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Novi schools to begin later start times

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Teens and tweens may have enjoyed waking up a little later during the pandemic due to virtual school.

When school returns this fall in Novi, sleeping in may be the new norm. The district will implement a change

to school start times that was planned just three months before the pandemic hit the state, but was delayed.

"We are definitely going with the new start times," said RJ Webber, assistant superintendent for academic services. "These start times give us the ability to start our day in a way that is medically healthier for our kids."

He noted the new, later school day start of 8:30 a.m. at the middle school is "particularly wonderful" for seventh and eighth graders, as they are still growing, and called the later high school start time of 8 a.m. a "beautiful swing" from the previous start time of 7:15 a.m.

Novi began serious research into school start times more than two years

ago and approved changes to start times for all K-12 students in December 2019.

It was a juggling act with sports, bus schedules and childcare. Additionally, to accommodate later start times for older students, younger students will start earlier.

See **START TIMES**, Page 3A

South Lyon student perseveres after losing her mom

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Grace VanBoven graduated from South Lyon High School last month having learned some extraordinarily hard lessons.

Missing from the crowd will be her mother, Michelle VanBoven, who died when Grace was just 9 years old and in fourth grade.

Grace's mother lost her battle with cancer, a fight that had begun when her daughter was 7. Despite the tragedy, Grace showed a determination to succeed.

As a result, she is the winner of the 2021 Perseverance Award.

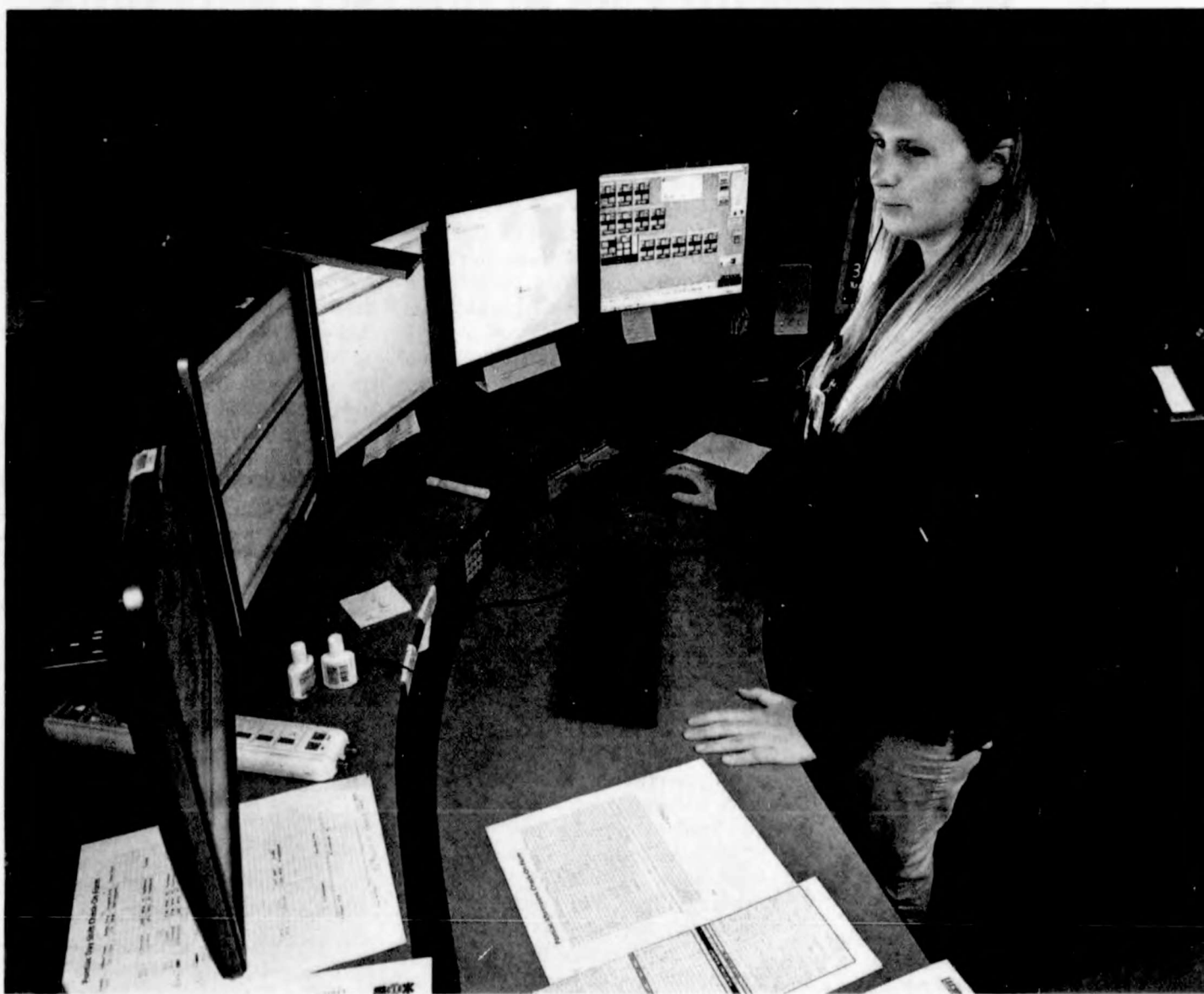
"I think my mom would be really proud of me," Grace VanBoven said. "I will graduate in the top 10 of my class and I'm going to U of M, and it is all I have wanted since I was 7. I think she would be really proud of everything I have done so far."

Grace and her family, which also includes her dad, Andy, and siblings Emma, 22, Zach, 21, and Katie, 16, moved into the South Lyon school district when Grace was in first grade.

Michelle VanBoven was "incredibly caring, fun to be around and the life of the party," Grace remembers.

When Michelle was diagnosed with cancer, she went through six months of treatment and was then in remission, but the cancer returned by the time Grace was in third grade.

See **STUDENT**, Page 3A



Oakland County Dispatch employee Aubrey Higgins works at the sheriff department communication office June 15. Higgins began training to become a dispatcher in November. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Oakland County dispatchers train to be masters of chaos

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Aubrey Higgins proved to her trainers that she was prepared to master Oakland County chaos on her own.

The new telecommunicator graduated from six months of 911 call center training by organizing emergency re-

sponses to a busy simulated half-hour's worth of events that included a fire, a car crash, fighting and injuries.

There also were the updates she had to provide to first responders that included participating deputies and those who have seen the Milford High School graduate and former Marine get to this turning point.

The exercise was called a stress test.

When asked what the stress test was like, Higgins confirmed that she was "stressed out" throughout.

The room of trainers, fresh from congratulating the 28-year-old on a job well done, burst into laughter.

See **DISPATCHERS**, Page 3A

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Volume 151 | No. 50
Home delivery pricing inside
©2021 \$1.50



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Ex-firefighter charged with burning down his own home

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A former Northville firefighter recently was arraigned on two felony arson charges in connection to a fire that destroyed his home in Plymouth Township.

Patrick Nolan, 40, is now residing at Wayne County Jail. He is expected to return to 35th District Court later in July.

He faces a charge of arson of an insured dwelling, which could mean life in prison if he is convicted, and a charge of second-degree arson, which could mean 20 years in prison.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has been investigating the Sheffield Court fire with the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services' Fraud Investigation Unit.

According to Nessel's statement July 8, Plymouth Township police and fire were dispatched to Nolan's home in the early morning hours of Jan. 1, 2019. The home was insured for loss caused by fire.

Their investigation revealed:

- Fire ignited in three unconnected areas: the master bedroom, a basement storage room and a common hall at the top of the basement stairs.
- The first material ignited was gasoline.
- An open flame ignited the gas vapors.
- A human caused the fire.
- Nolan's truck was parked at the residence less than two hours before a neighbor reported the fire.

Nolan's bond was set at \$250,000. His attorney, Christopher Quinn II, declined to comment.

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK
Northville Record (USPS# 396880) is published weekly (Thursday) by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226. Periodicals postage is paid at Detroit, MI and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Northville Record, 160 W Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226.

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Follow us on Facebook: @OEHometown

Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50
\$65 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon
Afterhours, leave voicemail
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Northville mayor, council members file for reelection

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With the filing deadline days away, three Northville government officials have made their reelection bids official.

As of July 12, first-term Mayor Brian Turnbull is the only resident who has filed officially to run for mayor in the Nov. 2 election. Incumbent city council members Andrew Krenz and Patrick Giesa are the lone applicants for the two four-year city council seats up for grabs in November.

The deadline to file for the positions is July 20.

Turnbull unseated Ken Roth in 2019.

"Two years ago, I decided to represent Northvillians as their mayor to ensure we had thoughtful development that reflected Northville's historic character," Turnbull said. "Additionally, I wanted to revive and re-energize important community initiatives. My top priority as mayor was to provide Northville a future with compassion and collaboration through engaged and informed citizen involvement in city government."

Turnbull said he is proud of the role



Giesa Krenz Turnbull

he has played in helping Northville navigate the COVID-19 pandemic by, in part, securing a vaccine clinic for residents and working with the Downtown Development Authority and businesses to launch the nationally-recognized "Heat in the Street" program.

"My parents always encouraged us to learn, do and give back," Turnbull said. "This is the 'give back' phase of my life, to ensure Northville is on a trajectory to be the place we envision for our children and grandchildren. Northville is home to many talented and successful residents who want to see their community thrive."

"I do this out of love for the community. I am truly looking forward to having all our gateways and these initiatives come to fruition by our bicentennial celebration in 2027. We can do this ... together."

Krenz, who was appointed March 25 to replace council member Sam Ekong, said he is running to retain his council seat because "I believe in serving my neighbors and have a family with three young children that I want to have the same passion about this community and service that I do."

Krenz currently serves on the city council, planning commission and Farmer's Market Task Force.

"I am deeply involved and understand the many imminent challenges and opportunities facing our city," Krenz said. "At a professional level, I am engineering the future of our zero emission electrified and autonomous vehicles for GM and want to bring those learnings on infrastructure and sustainability to our hometown at a key time."

A resident of Northville since 1998, Giesa was elected to the city council in 2017. He serves on the Board Commissions Selection Committee, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Liquor License Review Committee, Northville City Sustainability Team and Northville's Senior Advisory Council.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1133.

Three local intersections rank among state's most crash prone

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michigan Auto Law, a firm specializing in car, truck and motorcycle accidents, released its annual list of Michigan's 20 most dangerous intersections. Intersections in Commerce Township, Redford Township and Farmington Hills made the top 10.

The list is based on crash data from the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center.

"Our goal is driver safety," said Steven Gursten, president of Michigan Auto Law. "We give drivers this information so they can plan alternative routes if possible, and to be aware of the extra caution needed when driving in these areas."

Last year, Martin Parkway at Pontiac Trail had 110 crashes and four injuries, while Schoolcraft at Telegraph saw 108 crashes and 27 injuries.

Fourteen Mile at Orchard Lake sits near the border of Farmington Hills with West Bloomfield Township, but the intersection, which is a roundabout, is in Farmington Hills. The area saw 89 crashes and 11 injuries last year. "We have lots of accidents at that roundabout," Farmington Hills Police Assistant Chief Dan Rodriguez said. "We're glad there are no fatalities, and the good thing is that because it is a roundabout, there's less fatalities."

Rodriguez said 14 Mile at Orchard Lake is by far the city's most danger-

ous intersection because of high traffic volume. The intersection is bordered by several large shopping centers and a few restaurants.

Due to the intersection's high crash volume, the department has increased presence there. Rodriguez said drivers keeping an eye on speed and staying in their designated lane would help them stay safe, especially in roundabouts.

"We recommend people slow down, read signage and yield the right of way," he said. "I know roundabouts are newer to us here in Michigan, so they tend to make people nervous."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.

Michigan's top 10 most dangerous intersections

- 1 18½ Mile Road at Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights
- 2 11 Mile Road/I-696 at Van Dyke Avenue, Warren
- 3 U.S. 131 at Wealthy Street, Grand Rapids
- 4 Martin Parkway at Pontiac Trail, Commerce Township
- 5 Schoolcraft Road at Telegraph Road, Redford Township
- 6 Burton Street Southwest at U.S. 131, Grand Rapids
- 7 Orchard Lake Road at 14 Mile Road, Farmington Hills
- 8 12 Mile Road at I-94, Roseville
- 9 Telegraph Road at 12 Mile Road, Southfield
- 10 Connor Street at I-94, Detroit

— Based on crash data from the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center

Oakland backs conviction integrity unit

Elisha Anderson Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office is a step closer to launching a conviction integrity unit to investigate potential wrongful conviction cases. County leaders, including Prosecutor Karen McDonald, County Executive David Coulter and commissioners, gathered showed support for the unit. Coulter will include \$350,000 for the unit in his budget, which must then be approved by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

"There are a lot of reasons why there could be wrongful conviction, but right now there's no mechanism within this office to address it," McDonald told the Free Press. "... it's just a message to our county that sometimes we get it wrong."

She hopes to have the unit operational this fall and has a stack of letters from prisoners seeking to have their cases reviewed. The unit would be the third of its kind in Michigan.

There are two offices with existing conviction integrity units in Michigan — the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and the Attorney General's Office. Demand for investigations from those units has contributed to massive backlogs and hundreds of prisoners are waiting for their cases to be reviewed.

Conviction integrity units have grown in popularity throughout the country in recent years, garnering support from both Democrats and Republicans.

The units investigate claims of innocence to determine whether new evidence shows a person had been wrongfully convicted. The decision to set aside a conviction ultimately rests with a judge.

**City of Northville
Proposed Amendment to
City of Northville Code of Ordinances
to Establish Standards for the Operation of Construction Sites**

At its July 6, 2021 regular meeting, the Northville City Council moved to table the first reading of proposed amendments to the Code of Ordinances to the July 19, 2021 City Council meeting to allow City Administration to make changes to the draft ordinance based on input received from the City Attorney and City Council. The revisions to the proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinances, which will be considered for first reading on July 19, 2021, would amend Chapter 14 Buildings and Building Regulations by adding Article XIII Construction Site Operations. The proposed ordinance amendment would establish standards for the operation of construction sites in the City of Northville. These standards will minimize negative impact to adjacent properties and provide clear communication to permit holders of the City of Northville's expectations. The proposed ordinance would also delete Section 90-35(b) Restrictions Within Drip Line in Chapter 90 Vegetation as tree protection fencing requirements are proposed to be included in the established Standards to be adopted by City Council.

