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CANTON OBSERVER

SUNDAY 10.23.16 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Law says Siegrist can't serve two roles

Clerk hopeful wouldn't be able to serve as school trustee

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Legal experts say Canton Township clerk candidate Michael Siegrist, if elected Nov. 8, could not do that job while still serving as a Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

board trustee, though the Democratic nominee had intended to serve in both roles.

Then-Attorney General Mike Cox, citing "competing interests" in an opinion in 2004, ruled that one official cannot hold both positions because township clerk offices

oversee school board elections and are paid by school boards to do it. State law turned school elections over to local clerks Jan. 1, 2005.

"It is my opinion, therefore, that the offices of township clerk and member of a board



Siegrist

of education of a local school district will become incompatible on Jan. 1, 2005," Cox wrote, citing election law changes.

Siegrist, competing with Republican nominee Linda Obrec for the clerk's job, has contended he sought legal advice and was told there is no

See SIEGRIST, Page A2

Voters to choose Obrec or Siegrist for Canton clerk

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Canton will have a new clerk for the first time in more than two decades when departing Clerk Terry Bennett leaves her job — after 21 years — after the Nov. 8 election.

Voters will decide her successor between Republican Linda Obrec, who has a lengthy history as a businesswoman and community volunteer, and

Democrat Michael Siegrist, an accountant, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools board trustee and former Canton Public Library board leader who also worked with the clerk's office absentee voter counting board.

The winner will earn a four-year term on the seven-member Canton Township Board of Trustees.

In responses to questions submitted by the Observer, Obrec said the biggest challenge facing the clerk's office is responding to the growing demand for public services. She cited a sharp uptick in voter registration.

"Our registered voter base has already grown 10 percent this year. That's over 6,100 new voters," said Obrec, president of Front Line Resources, Inc., a strategic marketing company, adding that more than 1,000 houses are in some stage of development and demands on the clerk's office will increase.

"To keep costs down, the clerk's office will have to maintain the current staffing level for as long as possible. More election day workers must be recruited for a record number of 66,000-plus voters and growing," she said. "Hundreds of election workers must be professionally trained or retrained every two years before being led through a process that has unquestionable high integrity. More polling places that meet state of Michigan guidelines must be opened. Decisions about new voting equipment the state of Michigan will approve must be successfully made."

Siegrist also said one of the biggest challenges facing the clerk's office is recruiting election workers — and he said he can change that rather than having to hire an outside company to help.

See CLERK, Page A2



WSDP-FM staffers Zain Omaid, Amanda Barberena and Clay Martin, in the main studio.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RAISED ON RADIO

WSDP-FM has sparked broadcasting careers



WSDP-FM staffer Ian Kandt edits an overnight broadcast.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com

Aiming high has paid off at WSDP-FM (88.1).

The 300-watt, student-run radio station at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, better known as 88.1 The Park, has launched dozens of careers, given hundreds of students a head start in post-high school studies and kept thousands of listeners informed and entertained with its programming.

"It's been an amazing experience to watch these students," John Kreger, the assistant manager and a station alumni, said during a recent visit. "If you give students a high standard and ask them to meet it, they will."

Now, the 44-year-old station is marking

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SIEGRIST

Continued from Page A1

conflict between the two positions.

"When I made the decision to run for clerk, there was some uncertainty over when any type of conflict would arise between the two positions," he said Friday. "I made the decision thinking I would be able to do both positions, believing that my experience with the school board would make me a more impactful clerk."

When asked if he would resign from the school board if elected clerk, Siegrist said, "If elected, I will cross that bridge when I come to it."

Frank Woodhams,

Michigan Secretary of State spokesman, said Siegrist wouldn't be allowed to hold both positions.

"Our understanding of this matter is that they are incompatible and he would have to choose one or the other," Woodhams said.

Catherine Mullhaupt, staff attorney with the Michigan Townships Association, said the MTA shares that position based on Cox's opinion in 2004. Morevoer, she said it would apply to all township board members, not just the clerk.

"It's our position that this applies to any (township) board member," she said, adding that Cox's opinion "renders any township board position incompatible with the school board. That's

our position."

Siegrist had said he had hoped to help the school board move forward, especially with some veteran board members stepping down from the board.

"With three new members joining us after the election, the district will need consistency and stability," he said Thursday.

However, Cox's opinion speaks clearly to the issue. His ruling departed from an opinion eight years earlier by then-Attorney General Frank Kelley, who wrote that "the offices of township clerk and member of a board of education of a local school district are not incompatible" unless the two boards enter into a contract or have a non-contractual matter af-

fecting one another.

The township board and school board do have contractual agreements other than the clerk overseeing school elections. They have agreements for police officers who are assigned to Plymouth-Canton's high schools. The township board and school board also have an agreement allowing the township to tap into the school district's wireless network at some township buildings.

Kim Crouch, Plymouth-Canton school board president, said the board has taken no stance on Siegrist's situation because it would be premature before the Nov. 8 election.

"There is no conflict right now," she said, adding that she wouldn't

spend taxpayer dollars requesting a board attorney opinion before the election. "As a board, we want to be prudent spending money when we don't know if there is a potential conflict."

As a practical matter, Siegrist, in dual roles, could have faced decisions about which board meetings to attend because the township board and school board often meet at the same time the same night. Regardless of his situation, Siegrist said consideration should be given to perhaps changing one of the board's meeting times so that residents, if they want, can go to both rather than having to choose.

Siegrist's situation is considered different from that of another elected official, James

Fausone, whose name is on the local Nov. 8 ballot twice. He is seeking a third four-year term on the Canton Public Library board and second six-year term as a Schoolcraft College trustee. Those two entities are separate and have no contractual agreements, Fausone said, so "there's no conflict of interest which arises."

Woodhams, from the Secretary of State office, said there appears to be no conflict between the library and Schoolcraft boards.

"We have no reason to have an issue with that," he said. "Those two offices are compatible in our view."

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CLERK

Continued from Page A1

"I want to work with the township attorney to explore options for bringing younger people into the process, while complying with employ-

ment laws," Siegrist said. "I know there is a virtual army waiting to get engaged in the process. I would work tirelessly to provide the training in opening and closing the polls and returning ballots to the township."

