half, we really did a good job rebounding and coming out strong." With the focus on defense, the Canton offense only had to do just enough to secure the victory. The Chiefs hit five 3-pointers against Northville, including three in the fourth quarter by Grant Hoffmeyer, Cole Vickers and Ben Stesiak. With the struggles of the Mustang offense, including an inability by Shoemaker to find consistent offense — finishing with a team-leading 12 points — Northville head coach Todd Sander felt each one of those 3-point makes, especially when his team was attempting a comeback in the second half. "When we are coming from behind, we'd get it to four, they'd hit a triple. We'd get it to five, they'd hit a triple," Sander said. "They made five for the night, but each one of them was a back-breaker when you are trying to come from behind."

### Just about time

Cole Vickers came into Friday's game knowing it was a must-win for Canton. Sander could see that, saying that his team's opponent wanted to win extremely badly. Since the two-point loss to KLA West-leading Howell at home, Canton has changed its approach, focusing more on what the Chiefs can control instead of worrying about other opponents. With that change, Reddy wants Canton to dictate play on both sides of the court. "We're definitely better now than we were two weeks ago," Reddy said. "We've been talking about changing our best and since we played that Howell game, we've been doing that every day. It's been in practice, it's been in the games." The shift for the Chiefs has brought an increased level of confidence, allowing players to look back at how far they have come over the course of the 2019-20 season. "We have really improved this season," Cole Vickers said. "From the start, we struggled a little bit, but we have really picked it up a lot."



Jake Vickers proved to be as major a component in Canton's road win against Northville as he was against Plymouth. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Reddy expects that progress to continue. "What is it, February?" Reddy asked. "It's getting started. It's getting close to go time." Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17.



## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Canton hockey forward keeps team moving ahead

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton junior forward Lenny Kubitski has helped turn the Chiefs hockey team around, helping him to win the latest Hometown Life Athlete of the Week poll.

After starting the season with four wins in 12 games, Kubitski and the Chiefs have won five of their past seven games, including a 3-1 win against Birmingham Unified in which the junior forward recorded two goals.

He finished in first place in the latest poll, receiving 15,085 votes (53.68 percent). Kubitski finished ahead of second-place finisher and Canton classmate Ben Stesiak, who received 8,666 votes (30.84 percent). Livonia Stevenson hockey player Nick Justice finished in third place with 1,882 votes (6.7 percent), while Livonia Franklin wrestler Jake Swirple finished in fourth place and Plymouth Christian Academy basketball player Chibi Anuwah finished in fifth.

We caught up with Kubitski and asked him about his expectations for Canton for the remainder of the season and about how he likes to get pumped up before games.

**Was the Birmingham Unified win a turning point for Canton hockey?**

"I feel like that game, and the games prior, we really were stepping it up and pretty much that was like a top-off to what we really needed to get back on track for the season."

**Do you feel like you have momentum heading into the back end of the season and heading into playoffs?**

"Yeah, I definitely feel like we are on a roll right now and that the practices have been going smooth and the games have been getting better right now. I think it's really good for us going into the playoffs."

**What has this season been like for you in terms of personal development on the ice?**

"I think personally, for me, it really helped me competing against these really top teams and knowing what my job is on the ice and playing all the way from our D-zone to the neutral zone and,



Canton junior forward Lenny Kubitski has helped turn the Chiefs' season around. COURTESY OF LENNY KUBITSKI

pretty much, getting back on my wing when I have to and helping out the D. Like pretty much playing my role on the power play and penalty kill and do the best I can for my team."

**What are a few things you like to do in your free time when you are not playing hockey?**

"I really like fishing with my friends when the weather is really nice. I like playing NHL 20 with my friends also on Xbox."

**Have you thought about future plans and what's next for you after**

**high school?**

"It's really been on my mind ever since I really started freshman year. I played travel, and I went to high school sophomore year. Ever since high school started, I have been thinking what to do after high school. I've been working hard and stuff. It would be really cool to play for a close college by my family."

**As you are heading onto the ice, what are you listening to on your earbuds to get you pumped up for a game?**

"Sometimes, it's like a superstition.

Sometimes I would be listening to my music, like my rap music — Lil Mosey — but I have this superstition like sometimes, before the game, I listen to the music. It gets me too hyped up too early, so sometimes I don't listen to my music until right before the game or not at all. It's a weird thing where if I listen to my music an hour prior, it's getting me too hyped up too early. I want to get my energy up right before the game."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17.

## Hartland sophomore hits winner against Howell in girls basketball

Bill Khan Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

HOWELL — Amanda Roach took the pass at mid-court on the fast break, dribbled inside the 3-point line and didn't hesitate.

She didn't wait for reinforcements to arrive so she could pass it off to a Hartland teammate. She didn't worry about the consequences if she missed a huge shot in a pressure situation.

Worrying doesn't appear to be in her DNA.

"There's no conscience there," Hartland coach Don Palmer said. "If you make a bad play, 'OK, I'll make a good play the next time.'"

Roach made plenty of good plays Friday night at Howell, the biggest being a 15-foot pull-up jumper with 35 seconds left to give the Eagles the lead in their 47-45 victory over the Highlanders.

Kaylee Wendel hit a free throw to give Howell a 45-44 lead with 40.9 seconds remaining, but missed the second shot. Nikki Dompierre rebounded the ball and pushed the ball ahead to Roach, who capped a career-high 18-point performance with what proved to be the game-winning shot.

It was a clutch shot that left the opposing coach impressed.

"You've got to tip your hat to Amanda, too," Howell coach Tim Olszewski said. "Right at the end of this game, she's dribbling full speed, pulls up and drains a shot."

It was yet another thrilling chapter in the girls basketball rivalry between Livingston County's big three.

The victory enabled fourth-ranked Hartland to remain tied for first place in the KLAA West with fifth-ranked Brighton at 9-1 in league play. The loss dropped Howell to 8-2 in the league and out of a three-way tie atop the standings.

It was the first time any of the three teams won on the road in the rivalry this season. Hartland won at home against Howell, Howell won at home against Brighton and Brighton won at home against Hartland. The next chapter is Tuesday when Howell visits Brighton.

"It was a great high school game, and you're glad to win it," Palmer said.



Hartland's Amanda Roach scored a career-high 18 points in a 47-45 victory at Howell on Feb. 7.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Hartland beat Howell by 18 points when the teams met on Jan. 14. It appeared the Eagles might roll past the Highlanders again when they held a nine-point lead in the final two minutes of the first half.

But Howell got within 27-24 by half-time and took a 31-29 lead on a 3-pointer by Maeve St. John with 5:24 left in the third quarter.

St. John, who scored 11 of her game-high 19 points in the second half, gave Howell a 44-40 lead with 4:29 remaining, but the Highlanders managed only one point the rest of the game.

After Roach's go-ahead basket, Howell missed a 3-pointer and two shots near the rim on the following possession. Hartland's Whitney Sollom went 1-for-2 from the line with 4.9 seconds remaining. After a timeout, a 30-footer at the buzzer by St. John fell short.

The Highlanders (11-3) hoped for a foul call against Dompierre on the play, but no contact appeared to have been made before or during the shot.

Sollom finished with 10 points and 15 rebounds for Hartland (13-1). Evelyn Pennala had 12 points and Wendel had 11, going 9-for-10 from the line.

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## Greatness

Continued from Page 1B

None of that has stopped him from working toward his dream of becoming a state champion wrestler.

Soon after wrestling season ended last year, Swirple began writing notes to himself and placing them around his room at home and in the wrestling room at Franklin High School. Every note says the same thing and is signed at the bottom: I will be a state champ.