Meeting Location and Participation
The meetings for first and second reading will be held via video conference as allowed by City Council's Local State of Emergency Declaration due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Members of the public body and members of the public participating electronically will be considered present at the meeting and may participate as if physically present at the meeting. The following is a link to attend the meetings:

July 19 at 7:00pm first reading: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/58680342992>,
US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656, Webinar ID: 856 8034 2992

August 2 at 7:00pm proposed second reading: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87301171796>,
+1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656, Webinar ID: 873 0117 1796

Those needing assistance or accommodations should contact the City Manager's office at 248-449-9905. Log in instructions, electronic meeting information, and a user guide can be found at: <https://www.ci.northville.mi.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=11895963&pageId=13505469#city> OR from the main Home page, click on the Government tab, then Agendas and Minutes, scroll to the City Council section of the webpage, then scroll down to the link for the Council meeting.

The proposed ordinance amendment is available for review on the City's website www.ci.northville.mi.us (go to Government, Governing Documents, and Proposed Ordinance Amendments) or at the City of Northville Municipal Building, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-349-1300, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4:30pm.

Written comments can be submitted by email to mnassel@ci.northville.mi.us, by mail to City of Northville Municipal Building, City Manager's Office, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, or by using the City Hall 24-hour drop box.

BRENT STRONG, BUILDING OFFICIAL
DIANNE MASSA, CMC, CITY CLERK

Published: July 15, 2021

**CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF PROVISIONS OF THE
NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE**

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush, or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of eight (8) inches, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Novi, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed as the case may be, at least twice in each year, once during the last half of the month of May and again during the last half of July of each year and more often as may be necessary.

If the owner or occupant, or any person or persons, agent, firm, or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land or lots or any other non-subdivided parcel of land upon which any building or buildings have been erected shall fail, refuse, or neglect to comply with the above mentioned Code provisions, the city shall cause the weeds, grass, brush, deleterious, unhealthy growths, rubbish, to be cut down, destroyed, or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the floodplains or any natural streams or watercourses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or watercourses shall be exempted from the provisions of such Code provisions. The expense incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction, or removal of same, together with an administrative charge established pursuant to resolution of City Council, will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

Charles Boulard, Building Official
City of Novi

Published: July 15, 2021

Dispatchers

Continued from Page 1A

Stress was the whole point, since controlling and converting stress into a response that saves lives is key to succeeding at this career that, on average, lasts less than a decade for those who give it a try.

Lt. Jen Miles, who manages Oakland County's Emergency Communications and Operations Division, has been in the midst of advertising for new telecommunicators.

To draw them into the field and to stay competitive, the county had been offering a \$3,150 hiring bonus.

The profession, Miles noted, attracts a certain personality.

"We don't fail. We don't ask for help. We don't hurt. We don't cry," Miles joked, prompting some laughter from her colleagues. "The fact of the matter is, if you don't, you will fail because this is not an individual sport. This is definitely a team sport."

Therefore, the stress test is intended to show the new telecommunicators that they can be that saving grace for people calling 911, and for police, firefighters and ambulance crews in the field. Another lesson is that they can lean on others for help.

This job gets attention

Government data reveals dispatchers nationwide earn a median annual pay of about \$43,300. The Oakland County openings are being advertised with pay of about \$41,000 to approximately \$63,000 with overtime.

While some praise dispatchers as unsung heroes, they're not shielded from criticism when disasters and tragedies happen.

Michigan headlines are a testament to what happens when 911 centers go awry, because of mechanics, dynamics or individuals who failed those in need.

Employees at Telway Hamburgers, a Detroit establishment, called 911 three times during the early morn-



Amy Smith, a shift coordinator for Oakland County's dispatch system, talks about coordinating the area's emergency communication needs.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ing hours of May 23, because people were trying to break inside. According to reports, police didn't show up until two days later.

Attorney Jon Marko still remembers the Detroit family that filed a wrongful death suit because a 5-year-old's 911 calls about his mother went ignored. Sherrill Turner had collapsed in their apartment and died from heart problems.

Marko acknowledged the pressure of the job by noting Americans are taught to call 911 if there's an emergency and that they can expect a professional to pick up.

"With this case, it really opened my eyes to just how wrong that is," he said. "The 911 system is not as reliable as we're taught and (as) many of us believe it to

be."

Marko is now representing Dorothy Greene, a widow who sued Canton Township and dispatchers Joshua Choroba and Rachel Rowell because 911 calls regarding her husband's heart attack in 2018 were ignored. Heartland Rehabilitation Center employees said they made as many as 70 calls to 911 the day Greene, 69, died.

Both dispatchers resigned. Court testimony for the case that has gone to the Michigan Court of Appeals has revealed that the volume on the emergency-dispatch system was turned down.

"The idea that an entire city's 911 safety net could be disabled by a single lazy person is mind-boggling," Marko said. "Why, and how, can a 911 system be disabled by someone doing something as simple as turning down the volume?"

"When we think about the 911 system ... I think of a secure system. It's not secure."

In training

When Higgins first walked into the dimly-lit room divided into various areas based on geography and services, she was struck by the technology and up-to-date equipment that surpassed the tools she had as a military police dispatcher.

Oakland County dispatches for more than 20 departments including for first responders in Higgins' hometown of Milford. Lyon Township, Highland Township, Franklin, Bingham Farms and Wixom all rely on the county's dispatch services for police and/or fire responses.

Higgins' new employer is budgeted to have about 80 telecommunicators under a lieutenant, a captain and five sergeants. There also are two quality assurance supervisors constantly evaluating calls and making sure the calls are responded to properly.

At any given time, the goal is to have about 20 people manning the dispatch center that's behind closed gates in Waterford Township, for security purposes.

See DISPATCHERS, Page 7A



South Lyon High senior Grace VanBoven will receive the South Lyon Educational Fund Perseverance Award.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Student

Continued from Page 1A

Grace remembers skipping school to go see "The Lion King" in the theater with her mom the same day she had a radiation treatment for the cancer which had metastasized in its return.

During this exceedingly difficult time, Grace had to grow up very quickly, making her own meals, ensuring her own homework was done accurately without assistance, and helping her younger sister.

"I wanted to make it easier for my parents," she said. "The priority needed to be making it better for my mom. I wanted to do everything I could so I wasn't something they had to worry about."

In August 2013, a month before Grace's 10th birthday, Michelle VanBoven died.

Grace had watched her mother fight for life for nearly three years and now faced her own challenges without her mom. She didn't want to share with others that her mother had died.

"At first, one of the biggest struggles I had, was with other kids, asking, 'Can your mom take us to do this?'" she recalled. "I was never comfortable making it known that my mom had passed away. I don't want people to have sympathy for me, I don't want it to change people's perspective. ... I still grew up in a great home. It's terrible and I wish I could change it, but I don't like people feeling bad for me."

Grace VanBoven said school has come naturally to her and she is on track to attend medical school. She may also study economics, thanks to her "exceptional" South Lyon High economics teacher Eric Davis.

VanBoven had to work a little harder to overcome some shyness. What got her out of her comfort zone was her job at Dick's Sporting Goods, participation on the student council and mentoring other students as a member of the LINK Crew.

What she is most proud of, she wrote in her essay application for the Perseverance Award, is her empathetic and independent nature, shaped by circumstances she would not choose, but to which she chose how to respond.

"I still think to myself, 'What would Mom say? Am I enough?'" she said. "For the past seven years, I've struggled with knowing that I am enough for myself and for her. ... Looking back, I can tell you that I do know it's not my fault. It's just the way the world works. However, I will never stop trying to make her



Grace VanBoven with her mom, Michelle, who died of cancer when Grace was just 9 years old.

COURTESY OF GRACE VANBOVEN

proud in anything that I do."

The South Lyon Educational Foundation selects one winner from each high school each year to honor with the Perseverance Award and the accompanying \$1,000 college scholarship.

"Each year, it brings us to tears to read the stories of these kids," said SLEF member Rachael Showerman. "It's difficult to choose, their stories are so powerful and inspiring. In our district, we talk a lot about habits of mind, and one that we discuss with students is perseverance. ... We celebrate kids from all different backgrounds with all different interests, especially those who have really difficult challenges and persevered to overcome them. They're both super powerful incredible stories."

"My dad is an incredible human being," VanBoven said. "There was a point in time I liked to argue with my dad a lot, but he handled it well. He is an amazing dad and I couldn't ask for a better one. He did a great job."

When she walked across the stage to accept her diploma, he was there to cheer her on. While she didn't hear her mom in the crowd, she was close in spirit.

In her essay, VanBoven wrote of how she envisioned her graduation, imagining a warm hug from her mother as the ceremony ends, with the scent of her perfume surrounding her.

"I'd look up to see tears in her eyes as she thought about another one of her kids growing up," VanBoven wrote, "and she'd whisper to me, 'You did it.'"

Start times

Continued from Page 1A

Webber said the first couple weeks of school in September "will be interesting" for fifth and sixth graders at Novi Meadows, where school will now start at 7:30 a.m.

All K-4 elementary schools in the district will start at 9 a.m.

The district had initially planned to implement these times in the fall of 2020, but even before the pandemic hit, plans changed after talks with teachers revealed other issues that needed to be addressed.

One of those issues was universal accommodations for increased test-taking time. At the Aug. 5 board of education meeting, Webber said a plan would be introduced in which all students would be offered extended time on internal assessment tests, not just students who have section 504 or individual education plans.

Other topics involve making grading less punitive and alternative ways for students to show their grasp of curriculum.

Webber is optimistic for the future after the most challenging year he has seen in his career in education.

"What we know from the pandemic, students are much more adaptable than us old folks, and they will adapt," he said. "All of our schedules were messed up during the pandemic, so it won't feel as dramatic if we were coming off a normal-esque year."

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

New school hours

- 7:30 a.m. to 2:22 p.m. at Novi Meadows (fifth and sixth grades)
- 8 a.m. to 2:44 p.m. at Novi High School
- 8:30 a.m. to 3:11 p.m. at Novi Middle School
- 9 a.m. to 3:52 p.m. at all elementary schools

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SEE OUR FULL PAGE AD

New owners add VR to Novi go-kart track

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The checkered flag now flies under a different name at the go-kart business at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk in Novi.

Aaron Banfield, the president and CEO of Full Throttle Adrenaline Park, thinks it's a change the community will embrace.

"This opportunity came up and we love it here," said Banfield, who lives in Cincinnati but grew up in neighboring West Bloomfield Township.

The former JD Racing Indoor Karting at 44225 W. 12 Mile has gradually been rebranded under the Full Throttle name since it was acquired in January. Banfield said the previous owners looked to move on to something new, deciding to sell the business to Full Throttle, which also operates centers in Sterling Heights; in Florence, Kentucky; and in Cincinnati.

The track has the same layout as when it was JD Racing, Banfield said. But other changes have arrived to the space, including the addition of a few virtual reality bays. There's hope, Banfield said, they could add other attractions, including a rage room: a space that allows guests to destroy whatever's inside.

"The rage room has gotten a lot more use post-COVID," he said. "It's a lot of fun."

They also hope to add outdoor seating and bring a liquor license in as well.

Banfield said he's not trying to add everything he can to the space, especially since he knows visitors to Fountain Walk will likely spend time at other nearby businesses that specialize in other activities.

"I'm a firm believer that a rising tide raises all ships," Banfield said. "Most people are not going to spend all their entertainment dollars with us. I know I like doing different things. And Fountain Walk has been fantastic. We have lots of entertainment."

The new owners marked the completion of the track's rebranding with a ribbon cutting June 15 with members from the city as well as the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

The model of how customers interact



At right, Full Throttle Adrenaline Park CEO Aaron Banfield talks about the Novi go-kart racing track June 15. Above, marketing director Tuesday Munsion takes a spin. At bottom right, employee Brendan Bloom works on a go-kart. The former JD Racing Indoor Karting has gradually been rebranded under the Full Throttle name since it was acquired in January.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



with the go-kart center has changed in light of COVID-19, Banfield said. Before, customers would pay by the race. But with restrictions on capacity placed on entertainment businesses, customers pay for blocks of time and can race as often as they'd like in that window.

"You have a two-hour block where you can do all the racing or all the VR that you want in that window, but it's scheduled," he said. "Between those windows, we have a chance to reset the facility, clean, do the appropriate sanitizing."

Add in the online booking system — new since last year to the company — and the new location for Full Throttle has become a positive amid a rough year.

"The last year was a truck full of lemons and there's an opportunity to make a lot of lemonade out of that," Banfield said.

To reserve a block of time, sign up either in person at the business or online at gofullthrottle.com.

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



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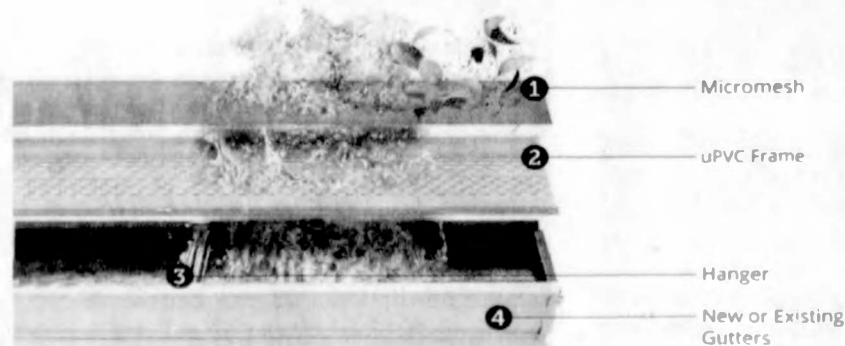
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The Michigan Elder Law Reporter™

JULY 2021

31 Years Serving Michigan Seniors

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 7.2

OPPOSITES ATTRACT

SECRETS EVERY BRIDE SHOULD KNOW... AND EVERY GROOM APPRECIATE!

NOT REALLY KIDNAPPING

SHE SAID WE WERE GOING OUT TO DINNER...
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT CHANGED OUR LIVES FOREVER



A Friday night in July. Hot. Humid. Threat of thunderstorms. Sue, a retired teacher, wheels the red Jeep Cherokee to the front door. Bob, an engineer, hops in, a bit mystified. "Where are we going?" he asks. "Your favorite steak place... Rico's Rocket Room. But first, a special pre-dinner appetizer..." she mysteriously replies. After 30 years of wedded bliss, Bob wisely refrains from further comment and settles down for the ride.

Most married couples are not a matched set. Opposites do attract. She likes paisley, chintz, and patterned wallpaper. He prefers solid primary colors, leather, and walnut paneling. You say, "Spare the rod and spoil the child!" Your loving spouse



whacks you in the head (figuratively!) with Doctor Spock's "Baby and Child Care" book (also known as "How to Coddle a Criminal"). You say "Tomato!" Loving spouse says "Rutabaga." You say "Potato." "My sister and her family are coming to visit for a week. With my mom." You say, well you say nothing at all. Or maybe, "Gosh, that'll be nice."

Couples who endure find ways of coping. Some delight joyfully in daily surprises dished up by their spouse. Others do not.