Siegrist said his involvement in the Kiwanis

service club has taught him how to spur civic engagement. As an adviser to a high school Key Club with more than 300 members, he said he can tap into that resource to stir more interest in elections.

For much more on these two candidates, go

to <http://www.hometownlife.com> and also check out the candidates' websites at www.votesiegrist.com and www.lindaobrec.com

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Voters to decide between McLaughlin and Slavens for township treasurer

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Canton voters will choose between two veteran politicians when they go to the polls Nov. 8 to elect a treasurer to a four-year term.

Republican incumbent Melissa McLaughlin, seeking a third term, cited her on-the-job experience and a "very efficient" treasurer's office as among the reasons voters should choose her. She has 24 years of service on the Canton Township Board of Trustees, including eight as treasurer, and also has served on the planning commis-



Slavens McLaughlin

sion, historical commission and as Downtown Development Authority chair.

Democratic challenger Dian Slavens, a former state representative, touted her six years in the state House and vowed to bring good policy, transparency and accountability to the treasurer's office. She cited her experience in helping to balance a multibillion-dollar, budget in Lansing, creating

policy, working to slash state lawmaker pay by 10 percent and supporting elimination of lifetime health care for legislators.

The Observer asked the candidates to respond to questions as they now head into the home stretch of their campaigns.

"Canton didn't happen by accident. It is the result of terrific leadership, vision and team work," McLaughlin said, when asked what makes her the better candidate, saying she has worked on budgets for 24 years, supported bond proposals to improve Canton and engaged in "some great innovative thinking" with her colleagues.

Slavens pledged to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars if elected.

"As Canton treasurer I will continue to be the fiscal steward needed to care for the people's money," she said. "Good policy is also an important factor I can bring. Transparency and accountability with strong communication are vital for the citizens of Canton."

For much more, go to <http://www.hometownlife.com> or to the candidates' websites at www.melissa4treasurer.com and www.slavensforanton.com.

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RADIO

Continued from Page A1

its third straight nomination for a Marconi Radio Award from the National Association of Broadcasters — in just the third year the Marconis have had a non-commercial station category. WSDP is the only high school station ever to be named a Marconi finalist.

With two previous nominations in a row, this year's honor took station manager Bill Keith by surprise. At the same time, "I felt that our entry this year was our best and really told a great story about how we serve the community," said Keith, who has been at the station for 25 years.

"It is an incredible honor when you realize that we are being recognized with college and professional stations," he added.

WSDP didn't take the Marconi for best non-commercial station — that went to WSOU-FM at Seton Hall University — but Keith and some station staffers got to bask in the glow during the September awards presentation in Nashville, Tenn., where they networked with top radio professionals.

"It was a great experience," said Amanda Barberena, WSDP's program director and a Plymouth High School senior.

The station began broadcasting in February 1972 at just 10 watts. Now firmly established as part of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district, WSDP gets an annual subsidy of about \$110,000 from the district and raises another \$40,000 or so a year from sponsors.

Influential alums

The influence of WSDP alums has been felt at stations around the country — and at the Marconis.

Patrick Walsh, a 1985 Salem grad, is president and chief operating officer at Emmis Communications, an Indianapolis-based media company with 23 stations in six markets. Walsh is also on the executive committee at the NAB and was a presenter in Nashville who says he felt some alumni pride when he announced WSDP as a nominee.

Walsh, who just marked his 10th anniversary at Emmis, also prepared for his career with a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance and a master's in business administration, but says he misses his time on the radio.

"I definitely enjoyed my time working on developing news stories and doing on-air features and preparing basketball games," he said. Radio is his "first love" and working at the station helped him build confidence.

He remembered a WSDP staff of 15-20 dedicated students (there are currently about 30). The music format then, he said, included pop, punk and



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WSDP-FM (88.1) was a finalist for a Marconi Radio Award.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
WSDP program director Amanda Barberena.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Zain Omair is the music director at WSDP.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
WSDP sports director Clay Martin.

The station, he said, "gave a lot of license to young people to explore their creative sides."

Current staffers say The Park is giving them technical skills, a leg up on their future studies and a sense of camaraderie in what becomes for them a home away from home.

Hands-on learning

They learn by doing — and by helping each other along, said Zain Omair, the music director and a Canton High senior.

"A radio station is definitely like a team," she said. "People are willing to help you out."

"Hands-on learning for sure," said Amanda, the program director, who also acts in the P-CEP theater program. Zain, involved with the station since

her sophomore year, wants to study communications in college, as does Amanda, who wants to go into radio producing.

Clay Martin, the sports director, wants to become a lawyer. "A lot of the communications skills I learned here at the station can definitely translate," he said.

The Park, which broadcasts around the clock, has an adult contemporary, top 40 music format, plus a regular student-produced news show, "News-File," 5:30 p.m. each weekday.

It also offers sports, including live broadcasts of athletic events, specialty music shows like Zain's "Pretty in Punk" (6 p.m. Monday) and "The Scene" (6 p.m. Thursday) and informational features. Monica Merritt, P-CCS superintendent, hosts "Moments With Merritt" (5:45 p.m. Tuesday), in which she spotlights things happening in the district.

During this election season, WSDP is also giving air time to candidates for the P-CCS school board, with staffers helping them in for interviews.

Kreger, the assistant manager, said the station's mission, as part of the school district, is a public service and a public trust.

"We try to live up to that standard," he said.

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Canton resident tapped as Veteran of the Month

Gerald (Jerry) Towler, Vietnam War veteran of Canton, was honored as the October 2016 "Veteran of the Month" by the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 32, of the Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

Jerry served in the Army from 1964 to 1968. He was born in Detroit, grew up in Melvindale and graduated from Melvindale High School. When he turned 18 he received his draft notice. Jerry loved flying so he went straight to the Air Force recruiting office only to be told that a college degree was required to get into flight school. Jerry was disappointed but heard that the Army was looking for pilots and a high school diploma was the only requirement. He went to the recruiter and signed up.

In March of 1964 he was sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for eight weeks of basic training and he told them he wanted to be a helicopter pilot. He was told it may take a year or so before an opening would come up, but they would let him do all the testing to get ready. They suggested he go to Aircraft Mechanics School, meanwhile, to increase his chances.