"Every day I wake up and I go run before I go to school. I work out. Every day I'm going after that grind," Swirple said. "I have it all over my room on looseleaf sheets of paper, I wrote 'I will be a state champion' and signed my name. I put it all over and have it in our wrestling room, just to remind myself every day what I'm chasing. It's a grind every day. It's something that I personally have been striving for ever since I stepped foot into Franklin."

### On a championship path

He placed eighth in the state as a sophomore and finished third last season. He says the notes to himself motivate him every day.

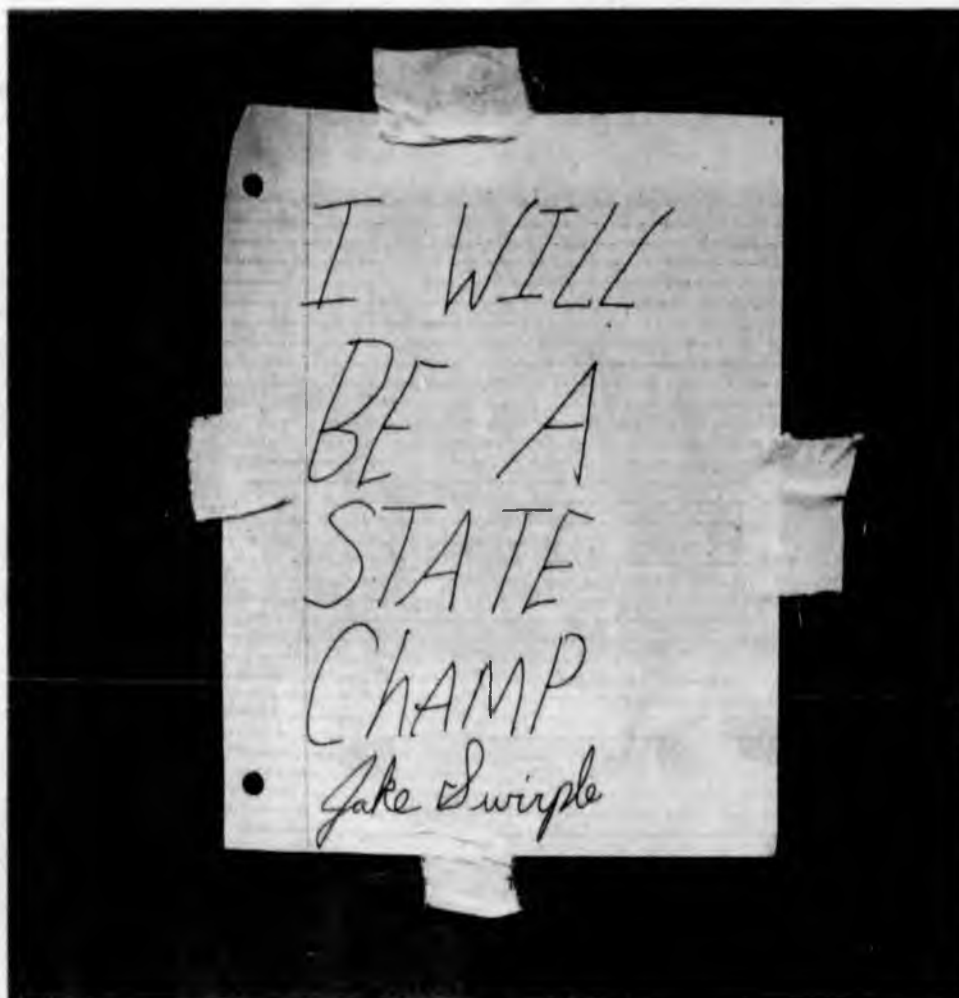
"There's not a day that goes by where I don't think about that," Swirple said. "I want to get back to that spot and get into the state finals and win my state championship."

He's on track to do just that. Entering the state playoffs, Swirple is ranked second in the state with a 48-1 record that includes a victory against the No. 3 wrestler in the state, Brighton's Luke Stanton.

The one loss, however, came in overtime to No. 1 Steven Kolcheff, a senior at Detroit Catholic Central and defending heavyweight state champ. The pair wrestled at the Observerland Invitational at the beginning of February with Kolcheff winning in triple ultimate overtime.

Franklin wrestling coach Dave Chiola joked that the match was almost boring with how evenly matched they were with neither wrestler recording a take down and Kolcheff winning after he won a coin toss to choose his position in the final overtime.

Chiola says that there's no doubt in his mind that Swirple can beat anyone



Franklin wrestler Jake Swirple wrote this pledge eight times, and taped each one to the walls of the school's wrestling room. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

in the state.

"When he loses — which isn't often now, but his sophomore year he'd lose matches more and last year he lost a few — he'd never make an excuse," Chiola said. "He'd just say 'I have to work harder,' never threw a fit, never made excuses, always took them in stride and ask us what he needs to do to get better. Very coachable and very humble considering how good he is. He's a good team leader."

Swirple's ability to mentally prepare helps set him apart from his competition. He watches film of all his matches with his dad, who attends all of Swirple's matches with his mom. He credits his parents for his strong work ethic.

"He psychs himself up as much as any athlete I've ever had," Chiola, who's been at Franklin for more than 20 years, said. "He starts as soon as his match is over, he's gearing up for his next match. There's been tournaments where I nev-

er even see him sit down. He's there for business. He's not there to eat food and play around on his phone. He's there to wrestle."

A two-year captain, Swirple loves facing other top wrestlers like Kolcheff. He told his coach his day had been made when he found out they'd get to wrestle at the Observerland tournament.

Swirple's day will be more than made if he can defeat Kolcheff and bring home a state championship on March 7.

### Why not Minot?

Minot State University (pronounced My-not) is located in northern North Dakota, about an hour away from the Canadian border. The Division 2 school competes in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and is located in an area suited for those who love nature.

It was the perfect fit for Swirple, who signed last week with the school on Na-

tional Signing Day.

He will be on both the football team and the wrestling team, choosing Minot State over offers from a number of schools including teams in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. He ultimately chose the Beavers over Davenport University.

"I really wanted to dual sport in college," Swirple said. "That was a big thing for me because I'm a top athlete at both, I'm all-state in both. I like keeping busy, I like getting to work. I love that, it's something I've always had, that work ethic. I love the grind of both sports."

He was first recruited for football and was noticed by the Minot State coaching staff while attending a camp at North Dakota State University in July 2019. After attending a camp at Minot State, he was offered a scholarship and followed that up with an official visit in October.

"I'm a big outdoorsman, North Dakota obviously has good hunting and fishing, so that's a nice bonus for me," Swirple said. "Sometimes the offensive line will go duck hunting before classes, so that's a big interest for me."

Swirple played offensive guard and defensive tackle for the Patriots and has been a starter since his sophomore season. He tallied 5.5 sacks, 45 tackles and four tackles for loss as a senior on defense.

He was recruited as an offensive lineman, which is where he likely will play in college.

Swirple said he plans to major in criminal justice with a minor in law and legal studies so he can become a U.S. Marshal or federal agent with border patrol or the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement after school. He then wants to attend law school.

Minot State, which is located near an Air Force base, runs a run-heavy offense inspired by the service academy. It fits both Swirple's strengths as an athlete and his personality, which has been contagious among his many high school teammates who will miss his impact on Franklin sports.

"I like putting my nose in everything," Swirple said. "Grinding it out and hitting someone every play over and over and over."

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

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## HOCKEY

# Third period defines South Lyon Unified success

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon Unified hockey steps up when it needs to.

Facing a 1-1 tie at the end of the second period against Northville Friday, senior forward Jon Gardiner tucked the puck in the left side of the net for the second goal of the game.

Gardiner opened the floodgates, as South Lyon Unified (18-2) scored two more goals in the third period, giving the team a 4-1 win against the Mustangs (5-16-1).

No matter how close the game felt in the first 34 minutes, South Lyon Unified head coach Bill McCreary feels like something clicks on in the final 17.