Noted finance guru, author, radio show host, and all-around wonderful fellow Dave Ramsey has observed: human beings are either natural spenders or natural savers. Not that there is anything wrong with either. But as you well know, natural savers

overwhelmingly marry natural spenders. And vice versa. Sometimes this does not work. Debt. Fights. Divorce. But sometimes it works well. Balance. Harmony. Peace.

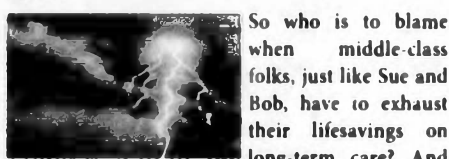
As a teacher, Sue is a natural planner. Lesson plans, grades, dates, times, objectives. Order. Sequence. Schedule. Engineer Bob thrills to the daily challenges he must solve. An overloaded dam. A rusting bridge. Floods. Washouts. Emergency. Danger. Solution.

Two great workers who work great together. But after 30 years, they still only have the Last Will and Testament drawn up when they first had kids. Sue hears the clock ticking. Sue has reserved seats at the LifePlan™

Workshop several times now. Bob has always had an "emergency." Of some sort. Including a dinner special at Rico's Rocket Room...

WHOSE FAULT WHEN NURSING HOME POVERTY STRIKES MIDDLE-CLASS SAVERS?

Sue and Bob are just like your friends. Just like the folks at church. Little or no debt. Lifesavings. Home. Taking one day at a time and making the most of it. Confidence based on accomplishment. Security founded on savings. Sue and Bob recognize that they're not experts on everything. A financial advisor helps. Medicare and Medicare Supplement insurance secure their future medical needs.



So who is to blame when middle class folks, just like Sue and Bob, have to exhaust their lifesavings on long-term care? And give up their security. Fall into nursing home poverty? Did the Financial Advisor screw up? Is the Medicare Supplement insurance agent at fault? Somebody must have done something wrong... right?

ARE YOU STEPPING INTO THE LONG-TERM CARE TRAP? Bottom Line: 70% of Americans need long-term care services for an average of 3+ years. 20% need long-term care for 5+ years. According to the federal government. Look it up. <https://acl.gov/ltc> You may not be interested in long-term care. But long-term care is interested in you.

READ ON... TO LEARN THE REST OF THE STORY

Financial Advisors try to keep your money safe. And **gosh** it too! **Safe Money Plans** claim to ride the market elevator up, but not down. Mutual funds, stocks, bonds, portfolio theory, annuities, retirement-year funds. They have charts and spreadsheets and glossy brochures. Have you ever been to a boat show? Salesmen, proposals, financing charts... You come home with a shopping bag full... Some financial advisors are kind of like that. Information overload... and all to do with: #1 Not losing your money in the market. And #2 Growing your money safely. All about investments and the market. But nothing about long-term care.

What about the Medicare agents? Medicare and Medicare Supplement insurance are intended, designed, and operate to make sure that seniors get top-shelf medical care. Need an operation? Medicare! Sick in hospital? Medicare! Broke hip? Medicare! But if you need long-term care for a chronic condition... dementia, physical disability... You are on your own! Sure, Medicare will help with rehabilitation, for a whole 20 days! And 80 more days, with a \$170/day co-pay. If you qualify for rehabilitation. Which you will not.

Traditional estate planning lawyers want no part of this. Estate planning is all about when you die. Who gets the leftover stuff? How can we stop the kids from fighting over it? That is their concern. Foolish! When long-term care gobbles up all your stuff, there are no leftovers. Nothing for your estate plan to do.

Here is a crazy idea: What if we first made sure that you did NOT go broke? What if you could avoid nursing home and long-term care poverty?

Traditional planning leads to nursing home and long-term care poverty.

LifePlanning™ is the "Rest of the Story." LifePlanning™ delivers freedom and choice. Sue and Bob earned the freedom to choose. By working. Saving. Doing all the right things. And they still fail, de-

pending on Financial Advisors and Medicare. They were close, but...

A baseball that soars over the fence is called a homerun. A baseball that nicks the top of the fence and falls into the centerfielder's glove is called an out. The celebrating football player who drops the ball one foot short of the goal line has a fumble. The one who protects the ball over the line has a touchdown. An almost win is a fail. A real win is a triumph... for you, for your family.

WHY SHOULD YOU GET STUCK WITH THE BILL?

As anyone can see, rich folks have it made. Were you surprised when leaked IRS records proved that billionaires pay little or no federal taxes? Me neither.

Folks who have no resources cannot pay. Simple as that. Last I heard, you still cannot get blood out of a turnip. So I say, poor folks get services for free.

The rich have fixed things so they do not pay. The poor have no ability to pay. Who does that leave? Who gets stuck with the bill? Who pays for it all?

You do. Sue and Bob do. Middle Class foots the bill. Which sucks. Of course, it is nothing new. Other people have always counted on you. For your entire life. To do the job. Follow through. Pay taxes. Volunteer. Pitch in. Donate to charity. Bring something home-made to the potluck. And I pray you never change. Keep on smiling. Be reasonable, cheerful, action oriented. Do not let them get you down.

But gee... why do you have to go broke when your spouse needs long-term care?

WHY DO THEY SAY YOU ARE GREEDY?

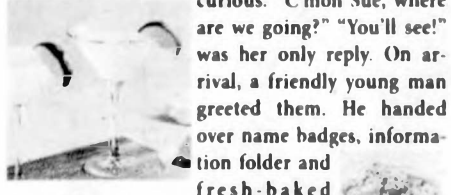
They get care for free or without sacrifice. Sue and Bob are charged the highest rates and are wrung out to dry in a few months. Broke. All we ask is to keep some, a little bit. They say "No!" Take those Required Minimum Distributions... Pay the income tax. Too bad if grandkids need help. Sorry if you want to provide for your spouse... or yourself. Want to pay a little bit forward? Nope. You did work for it, but too bad. What the hell makes that OK?

ARE YOU SELFISH BECAUSE YOU HELP FAMILY FIRST?

Sue and Bob are not selfish. Yes, some people are unlucky. True, bad things happen to good people. But seriously, some people are shortsighted and self-centered. They must have the new boat/car/snowmobile/TV/cruise/whatever right now. Some sacrifice security for pleasure. Greedy, selfish people do exist. Bad decisions are made. We will take care of them all. No problem. But Sue and Bob want to take care of their own family first... how can that possibly be a bad thing?

I EXPECTED A COCKTAIL AND HOT HORS D'OEUVRES.

I GOT AN OATMEAL RAISIN COOKIE AND A BOTTLE OF WATER. Minutes passed, miles rolled away, and Bob grew curious. "C'mon Sue, where are we going?" "You'll see!" was her only reply. On arrival, a friendly young man greeted them. He handed over name badges, information folder and fresh-baked



oatmeal raisin cookies. They chose bottled water over coffee. Sue and Bob were directed to their reserved seats. Several other couples, just like Sue and Bob, were there as well. Sue had finally gotten Bob to a LifePlan™ Workshop. After introducing himself, the attorney conducting the Workshop asked if there were any questions.

Bob raised his hand... "What is this all about? Sue said we were going to dinner and

YA GOTTA DO WHAT YA GOTTA DO

DO IT FOR THE CHILDREN

here I am!" "Well dear," said Sue, "this is that estate planning seminar we keep scheduling and cancelling..." "That's fine," said Bob, directing his comments to the attorney, "but there's really only one thing that bothers me, and it keeps me up at night... what if I get dementia and need a nursing home... we've got a little saved, but what happens to Sue?"

That Workshop was the best! Sue had no idea that these questions were eating at Bob every day. He was even more concerned than she had been. She was surprised at the number of his questions. I was impressed with his analysis.

I don't know what happened at Rico's Rocket Room, or after... but Sue and Bob have turned out to be one of my favorite couples of all time.

IS IT KIDNAPPING IF IT'S YOUR SPOUSE?

Getting your spouse to a LifePlan™ Workshop under false pretenses may be a bit extreme. But it is not kidnapping. Usually. Besides, desperate times call for desperate measures... You may not be sure exactly what to do.

As I see it, once you have decided to plan, you have three choices:

FIRST: SAME OLD, SAME OLD

GOOGLE estate planning lawyers. Or look in the Yellow Pages. Ask friends. Check out billboards on the highway. Set appointments with several. Spread your personal information all over town. Thoroughly interview each. Ask questions. Get fuzzy answers. Lots of legalese. This will be great!

SECOND: DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING

Who wants to plan anyway? Spend all that time and money for what? A will or trust? Peace of mind... who needs it? You do not need that security. You like exactly where you are. Get exactly what you have always gotten. Acid indigestion. Insomnia. Migraines. This is as good as it gets.

THIRD: LIFEPLAN™ WORKSHOP - KIDNAPPING OPTIONAL

Try it, you'll like it! Don't give up your current plan right now. LifePlan™ Workshops are happening all over the place. Check it out. Once again offering those famous fresh-baked oatmeal raisin cookies. Sixty eye-opening minutes. You will be glad you did.

There's no need to fear, the LifePlan™ Workshop is here!

WHICH IS EASIEST FOR YOU?

Let's see...

#1: Track down lawyers. Set appointments. Go to offices. Get third degree. Research. Try to pick... One Potato, Two Potato, Three Potato, Four...

#2: Sit Still and Go Broke.

#3: Sixty lively minutes. Getting the "Rest of the Story!"

Which one is easiest? Which most likely to help you to security and peace of mind?

WHY NOT GET IT DONE IN TWENTY-ONE?

I fear 2020 was a year of wasted opportunity for regular families. Devastating. The good news is that 2021 is rebounding! More families planning than ever!

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A guide to splash pads, pools in metro Detroit

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kids — and, let's be real, adults too — can find some relief on a hot day at a splash pad. They're cool, refreshing and friendly to non-swimmers.

And metro Detroit is full of them. Traci Romeo said her two sons love the splash pad at Farmington Hills' Heritage Park. They have a blast enjoying the water and soaking one another with water guns.

"We come here a lot," she said. "The kids love the splash pad."

Here's everything you need to know about the region's outdoor pools and splash pads.

Heritage Park in Farmington Hills

The free splash pad at Farmington Hills' Heritage Park is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day. The park is at 24915 Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads.

The city generally keeps the splash pad open through Labor Day.

When kids are finished with the fountains and sprayers, Heritage Park also has a playground, nature trails and fields perfect for a picnic or game of soccer.

"My kids love coming here," Rachel Verstraete said. "I can see the splash pad pretty much from anywhere, and it's pretty decent as far as shade goes. It being free doesn't hurt either."

LeeAnn Varga, who brings her kids to the park, added it's nice to have another playground nearby.

"I love that there's a park right there and it's shaded," she said.

Clements Circle Park in Livonia

Clements Circle, 9999 Harrison Street, has a pool and splash pad open through Labor Day. The pool is open 1-6:45 p.m. Monday and Friday; 1-8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and noon to 6:45 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. There is no open swim Wednesdays.

For Livonia residents, adults pay \$5 and children or seniors pay \$4 for a day pass. Residents can also purchase a season pass for \$75, adding \$25 for each additional person.



Splash 'N' Blast water park at Kensington Metropark in Milford has traditional splash pad elements, water cannons and two water slides. The park is open daily through Labor Day 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 3-6:30 p.m. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE



Jonathan Romeo reloads his squirt gun at the splash pad in Farmington Hills. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Non-resident adults pay \$9 and children or seniors pay \$7. Seasonal passes for non-residents cost \$150, adding \$35 for each additional person.

Shelden Pool in Livonia

Shelden, 33123 Van Court Ave., is a traditional pool kids and adults can enjoy. It is open through Aug. 22.

The pool is open 1-6:45 p.m. Monday and Friday, and noon to 6:45 Saturday and Sunday. It is closed Wednesdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Resident fees for adults are \$5 and children or seniors pay \$4 for a day pass. Non-resident adults pay \$9 and children or seniors pay \$7.

Botsford Pool in Livonia

Botsford, 19444 Lathers St., offers a pool both kids and adults can enjoy. The pool is open through Aug. 22.

Hours of operation are 1-6:45 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and noon to 6:45 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The pool is closed Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Resident fees for adults are \$5 and children or seniors pay \$4 for a day pass. Non-resident adults pay \$9 and children or seniors pay \$7.

Kirksey Recreation in Livonia

Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard St., has a splash pad open through August when weather permits.

Day passes for residents are \$5 for children aged 4 to 13 and seniors over 62, \$7 for teens and \$8.50 for adults. Non-residents pay \$10 for children and seniors, \$14 for teens and \$17 for adults. Any child younger than 3 years old is free.

A day pass also covers entry to the center's indoor pools, rock wall, gymnasium and other amenities.

H2O Zone in Westland

The H2O Zone is part of Central City Park, 1901 N. Carlson Street. It's open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily through Labor Day.

The spray park includes an 18-foot helicopter above ground that sprays water from the rotors and an overhead dump bucket. Central City Park also has a playground, free WiFi and plenty of places to sit.

See GUIDE, Page 7A

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Guide

Continued from Page 6A

Residents pay \$3 for a day pass or \$40 for an annual pass. Non-residents pay \$10 for a day pass and \$80 for an annual pass. The annual pass covers a family of up to six people.

Handy Park in Redford

Handy Park's free splash pad is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Handy is part of Capitol Park at 26590 Capitol Av.

The township also opens the splash pad on weekdays when the temperature is above 90 degrees.

The car-themed park offers plenty of

fountains and sprayers for kids to cool off in.

Capitol Park also has areas for tennis, inline skating, skateboarding, baseball and volleyball along with a walk/bike trail and playground.

Sprayscape in Plymouth Township

Plymouth Township's free Sprayscape splash pad is part of Plymouth Township Park, 46640 Ann Arbor Trail. It's open 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily through Labor Day.

The splash pad has plenty of sprayers as well as interactive elements like water cannons.

Township Park also has a playground, walking paths, baseball diamonds and a fishing pond.

Heritage Park in Canton

The splash playground at Heritage Park, 1150 S. Canton Center, is free and open through Labor Day.

Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Heritage Park also has pavilions, a playground, walk/bike paths, volleyball and baseball.

Splash 'n' Blast in Milford

Splash 'n' Blast is in Kensington Metropark at 4570 Huron River Parkway. Kensington has a \$10 car entry fee, and the splash pad is an additional \$4 per person.

The park has traditional splash pad elements as well as water cannons and two water slides.

The park is open daily through Labor Day 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and 3-6:30 p.m.

Kensington also has a beach, a walk/bike trail, farm, nature center, boat rentals, playgrounds and a disc golf course among other amenities.

Flodin Park in Canton

The splash park at Flodin, 43399 Saltz Road, is free and open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Flodin is the larger of the township's two splash pads.