He was then sent to Fort Rucker, Alabama, for eight weeks of Aircraft Maintenance School and then another eight weeks of advanced maintenance training. In late 1964 he was transferred to the General's College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

"Why they picked me, I'm not sure," he said. "All the rest of the guys were assigned crews and sent to Vietnam. I had my commercial pilot's license and enjoyed flying with some of the generals so they could get their flight hours and I got to know a lot of them."

One night on his way back to his barracks, he



Jerry Towler was honored as Veteran of the Month.

was flagged down by a woman who said her daughter had fallen from a horse and needed help. He put her into his car and took her to the infirmary. The next day he was summoned to the Aviation General's office, "Oh my God, what did I do," he thought.

He was surprised to find out he had helped the general's daughter and she was fine. He was invited to dinner with the general's family and next thing he knew he had his orders to report to pre-flight school at Fort Wolters, Texas. He was then sent back to Fort Ruckers for advanced flight school.

In August 1965 he graduated as a Warrant Officer, Helicopter Pilot.

He was then sent to Fort Benning, Georgia, and assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry, 1st Air Assault Company. Within a week they were loaded on buses, sent to Norfolk Virginia, loaded on a troop ship and spent one month at sea on their way to Vietnam. Their final destination was An Khe Army Airfield in the Vietnam Central Highlands.

The 1st Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile) began using a new concept in Vietnam by which the ground maneuver elements were moved around the battlefield by helicopters. This is the first time helicopters were employed as part of the ground troops and proved to be an efficient

way to deploy troops and supplies, as well as evacuating troops and providing support fire power.

The HU-1 (Huey) helicopter was the workhorse for the Army with more than 7,000 used during the war. They were configured to carry troops, stretchers or cargo.

Jerry flew a Huey troop carrier which could carry 14 combat soldiers, plus the flight crew. It was outfitted with two .30mm machine guns. Many days they would fly 10 or more combat missions delivering troops to combat areas and retrieving them where necessary. When asked how many combat missions he flew, Jerry commented, "It is really hard to say because a combat mis-

sion was only counted if you were fired upon by the enemy, but it was at least 600 out of the 1,200 flights in my log book."

One of his most intense flights occurred during the battle of the Ia Drang Valley fought in November, just two months after the division began arriving in Vietnam. He risked his own life to evacuate wounded soldiers off the battlefield in two areas under heavy enemy fire. His valor did not go unrecognized and in May, 2005, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin presented Jerry with the two Distinguished Flying Cross medals for heroic action in armed conflict. The ceremony was held at American Legion Post 32 in Livonia where Jerry is a member.

Jerry served one year in Vietnam and was then sent to Nuremburg, Germany, where he was made Company Standardization Officer, an office normally assigned to a major. He was in charge of checking out new pilots and also flew helicopter reconnaissance flights along the West German-Czechoslovakian border. He said he was not too worried as it was to show presence more than anything, but it was important to know exactly where the border was so we they didn't cross it. They were given a special code and orders just in case something happened.

"Occasionally a Russian helicopter would fly on the other side of the border along with us and we would wave at each other," Jerry said.

Jerry was given a leave in May of 1967 and married his wife, Martha (Martie). They honeymooned in Capri, Italy, and Martie stayed in Germany with him and taught elementary school at the military base. Jerry was discharged in Europe and in 1968 they returned to Melvindale

after spending some time touring Europe. They moved to Canton in 1970, then to Plymouth and eventually back to Canton, where they live today. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

Jerry retired in 2001 after working as Chief Pilot for Guardian Industries and various other corporate pilot positions. Jerry spent a total of 37 years flying helicopters and jets and has spent the last 15 years as a volunteer at the Yankee Air Force Museum in Bellville. He helped to restore a Vietnam era HU-1 helicopter and also flew the museum's restored B-25 Bomber for many years. The helicopter was painted in Jerry's company colors and his flight suit is on display next to it.

In June, 2014, the Yankee Air Museum featured Jerry at their Historic Presentation night where Jerry talked about this experience in Vietnam and about flying with Bob Mason, the author of the famous book "Chickenhawk," in which Jerry was featured under the name "Resler."

Jerry was interviewed by members of the S.A.L. Veteran of the Month Committee. A DVD was made of the interview and shown at the October S.A.L. membership meeting. A plaque was presented to Jerry from Livonia Trophy with his picture and service information. An additional plaque was also put on display in the vestibule of the American Legion Hall.

The S.A.L. invites local residents to attend their monthly meetings to listen to the Veteran of the Month. The public is also encouraged and to nominate veterans to be honored at its meetings. Nomination forms can be picked up at the American Legion Hall, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150

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Accused rest stop gunman will face jury trial

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

Barring a plea deal, a jury trial is set for a Garden City man who police say brandished a gun during a dispute with a maintenance worker at the Interstate 275 rest stop in Canton, court records show.

Tony James Wielkopolan, 28, is facing trial Dec. 14 in Wayne County Circuit Judge Thomas



Wielkopolan Allard

Cameron's courtroom on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, felony firearm, carrying a concealed weapon and a misdemeanor marijuana

offense. Canton police arrested Wielkopolan during a traffic stop after he allegedly fled the scene of an incident that occurred about 8:40 a.m. Friday, July 29, at the rest stop on I-275, near Cherry Hill.

Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor has said a fight between Wielkopolan and the maintenance worker escalated until a handgun was brandished, but no shots were fired.

Police haven't disclosed why the two men argued.

The same felony charges have been dismissed against 25-year-old Cheyenne Rae Allard of Westland, who was accused of getting the gun from a vehicle. She agreed to plead to misdemeanor disorderly and marijuana charges in Plymouth 35th District

Court and was placed on probation for one year.

Witnesses called police after they saw the incident unfolding and realized a gun had been drawn, Traylor has said, adding that Wielkopolan "ended up chasing after the maintenance guy" before fleeing the scene.

Canton police happened to be near the area when the incident was reported. Officers spotted the alleged getaway

vehicle, pulled it over without incident and arrested the suspects.

If convicted, Wielkopolan could face up to five years in prison for the concealed weapon charge, four years for assault with a dangerous weapon and two years for the felony firearm violation.

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734-972-0919

RTA ballot proposal: A path to independence for some riders

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

Natasha Palffy recently rode on a SMART bus for the first time by herself. It was a great feeling of accomplishment for the 15-year-old Birmingham teenager, who is legally blind.