"I know that the boys are real competitors," McCreary said. "They want to win."

For the most part, these wins have been in dominant fashion, as South Lyon Unified has averaged just over six goals per game — not losing when scoring more than four goal in a game — while allowing just over one goal per game defensively.

But recently, this success has come late in the game for South Lyon.

In Unified's win against Allen Park on Jan. 30, South Lyon trailed, 3-2, heading into the third period. Unified then out-scored the Jaguars, 4-1, in the final 17 minutes to win.

The same storyline came up against Northville. After South Lyon senior forward Caleb Mulcahy scored the team's first goal of the game eight seconds into the second period, Northville forward Ryan Krikorian answered 26 seconds later with a goal, a score that would remain until the third period.

At this point in the season, McCreary said the third-period success allows his star players to shine brightest when it counts the most, no matter if his team had played its best up to that point.

"You would love to come out of the gate very strong, right, and take control of the game right off the bat, but it doesn't always happen that way," McCreary said. "As the game progresses and it's still a close game, our big guys really step up for us."



South Lyon's Caleb Mulcahy, center, carries the puck towards the Northville net. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Gardiner recorded his second score of the day, taking a pass from junior forward Mitchell Skamiera and hitting it in the right corner of the net for the 3-1 lead. Skamiera scored the fourth and final goal late in the third period.

Missing star defender Anthony Joseph, who was out with a fever, South Lyon stepped up defensively, allowing one goal or fewer for the fourth time in the past five games.

With the scoring ability South Lyon Unified has, defense has seemingly

been an afterthought, a by-product of excellent offensive production.

As the season continues and the opponents get tougher, Lowen said South Lyon Unified has been able to step up in all facets, including defensively.

"At the beginning of the year, we were kind of just getting away with it," Lowen said. "But now that it's close to playoffs, it's really getting us going and preparing us to play these good teams."

In his senior season, South Lyon Unified is doing things Gardiner thought it

would never be capable of.

But with five games left until the playoffs, the forward is confident, especially when Unified comes out on the winning end of closer games.

"It's really just getting us more ready because these blow-out games are just getting old," Gardiner said. "We need some real competition in the mix."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to [LivSports@hometownlife.com](mailto:LivSports@hometownlife.com).

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# What accused spy Whelan's life is like in Russian prison

Kristen Jordan Shamus Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Defiance runs like a string through the last year of Paul Whelan's life, tugging at him to remain impervious to the degradation of life in a Russian prison, giving him voice at court hearings, where he decries his more than yearlong incarceration.

It has moored the 49-year-old Michigan man, helping him to remain insistent in his dealings with Russian authorities that he is innocent, held for an unknown ulterior motive.

The Russian Foreign Ministry alleges Whelan is a spy who was caught "red-handed" in an act of espionage when he was arrested Dec. 28, 2018, at his hotel in Moscow. The Federal Security Service (FSB) says its agents found a USB drive containing classified information in Whelan's room at the Metropol Hotel.

Whelan, who worked as head of global security for Auburn Hills-based Borg-Warner, an auto supplier, until his position was eliminated last month, insists that he was set up, and that he was simply a tourist in December 2018. He was there, he says, to attend the wedding of a friend, a fellow former Marine.

In the days leading up to his arrest in Russia, he led tours of Moscow historical sites for the wedding party, said his twin brother, David Whelan. And he shared Christmas dinner at a steakhouse in Moscow with Ilya Yatsenko, a Russian man he'd met a decade earlier during one of his trips to the country.

Over about a half-dozen visits to Russia since 2006, Whelan got to know Yatsenko, even visiting Yatsenko's parents and siblings, David Whelan said.

It was Yatsenko who gave Whelan



Paul Whelan, a former U.S. Marine accused of espionage and arrested in Russia, listens to his lawyers while standing inside a defendants' cage during a hearing at a court in Moscow in January 2019. GETTY IMAGES

key evidence in Russia's case against him: a USB drive containing government secrets, David Whelan alleges.

"Paul expected there to be photographs on it and something else was put on that drive in order to entrap him," he said.

Ever since his brother's arrest, David Whelan has tried to bat down conspiracy theories and disinformation.

"There was an expectation — certainly developed by the media — that, well, if Paul's been charged with espionage, there must be something there," David Whelan said. "And not realizing that the Russians charge people with espionage all the time, and there's nothing there."

Meanwhile, his brother waits it out in a Russian jail, which is taking its toll.

In the days immediately after Whelan's arrest, he said he was denied such basic things as toilet paper and soap.

His family set up an account through the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, and now a State Department employee uses money from that account to buy necessities and delivers them along with fresh produce and other supplies to the 19th-century Lefortovo Prison in Moscow.

Whelan has reported that the guards at the prison have threatened, abused and harassed him. He hasn't been able to make a phone call in more than a year

of imprisonment. His mail is censored, and visits from his lawyers and embassy representatives are limited.

"This is typical prisoner of war isolation technique," Whelan told journalists at a court hearing in May, according to the Associated Press. "They're trying to run me down so that I will talk to them."

But his brother said the tactic isn't working.

"The Russian media reported that Paul was defiant," David Whelan said. "Our family is glad that that is how his continued fight against injustice is perceived by the Russian government."

## Family finds strength in resistance

A similar kind of strength has run through the entire Whelan family these last 12 months.

Paul Whelan's older sister, Elizabeth, stood in solitary protest outside the Russian Embassy in Washington in November, holding a sign that said "#Free-PaulWhelan" in Cyrillic.

Near Toronto, David Whelan bought Christmas presents for Paul, insistent that his twin would have gifts, even if he wasn't home to open them this year.

In Manchester, near Ann Arbor, his parents, Rosemary and Edward Whelan, make a daily ritual of writing to him.

His trial is likely to come this spring, said his English-speaking attorney, Olga Karlova, in an email to the Free Press. She said she and Vladimir Zherebenkov, the lead defense attorney on the case, are spending more time this month with Whelan, reviewing the evidence the Russian government plans to present at his trial.

See WHELAN, Page 8B

## SCOREBOARD

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

### Boys Basketball

#### Jan. 31

Canton 51, Salem 34: Canton outscored Salem 24-8 in the first and fourth quarters combined, giving the Chiefs the win against park rival Salem.

Plymouth Christian 48, Novi Christian 45: Plymouth Christian overcame a nine-point deficit, upsetting Novi Christian for its fourth win of the season. Plymouth Christian was led by Nathan Etnyre, who led the team with 25 points, and Chibby Anwah, who recorded eight blocks.

Livonia Stevenson 64, Dearborn 42: Evan Bradford (15), Evan Asante (11) and Luke Merchant (11) led Stevenson to its eighth win of the season and its fifth win in KLAA East play against Dearborn.

Hartland 49, Plymouth 48: Despite 18 points for Jake Kuchka, Plymouth lost its seventh game of the season late in the fourth quarter.

#### Feb. 4

Livonia Stevenson 49, Dearborn Fordson 36: Stevenson scored 37 second-half points after facing an 11-point halftime deficit against the Tractors. Evan Bradford (15), Luke Merchant (11), and Evan Asante (10) led the way for the Spartans.

Bloomfield Hills 66, North Farmington 65: After Noah Adamczyk tied the game at 62, securing overtime, Bloomfield Hills earned its first win since Dec. 20, defeating OAA Red opponent North Farmington at home.

Howell 59, Plymouth 53: After Howell amounted to a 15-point halftime lead, Plymouth get its deficit to four points, but could not get any closer. Matt MacLellan led the Wildcats with 22 points, while Jacob Smith added 14 points. Plymouth Christian 58, Oakland Christian 49: Nathan Etnyre led Plymouth Christian with 13 points in its fifth win of the season.