People can also use a playground and walk/bike path as well as amenities for baseball, volleyball, basketball and tennis.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

Dispatchers

Continued from Page 3A

Last year the center – one of the largest in the state – took hundreds of thousands of calls.

Higgins' training for this job began with a three-week academy that involved learning the basics about the dispatch center, the county's operations, and protocols.

Then field training began. Higgins spent months with training officers, who walked her through on-the-job training and evaluated her progress. She met with a training supervisor every week until she took the stress test, passed the exam and was designated "on your own." However, she will have six more months of being watched and evaluated.

Higgins shared a secret with her trainers.

"I definitely – sorry, you guys – but I was thinking about quitting ... just a little bit," she said. "I feel like a lot of trainees kind of go through that in the very beginning."

"You have all this information thrown at you. You think, 'How am I going to excel at this job? How am I ever going to be able to remember everything?' As your training progresses, things stick. You're repetitive with a lot of things you do. I'm glad I didn't quit."



Lt. Jen Miles manages Oakland County's Emergency Communications and Operations Division. The center fields calls from all over Oakland County for its fire, police and other emergency services and then communicates those needs to the nearest provider. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

She is looking forward to joining her colleagues as a full-fledged master of chaos, working with those witnessing emergencies and giving them the resources they need.

Known factors

During her first six months, trainers

did their best to share the ups and downs of working with police, firefighters and paramedics on their runs.

Calls can come in by the hundreds for something as simple as a brush fire along the highway. The whole room might erupt in cheers when a baby is born, a life is saved or a missing person is found.

The pandemic slowed down Oakland County's usual dispatching rhythms, but with the return of big events and employees back at work, things are picking up once again.

Most Oakland County telecommunicators have more than two years of experience, and they'll be available if Higgins needs to step away or lean on someone.

"We're looking for them to say, 'I need help,'" Miles said. "That's when the shift leader or the (Law Enforcement Information Network) operator or partner is going to step in and say, 'OK. What do you need? Send me that channel. Send me this call. I will take over this. Gather yourself. Take that deep breath. Get your thoughts put together and then step back in.'"

"We don't ever want anyone literally throwing in the towel and leaving. We want them to understand it's OK to throw that towel in and ask for help. It's not OK to throw in that towel and leave."

Higgins thinks she has found a profession she can do long term, even if it means continuous training.

"I love being the first responder," she said. "As cheesy as that sounds, it's awesome being that first line for somebody, the first voice someone talks to when they really need someone."

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

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The Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps march in the Northville Independence Day Parade on July 5. The event was canceled last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Independence Day Parade returns to Northville

Ed Wright hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Stars, stripes and ear-to-ear smiles were abundant in downtown Northville on July 5 as the city's Independence Day Parade returned following a one-year COVID-19-created absence.

Although the parade was significantly shorter than in previous years and the bulk of its route was detoured to Cady Street because of the temporary closure of Main Street, the thousands of spectators who packed the Americana-coated town weren't complaining.

"It's just so nice to have it return after not having it last year," said Northville native and Canton resident Ashley Endicott, who attended the parade with her husband, Jared, and daughters, Ava and Audrey. "It's especially nice because our girls finally get to see a Fourth of July event and participate after missing out in 2020."

Jared Endicott added: "Ashley and I are both from Northville, so this parade has been a yearly tradition for us. We wouldn't have missed this for anything."

Plymouth resident Dawn Lent said she and her family embraced the parade's return because the annual Plymouth Fourth of July Parade was canceled for the second straight year.

"We love parades, especially this one because the Fourth of July is one of our favorite holidays," said Lent, who was accompanied by her four children. "It's so nice that we get to celebrate our freedom with an event like this."

One of Lent's two sons couldn't wait to see the police cars and fire trucks roll by their prime viewing spot near the intersection of Cady and Center streets. Her daughter Mariah, on the other hand, was looking forward to the appearance of clowns.

"I like the jugglers," Mariah Lent said. Although condensed, the parade was flavored with the usual staples: clowns, the Northville Marching Band, politicians and public safety vehicles, which served as the lead and anchor portions of the celebration.

Another highlight was the appearance of Miss Michigan 2021: Northville's own Vivian Zhong.

Produced by the Northville Chamber of Commerce, the parade kicked off at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Griswold and Cady streets. It moved west on Cady to Rogers Street, where it veered north to Main Street before ultimately ending at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church.

"I think everybody appreciates it so much more now because we didn't have one last year," said Marge Wisniewski, who helped prepare the Preservation Dental float minutes before the parade started. "It's an exciting time for downtown Northville."

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



A clown waves to the parade spectators.



Miss Maid-en America waves.



The Goldfish Swim School float shot out bubbles to the delight of parade-goers.



A girl wears patriotic apparel for Northville's Fourth of July parade.



Spectators line Cady Street to enjoy the parade, presented by the Northville Chamber of Commerce.



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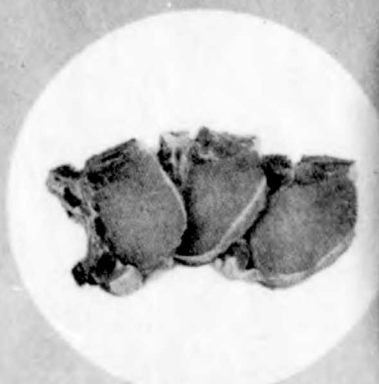
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GOING FOR GOLD



John Kusku has been on the U.S. Goalball team since 2014, participating in his first Paralympic Games in 2016. LIMA 2019

Commerce Twp. man to play goalball in Paralympic Games

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A bloody nose was all it took for John Kusku to fall in love with the sport of goalball.

He was at a sports camp at Western Michigan University, put on by the Michigan Blind Athletics Association. The 13-year-old went down to the court, donning the eyeshades and faced athletes who were bigger and stronger than him. Kusku remembers the sound of the ball thrown down the sideline and the feeling as it smashed him in his nose after diving to block the shot.

Diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa at age 5, leaving him without peripheral vision and very limited sight, Kusku had never been able to go as hard as he could at a sport. In goalball, he found something that he could put everything into. Played on a court with a goal extending to each end, three players have to defend a goal with masks over their eyes as one team attempts to throw a bells-filled ball into the goal past them.

It's a sport originally invented after World War II for veterans who had lost sight. And when Kusku first found it, it was a sport he never wanted to stop playing.

See GOALBALL, Page 2B



The U.S. men's goalball team won silver at the Rio Paralympics Games in 2016. The team included several players from Michigan. WHEELCHAIR SPORTS FEDERATION

"You can throw the ball as hard as you can and no other sport at that time in my life could I do that. I couldn't find a way to throw a ball hard because I would miss what I was throwing at and hurt somebody."

John Kusku

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Canton's Kroon gave girls soccer new life in postseason

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Morgan Kroon first started playing soccer because of her older brother Zackary.

He's her role model. She always wanted to do what he was doing, following him out to the backyard to kick the soccer ball for hours after picking up the game herself at age 4.

While Zackary Kroon went on to play soccer at Concordia University, Morgan made a name for herself at Canton. As a senior, she helped lead the Chiefs to their first district title since 2018 and to the regional final, despite finishing the regular season, 5-5-5.

Before going into districts, Kroon remembers talking with her teammates, each of them emphasizing the message of meaning behind each game ahead, igniting a level of focus and motivation the senior defender hadn't seen at times earlier in the season.

"We really didn't play like we wanted to win," Kroon said. "I think we struggled with that a little bit, so for us to know that something was on the line and because we all enjoyed playing with each other so much, it really put some more realization to it."

Canton girls soccer's bread and butter was its defense, recording nine shutouts - holding opponents scoreless in five of its last seven games of the 2021 season - and allowing an average of 0.75 goals per game.

Defense was something Kroon was not used to heading into high school, playing forward for her teams from age 4 to eighth grade. But entering ninth grade, she made the switch from forward to outside back for both her club and high school teams, playing defense up until her senior season.

But during the 2021 season, Canton needed some offense to add to its defense. Canton head coach Jeannine Reddy moved Kroon, who had not played forward since eighth grade, to outside midfield for the last few games, trying to ignite a spark.

For Kroon, it was an easy transition, having tried to defend outside midfielders for years prior to the switch.

"Because I defend midfielders all day long, I know what to do to try and get around them or whatever because I know what to expect," Kroon said. "My coach says all the time, 'As a defender,

See ATHLETE, Page 2B

911 calls show Kivlenieks was conscious after fireworks incident

Clara Hendrickson and Brian Hedger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Audio from 911 calls to Novi police paint a distressing picture of the fireworks incident July 4 that led to the death of Columbus Blue Jackets goaltender Matiss Kivlenieks.

Kivlenieks was at the Novi home of Manny Legace, the former Red Wing

and now goalie coach for the Blue Jackets, according to the Columbus Dispatch, when he was struck by a misfired firework.

Three 911 calls describe what happened and Kivlenieks' rapidly deteriorating condition.

"Fireworks misfire," one caller said in describing the incident. Asked whether the person was conscious, the caller re-

plied, "He's conscious, he's conscious."

"Hey we have someone who was hit by a firework can you come here immediately?" asked the second caller. The dispatcher replied, "We're already aware of it. Is he awake and talking to you?"

"He's breathing, we have a nurse here. He's breathing but he's doing not very good," the caller answered.

The dispatcher replied, "They're on their way, just stay there."

A third caller told Novi police to "come to the house right now." The caller said "hit with fireworks" in describing what happened, adding "he's getting ready to go into convulsions."

Lt. Jason Meier told the Free Press

See KIVLENIEKS, Page 7B

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Hartland grad selected as Female Athlete of the Year at Northern Michigan University

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When she quit focusing on offense, scoring became much easier for Hartland graduate Caroline Halonen as a junior soccer player at Northern Michigan University.

Her 11 goals ranked second nationally in NCAA Division II, earning her Offensive Player of the Year in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in May before being recently chosen as Northern's Female Athlete of the Year.

Halonen was selected from among 166 athletes in nine varsity sports.

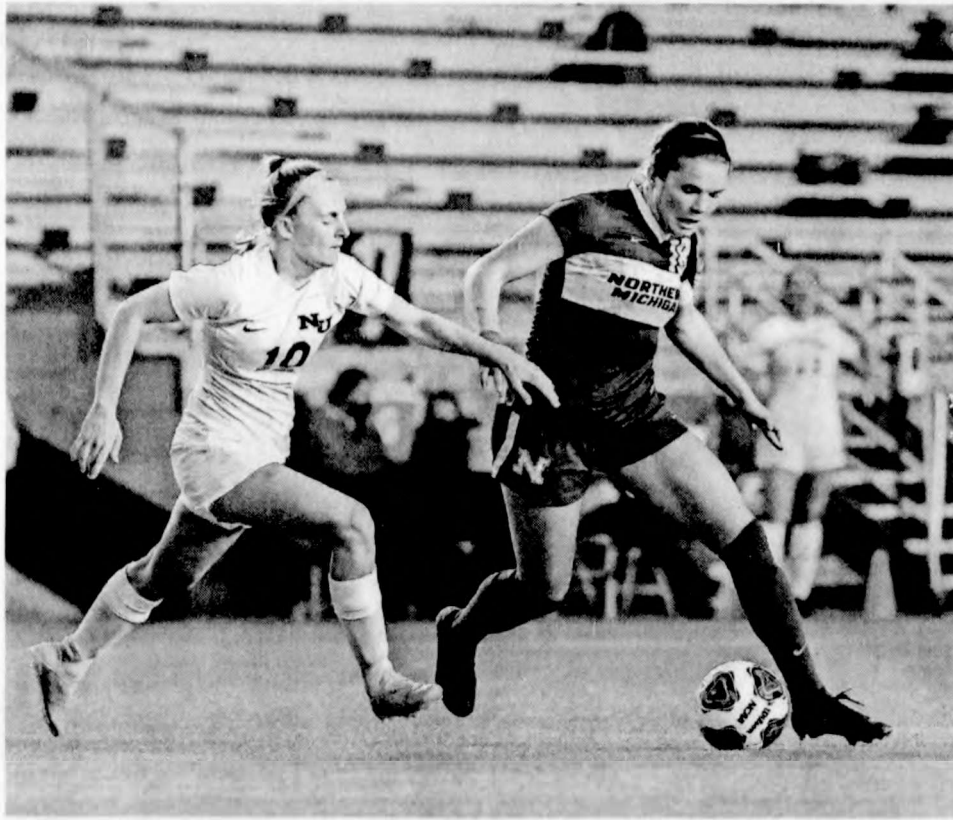
"It's always an honor to win an award like that, just with how many great athletes there are at the school and on the team, even," Halonen said. "It was actually really an honor. I didn't think about it too much. I was kind of surprised."

Halonen made an immediate impact as a freshman at Northern in 2018, scoring a team-high nine goals to go with six assists in 17 games. Her totals dropped to two goals and five assists in 18 games in 2019.

"For some reason, after freshman season, I felt pressure going into sophomore year," Halonen said. "Sophomore year, I tried to focus so much on putting the ball in the net. This year, I was able to produce more."

Her offense increased dramatically as a junior, despite playing a defensive role in the midfield.

"I wasn't focused on scoring as much," Halonen said. "When I did get a chance to go forward, I was more composed. Since this season was in the spring, I was able to work all year with my coaches on finishing. I felt more con-



Caroline Halonen of Hartland was selected as the 2020-21 Female Athlete of the Year at Northern Michigan University. CORY GENOVESE/PHOTOYOOP

fidant in front of the net because of that."

Halonen scored goals in nine of the Wildcats' 12 games, leading them to an 8-3-1 record. It was Northern's first winning season since 2011. The Wildcats were 9-24-2 Halonen's first two seasons.

"Obviously, winning in sports is way more fun," she said. "It was a ton of fun. We had a bunch of alumni reaching out

to us, congratulating us. It feels good to do that for the program. It's going to help the program in the long run with better recruits coming in. It was really special to be part of the team that can turn things around."

Several of the new recruits for Northern will come from Livingston County, which has been fertile recruiting ground for the Wildcats. This season's team had five Hartland graduates and three

Brighton grads.

Justina L'Esperance and Maria Storm from Hartland's state championship team are heading to Northern Michigan in the fall, while senior-to-be Hannah Kastamo has already committed to the Wildcats.

"It kind of brings a piece of home, too, which is kind of cool," Halonen said. "We played with these girls, we've known these girls for a long time. Obviously, team chemistry plays a pivotal role on a good team."

Halonen's 11 goals ranked second nationally only to the 17 scored by Ashley Merrill of Dallas Baptist University. Only four players in Division II scored in double figures. Halonen's total of 23 points ranked fourth in the nation.