"She uses cabs and Uber, but with buses it's a little more difficult because you have to know the schedules," said her father, Carl Palffy. "But the goal is to make her more independent as she gets older and public transportation is certainly a key toward achieving that goal."

To Peggy Branch, public transportation means freedom for her daughter Maggie. The 17-year-old Birmingham teenager has fragile X syndrome, which is an autism spectrum disorder.

"She's probably never going to be driving - at least not for the foreseeable future," Branch said. "Work is definitely in Maggie's future, but getting her to and from a job is going to be the challenge."

Voters in southeast Michigan will decide Nov. 8 whether to allow the Regional Transit



Natasha Palffy, 15, catches a bus near Woodward and Maple roads in Birmingham.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Authority of Southeast Michigan to levy 1.2 mills over a 20-year period for the purpose of constructing and operating a public transportation system connecting Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties.

The Regional Master Transit Plan will connect more than 2,600 miles and four million residents. It will also increase paratransit services by at least 33 percent to help provide greater independence for

seniors and people with disabilities.

The millage will collect about \$161 million the first year. Branch believes it's going to be money well-spent, especially for young people with disabilities who will likely rely on public transportation for most of their lives.

"The more these kids can do things on their own, the more it will boost their confidence and give them that feeling of independence and adventure," she said. "It

lets them say, 'Hey, I can do this by myself' and that's a pretty big deal."

Learning to ride

Wendy Ernzen's 14-year-old daughter Nicola has autism and will likely never drive. Even so, Ernzen said she wants to carve out as much independence for her daughter as possible.

"We're hoping she gets into some type of vocational program one day," Ernzen said. "And public transportation gives parents like me a

lot of hope, because that's something she could master. The routes are typically the same and she's very schedule-driven. That's why I think something like this would work with her."

Maggie already works at a neighborhood business called Simply Good Kitchen that's three blocks away from her house. Peggy Branch said reliability and safety are two priorities if her daughter started taking the bus.

"Safety is a huge issue," Branch said. "What if someone gets in a fight on a bus? Anything out of the ordinary and these kids are easily flustered."

Ernzen said she likes the RTA plan because it will expand the number of stops and pickup times. The plan will also benefit her family with the creation of some east-west routes.

"The RTA plan could open up a new world for our daughter," Ernzen said. "She could live along the Woodward corridor and catch her BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) stop to get to her therapy in Berkley, attend vocational training at Oakland Community College in Royal Oak or catch a

Tigers game with her sister downtown."

If the millage fails, Branch and Ernzen said the responsibility of providing transportation for their kids falls onto their shoulders. In Nicola's case, for example, the existing bus system has too many changeovers and delays for her to comfortably navigate. SMART does offer an ADA shuttle service, providing the rider qualities.

"We are not alone," Ernzen said, citing national statistics that 1 in 68 children have been identified with autism spectrum disorder. "Not to mention all the other people with different disabilities and the thousands of seniors who no longer can drive. Perhaps some can rely on other family members or self-driving cars, but what will the rest of these people do?"

Branch added, "It's all about getting our children ready for work and being a productive member of the community. That's something every parent wants for their child."

jgrossman@hometownlife.com
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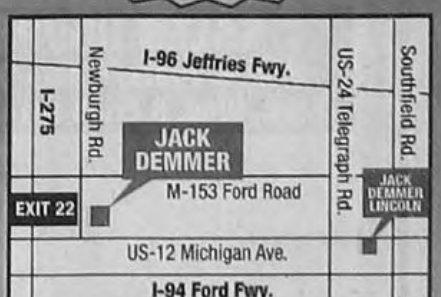
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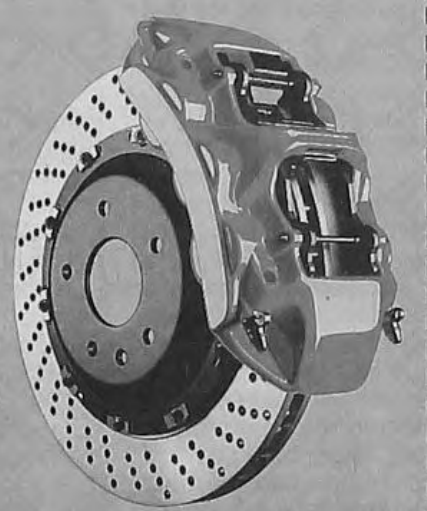
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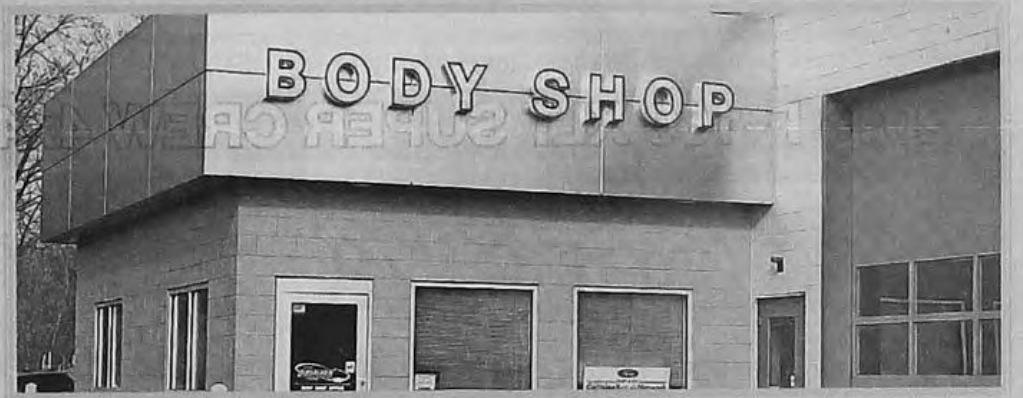
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Two Canton public safety officers promoted

Following a comprehensive internal assessment process, the Canton Public Safety Department has filled two new deputy director positions created as part of the department's restructuring plan approved by the township board.

Christopher Stoecklein is promoted to the position of deputy director of fire. Stoecklein began his career with Canton in 1996 as a public safety service officer and was promoted to firefighter one year later. In 2013, he was selected as the de-



Baugh

Stoecklein

partment's deputy fire chief. Stoecklein is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Staff & Command School. As deputy fire chief, he was responsible for overseeing the department's fire service and paramedic training programs, as

well as the department's Fire Inspection and Prevention Unit.