Hartland 68, Salem 53: Salem suffered its eighth loss of the season, despite 19 points from Garrett Smith and 14 points from Ryan Len.

#### Feb. 7

Canton 57, Northville 48: Cole and Jake Vickers lead Canton to its fourth-straight win, handing Northville its third loss of the season on the Mustangs' senior night.

Belleville 61, Livonia Stevenson 58:

Belleville remained undefeated in league play, as Evan Bradford (22) and Luke Merchant (8) led the way offensively for the Spartans.

Novi 69, Salem 63 OT: Bruce Turner led the Wildcats with 22 in Novi's six-point overtime win against Salem. Ryan Len led the Rocks with 21 points.

Brighton 55, Plymouth 51: Despite amounting to a 30-23 halftime lead, Plymouth scored only eight points in the third quarter, falling to the Bulldogs in its ninth loss of the season. Matt MacLellan led the Wildcats with 20 points.

Taylor Trillium 76, Plymouth Christian Academy 75 OT: Plymouth Christian suffered its 10th loss of the season in a one-point overtime loss to Trillium. Nathan Etnyre led the team with 34 points.

### Hockey

#### Jan. 31

Detroit Catholic Central 7, Cleveland St. Ignatius 2: Catholic Central scored three second-period goals to give the Shamrocks their 13th win of the season and their fourth-straight win. Kaden Hemme recorded two goals for Catholic Central. Livonia Stevenson 5, Salem 1: Facing a one-goal deficit after one period of play, the No. 1-ranked Spartans scored four second-period goals to earn their 16th win of the season.

#### Feb. 4

Flint Powers Catholic 7, Milford 2: Coming out of the first period with a 2-2 tie, Milford allowed two goals in the second period and three in the third to give the Mavericks their 11th loss of the season.

#### Feb. 5

Farmington United 4, Bloomfield Hills 1: Farmington goalkeeper Bryn Sommerfeldt stopped 43 of 44 shot attempt from Bloomfield Hills, leading to Farmington's 10th win of the season. Brother Rice 4, Grosse Pointe South 1: Taking a 2-1 lead after two periods, Brother Rice scored two goals in the third period, capping off the win with an empty-net goal to secure the Warriors' 15th win of the season. Nick Marone, Liam Mott, Dylan McNulty and Ryan Murphy scored the goals for Brother Rice.

Hartland 6, Plymouth 3: Brendan Allen recorded a hat trick, but Plymouth fell to 9-9-1 with a three-goal loss to Hartland.

#### Feb. 6

South Lyon Unified 4, Northville 1: Tied at 1-1 heading into the final period, South Lyon scored three unanswered goals, giving Unified its 18th win of the season.

Milford 5, Ann Arbor Father Gabriel

Richard 1: After trailing 1-0 heading into the second period, the Mavericks scored the next five goals, including three in the third period. The two third period power-play goals came from Pierce Ashcroft and Ben Kozar.

#### Feb. 7

Detroit Catholic Central 2, Notre Dame Academy 1: Dylan Dooley scored a power-play goal and an overtime shoot-out goal to secure Catholic Central's 15th win of the season.

#### Feb. 8

Milford 10, Essexville Garber 2: Austin Coombs recorded the 100th point of his career, while Tucker Coombs recorded the first goal of the season. Ben Kozar recorded three goals and an assist, while Tristan Ingram-Reeve recorded two goals and two assists. Detroit Catholic Central 5, Hartland 0: The Shamrocks recorded its first shut-out since Jan. 4, recording even-strength goals by Brendan Miles, Brett Beale and Nich Borchardt. Dylan Dooley and Jack Estfan added power-play scores.

### Girls Basketball

#### Jan. 31

Livonia Franklin 55, Belleville 51: Junior forward Erin Young led the Patriots to its fifth win of the season with 19 points. Senior guard Emily Esker added 10 points.

Farmington Hills Mercy 55, Dearborn Divine Child 48: The Marlins returned to the win column with a seven-point win against Divine Child. Julia Bishop recorded 17 points and nine rebounds for the Marlins, while Maya White added nine points and 10 rebounds.

#### Feb. 4

Walled Lake Central 38, South Lyon East 35: Walled Lake Central outscored South Lyon East 16-5 in the final quarter of play, handing the Cougars their fifth loss of the season. Madison Black led South Lyon East with 11 points.

Howell 46, Plymouth 42: After taking a 19-15 halftime lead, the Wildcats could not finish, allowing 18 points in the third quarter, leading to their seventh loss of the season.

Plymouth Christian Academy 48, Oakland Christian 13: Anna Fernandez scored 19 points, recording six rebounds, six steals and three assists in Plymouth Christian Academy's 10th win of the season. Morganne Houk recorded 19 points, seven rebounds, seven steals and two assists.

Livonia Franklin 48, John Glenn 24: Emily Esker and Erin Young combine for 25 of Franklin's 48 points, giving the Patriots their sixth win of the season. John Glenn fell to 4-9 after the loss.

Farmington Hills Mercy 46, Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard 31: Maddie Kenney led the Marlins to their 13th win of the season with 16 points. Julia Bishop and Maya White each added nine points for Mercy.

#### Feb. 7

Farmington Hills Mercy 53, Macomb Lutheran North 30: The Marlins wrapped up a share of the Catholic Central central division title with a 23-point win against Macomb Lutheran North. Maya White led the team with 15 points, while all 11 players who dressed scored for Mercy.

#### Feb. 7

Plymouth Christian Academy 58, Clarkston Everest Collegiate 17: Anna Fernandez led the team with 21 points, including five 3-pointers, while Morganne Houk added 12 points for Plymouth Christian Academy.

Livonia Churchill 23, Livonia Franklin 22: Churchill earned its ninth win of the season with 15 points from senior forward Keziah Buggs.

Brighton 51, Plymouth 38: Despite 13 points from Sophie Zelek, 11 points from Kyra Brandon and six points from Kendall LaFlair, Plymouth lost its eighth game of the season, falling to 3-7 in the KLAA West.

### Bowling

#### Feb. 1

Livonia Franklin finished in first place at the Divine Child Tournament, averaging a 223 over 21 games played. Aaron Wright finished in first on the all-tournament team with a 712, while Ken Kloth finished in fifth, bowling a 694.

#### Feb. 4

Annapolis 16, Garden City 14: Garden City could not overcome a 10-0 deficit, losing its first game of the season.

### Swim and Dive

#### Feb. 6

Novi 120.5, Hartland 65.5: Novi improved its dual-meet record to 10-0, winning nine of 12 total events.

Salem 113, Brighton 72: Salem earned its first win over Brighton in KLAA history, taking first in seven of 12 events.

#### Feb. 8

The Novi boys swim and dive team finished in third place with 185 points at the Oakland County Championships. Divers Logan Barr and Luca Freuse finished in the top-16, while senior swimmers Sam Stefanek and Michael Prahin earned their first individual state qualifications.

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



## Whelan

Continued from Page 7B

"We are planning to do it more intensively, from morning till evening with a break for lunch," she said. The timing of Whelan's trial will depend on how quickly they can translate the evidence and prosecution's documents into English, and strategize his defense.

"We want to do it very thoroughly," she wrote. "We do not want to miss any details."

At their meetings, Karlova said Whelan is "in a good mood, joked very much."

That's despite struggles with his health.

Whelan has lost weight in the last year and has an inguinal hernia, which means tissue is protruding through a weak spot in the abdominal muscle wall.

His brother said Whelan was scheduled to have the hernia surgically repaired in early 2019, after his trip to Russia. But since he was arrested, that didn't happen.

"You can go for years without it being a problem," David Whelan said. "Except when it becomes a prob-

lem, it becomes an emergency."

An ambulance was called to the Moscow courtroom in August, where Whelan had appeared for a detention hearing.