"She was definitely the heart of that midfield in terms of just leading it, not only offensively, but on the defensive side, too," Northern coach Jon Sandoval said. "She was an individual who played both sides of the ball. She was a box-to-box midfielder. The dedication that she showed, not only on the field, but also as a leader, was extraordinary to watch. She grew as a person over the last year tenfold. Just being able to watch that was rewarding as a coach."

"When I think about Caroline, I think about a player who is going to be leaving Northern ... and being one of the best players to ever wear the jersey. I think she has the potential to go to the next level and she has a lot of intangibles that make her very special and makes it very easy to coach her."

As a senior at Hartland, Halonen was a second-team all-state selection and the county Player of the Year in 2018. She led the county with 17 goals.

Athlete

Continued from Page 1B

it's the scariest thing because you don't really know where they are going to go. So you really just have to wait and see what they are going to do."

"I took that as an advantage and kind of messed with them a little bit."

After the team had 10 games in the regular season in which it scored one goal or less — each turning into a draw or a loss — Canton's offense resurged in the playoffs, outscoring opponents, 17-1, through its first four wins before a 2-0 shutout loss to Ann Arbor Skyline in the regional final.

Kroon played a major role in that offensive success, hitting two of Canton's three goals against Belleville to advance to the regional final.

Canton's late stride surprised Kroon, but she knew it made everything more special: enjoying her time with her teammates for a longer period than expected.

Looking ahead to the future of Canton, Kroon feels the bond between her teammates will allow them to have continued success, no matter the talent on the field.

"They will always keep this season in the back of their pocket and just keep that with them that you don't have to have a great to make it and go far in districts," Kroon said. "It's all about each other. My coach says this all the time, 'It's all about the chemistry of you guys. That wins games.'"

Athlete of the Week poll results

Canton's Morgan Kroon won Hometown Life's Athlete of the Week award for the week of June 15, earning 5,155 (77.06%) of the 6,690 total votes cast.

Marian soccer freshman Elle Ervin finished in second and Brother Rice senior lacrosse player Luke Dudley finished third, while Brother Rice baseball's Alfredo Velazquez and Mercy softball's Grace Nieto finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

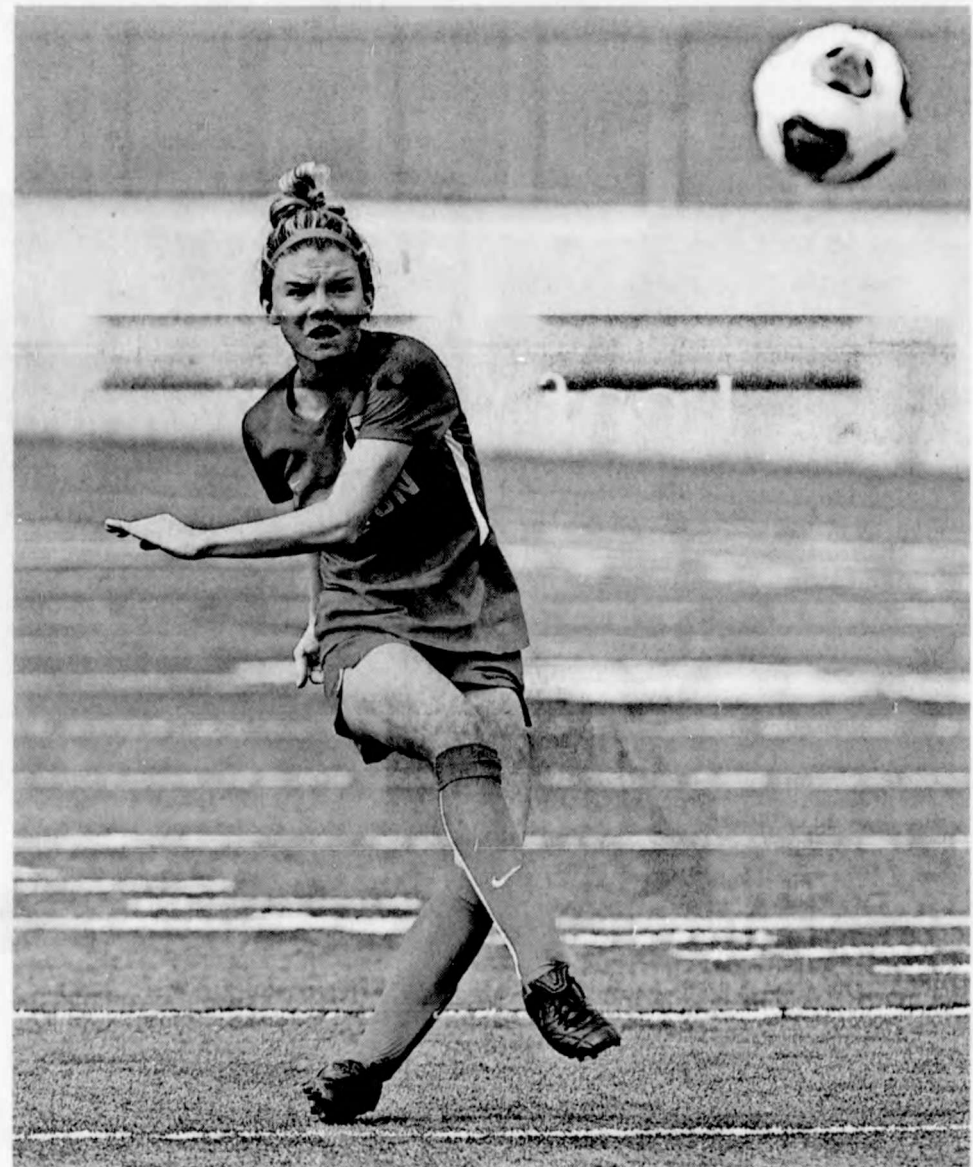
One thing hasn't changed for Kroon: she's continuing to follow in her brother's footsteps.

After Zackary played defense at Concordia, Morgan will play defense at Madonna. Even though she knows the Crusaders women's soccer team wants her there as a defender, Kroon will do whatever the team needs from her, even if it's switching back to defense.

The Canton graduate is now preparing for the fall, going through a guided workout plan to make sure she is ready to go when two-a-days start in August.

"I'm very, very nervous because it's so new," Kroon said. "I'm definitely someone who doesn't like change, but I'm beyond excited to play at that next level. It's such a dream for me because I've always wanted to do it."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17.



Canton's Morgan Kroon is the athlete of the week. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Goalball

Continued from Page 1B

"You can throw the ball as hard as you can and no other sport at that time in my life could I do that," Kusku said. "I couldn't find a way to throw a ball hard because I would miss what I was throwing at and hurt somebody."

Twenty-three years later, Kusku's all landed him a spot with Team USA, which is preparing to compete in the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo in late July.

The Warren native and Commerce Township resident made the Team USA Paralympic team after landing a bronze medal in the 2014 World Championships, competing with the 2016 Olympic team in Rio and bringing home silver after falling to rival Lithuania, 14-8, in the gold-medal match.

Even though Kusku had donned the red, white and blue before the 2016 Paralympic Games, Kusku felt a different level of connection, saying there weren't words to describe what he was feeling

while walking the track during the opening ceremonies.

But even more important to him, Kusku saw an atmosphere surrounding goalball in Rio he had never experienced before: trading 20 people in the stands for 5,000-10,000 spectators.

"I think I left the court every single game in emotional tears because it was just so loud and incredible," Kusku said.

Knowing what to expect in the next iteration of the Games, Kusku's focus turned to his own power and strength in the time off ahead of Tokyo, trying to enhance his scoring ability from just being able to strategically place or throw a ball into an opponent's goal.

While the COVID-19 pandemic set the Paralympic Games back one year, Kusku continued to train, setting up a cleared space in his basement for throwing and diving practices, along with weights and strength training equipment to keep the mechanics of the game in check until he was able to compete again with his teammates.

When Kusku returned to the court in March 2021, it did take awhile for him to adjust back to the game itself.

"I did allow more goals than normal at first just because there's all these little things that you think in the back of your mind, they are little reminders to yourself before every play," Kusku said. "A lot of those, you have to shake the rust off of those to let it come back."

"After a couple of hours of playing, a lot of that gets shaken off and it's just muscle memory and continuing to fight."

Fighting was something Kusku had to do just to get a spot back on Team USA.

The U.S. Paralympic Goalball team had 10 athletes fighting for six spots, a competition, Kusku said, where he was near the back of the line. He said the coaches told him he was "10th out of 10" to make the roster for 2021, but he clawed his way back, helped by a successful performance in a Lithuanian tournament, which was viewed as the "last tryout" for the team.

But once Team USA named the teams, Kusku said the coaches have been throwing confidence at the players from every which way, helping them train and bringing themselves to a phys-

ical peak prior to the start of the Games.

In 2021, Kusku, who also teaches math and physics at Oakland Technical College in Wixom, feels that Team USA has the same amount of defensive talent it had in Rio, but that the group has got more firepower offensively, allowing him to feel more confident that success is coming back to the United States when the Games are complete.

Unlike 2016, Kusku is confident heading into the 2021 Paralympic Games.

"I think we walked into Rio wondering are the skills they we have good enough. We knew our game plan was good enough going into Rio, we didn't know if our skill was good enough," he said. "I think the feelings going into this tournament is our skills are good enough, our game plan is good enough. We are ready for this tournament. We are going to have success. Let's just make sure it's the top of the podium success."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17.

Mom keeps daily running streak for over 1,000 days

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For Adrian Fear, running is a daily activity – and has been for the past 1,088 days.

Every day she runs at least a mile, whether on her treadmill indoors or outside on the dirt roads near her Milford home.

The current running streak started after Fear, who had broken her ankle on a training run in early 2018, was told she was “free to go run” after weeks of recovery and physical therapy.

As a runner who was used to high-mileage weeks prior to her injury, she had to figure out what “free to go run” now meant for her.

“I had a really hard time wrapping my mind around this concept of ‘free to go run,’” Fear, 38, said. “What does that mean? I can go back to where I left off, where I was ready to go run a 50k or I’ve got to go start all over.”

Fear said she started her run streak with a goal to run at least one mile a day for 30 days as a way to test her ankle strength.

From there, it just kept going, she said.

Fear, who works as a lactation consultant, said that she has considered quitting several times.

The advice she gives her clients about breastfeeding keeps her motivated.

“We don’t quit at our worst,” she said. “You gotta give it a couple days and then I will give you a quit.”

After pushing through the rough days, the will to continue the running streak wins out.



Adrian Fear with her daughter, Gavi, now 14 months old, after continuing her daily running streak. COURTESY OF ADRIAN FEAR

Running through labor

Fear is a mother of five children: Corbin, Davin, Ebe, Phoenix and Gavi.

She and her husband Brad Fear, have opted for homebirths for all their children, a decision that helped her maintain her streak the day her daughter Gavi, now 14 months, was born.

Fear incorporated running her mile in her delivery day plan, similar to other mothers planning a massage or certain music for their big day.

She found a homebirth midwife who

supported her running endeavors.

“She totally understood the mentality of ‘I’m going to run the entire pregnancy and then I am going to give birth to a baby and then I am going to get up and finish my run streak,’” Fear said.

And that’s what she did.

Her daughter was born the morning of April 15, 2020, and before the day was through Fear was on her treadmill finishing her daily mile.

No end in sight

After giving birth to Gavi, Fear reached out to McKirdy Trained running coach Dan Montgomery in preparation for a return to in-person races.

“Whether it’s being a mother, the demands of work or the weather, she finds a way to get it done every single day,” Montgomery said.

He said he is inspired by Fear’s moti-

vation and she reminds him of the importance of being committed.

Right now Fear doesn’t have a race planned, but she hopes to complete another ultra-marathon before the end of the year.

As for when the run streak will come to an end? Fear said she doesn’t plan on stopping any time soon.

“I don’t know, I kinda like it,” she said. “It’s who I am and what I do”

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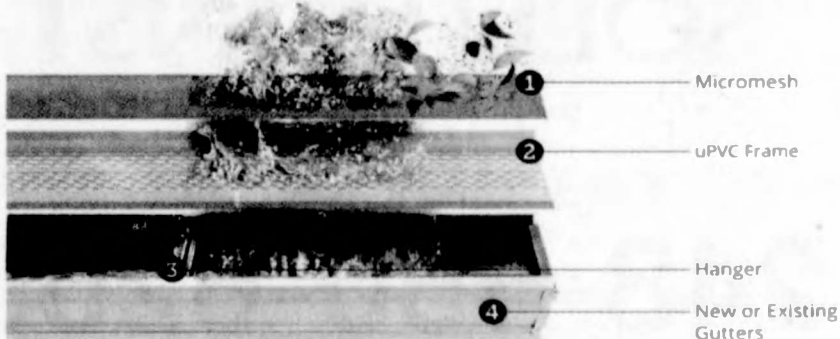
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Tullar basking in glow of championship

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cam Tullar of Brighton had words of affirmation he repeated to himself whenever he took the mound this season.

His mantra: "I belong here."
"Here" would be Mississippi State University, the best college baseball team in the nation in 2021.

In his first season with the Bulldogs, Tullar helped them win their first College World Series in a three-game final series with Southeastern Conference rival Vanderbilt June 30 in Omaha, Neb.

Joining such a stacked squad after parts of two seasons in junior college could be intimidating, but the opportunity to be involved in big moments against elite competition is why Tullar came to Mississippi State in the first place.

"With me, it's just positive self-talk that I belong here, I can do what the other guys do, I can get outs, I can help the team win," he said. "Just positive self-talk that you know you can do it. I made it this far, I want to see it through."

Tullar made two appearances out of the bullpen during the Bulldogs' seven-game run to the championship.

He pitched two-thirds of an inning in a 6-5 victory over Virginia on June 22 in the second game of the College World Series, retiring both batters he faced.

He faced two batters in an 8-5 loss to Texas on June 25, allowing one hit, one walk and one run.

When the final out was recorded in a 9-0 victory over the defending national champs, Tullar celebrated Mississippi State's first national championship in any sport in a dogpile on the infield.

"It was chilling, because you beat a really good Vanderbilt team in the College World Series after the first game didn't go our way," Tullar said. "We had our backs against the wall all year. Getting the final out in Game 3 was just goose bumps. You dreamed of this as a kid growing up, going to the College World Series and hopefully winning it. When it was happening, it was goose bumps and an unreal feeling that you made it."

Tullar has been basking in the glow of winning a championship for the past



Cam Tullar of Brighton made two appearances in the College World Series for Mississippi State, which won the national championship.

AUSTIN PERRYMAN/MISSISSIPPI STATE ATHLETICS

week while tying up loose ends in Mississippi before heading home for the rest of the summer.

"It's still been unreal, just to be part of the team that won the College World Series," he said. "It's just sinking in a lot, more just kicking in. We came out on top."

Tullar made 23 relief appearances this season, pitching 19 innings. He had 25 strikeouts, 11 walks and a 6.86 earned run average.