Stoecklein also assisted with preparing the department's annual budgets and strategic plan.

Chadwick Baugh is promoted to the position of deputy director of police. Baugh began his career with Canton in 1996 as a police officer. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2008 and then to lieutenant in 2014. Baugh has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Madonna

University and is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Police Staff & Command School. As lieutenant, he served as platoon commander in the patrol division, overseeing the daily operation of his shift of sergeants, patrol officers and PSSOs. In addition, he was responsible for providing training, direction and motivation of subordinate personnel.

In their new roles, Stoecklein and Baugh will work under the direction of the public safety director, overseeing the effi-

cient operation of their respective department. They will be responsible for ensuring their department's mission, vision and values are carried out through the development of staff, policy and budget. Both departments currently employ an unprecedentedly young workforce, providing an opportunity for the deputy directors to empower their command staff with the ability to mentor and cultivate these young individuals to reach their maximum potential — creating

quality service-oriented employees, while also developing future leaders of the agency.

"I am excited to have Deputy Director Stoecklein and Deputy Director Baugh promoted to my executive leadership team," Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said. "I am confident they will be instrumental in contributing innovative ideas to the new administration — forging the police and fire departments in a positive, progressive direction for the future."

Appliance Doc says faulty washers agitate consumers

I recently spent a Saturday at the Novi Home Improvement show, doing interviews on radio and generally just talking with many of the attendees. The subject of faulty products and major recalls was prevalent among many of the homeowners who were there seeking advice on projects for their homes.

I talked about the Product Safety Commission's recent recall of 222,000 General Electric washers that are prone to catch fire. I also brought up the huge story on ABC television that shows the top part of a Samsung washer exploding. I'm sure the washer eventually will cause bodily harm to someone. As a side note, let me point out that Samsung was very reluctant to do anything about that telephone that was catching fire and



Joe Gagnon
APPLIANCE DOCTOR

now it seems its acting the same way about the clothes washer it has produced. We again will wait to see what happens with this problem.

A consumer at the Novi show brought up the subject of a piece shown on Channel 7 about a football player whose teammates said his clothes had an odor. He went home and checked out the operation of his clothes washer. His washing machine only had 6 inches of water in it during the wash cycle. Isn't it a wonder why his clothes stink? How can you wash clothes with so little water?

Smaller loads

To sum it all up, the majority of questions at the home show had to do with clothes washers. I call it questions, but most of the talk would classify as complaints. On Sunday, I met with an appliance repairman and asked him how he resolves complaints about a poorly performing clothes washer. He told me he is called by many homeowners who are not happy and his standard answer is that there is nothing wrong with the washer and they must use smaller loads to get peak performance. Because many of these newer machines don't have an agitator, you open the lid and the tub space looks huge and consumers tend to put way too much clothes into a single load. This appears to be a major

Because many of these newer machines don't have an agitator, you open the lid and the tub space looks huge and consumers tend to put way too much clothes into a single load.

problem with performance.

He also pointed out that you must use the specific detergent indicated by the operating manual. I noted that when the Samsung top loader explosion was exposed on "Good Morning America," they also said you should use smaller loads in this washer. I remember when I used to tell consumers that if you have a tub capacity of 18 pounds, try putting in 16 pounds of clothes and you will get a better wash and add years to the life of your washer. I never

once ever told anyone to put a simple 5 pounds of clothes into a washer. It sure looks like that is what you are being told today.

Energy standards

I am not going to blame the U.S. Energy Department for all the faults being discovered with appliances, but I will point out that it has no clue at all what the consequences are when it mandates certain energy standards for items made in this country and abroad. When you tell an appliance manufacturer that the hot water com-

ing into a washer can't be more than 104 degrees, you are affecting the health of every person wearing clothes that were washed in that unit. The bacteria weren't killed and spread throughout the load of clothes. I can't imagine how many people have a hose connected to the hot water valve in the laundry room and fill the washer with proper temperature hot water before they even turn it on. I know there are many and we can blame the U.S. Energy Department for that fact alone and many others on the way appliances perform today. Is there an end in sight? Stay tuned.

You can hear Joe Gagnon on at 8 a.m. each Sunday morning on WTKA-AM (1050). His email address is appldoct@gmail.com.

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Survey says ... try out for 'Family Feud!'

Aileen Wingblad
hometownlife.com

There's still time to snag a Detroit audition for "Family Feud" — but you better act soon. Producer Sara Dansby said response has been strong from families hoping to get on the show since the Detroit auditions were announced a few weeks ago and she anticipates all available audition slots to fill up within a week or so. Up to 700 families are expected to be OK'd for tryouts, to be held Nov. 5-6 at Cobo Center. Of those auditioning, she said, it's likely 50-75 families will be chosen as contestants and placed on the show's "active file."



"Family Feud" host Steve Harvey.

Airfare and hotel stays are provided for contestants during filming, which takes place in Atlanta, Ga. "Family Feud" came

on the scene in 1976, hosted by the late comedian/actor Richard Dawson. Since then, the show "has had many great hosts," Dansby said, "but the latest and greatest is Steve Harvey." So how has the show maintained its popularity for four decades? Dansby believes the family aspect is the major draw. "Viewers can watch and relate and they like to see other people win money, believe it or not," she said. "They're happy for them and they like to see the families — maybe the sweet mom with all the others." Dansby said that in the 15 years she's worked for "Family Feud," auditions have never been held in the Motor City.