"He was moving to another cell and they force(d) him to lift his own items and take it with him," Karlova told the Free Press in an email on the day of the incident. "These items were heavy enough to make his hernia worse. We have submitted an appeal ... to make an operation on his hernia."

The judge stopped the court proceedings so Whelan could be evaluated, Karlova said, but he has opted not to have surgery until American doctors are allowed to review his situation and make a recommendation.

That his incarceration has dragged on so long, his health is failing, and little action has been taken on the part of the U.S. government to bring Whelan home is a sore spot for his family.

"We have an overriding frustration with the approach that has been taken so far, which is the American government as a whole — the State Department and administration, in particular — is ... going to let the Russian judicial process play out and take this to

trial, as if Paul actually could possibly be a spy, and therefore needed to be on trial," Elizabeth Whelan said. "And I think that this is ridiculous."

### Reports from Moscow offer hope, cause for concern

While Whelan's family has been bolstered by seeing his insolence in video clips and media reports of his court hearings, Russian authorities have expressed frustration.

"He's threatening the penitentiary officers and he makes all kinds of arrogant accusations," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a news conference in Washington in December. "For example, he is saying that he will put a drill to the head of the officer."

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs later posted to its Facebook page an image of an office hole punch that resembles a drill and is used to bind documents. It alleges Whelan threatened to use it against prison guards.

Soon after, Rebecca Ross, a spokeswoman at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, changed her Twitter profile picture to a series of three triple-hole punches in red, white and blue.

The Whelan family watched the live-streamed video of the news conference and were stunned by Lavrov's claims.

"It starts to press your incredulity. You can't believe a foreign government is making weird sorts of allegations like that," David Whelan said. "So, I mean on the one hand it's disappointing that it was so crazy, and on the other hand, we're glad that their perception appears to be of Paul that he is being very defiant because we want him to be defiant as far as he can be."

Whelan was denied Thanksgiving dinner when Julie Fisher, then-chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, tried to bring him a special meal.

And at his latest detention hearing on Christmas Eve, Whelan was not allowed to speak to the news media. Still, he held up a sign that said, "No espionage. No evidence. No red hands," Ross tweeted.

During an interview in mid-December inside his office in Toronto, David Whelan said it's seeing that kind of resistance from his brother that gives him hope.

"There's a feeling amongst my family, and not just my family in North America, but our family extended across Europe, that we're not going to let the Russians change how our family works," David Whelan said. "If Paul can be defiant in Lefortovo, then we can be defiant from wherever we're located."

Whether that means standing outside an embassy in protest, writing letters and lobbying Congress and the White House to take action, or an act as simple as buying a Christmas gift.

"We know that people are having conversations that we aren't privy to at the State Department, at ... the National Security Council level, at the embassies," David Whelan said. "We know that those conversations are happening."

"So, we will continue to think of Paul and pay his bills and buy him presents and think of him and send letters to him in the same way that we always have. Because you never know when that day is going to come that he does come back."

If Whelan is convicted of espionage, he could be sentenced to up to 20 years in a Russian prison.

His brother said the family will have to make some hard choices in the year ahead about whether to let go of his Novi apartment and move his belongings to storage, now that BorgWarner has eliminated his job.

"He will come back to no job, no apartment, no income, you know? No health care. Everything will just be sort of completely shattered for him," David Whelan said.

## Obituaries

### Francis V. Martin

MILFORD - Francis V. Martin from Milford, Michigan, age 92, passed away Sunday, February 2, 2020. Francis was born March 22, 1927 in Mass City, Michigan to parents Lempi and Jalmer Martin. Francis was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend who is survived by his wife of 66 years, the love of his life Eleanor (Heikkinen) Martin. Four daughters, June Hartman, Tammy Rabideau, Francine Kramer (Bill) and Sara Estrada (Larry); Eight grandchildren, Christopher Estrada (Richard/deceased), Matthew Estrada (Erin), Kendall Gilliland (Eric), Kati Hartman (Keith), Michael Kramer (Kathryn), Ashley Rabideau, Alex Kramer, Carly Tew (Branson); Eight great grandchildren, Blake Hartman, Briell Beeney, Brealyn Beeney, Liam Gilliland, Aliyah Tew, Emmitt Estrada, Landon Gilliland, Branson Tew IV. Francis was one of seven children and preceded in death by brothers Ernest and Charles Ray Martin and sister Viola Hanninen; survived by sisters Helen McCabe and Shirley (Ahola) Pitts and brother Andrew Martin along with numerous nieces and nephews. Francis was a Seabee in the U.S. Navy and served in WWII for the 90th Construction Battalion from 1945 - 1946. He was the oldest member of the East Branch VFW Post 4167 in Mass City, Michigan. After his tour of duty overseas he worked in construction for over 40 years in the Detroit Metropolitan area building roads. He was a proud member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 324 for 67 years. Francis was very proud of his Finnish ancestry, was a lifetime member of the Finnish Center Association in Farmington Hills, Michigan and a man whose character displayed SISU. Francis felt the biggest accomplishment in his life was his family. He would do anything for his family and friends. If someone needed help or just a shoulder to lean-on he was always there. He was an upstanding man within his community of friends and neighbors and was our amazing hero! Funeral services were held on Friday, February 7th, 2020 at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, Milford, MI. Final resting place will be at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Finnish Center Association 35200 W. 8 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335



### Wendelin K Weed

Wendelin K. Weed, age 64 (10/02/1955 - 01/30/2020), passed after a long illness.

She graduated from Southfield High School in 1973 and earned her B.S. at EMU in 1990. She retired after a career in telecommunications.

She was divorced and leaves behind a daughter Katie Jean Weed and grandchildren Kailyn, Ezekiel, Noellyn, Roselyn, Ayva and an as yet un-named second grandson due in April. Additionally she has one great grandchild Alice. She was preceded in death by her father, Nathan Weed, and mother, Ruth Kohlmorgan Weed. She is also survived by her sister Susan Weed and brother Nathan Weed, his wife and numerous nieces and nephews. She was well loved and is now at peace.

### Ferman A. Rohraff

SALEM - Ferman A. Rohraff, age 89, lifelong resident of Salem, passed away February 7, 2020. He was born September 12, 1930 in Salem Township, Michigan; son Anthony and Hazel (nee Lipstraw) Rohraff. He graduated from Plymouth High School; class of 1949. Ferman was united in marriage to Barbara Jean (nee Raymor) on February 24, 1951; they spent 59 loving years together until her death on July 30, 2010.

Ferman worked as a gravel truck driver for Hayball Trucking for many years, retiring in 1988. He was a very hard worker and kept himself busy throughout the years. He was a volunteer firefighter with the Salem Township Fire Department for 60 years and served as a Salem Township Trustee for 25 years. Following retirement, he worked for the South Lyon Community Schools delivering groceries to the different schools. He was currently working part time at the Salem Township offices doing what ever needed to be done; including working elections, handyman work, and picking up their mail each and every day.

Ferman was an active member of the Salem Bible Church. He was also a member of the Upper Peninsula Club and a member of Western Wayne County Conservation Club. An avid hunter and fisherman, he was a true outdoorsman. Ferman loved to farm, he had a large vegetable garden and fruit trees including apple, pear, and peach trees. He enjoyed spending time at his cabin in the Upper Peninsula. Ferman loved his children and grandchildren, being with his family made him the happiest.

Ferman is survived by his loving children, F. Edward (Janice) Rohraff, Daniel Rohraff, Cheryl Linder, and Jody (Steve) Gorgas; his siblings, Wesley (Virginia) Rohraff, Milo Rohraff, and Irene Fallot; his grandchildren, Jennifer (Joel) Baker, Jason (Lisa) Rohraff, Brent Gorski, Diane (Tre) Espinoza, Heather (Steve) Shenkosky, Kari (Carl) Dorr, Evan Gorgas, and Monica Gorgas; and 13 Great Grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Barbara Jean Rohraff, his parents, his daughter Monica Gorski, his granddaughter Lisa Reisner, his sister Lillian Rohraff, and his brother Merle Rohraff.