Over a stretch of nine appearances early in the season, Tullar allowed only one hit and didn't surrender a run in 6 2/3 innings.

championship as a senior in 2018, Tullar pitched one full season and an abbreviated 2020 campaign with Wabash Valley College in Illinois for coach Rob Fournier, who has had 85 players drafted or signed by Major League Baseball teams since 1997.

As a freshman at Wabash Valley, he was in the top 25 in the nation in victories (9), ERA (2.02) and strikeouts (104).

He won all five of his starts as a sophomore before the season was shut down because of COVID-19 restrictions. Because the season was canceled, Tullar has two seasons of eligibility remaining at Mississippi State.

"They really pushed me to my limits, putting me right on the spot, basically trusting me with doing what I was able to do the years before I got there," Tullar said. "It was really a special thing being part of the team."

"I knew going in Coach Fournier and his coaching staff had a really good history in JUCO ball. I wanted to be part of that process where I'm competing against the best in JUCO. A lot of guys don't go D1. JUCO also has really talented players who can play at that level. The development process is a lot different. It was a really great grind with a lot of special guys competing to win, but also to move up."

Fournier tipped off Mississippi State coach Chris Lemonis about Tullar after the 2019 season. Tullar transferred after the COVID-shortened 2020 campaign.

"I was really big on trusting the process and where it felt like home to me, where I felt the most comfortable," Tullar said. "Getting introduced, walking on campus and seeing how much the community supports the team, how much we give back to them, I fell in love with it right away. This is a great university, a great baseball team and great community that supports the team."


Did he expect to contend for a College World Series championship?

"Oh, yeah, of course," he said. "Mississippi State baseball has been one of the top in the nation these last couple years. I knew this team can do it. The SEC has the best programs in the nation. Mississippi State is a good team. We knew we had a good chance to win it, especially with the returners coming back from COVID."

"I knew it was going to be a leap from junior college ball to playing the best baseball in all the nation," Tullar said. "I knew it was a jump, I knew I could do it. I believed in myself, believed in what I can do to get outs. That's what the coaches saw in me. I thought my year went pretty well. It was a good adjustment seeing how the first year went and being excited for next year to develop even more."

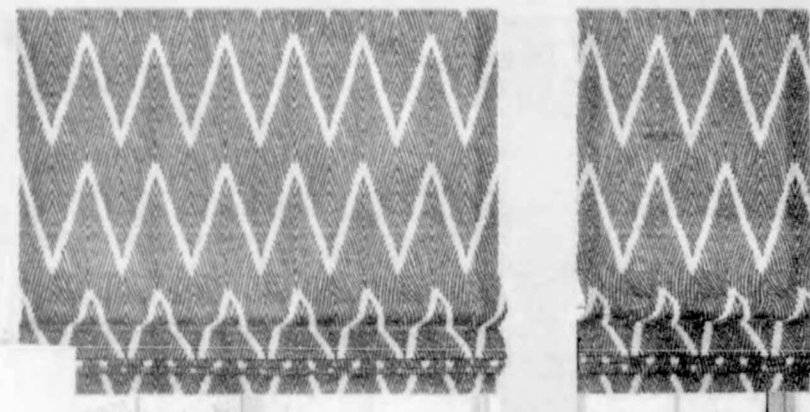
"I was a lefty specialist. I would come in and get lefty outs. Here and there I would face righties, but I was the guy to face lefties in a jam."

After pitching Brighton to a district



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Kailyn McLeod, right, and her Aussiedoodle, Oakley, take in the Lugnuts' game against Dayton on June 29 at Jackson Stadium in Lansing. PHOTOS BY NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Pooches watch ballplayers play fetch

Nick King Lansing State Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The crack of the bat, a cold beer in hand and cheering fans: For many, there's nothing better than a summer night at the baseball park.

But if you go to a Lansing Lugnuts game on Wednesdays during a Dog Days of Summer promotion night at Jackson Field in Lansing, you'll also experience four-legged friends barking up a storm.

Each home game on Wednesdays fans are allowed to bring their dogs to the ballpark to enjoy the game. If you're worried about the heat, the Lugnuts provide a large water bowl for thirsty pups and a tub for them to cool off in. It's the best of both worlds for dog lovers

and baseball fans.

"It's a little hectic but Clover likes people," said Lansing resident Mike Boettner as he wrangled his Carolina dog through the front entrance.

Jonathan Scheets made the drive from Ann Arbor to take his lab mix Sammi to the game.

Early in the game, Scheets cradled Sammi above his head and tried to dance his way onto the outfield scoreboard during the dog cam feature. He was unsuccessful but it was only Sammi's first baseball game.

The next opportunity for dogs and fans is on Wednesday, July 28. For a schedule of all the Dog Days of Summer, visit <https://www.milb.com/lansing/tickets/promotions>.



Mike Boettner, center, of Lansing, enters the stadium with his dog, Clover, a Carolina breed. "It's a little hectic but Clover likes people," said Boettner.



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Vote for Hometown Life's male athlete of the year

Colin Gay
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

The 2020-21 Michigan high school sports season is complete. In the Hometown Life

area, we saw high-level performances across the board, from the football fields to the hockey rinks, and many successful athletes to showcase.

But there can only be one athlete of the year.

After sifting through a long list of worthy candidates, Hometown Life decided on five finalists. Now, it's up to you to decide who will be named as our male athlete of the year.

Voting takes place at hometownlife.com and will close at noon July 22, and we will announce the winner later this summer. There is no limit to the number of votes, so vote early and often for your

favorite player.

The candidates

Udodi Onwuzurike, Brother Rice, track and field

After second- and

third-place performances in the 100-meter and 200-meter in each of the regional races, Udodi Onwuzurike stepped up when it mattered most.

The Brother Rice senior and Stanford commit earned state championships in both the 100- and 200-meter races, breaking the state record with a 21.01 200-meter in the preliminary race.

Onwuzurike holds the Brother Rice record in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, which he set as a senior.

Caden Woodall, Livonia Stevenson, football

Caden Woodall seemed to run the Livonia Stevenson offense. The Spartans senior broke the school's single-season rushing record with 1,581 yards on 140 carries, scoring 25 touchdowns on the ground, while also throwing a touchdown. Woodall broke the Spartans' single-game rushing record three times — his highest being 354 yards in one game — while also setting the school record with six touchdowns in one game.

On defense he recorded 24 tackles, two pass deflections, three sacks and a safety for a team that finished 4-4 in the KLA East.

Woodall, who was named first-team All-State in Division 2, will play football at Harvard starting next season.

Alec Hamady, Brother Rice, hockey

Alec Hamady started his senior season as just one of many offensive weapons for Brother Rice hockey.

The forward recorded 12 points in 14 games — five goals and seven assists — including two two-assist efforts against Port Huron Northern and Grosse Pointe North.

But when it came to the playoffs, Hamady flipped a switch.

The Warriors senior forward recorded three goals and four assists in the final five games of the 2021 season, including a score between the legs of Byron Center's goalkeeper in the final 10 seconds of the Division 2 state championship to give Brother Rice its sixth title in school history.

Hamady finished his senior season first-team Division 2 All State.

Kameron Liberman, Seaholm, swim and dive

Kameron Liberman met expectations in 2021. Heading into the season as the top-ranked diver in Division 2, the Seaholm senior diver won the state title, earning 523.15 points for first place by 62.95 points.

Liberman, who is signed to dive at Michigan next season, gave Seaholm its only individual state title in 2021, helping the Maples to their fourth state title in the past 24 years.

Manny Rojas, Detroit Catholic Central, wrestling

Manny Rojas continued the dominance that he started as a sophomore.

The junior Detroit Catholic Central wrestler wrecked havoc at 189, finishing the season with a record of 33-2, winning his second state title with a 11-5 win against Traverse City Central sophomore Remy Cotton.

In the last two seasons, Rojas has lost three times in 78 matches.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6770.

Obituaries

Gregory Robert Wright

IN MEMORY OF
Gregory Robert Wright
February 9, 1965 - July 6, 2021

"As is a tale, so is a life: Not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matters." — Senec

Greg was the beloved husband of Melissa, his wife of 24 years. Proud father of AJ, Alex, and Abby. Dear son of Lacy Wright and Judy & Dan Mytty. Brother of Tracy Wright, step-brother of Brandon (Jessica) Mytty, Melissa (Marty) Nickel and uncle of 6 nieces and nephews. Dear son-in-law of Rocco & Joyce Perrone and Donald Simms. Brother-in-law of Julie (Robert) Mills, Lisa (Norm) Juracek, Brian (Erin) Perrone, Dean (Tracy) Perrone, Jason Spriggs and uncle to 12 nieces and nephews. Great uncle of 6 nieces and nephews.

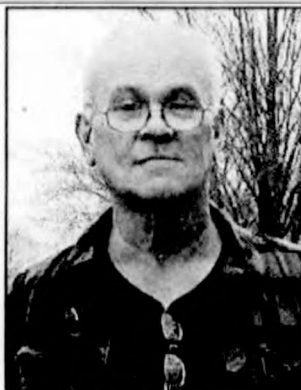
Greg was a successful financial advisor. He started with PaineWebber in 1988 which later became UBS and for the last ten years served as Senior Vice President Investments of Great Lakes Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors. He graduated from University of Michigan Dearborn in 1989 with a degree in Business and Marketing. Greg loved the Boy Scouts and achieved the highest rank possible of Eagle Scout in 1978.

Greg and his family loved traveling, camping, golfing, skiing and adventuring together. Photography started as a hobby and became a passion especially when it came to capturing family moments. He shared his love of sailing with his son AJ. As an accomplished drummer, he loved music and playing every day.

"He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much." — Bessie Anderson Stanley

Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, July 23rd, Visitation 1:00 pm, Service 2:00 pm, First United Methodist Church, 640 S Lafayette Street, South Lyon, MI 48178.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider making a donation to the Yatooma Foundation for The Kids. This organization supports families that have lost a mother or father who have children still at home. You can visit their website in honor of Greg at www.forthekidsfoundation.org/greg-wright/



Robert Warren Stoddard

NASHVILLE, TN — Robert Warren Stoddard, age 68, passed away peacefully with his sisters by his side on April 26th, 2021 in Nashville, Tennessee. He was born on May 7th, 1952 to Warren and Betty Stoddard in Lansing, Michigan. He was a graduate of Northville High School, class of 1971. After High School Rob joined the U.S. Navy serving on the USS Enterprise. Working for years at Northville Downs, he did various jobs, including training harness racehorses. For most of his years, Rob saw nearly every inch of the USA as a long haul trucker. He loved the ponies, his dogs and his time relaxing at home in Tennessee.

Rob is survived by his long time partner Joanne O'Connor, his mother Betty Stoddard, siblings Joyce (late Rob) Edwards, James (JoAnn Isaac) Stoddard, and Jeanne (Jim) Mulhern. Rob is preceded in death by his father Warren Stoddard.

Peter Herguth

On June 17th, 2021; Peter passed away peacefully surrounded by the land of Four Peaks, Gunsight Pass and a Fountain in the desert. This final resting place is far from where his life began. He was born to immigrant parents, Adolph and Elizabeth Herguth on October 17th, 1937. Living the American Dream, they worked hard and saved their money and were able to invest in a business in Dingman's Ferry, PA. He grew up in this small town and Peter loved Dingman's Ferry and its teachings never left him nor the many lifetime friendships he maintained. After high school, Peter enrolled at Florida Southern College to continue his education and play basketball. It was there that he met Cecyl Lou Hildinger and his life changed forever. It was love at first sight and they were later married on September 6th, 1958 in Williamsville, NY. Peter completed his college studies at the University of Scranton and started his career with Huron Cement. Together they achieved their goal of having a large family. Cecyl and Peter had four children Wade (Shelly), Lori (Dave), Lisa (Dave) and Bill (Stacy) who together added 8 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren completing the current family tree. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Debbie (Dean). Peter retired from Lafarge North America after a long career as Vice President of Marketing and Sales in 2000. He maintained strong friendships long after his retirement and took great pride in the company that he worked for and the people that he worked with throughout his career. He was a true leader basing his style on his Dingman's Ferry, PA values; Trust, Integrity and Commitment to his team. As his career spanned many decades, he lived and worked in Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, and Ohio before finally settling in Northville, MI in 1973. Peter loved his family; he cared, shared and was always there for a friend. He valued family, friends, food, golf, hunting, cards, snacks, laughing, leading, and a challenge. Peter loved life and said, "I have had a wonderful life, a wonderful wife and was blessed with family, friends and a great career. A celebration of his life will be held on Thursday August 5th, 2021 from 10 A.M to 1:00 P.M. at Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center (39000 Schoolcraft Road Livonia, MI 48150 | 734-462-0770) immediately followed by a brunch. In lieu of flowers, we ask that contributions be made to the Wounded Warrior Foundation or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



Carole Vore

Feb. 11th 1940- Mar 18th 2021

Carole Irene Vore (née Livermore) passed away March 18th, 2021 in Ann Arbor, MI. She was 81 years old, born February 11th, 1940 in Ewart, MI where she grew up. She was a resident of the Highland and Milford area for 58 years and raised her family and built a loving home there.

Carole made the most amazing cakes, be they wedding or birthday, and nothing could compare to her grape jelly, spaghetti dinners, and lemon squares. Her home was always open to anyone for breakfast or coffee. She was a long time employee at Hi-Mill Manufacturing along with her husband and a community that was considered extended family.

Carole is preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Wm. Donald "Don" Vore, daughter Debra Kaye, and her parents Raymond and Lillian (Hatt) Livermore. She is survived by three children Richard (Melissa) Vore, Belinda (Scott) Booher, and Bonnie (Jim) Roberts, five grandchildren Zachary, Kathryn, and Molly Vore and Grant and Andrew Booher, her siblings Jane (William) Waite, Dale Livermore, and Kaye (Brett) Gallinger, and loving family friends Tom Sanders and Fred & Sally Morin. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and a community of friends.

Carole was a loving mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, and she will be dearly missed.

A Celebration of Life ceremony and breakfast will take place on Sunday, August 15th, 2021 at The Lazy J Ranch in Milford, MI. Breakfast begins at 10:30 am and the memorial service begins at 11:15 am.

A burial service will take place on Saturday, August 21st at 11 am at Forest Hills Cemetery in Ewart, MI followed by a gathering at Riverside Park West.

Dennis Herbert O'Reilly

ROGERS CITY — Dennis Herbert O'Reilly age 81 of Rogers City, formerly of Milford passed away July 6, 2021 at MidMichigan Medical Center in Alpena.