"I'm very excited about coming to Detroit and meeting all the families," she said. "I'm looking forward to it." To apply for an audition, email detroit@familytryouts.com. Eligibility: » Teams are made up of five family members related by blood, marriage or legal adoption. » Players must be U.S. citizens or have permission to work in the U.S. » Anyone who knows or is related to anyone employed by Fremantle-Media, Demar-Mercury, Wanderlust Productions, any affiliate that carries the "Family Feud" or any Steve Harvey production is ineligible. » Anyone running for

political office or who has been on more than two game shows in the last year is ineligible. » If anyone has appeared on "Family Feud" before, it must be 10 years since the last appearance for them to be eligible. » There's no age requirement to be on "Family Feud," but it's suggested that contestants be age 15 or older due to the content of questions. Families who can't make it to a live audition can audition by video. Further information is on the website or call the Contestant Department Hotline at 323-762-8467. awingblad@hometownlife.com 248-390-3976 [Twitter: @awingblad](https://twitter.com/awingblad)

A house divided: She's a Democrat, he's a Republican

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

If only Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton could get along like the Imermans. Larry Imerman is a Republican precinct delegate from Bloomfield Township. His wife Miriam is the Democratic precinct delegate for the same area. Politically speaking, they're the odd couple. And yet, listening to the two talk politics over breakfast at Nello's in Royal Oak, one can remember the good old days when the two parties seemed to get along better. "We're a house divided," Miriam said, "but look at how we reach across the aisle and help each other." She then passes the pepper to Larry.



Miriam and Larry Imerman of Bloomfield Township are precinct delegates, only he's a Republican and she's a Democrat.

"You can't minimize what I'm saying," Larry tells his wife. "Sure I can," Miriam tells her husband. "Look at me, I'm doing it right now." Ketchup anyone? "She's made some big mistakes," Miriam said of her candidate. "There's no good rationale for the emails — for someone who has spent 30 years in public life she should have known better. But between the two candidates, I have no problem whatsoever pressing the button for Hillary." Miriam believes a segment of the population won't support Clinton for no other reason than she's a woman. Larry said Trump's complete lack of experience in politics could hurt him at the polls. As for the rhetoric, both believe their candidate could say just about anything at this point and it wouldn't affect the outcome.

A study by the Pew Research Center indicates bipartisan politics is practically at an all-time low, with Democrats and Republicans more divided than at any other point in the past 20 years. Michael Traugott, a research professor with the Center of Political Studies at the University of Michigan, points out the same division exists in many households across America, where families don't want to see their kids marrying across the aisle. According to a Stanford University study, 33 percent of Democrats and 49 percent of Republicans polled in 2010 said they would be displeased if their daughter or son married someone of a differing political ideology. When the same poll was conducted in the 1960s, only 4 percent of Democrats and 5 percent of Republicans said they'd be displeased. Traugott said the polarization can be traced back to the 1990s and the number of instances where members of Congress refused to cross over to vote with their colleagues from the other party.

More pepper, please

Back at Nello's, Larry and Miriam talk about how they went door-to-door together on the campaign trail. "If the person at the door was a Democrat, Miriam would step up and introduce herself," said Larry, who first ran as a precinct delegate in 2012. "If they were a Republican, I'd take the lead." Miriam first ran as a write-in candidate in 2014, when she saw that no other Democrats in her area were running for precinct delegate. "I'm your conduit to the Democratic Party," she said. "I'm there to encourage you to vote and participate." The two-year position requires delegates to serve as liaisons between their precincts and the party. Delegates also meet at the county and state level to nominate party members for certain offices, such as university regent.

Larry said the political landscape is changing within the local Republican Party. He cited conservative political groups, such as Battle Cry Michigan, that were recruiting candidates to run for precinct positions last summer in order to build a power structure from the grassroots level. "What can I tell you?" she said. "My dad voted for Adlai Stevenson." Overall, it's clear the two agree with each other on a number of issues — except when it comes

to Clinton and Trump. **Political heartburn** Larry said the reason Trump is doing well is because of his message. "I think the voters like that's he a successful businessman," he said. "Trump tells it like it is and he does not represent a Republican establishment that has failed their constituency in numerous ways. ... In the U.S., we always hope our kids will be better off than we are and I think that dream has died with a lot of people." Miriam said Clinton supporters appreciate

her experience and breadth of knowledge when it comes to politics. "She knows the issues inside and out," Miriam said. "And I think people know she'll make decisions based on intellect and not on emotion." Miriam then mentions how the "trust issue" with Clinton has been overblown by the media — and that's when breakfast starts to heat up a little. "She's ethically challenged," Larry says in a matter-of-fact way. "Name me a politician who isn't," Miriam challenges him.

And yet, they both finish breakfast in a good mood. If nothing else, the election has charged up the voters. Said Miriam, "What's that old quote about democracy? 'It's the worst system in the world except for all the other ones.' Every democratic nation has its rough-and-tumble politics. But right now, you have an incredibly engaged electorate and, if a few more people become engaged, I think that's for the good." jgrossman@hometownlife.com 586-826-7030 [Twitter: @BhmEccentric](https://twitter.com/BhmEccentric)

Larry said the political landscape is changing within the local Republican Party. He cited conservative political groups, such as Battle Cry Michigan, that were recruiting candidates to run for precinct positions last summer in order to build a power structure from the grassroots level. At the same time, he

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ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
(734) 453-1234

A meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

Z 16-21 546 Roe
Non-Use Variance Requested
Side & Rear Yard Setbacks
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential
Applicant: Dan MacKinnon

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Published: October 23, 2016 LO-0000300923 3x3.5

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE
CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN
CITY HALL, 201 S. MAIN
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016
7:00 PM
(734) 453-1234

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS OF:

- Article II, Definitions, Sec. 78-21, Definitions,
- Article XVII, Schedule of Regulations, Sec. 78-190, Limiting Height, Bulk, Density, and Area by Zoning District Sec. 78-191, Notes to Schedule

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

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Published: Sunday, October 23, 2016 LO-0000300922 3x4

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Time to register for Wayne County Lightfest run and bicycle ride

Sign up now to preview Lightfest 2016! Participants in the 20th annual Wayne County Lightfest 8K Fun Run/Walk at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, will have an opportunity to travel the Lightfest display route on foot. Bike enthusiasts will have a chance to Bike Through the Lights at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Registration can be completed online at <https://runningfitevents.redpodium.com/2016-lightfest-bike-and-run> or in person

FILE PHOTO

Sign up now for Wayne County Lightfest activities.

at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, in Westland. The Nankin Mills Interpretive Center is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Online registration for both the Lightfest 8K Run/Walk and Bike Through the Lights will be accepted until noon Nov. 13. After the deadline, participants may register during packet pickup in person at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 4-7:30 p.m. Nov. 14 or 5:30-6:45 p.m. the day of the event.