The visitation will be held Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Friday, February 14, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. Mr. Rohraff will be laid to rest next to his wife at Salem Walker Cemetery.

The family would appreciate memorial contributions to the Salem Community Events, P.O. Box 75041, Salem, MI 48175, please put in memory of Ferman Rohraff in memo line of check.

Please share condolences at [www.casterlinefuneralhome.com](http://www.casterlinefuneralhome.com)



### Uneven work history offers few clues

Leading up to his arrest in Moscow, Paul Whelan's life took several sharp turns that are hard to follow, and even harder to explain.

He and his twin were born in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to British parents. They were the youngest of four siblings.

The family moved to Michigan when they were boys, and grew up in Ann Arbor. Paul and David Whelan graduated from Huron High School in 1988, David Whelan said.

Because their grandparents were from Ireland, Paul Whelan was eligible for — and received — citizenship in all four countries.

He went on to attend Northern Michigan University in the fall of 1988, and continued his education there until December 1990, but did not obtain a degree. A spokesman for the school told the Free Press that Whelan was a management major when he arrived, and left the school as a political science major.

He later received bachelor's and master's degrees from Colorado Technical University. However, CTU would not confirm the dates those degrees were awarded or what Whelan's subjects of study were.

Whelan also worked for local law enforcement organizations, including the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, the Richmond Police Department and the Keego Harbor Police Department, while also enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

His former employers have some conflicting opinions about his work.

He was hired by former Richmond Police Chief Dennis Watkins in April 1998 as a part-time officer.

Whelan had an excellent work ethic, followed the rules and was a stellar employee, said Watkins, who is now retired. But when Watkins left the department in October 1998, his replacement, then-Richmond Police Chief Dennis Privette, fired Whelan.

Privette, who also is retired now, said within his first week on the job as chief of Richmond's police force, there was a complaint from a resident about Whelan. He declined to detail the nature of the complaint, saying only this:

"A lady, it involved something with her son. She was afraid to prosecute. ... I had a responsibility to interview her. She was worried about reprisals or, you know, vendettas. ... So I gave her my word that I wouldn't discuss it with anybody except the then-city manager, who was Darwin Parks at the time.

See WHELAN, Page 9B



## Whelan

Continued from Page 8B

"So Darwin Parks said, 'You do what you think is right.'"

"So, long story short, the first week I was there, I called him in. He was part time, and I pretty much told him: 'You're no longer working at my pleasure because of that.'"

The Free Press contacted Darwin Parks, who has since changed his name to Darwin McClary, to verify Privette's account of Whelan's firing.

"I have no specific recall of Mr. Whelan's time with the City of Richmond and will unfortunately be of little or no help to you in this regard," said McClary, who now works as city manager of Albion, in an email message.

Jon Moore, the current city manager for the City of Richmond, confirmed that Whelan worked as a part-time officer from April-October 1998, but noted that "he was an at-will employee. ... there was no reason given (for his termination)."

When Watkins moved on to serve as the police chief of Keego Harbor in 1999, he hired Whelan again.

His work was so good, he said, Mothers Against Drunk Driving gave Whelan an award.

In 2001, Whelan was hired by Troy-based Kelly Services, which offers consulting, temporary workers and workforce solutions for businesses around the world, according to his testimony in a 2013 federal court deposition.

Whelan said at the time that his title was senior manager of global security and investigations for the company. His job included campus security as well as electronic and IT-related security.

For at least a portion of his time at Kelly Services, Whelan's boss was Thomas Catalano.

"Paul worked for me as a security manager while I was the chief security officer and vice president at Kelly Services," Catalano said in an email to the Free Press. "... I hope and pray repatriation efforts being taken on different levels are successful in bringing Paul home."

Catalano retired as an assistant to the special agent in charge of the Detroit Field Office before taking the job with Kelly Services.

Whelan took a military leave of ab-

sence from Kelly Services to serve in Iraq in 2004 and again in 2006, according to his service record.

He initially joined the Marine Reserves in 1994 and rose to the rank of staff sergeant in December 2004.

While stationed in Iraq, Whelan was part of the Lamplighter's Club, a group of service members who got together to enjoy good cigars.

"It's one of the unique pleasures that anyone can take advantage of, as everyone should take advantage of a fine cigar once in a while," Whelan said in a 2007 interview posted on the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing page of the Marine Corps website.

Whelan also was part of "The Rest and Recuperation Leave Program," which authorized 15 days of leave to service members on yearlong deployments to Iraq, according to another 2007 story on the website.

Whelan spent his two weeks off in Russia, saying in the interview that the leave program "gives those of us who are single an opportunity to travel throughout the world wherever we want to go and experience the diversity of culture."

He returned several times to Russia after that initial trip, and made friends during those visits — many with ties to the Russian military.

During his military career, Whelan received awards that included the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

But in 2008, Whelan was convicted at a special court-martial on several charges related to larceny involving writing bad checks and using someone else's Social Security number. He was given a bad-conduct discharge at the rank of private.

The same year, the first mention of Kingsmead Arsenal, his online firearms business, was made on his website. There, he invited people to click on a link to see firearms "that are right for your shooting and hunting needs."

Despite his court-martial and felony conviction, Whelan continues to hold a federal firearms license that doesn't expire until October. Kingsmead Arsenal is registered to the same address as his Novi apartment.

### An ordinary trip takes a disastrous turn

In early 2017, Whelan left Kelly Ser-

vices and began to work for BorgWarner as head of global security, said company spokeswoman Kathy Graham.

BorgWarner doesn't have facilities in Russia, Graham said, but does have a history of doing business there.

BorgWarner supplied Kamaz Inc., Russia's largest truck-maker, with turbochargers, fan drives and high-performance fans, according to U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission documents.

BorgWarner sponsored Whelan's visa, his lawyers have said, and in messages they've relayed to his family, Whelan said he believes his arrest might be tied to politics involving U.S. sanctions.

BorgWarner declined to comment on those claims.

Although Whelan has gotten plenty of support from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman Jr., Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has had little to say about his case.

Just a few days after Whelan's arrest in Moscow, Pompeo issued the following statement: "We've made clear to the Russians our expectation that we will learn more about the charges, come to understand what it is he's been accused of, and if the detention is not appropriate we will demand his immediate return."

But since then, Pompeo has been silent about Whelan's case.

President Donald Trump hasn't said anything, either.

At a court hearing in June, Whelan, who is a Trump supporter, made an appeal directly to the president for his release.

"Mr. President, we cannot keep America great unless we aggressively protect American citizens wherever they are in the world," he told reporters while standing inside a glass cage in Moscow City Court. He also asked for assistance from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, then-British Prime Minister Theresa May and Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar.

"I am asking the leaders and governments in Ottawa, Dublin, London and Washington for their help and public statements of support."

### Calling in the cavalry

The worry began just before the new year, when the Whelans got an email from Paul's friend in Russia saying that

he didn't show up to the wedding.

On New Year's Eve, the first Russian media reports surfaced, and the following day, the story of his brother's arrest exploded in the American news media.

The family quickly divided tasks based on their strengths.

Overnight, David Whelan — who is the director of legal information at the Great Library for the Law Society of Ontario — became a media guru, handling media calls and interviews. His brother Andrew Whelan became the point person for dealing with the embassies. Their sister, Elizabeth Whelan, a portrait artist, became a lobbyist.

Elizabeth Whelan lives on Chappaquiddick Island in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Massachusetts. The tiny speck of land is connected by sandbar to Martha's Vineyard.