He was born March 1, 1940 in Onaway to Amos and Josephine (Trombley) O'Reilly.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Nancy; three children, Dana (Antonio) Santoro of Niagara on the Lake, Ontario, Denise (Scott) Marvin of Millersburg and James (Eileen) O'Reilly of San Gabriel, California; seven grandchildren, Tareva (Antjuan) Marvin-Moore, Adamo Santoro, Alida Santoro, Caleb Marvin, Nora O'Reilly, Sheamus O'Reilly and Rory O'Reilly; and two great grandchildren, Taven Marvin and Trevarie Moore-Marvin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Amos and Josephine; a brother, Leston O'Reilly and a sister, Patricia Membrean.

A private graveside service will take place at Hillcrest Cemetery at a later date.

Memorials may be given to American Heart Association in memory of Dennis O'Reilly.

Arrangements are in care of the Beck Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be addressed through www.beckfuneralhome.org

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Vote for Hometown Life's female athlete of the year

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The 2020-21 Michigan high school sports season is complete.

In the Hometown Life area, we saw high-level performances across the board, from the soccer fields to the volleyball courts, and many successful athletes to showcase.

But there can only be one athlete of the year.

After sifting through a long list of worthy candidates, Hometown Life decided on six finalists. Now, it's up to you to decide who will be named as our female athlete of the year.

Voting takes place online at hometownlife.com and will close at noon July 20. We will announce the winner later this summer. There is no limit to the number of votes, so vote early and often for your favorite player.

The candidates

Audrey DaDamio, Seaholm, cross country/track and field

In her senior season at Seaholm, Audrey DaDamio could not really be stopped.

In the fall, the Stanford commit finished in first at all but one of her cross country races for the Maples, earning her first Division 1 state title of the 2020-21 school year with a 17:46.1 finish — a 5:43 pace — beating second-place finisher Ann Arbor Pioneer freshman Rachel Forsyth by more than nine seconds.

In the spring, the wins kept on coming for DaDamio. She failed to lose a race in the 800-meter, the 1,600-meter and the 3,200-meter during her high-school season, earning a state championship in each of those three events, while also setting a personal record in the 800-meter at 2:11.95 and the 1,600-meter at 4:44.38.

Shannon Kennedy, Marian, golf

Shannon Kennedy had a streak to uphold.

Heading into her senior year at Marian, she had already brought home two Division 3 individual state titles in her first three years with the program, earning a Division 2 state title her freshman season by three strokes and adding a Division 3 individual trophy her junior year by three strokes.

To continue her streak, Kennedy had to work for it.

Leading Marian to its second-straight Division 3 team state title, the Michigan State commit tied Grand Rapids Christian's Ryann Breslin at 70 through regulation, securing the first-place finish on the first playoff hole.

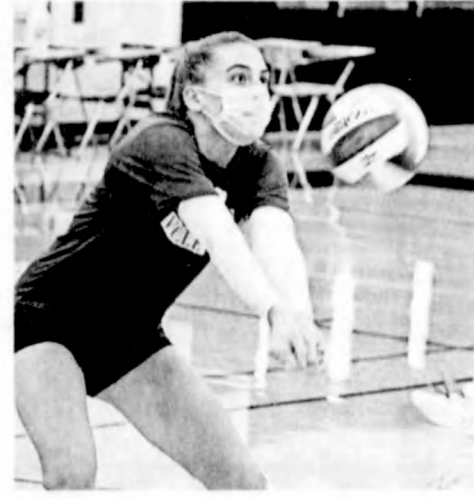
The senior was named Miss Golf by the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association for the season.



Seaholm's Audrey DaDamio.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Marian's Shannon Kennedy.
COURTESY OF LEON BRAISTED III



Marian's Ava Brizard.



Wayne Memorial's Alanna Micheaux.



Salem's Macayla Harris.



South Lyon's Ava Bradshaw.
NICK KING/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Ava Brizard, Marian, volleyball

Ava Brizard made some noise up front for the Mustangs.

In her junior season at Marian, the NC State volleyball commit totaled 598 kills, 412 digs, 37 blocks and 35 service aces, recording a .492 kill percentage and a .395 hit percentage.

Brizard helped lead Marian to a Division 1 volleyball state title, helping the Mustangs to a record of 37-5, winning each of their last 10 games to end the 2020-21 season, while taking 28 of the final 32 sets.

The Marian junior was also named as the 2020-21 Gatorade Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year and was named first-team All State.

Alanna Micheaux, Wayne Memorial, basketball

All Alanna Micheaux seemed to do at Wayne Memorial was win.

In four seasons, the senior helped the Zebras win 82 of its 98 total games, advancing as far as the state semifinal round of the playoffs in both her sophomore and senior seasons.

As a senior with Wayne Memorial,

Micheaux shined, averaging 27.4 points and 14 rebounds per game, serving as the Zebras' main scoring threat in and around the paint area as one of two seniors in the starting lineup.

In Wayne Memorial's Division 1 state semifinal loss her senior season, Micheaux led the way with 29 points — making 13-of-20 from the field — and 17 rebounds.

Micheaux, a Minnesota commit, was named to the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan's "Best of the Best" team.

Macayla Harris, Salem, soccer

Macayla Harris was a huge part of why Salem girls soccer was so difficult to stop in 2021.

After winning 16 games combined in her freshman and sophomore seasons, Harris helped the Rocks to their first KLA title in 34 years, winning 15-of-18 games and losing only once: a 2-1 loss to rival Canton.

For a Rocks team that averaged three goals per game, Harris was a major reason why, ending her senior season with nine goals and five assists, being named

to the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association Dream Team.

Harris will play soccer at Ashland University starting next season.

Ava Bradshaw, South Lyon, softball

Ava Bradshaw's first taste of high school softball didn't prove to be much of an adjustment.

In her first season at South Lyon, the freshman struck out 329 batters in 186.1 innings of work, posting a record of 24-4 — including four no-hitters — with a 1.12 ERA and a .140 opponents batting average. At the plate, she had a .410 average with six home runs and 30 RBI.

And when it counted most, she shined for the Lions.

In South Lyon's final two games of the season — the Division 1 softball state semifinal and state final — Bradshaw allowed two earned runs on eight hits and two walks in 14 innings of work, striking out 21 against Grandville and Allen Park.

Bradshaw was named first-team All-State by the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com.

Kivlenieks

Continued from Page 1B

that the calls came in around 10:13 p.m. and paramedics arrived to the scene in 4 minutes and 38 seconds where they found Kivlenieks unresponsive. Kivlenieks was transported to Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi, where he was pronounced dead, Meier said.

Police appear to have redacted some of the audio from the phone calls, including the location of the incident.

While Novi police said an initial investigation indicated that Kivlenieks died after he slipped and fell while fleeing a hot tub following a fireworks malfunction, an autopsy performed July 5 found Kivlenieks died from chest trauma from a fireworks mortar blast.

Dr. Ljubisa Dragovic, Oakland County's chief medical examiner, performed the autopsy and said that Kivlenieks was struck in the left side of his chest by the fireworks mortar shell. Dragovich said Kivlenieks sustained "extensive" external injuries along with his fatal internal injuries.

Meier said that a set of fireworks were launched off a grassy area that included nine different firework tubes. "After the seventh shot, it tipped and then the eighth shot went over the hot tub and that's when people started to scramble and it was the last shot that hit Mr. Kivlenieks," he said.

Police do not currently believe that the individual who launched the fireworks was consuming alcohol, Meier said.

Kivlenieks traveled to Novi with Blue Jackets goalie Elvis Merzlikins, his close friend and teammate, to celebrate the wedding of Legace's daughter, Sabrina Legace — a nurse who lives in Grand Rapids.

Kivlenieks and Merzlikins talked last week about an upcoming trip to Michi-



Derek Slane inspects the shrine made of items fans are leaving at the doors to Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio, in memory of Columbus Blue Jackets goaltender Mattis Kivlenieks.
NICOLAS GALINDO/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

gan to celebrate the July Fourth holiday with Legace, but did not mention the wedding, which had a Hawaiian theme and included guests dressed in Hawaiian attire, including Kivlenieks and Merzlikins.

The Free Press has left multiple voice and text messages for Legace since Monday but they have not been returned. A man in the driveway declined to speak with a reporter.

Meier said that Novi Police have launched an investigation into Kivlenieks' death and that no illegal activity has been discovered thus far.

"We're still investigating it as an accident," Meier said. When the investigation is complete, police will consult the prosecutor's office, he added.

Ahead of the Fourth of July weekend, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission urged those celebrating to practice fireworks safety.

At the age of 20, Kivlenieks, a Latvia native, signed a three-year contract with the Blue Jackets in 2017 after he was named USHL's Player of the Year and Goaltender of the Year following a strong season with the Sioux City Musketeers. He was 24 when he died.

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<p>First Presbyterian Church of Northville www.fpcnorthville.org 200 E. MAIN ST. AT HUTTON Worship: 9:30 am. Sunday School for all ages: 10:30 am. 248-348-0811</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 133 Orchard Dr., Northville WEEKLY LITURGIES Saturday 5:00 Sunday 7:30, 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Church: 348-2821, School: 348-3810 Religious Education: 348-3558 Rev. Dennis Thomas, Pastor</p>	
<p>United (248) 349-1144 777 West 8 Mile Road (at Mill and 7th Roads) Northville, MI 48166 Worship: First, September - May: 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. November - May: 10:30 a.m. Rev. Marjorie M. Winkley, Lead Pastor www.funorthville.org</p>	<p>Whitmore Lake</p> <p>FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH 10774 Nine Mile Road Rev. M. Lee Taylor • 449-2582 Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening, 7:00 p.m.</p>	

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How To Accept a Job Offer the Right Way

By ZipRecruiter.com

If you're reading this, it could mean that you're in the home stretch of your job search. (And if you're not, kudos for planning ahead!)

You've likely written a web-friendly resume, made it through pre-screen calls, dressed for interview success, sent a great thank-you note, and used these tips to negotiate your job offer. The hard part is over. Now, all you have to do is formally accept the offer.

Here is the right way to do that:

Ask for It in Writing

Nothing in this world is guaranteed, but getting it in writing sure helps.

Get your offer in writing so that you can review it and confirm both sides are on the same page in terms of compensation, title, start date, and anything else that has been discussed. **DO NOT** quit your current job until you've received the letter. You don't want to risk ending up in a situation where you give notice at one job, then find out there was a miscommunication about the new one.

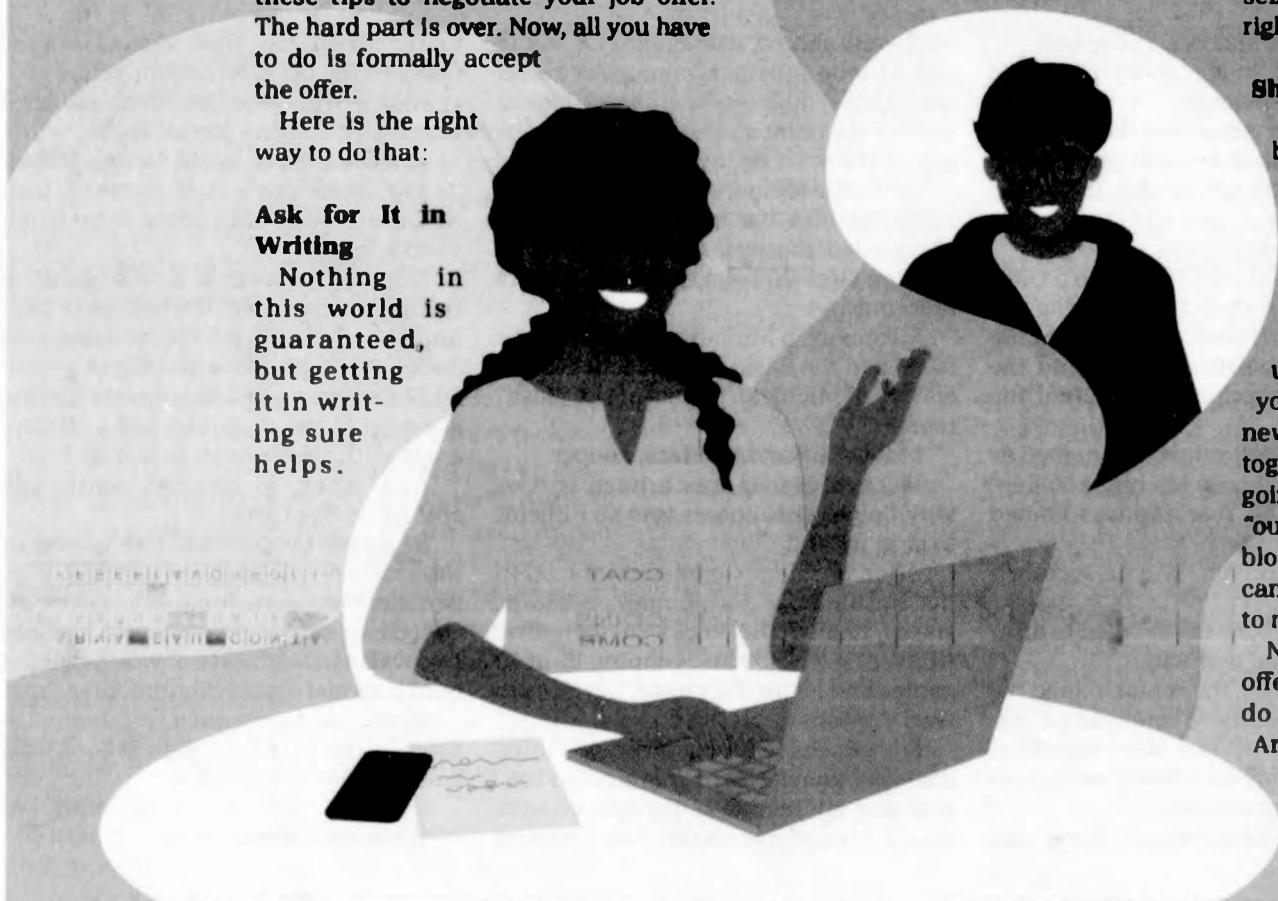
Don't Sell Past the Close

Once you have the offer in writing and have formally accepted, tell your new employer how excited you are to join the team. No matter how difficult the interview process may have been or how heated the negotiation got, move on from it and share your excitement and gratitude. This moment is about making your new employer, and yourself, confident that you've made the right decision.

Shift Immediately to "We"

As soon as you accept the job, you become a member of the team. But there is a good chance your teammates will still see you as the "new" person. It will take some time for everyone to get comfortable, but a shift in the way you speak about them, and yourself, can help speed up that transition. From the moment you join, when you speak about your new company and the work you'll do together, use words like "we" ("We are going to crush our goals this quarter"), "our" ("Our presentation is going to blow everyone away"), and "us" ("You can count on us to deliver this on time"), to make it clear you're in this together.