The Lightfest 8K Run/Walk registration fee is \$20 through Oct. 23 and

\$25 from Oct. 24 through Nov. 13. Registration Nov. 14-15 will be \$30. Fees for high school-aged children and younger is \$15, regardless of registration date. Registration includes a long sleeve T-shirt, glow-in-the-dark medal and post-race snacks.

Bike Through the Lights registration fee is \$20 through Oct. 23 and \$25 from Oct. 24 through Nov. 13. Registration Nov. 14-16 will be \$30. Fees for high school-aged children and younger is \$15, regardless of registration date. Registration includes a long sleeve T-shirt, glow-in-the-dark mug and post-race snacks.

Both events will take place in the Merriman Hollow area of Hines Park, located at Merriman Road and Hines Drive, in Westland. Runners and bikers can register online at <https://runningfitevents.redpodium.com/2016-lightfest-bike-and-run>.

The Wayne County Lightfest is co-sponsored by the Friends of Wayne County Parks, DTE Energy, ITC Holdings, Cole, Newton & Duran CPA's, Fox 2 News, Community Alliance Credit Union, McDonald Modular, Zeal Credit Union, Consumers Energy, Motor City Mountain Biking Association and beathetrain.com.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia event raises more than \$250,000

St. Mary Mercy Livonia hosted its 24th annual Gala on Oct. 14, during which corporate sponsors, donors, physicians, executives and staff raised more than \$250,000 to help fund community health and wellness programs. Money raised from the event will help pay for a transportation van for cancer patients, increased mental health services and school-based nutrition, weight-management and fitness initiatives.

"The St. Mary Mercy family came together and demonstrated once again its support for the community and our patients," said Dave Spivey, president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Livonia. "These funds will reach far beyond the walls of the hospital to address the most urgent health care needs facing



St. Mary Mercy Livonia President Dave Spivey (from left), 2016 Gala chair Cindy Scappaticci and St. Mary Mercy Livonia Development Director Sara Stauffer.

our community, such as access to care and childhood obesity."

Approximately 700 guests supported the "Phantom of the Opera" themed event, held at the Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center in Livonia.

"This is a fun night every year and, more importantly, it brings us

together to support a great cause," Gala chair Cindy Scappaticci said. "Every year, we are challenged with raising money to support these much needed programs and every year we are grateful to our supporters, physicians and staff who step up to the plate to help us deliver."

St. Robert Bellarmine's hosts popular train show Nov. 12

Saturday, Nov. 12, will mark the 26th annual St. Robert Bellarmine Men's Club Trains In The Park Train Show at St. Robert Bellarmine school gym at the corners of W. Chicago and Inkster road, two miles west of Telegraph Road in Redford. The show runs 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

As always, participants will be able to have their trains tested by the Lincoln Park Train Club and will see trains in operation on the multiple layouts, including one large layout by the Ford Group and another by the Jackson Group.

Although St. Robert's school closed in June 2015, the student athletics program continues. The train show helps fund St. Robert's school children sports activities programs for the



DAVID MALHALAB

The St. Robert Bellarmine Men's Club will again host its popular train show Nov. 12.

current year. Many knowledgeable dealers and train experts attend and allow participants to find out what trains are worth. Dad's or grand dad's trains are worth.

There will be train collectors from multiple states with train and toy items to buy and swap

plus more than 125 dealer tables. There will be door prizes given away every hour. See some highlights of the January 2012 Show at <http://youtu.be/Mgtde1jWxpg>. The Ladies of SRB will sell food and beverages.

Admission is \$3 per person or \$6 per family.

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Disabled resident, also battling illness, needs help with home modifications

Scott R. Daniel
hometownlife.com

Lymphedema robs Catherine Fanto a little bit more every day. The disease, which causes extreme swelling of arms and legs, first took her job nine years ago. Then, it was a good night's sleep – the Redford resident has been forced to rest in a recliner for the past six years. Now, it's chipping away at her mobility.

Fanto started walking with a cane several years ago and then had to quickly move into using two. These days, she scoots around her home in a wheeled walker.

"As much as possible, I need to remain independent," said Fanto, 62, "because the other options are not desirable."

Fanto doesn't complain about her plight. But she recognizes she needs help, especially with her home. Built in the 1930s, the Woodbine Street ranch has small rooms with narrow doorways. Too tight, in fact,



Catherine Fanto has been forced to sleep in her recliner for the past six years.

for her to scoot into with her walker.

That's why she has slept in the recliner for so long. The walker doesn't make it through either of her bedroom doorways and she can't physically make the short walk without risking injury.

"I can't walk around that much," said Fanto, who has arthritis in her legs. "I have to be very careful with my knee."

Home modifications needed

To put it plainly, Catherine Fanto needs modifications made to her

home to make it more accessible. Living on Social Security disability pay, she simply doesn't have the extra funds to do it on her own.

"If something unexpected comes up, there's nothing there," said Fanto, who also battles diabetes and carries

other monthly medical expenses. "There is no extra."

She had a ramp added to the front of her home last year, but that pretty much wiped out her reserves. Fanto needs to have doorways widened inside the home and have a cut-away bathtub installed to be able to get in and out of safely.

She has lived in the home for 16 years and loves it. But she has had to rely more and more on friends for help.

"I have very gracious friends that come by," Fanto said. "They take care of all of the outside work like the lawn and cleaning out the gutters. They're very helpful in that respect."

She was first diagnosed with lymphedema in her late 30s. The disease is usually caused by a blockage in the lymph system, according to Mayo Clinic.org, which keeps fluid from draining normally.

Both of Fanto's legs are affected. Thankfully it hasn't made its way

into her arms. The disease isn't curable, but can be managed to a degree.

A way to help

She has had to recently battle other illnesses, too. A urinary tract infection and blood clots landed her in the Beaumont Botsford Hospital for several weeks in August. Fanto suffered a knee injury while doing physical therapy at the hospital.

Despite all of the maladies, she keeps a positive outlook. Over the years, Fanto has learned to roll with the punches and keep moving forward.

"If this all had happened at once," she said, "I think it would have been harder."