She had never before lobbied Congress or pressed for action on an issue with a presidential administration.

But after her brother's arrest, she found herself taking two ferries, a bus and a train to Washington about a dozen times within 12 months, making the rounds at congressional offices, talking to politicians, diplomats, anyone who might be able to play a role in her brother's exoneration and release.

Elizabeth Whelan met with former U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton in June. He tweeted about their visit, writing: "Russia has provided no evidence of wrongdoing" in her brother's case.

She thought she'd successfully courted an administration ally, but by September, Trump had ousted Bolton from the job.

In September, Elizabeth Whelan stood in a room in the basement of the Capitol surrounded by politicians and lawyers to announce House Resolution 552. Introduced by U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, D-Rochester Hills, the resolution later passed unanimously, and called on Russia to release Whelan or produce the evidence that proves he's a spy.

A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate by U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, D-Michigan, but has yet to receive a vote.

And so, until his trial, or until something happens behind the scenes at the highest levels of government, the Whelan family marches on.

"The cavalry doesn't come to your rescue even though you want them to, so we have to be the cavalry," Elizabeth Whelan said.

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rhoecc.net

## Novi

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www.firstunitedmethodist.org

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• Email: fbcsouthlyon@fbcglobal.net  
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### How to make work friends when working remotely

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

The modern work world has seen tons of changes sweep across industries in recent years, largely led by seismic shifts in technological innovation that have completely revolutionized how many of us handle our jobs. There's simply no denying it: today's workplace is a brave new world. How we work and what we're able to accomplish during any given day has been undergoing a radical transformation in recent years and will likely continue to evolve – those of us who choose to stay on top of all the latest developments and ride the wave of change will be best positioned for success; those who fail to do so may be left behind.

Even where we're able to work has changed. Where once we were all required to commute each day, back and forth, to a communal workplace in order to do our jobs effectively, this is no longer a hard and fast rule. Many companies have begun offering remote work options, and today's employees are able to handle their work responsibilities from the comfort of their homes, from a coffee shop, on a train, or wherever they find themselves in the world at any given moment. For many of us, all we need is a computer and a decent Internet connection in order to get things done at work. These days, there's an app for virtually every task, from project management to task organization and reporting, to video conferencing, to sales aggregation, and much more – all which are making the notion of a "brick and mortar" office space increasingly obsolete.

Global Workplace Analytics recently reported that telecommuters represent the fastest-growing segment of the em-



GETTY IMAGES

ployee population, and it's really no surprise.

Companies benefit from this arrangement by reducing overhead costs and having an engaged and motivated workforce who can channel time wasted on commuting into their work. Reduced geographic requirements for employees also open up opportunities for hiring talented individuals from a larger and more diverse pool. Then, employees get to save the time and costs associated with commuting into work each day and enjoy increased freedom and flexibility. In many ways, it's a win-win situation.

That said, there are some potential pitfalls to working remotely. For some, it can be an isolating experience. When working remotely, connecting in meaningful ways to colleagues becomes more of a challenge, and making work friends and maintaining these key relationships is harder and takes more work. This can have a real and lasting impact on employees' sense of connection to

the companies that employ them, as well as their professional happiness and well-being. That said, there are ways to make friends when working remotely. Consider the following strategies to help you pull it off successfully.

#### Come in the office from time to time if you can

Many companies offer telecommuting as an option, but still, provide a dedicated workplace to come into should employees choose to do so – and seriously consider doing so! Dividing your workweek between time in the office and time at home will help you get valuable face time with your coworkers, and help you strengthen and maintain those important workplace friendships.

#### Get out of the house

Working remotely doesn't have to mean working from home – and work

friends don't necessarily have to be people you work with. There's a whole universe of remote workers who find public places to get things done. You'll likely run into remote workers in places as wide-ranging as libraries, coffee shops, restaurants, and other public venues with free Wi-Fi; consider working from one of these spaces and try talking to your fellow telecommuters. Who knows – you may have lots of things in common and find yourself making new work friends in no time!

#### Make a better effort

Just because it gets harder to make work friends as a telecommuter doesn't mean it's impossible. If you'd like to make and keep work friends when working remotely, you're going to have to put yourself out there. Use social networks and video conferencing tools to keep in touch on a regular basis. Keep each other up to date on how things are going by using available messaging resources (email, Hangouts, Slack, etc.). Organize after-work events and activities with colleagues so you can see each other more often. Work friendships are just like other types of friendships – they require effort on your part, so don't forget to nurture these relationships.

Telecommuting may open up a world of new work options for you, but you don't have to blindly accept the potential loneliness that some people experience when working remotely. Use the strategies and advice presented here to ensure that your work friendships are as satisfying as your work. Good luck!

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

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# THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

## ACROSS

- 1 Unicellular swimmer  
7 Fold in a skirt  
12 Jolie of film  
20 The "R" of 33-Down  
21 Actor Cox  
22 Prepared for storage, as a hose  
23 Endlessly repeating programming problem  
25 Fashion designer in "The Incredibles"  
26 Hwy. felony  
27 Man-mouse middle  
28 What iPads run on  
30 "Boston Legal" actor James  
31 Higher, spiritual level of awareness  
38 Get a whiff of  
40 Lift to check the weight of  
41 Gig hookup  
42 PC key abbr.  
43 Elicitor of a major "Whew!"  
46 Zodiac ram  
48 Truckload  
51 Basso solo, e.g.
- 52 Eligible for Soc. Sec.  
53 Head honcho  
57 Some hole menders  
59 Force unit  
60 Bouffant, e.g.  
61 Pipe joint  
62 — Yello (Coca-Cola brand)  
64 China's Zhou —  
68 Sharon of "Cagney & Lacey"  
69 M114 howitzer, e.g.  
72 Prickly shrub  
75 Occurrence  
76 — d'Or (Cannes award)  
77 G-man, e.g.  
80 Cousin's mommy  
82 Actresses Carrere and Mowry  
84 "Look here as well," in a reference book  
86 1931 crime film starring Edward G. Robinson  
90 — Juan  
91 Late hours, in ads
- 92 Minneapolis-Montreal dir.  
93 King of CNN  
94 1971 Elton John song  
97 CD — drive  
100 Comical Costello  
101 Just OK  
102 Microwaves  
103 Bacterium, e.g.  
109 Blissful  
110 "General" of Chinese cuisine  
111 Miracle — (plant food)  
112 Vocalist Sumac  
115 Not together  
118 2, for helium  
123 Like rags  
124 Follow, as a pointer  
125 Join a force  
126 Evaluates  
127 Partner of Cheech  
128 Chinese system of calisthenics

## DOWN

- 1 Quite dry  
2 Bill of fare  
3 She may be a gofer  
4 Wallach of "Lord Jim"  
5 Actor Affleck