Now that you know how to accept an offer the right way, the only thing left to do is submit your letter of resignation. Are you nervous about that? Don't be!



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Lost



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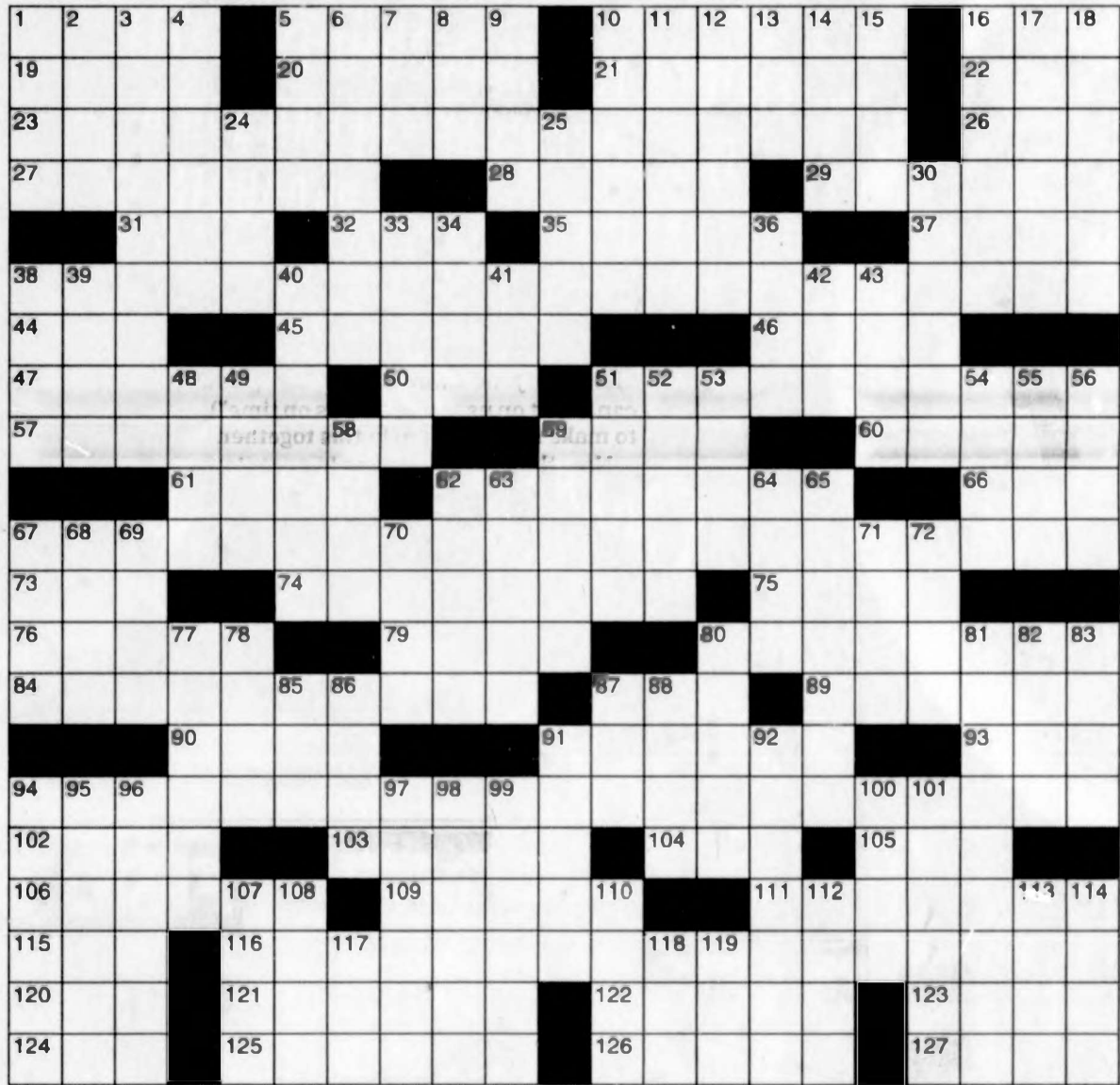
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

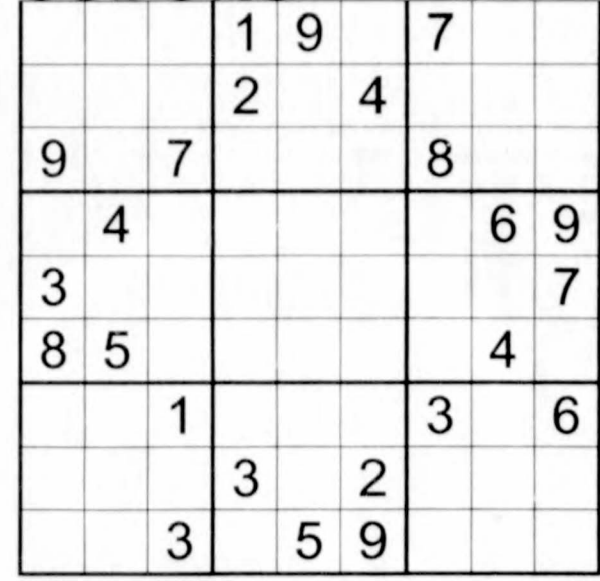
TOTALLY OUT OF IT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Four-string guitar
 - 5 Bits of land in el agua
 - 10 Luca Brasi in "The Godfather," e.g.
 - 16 Soft infant food
 - 19 Life — know it
 - 20 New Mexico or Colorado county
 - 21 Useless
 - 22 Division of history
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 26 Mantra syllables
 - 27 Old-time cleaning cake
 - 28 Tennis' Safin
 - 29 Not skilled in at all
 - 31 Heavy weight
 - 32 All — sudden
 - 35 Spoken
 - 37 French movie theater
 - 38 Riddle, part 2
 - 44 President Biden
 - 45 Speaks
 - 46 Singer Turner
 - 47 Tell el — (Nile excavation site)
 - 50 It fills la mer
 - 51 Riddle, part 3
 - 57 Becomes familiar with anew
 - 59 Per-unit price
 - 60 Mortise insertion
 - 61 Ambulance VIPs
 - 62 Decorative dashboard finish
 - 66 Chain in biology
 - 67 Riddle, part 4
 - 73 China's Chou En- —
 - 74 Like many soda bottles, volume-wise
 - 75 Purposely ignore
 - 76 Book of charts
 - 79 IRS form IDs
 - 80 "— is a virtue"
 - 84 Riddle, part 5
 - 87 In honor of
 - 89 Small river
 - 90 —mutuel betting
 - 91 Oxygen-requiring bacterium
 - 93 Start for center or Pen
 - 94 End of the riddle
 - 102 Square yardage, e.g.
 - 103 Instant replay option
 - 104 Expressive rock genre
 - 105 — Leppard (rock band)
 - 106 Mythical man-goats
 - 109 "In the red," e.g.
 - 111 Division of history
 - 115 Concorde, e.g., in brief
 - 116 Riddle's answer
 - 120 Grassland
 - 121 Henner of "Taxi"
 - 122 — Island (Providence's state)
 - 123 Old TV's — May Clampett
 - 124 Work unit
 - 125 Workout wear
 - 126 Planted
 - 127 Some deli loaves
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Cry noisily
 - 2 Ghostly pale
 - 3 Real bargain
 - 4 Electric eye, e.g.
 - 5 "The Tall Corn State"
 - 6 Leave for a short time
 - 7 Spy novelist Deighton
 - 8 Exhibit works
 - 9 "... or — told"
 - 10 Drag racer
 - 11 New York home of Cornell
 - 12 Relative of a stickpin
 - 13 Raging crowd
 - 14 PDQ's cousin
 - 15 Emperor after Claudius I
 - 16 City on the Illinois River
 - 17 Ralph Lauren competitor
 - 18 Pale hue
 - 24 Actress Skye
 - 25 Main parts of churches
 - 30 Fuel rating
 - 33 Galas
 - 34 On the Red, e.g.
 - 36 Former senator Trent
 - 38 Open slightly
 - 39 City in Alaska
 - 40 Four-piece band
 - 41 Writer Capote, to pals
 - 42 Org. in many spy novels
 - 43 Make a ski mask, maybe
 - 48 Lagoon surround
 - 49 Christen
 - 51 Core group
 - 52 Frisky swimmer
 - 53 Uncool sort
 - 54 About
 - 55 Lower-class, to Brits
 - 56 Growl threateningly
 - 58 Warning initials above an internet link
 - 59 Hair bases
 - 62 Actress Kate of "Grey's Anatomy"
 - 63 Of sheep
 - 64 "Casablanca" woman
 - 65 Prized buy for a coin collector
 - 67 Nail on a paw
 - 68 Pledge
 - 69 Brand of sneakers
 - 70 Didn't win
 - 71 Hang it up
 - 72 App that asks "Where to?"
 - 77 Frolicking
 - 78 Move back and forth
 - 80 Open tourney, often
 - 81 Necessarily
 - 82 Sleeveless cloak
 - 83 Arabian chief
 - 85 Pooch noise
 - 86 Misters
 - 87 Agent's cut
 - 88 "... there — square"
 - 91 Something hilarious
 - 92 Fabric with raised designs
 - 94 Grapple with, slangly
 - 95 Slate clearer
 - 96 Attachment to a dog or cat collar
 - 97 "House" actress Wilde
 - 98 Old-time Ford
 - 99 NASA countdown term
 - 100 Ferber of fiction
 - 101 — regions (Hades)
 - 107 Crater edges
 - 108 Novelist Irwin
 - 110 Corp. VIPs
 - 112 Squeezed (out)
 - 113 Be in power
 - 114 Jubilant cries
 - 117 Exist
 - 118 "So that's your trick!"
 - 119 Wrecker's job



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smccllellan@michigan.com.

SUDOKU



Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/15

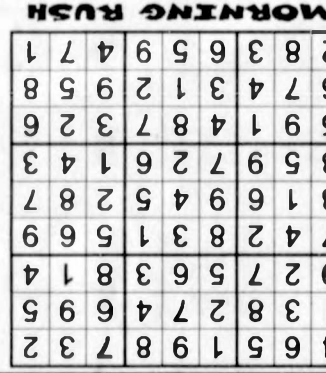
Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using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

MORNING RUSH

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



- ALARM
- BACON
- BATH
- BED
- BIKE
- BRIEFCASE
- BRUSH
- CAR
- CEREAL
- CHANGE
- COAT
- COFFEE
- COINS
- COMB
- CUP
- EARLY
- FARE
- HIGHWAY
- HONK
- HURRY
- JAM
- JUICE
- KEYS
- LATE
- LATHER
- LIPSTICK
- MARMALADE
- MIRROR
- MOTORWAY
- MUFFIN
- NEWSPAPER
- PARKING
- PETROL
- PURSE
- RADIO
- RIDE
- ROAD
- RUN
- SHAMPOO
- SHAVE
- SHOWER
- SOAP
- START
- TICKET
- TOOT
- TRAFFIC
- TRAIN
- TRAM
- TRUCK
- WAKEN
- WASH
- WORK



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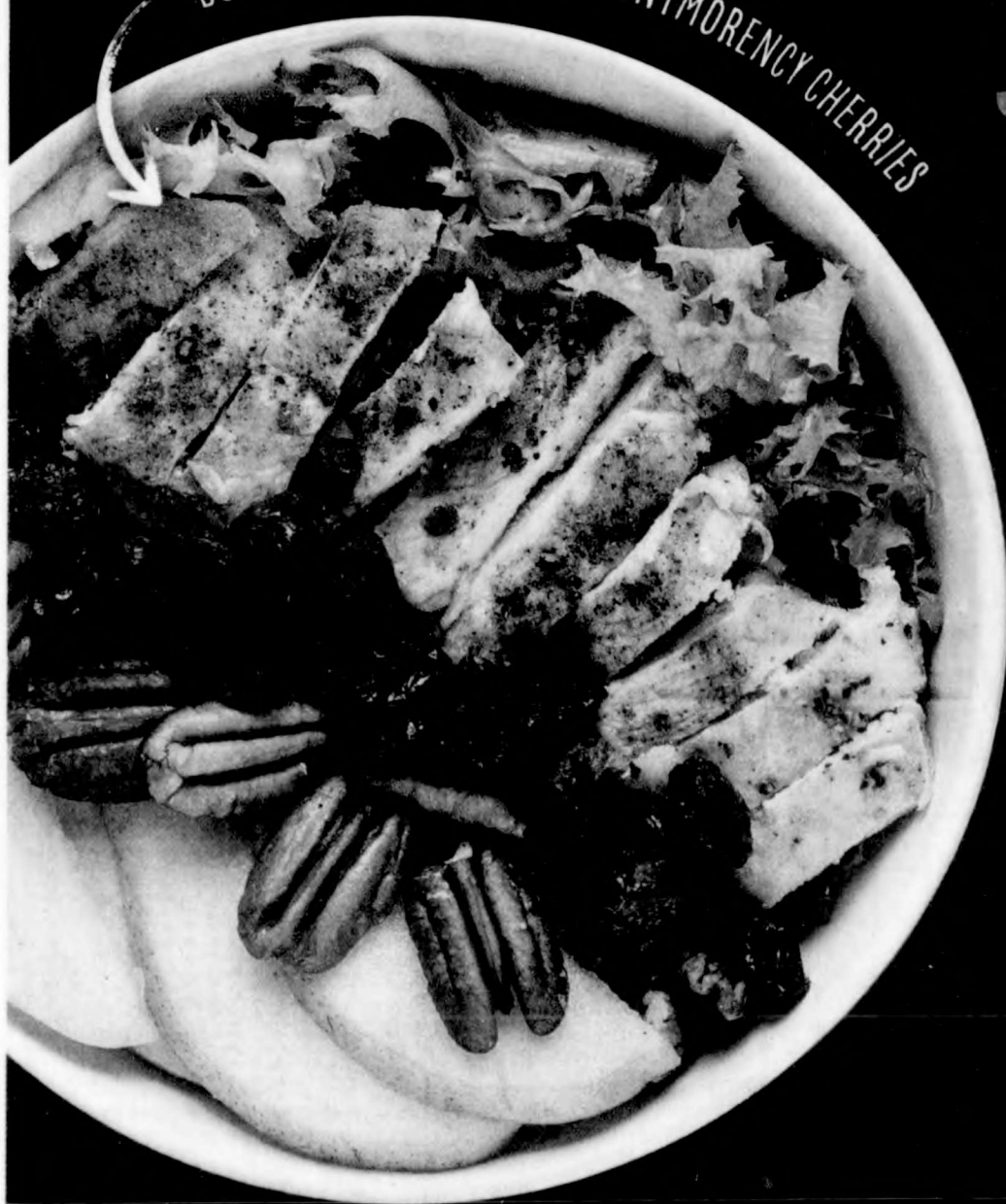


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