## 6 Universal truth

- 7 "Amen, pastor!"  
8 Online chuckle  
9 Roxy Music's Brian  
10 Put holy oil on  
11 Manuscript mistakes  
12 King beater  
13 Nonverbal "yes"  
14 Knife of old infomercials  
15 Pass, as time  
16 French racing city  
17 "Upon my word!"  
18 "David" and "The Thinker"  
19 Imitating sorts  
24 Prefix with state  
29 Make afraid  
32 Fake fat in some chips  
33 Kind of camera, in brief  
34 Just-OK grade  
35 — a mile (not even close)  
36 "Yes, sign me up"  
37 14-member oil gp.
- 38 Color  
39 Wall painting  
44 Did it wrong  
45 "Gigi" star Caron  
46 G-man, e.g.  
47 "Quiet down"  
49 Chances  
50 New Mexico skiing spot  
54 Lethargy  
55 "You got that right!"  
56 Floral symbol of purity  
58 Former "Top Chef" judge  
59 Rounded roof  
63 "P.S. I — U" (old TV show)  
65 They may be glossed over  
66 Carte lead-in  
67 "You got that right!"  
69 "Joey" star LeBlanc  
70 Anxious  
71 Make revisions to  
72 Farm bundle  
73 Lay waste to  
74 Picks off, as a pass  
77 Lighter catchphrase in old ads  
78 Lauder of fragrances
- 79 Active types  
81 Sometimes-jellied fish  
83 — Detoo (sci-fi droid)  
85 Latin for "year"  
87 Trig is a prereq for it  
88 Ending for buck or stink  
89 Spew lava  
90 Being amorous, to Brits  
95 Jerusalem's nation: Abbr.  
96 Darth Vader, as a kid  
98 Rooooo  
99 Watery silks  
101 Whiskey type  
103 Political hostess  
104 Thoughts  
105 Injury marks  
106 Singer Hayes  
107 Bow's shape  
108 Tune for nine  
113 Fit together  
114 Beginner's painting class  
116 Pipe joint  
117 Mag staff  
119 Western tribe  
120 Sun.-Tue. link  
121 Article in Argentina  
122 1,051, in old Rome

## SUDOKU

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

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!

## VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

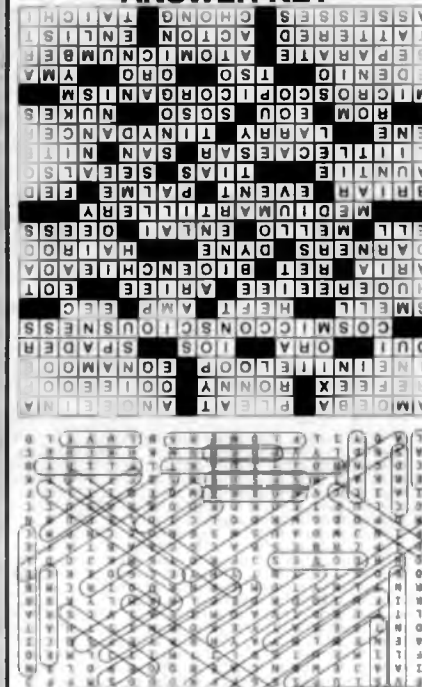
T R E S S E D E F S T B O U Q U E T U V  
D V S L U P S E G F P R D D O S M F F J  
I A A J E W B N L A E B Q G G E P O L S N  
F L I M E U I S D L I T M I J L M E O  
A E N E M L M Y A Y H R R Y E F S Q C I  
D N T J E S A T Y E K O R W I S T H A T  
L T F E R D I V A Q M I E A I V C S R A  
K I F U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

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

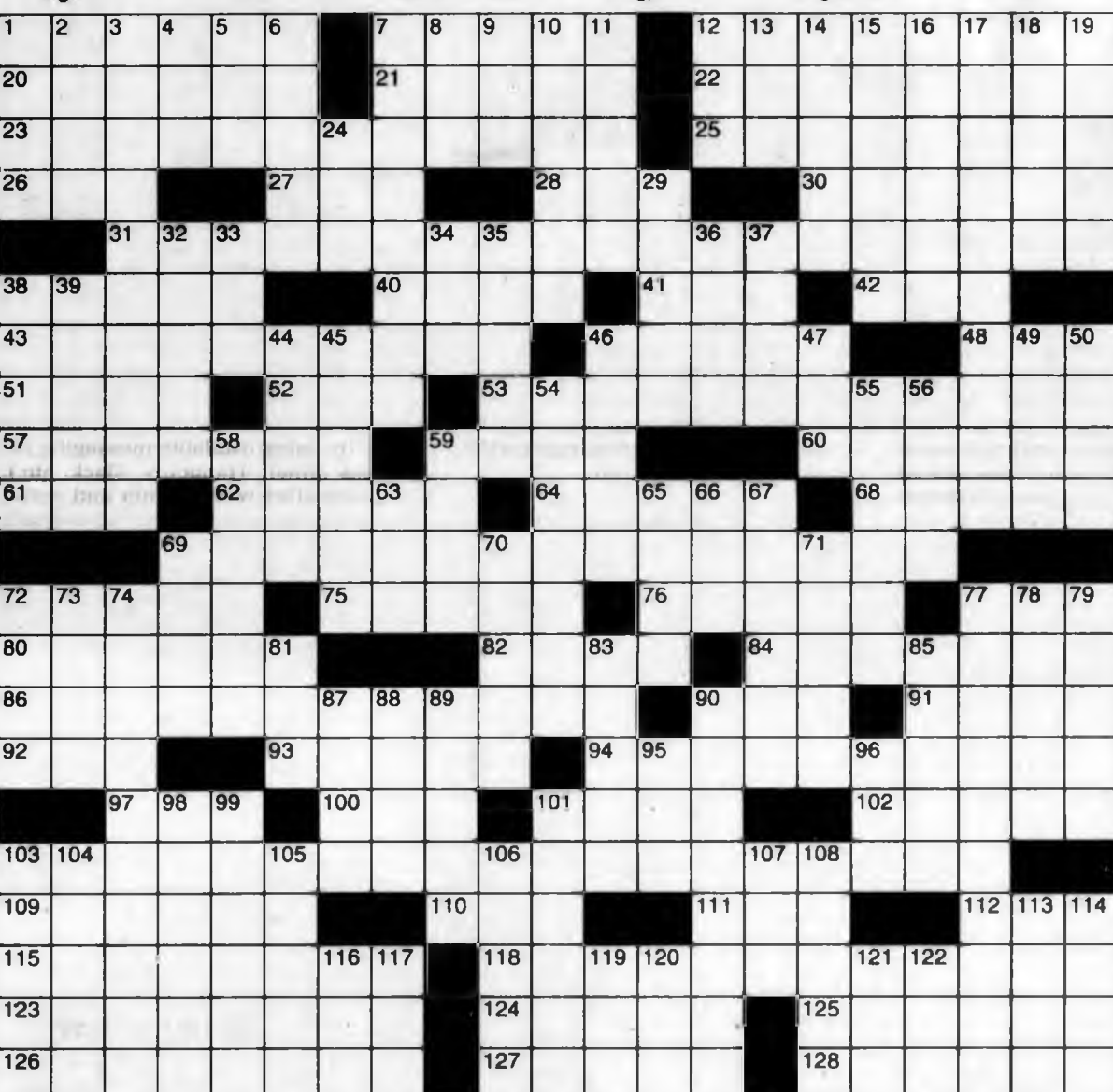
## WORDS

ANNIVERSARY  
ARROW  
BOUQUET  
CANDY  
CARDS  
CELEBRATION  
CHOCOLATE  
CUPCAKE  
CUPID  
DESSERT  
DOVES  
EMBRACE  
FEELINGS  
FLIRT  
FLOWERS  
GIFTS  
HEARTS  
HOLIDAY  
HUG  
JEWELRY  
KISS  
LACE  
LOVE  
MARRIAGE  
MEMORIES  
MUSIC  
POEM  
RELATIONSHIP  
ROMANCE  
ROSES  
SAINT  
SERENADE  
SWEET  
TRADITION  
VALENTINE  
WOO

## ANSWER KEY



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



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

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P23759 For This Special Pricing  
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16' MKX AWD 28K MILES \$25400  
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15' PATRIOT AWD 38K MILES \$13700  
P23656A For This Special Pricing Call  
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15' TERRAIN 86K MILES \$13677  
19T483A For This Special Pricing  
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16' WRANGLER 24K MILES \$24300  
19T0030A For This Special Pricing  
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16' F150 XLT 22K MILES \$30500  
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16' F150 XLT 33K MILES \$29300  
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15' F150 XLT 51K MILES \$27600  
P23744 For This Special Pricing Call  
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