If you would like to help Catherine Fanto with making modifications to her home, please contact her at: puregrace1@aol.com

sraniel@hometownlife.com
734-672-5026
Twitter: @ScottyDan51

WAYNE COUNTY ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Joins soccer team

Casey Muglia of Canton is a member of the women's soccer team at Ashland University. Majoring in nursing, Muglia is a 2016 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School. She is a defender for the university's Eagles team. Muglia, a freshman, is a defender for the Eagles.

The Ashland University women's soccer team competes in NCAA Division II in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The women's soccer team is led by

fourth-year head coach, Dan Krispinsky. Last year, the Eagles sported a 14-4-1 record overall and 9-3-0 in the GLIAC and the team played in the championship game of the GLIAC tournament. The Ashland University women's soccer team has been rated at

No. 23 in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's Top 25 latest poll.

Students attend

Jeremy Lewis and Alex Singleton of Canton joined about 400 first-year students at Heidel-

berg University this fall.

Internship

Matthew J. Zawadzki of Livonia took part in an internship this fall through SUNY Oswego's Center for Experiential Learning. A senior majoring in wellness management, he interned with Summit Physical Therapy in Oswego. The Center for Experiential Learning at Oswego places students in internships and career awareness opportunities that allow them to earn college credits while garnering valuable life

experience.

Accepted

Melissa Boland, daughter of Jeff Boland and Carolyn Boland of Livonia, has been accepted to the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Urbana. Admission to the college — which is one of only 30 veterinary schools in the nation — is highly competitive. Criteria for acceptance include grade point average, admission test scores, background and experience, and personal interviews. Boland is one

of 160 members entering the Class of 2020.

Boland's class will participate in an innovative veterinary curriculum taught only at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Illinois, called the Illinois Integrated Veterinary Professional Curriculum. After graduation, Boland must also pass state and national board examinations covering knowledge of companion and food animal medicine in order to become licensed to practice.

A Stevenson High School graduate, Boland

attended Michigan State University, from where she obtained a bachelor's degree in animal science.

Fraternity and student council member

Dennis Clark of Canton is a member of Phi Alpha Theta at Ashland University and a member of the Student Senate. He is majoring in political science and a 2014 graduate of Father Gabriel Richard High School. He is the son of Richard and Nancy Clark of Canton.



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Nat Geo photographer shares tales of creatures

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

Joel Sartore has spent much of his life taking photos of some of the world's most deadly creatures. So far, he's evaded death, despite having to escape from a bison when he went to take a photo.

"I've been in a lot of situations that are not that fun," he said. "If you pop a flash off in a bison's face, of course he's going to pin you under a truck for an hour."

Sartore, a freelance photographer who has covered several assignments for National Geographic during his career, shared some of his breathtaking images of wildlife Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia with the members of Livonia Town Hall, which began its season Wednesday.



Joel Sartore and friend.



Photographer Joel Sartore at Livonia Town Hall.

photographed birds, primates, insects and amphibians, among others.

"We have to know there's a need. We have to know these animals are in trouble," he said. "When we do know there's a need, people come and fill it."

The Livonia Town Hall event continues next month, when NPR national security correspondent Tom Gjelton speaks Nov. 16. Perrin and the other women at her table all agreed that the best speakers at the series are typically the ones they don't recognize at first glance and are excited for.

"We don't know any of the speakers, but we find they are better than the big name that gets people to come," Perrin said.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

day. During that time, he's seen some of the world's most breathtaking places, his favorite being Antarctica and South Georgia, an island in the south Atlantic Ocean.

"There's a beach in South Georgia where they have 500,000 king penguins, all in one view," he said. "A lot of them will walk right up

to you. They're not scared, because they were never hunted down there.

"It really is a remarkable place."

The presentation took Novi resident Gail Perrin back to the time when she traveled overseas and saw large wildlife during a trip to Africa. She connected with Sartore's story when the

buffalo pinned him underneath his vehicle.

"When you're there, there's nothing to protect you, except the van you're in," Perrin said.

Sartore has also created the National Geographic Photo Ark, which aims to photograph every known animal species in captivity. So far, the pro-

ject has captured portraits of more than 6,000 species that have appeared around the world, including being shown on buildings in places such as New York City and Vatican City.

Sartore said the reasoning behind this project was to document the world's animals, especially those teetering on the brink of extinction. He's

Pumpkin Fest continues at Livonia's Wilson Barn

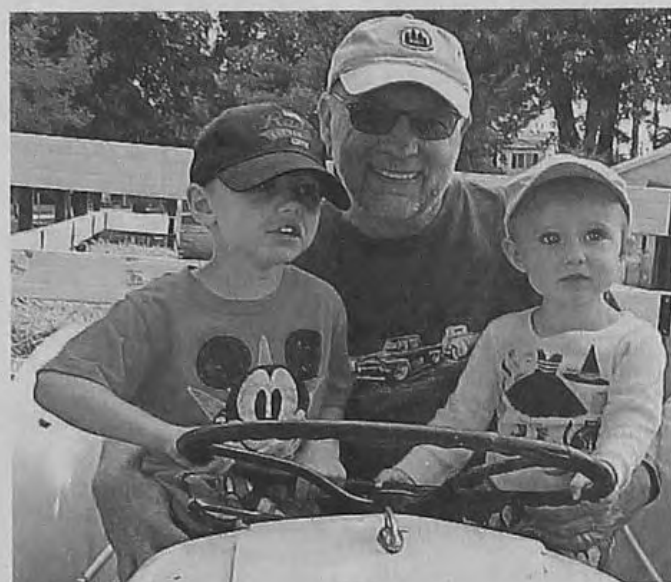
David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

There's still time to take in the sights at Livonia's Wilson Barn this month.

The annual Pumpkin Fest, which takes place at the historic barn at Middlebelt and West Chicago in Livonia, continues through the end of October, with events taking place every day of the week.

During the week, pumpkin, gourd and cornstalk sales take place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., while pony rides are available from noon to 7 p.m., weather permitting. Hay rides are available during the week as well, if a reservation is made.

On the last two weekends of October, patrons can participate in hay rides, take a look at the



Ken Stempien, president of the Friends of the Wilson Barn, with two of his grandchildren, Anna and Andrew Ziolkowski, at Pumpkin Fest.

arts and craft sales and buy some cider and doughnuts to enjoy. The sale of cider and dough-

nuts is a fundraiser for the Friends of the Wilson Barn to make improvements on the property.

"All the proceeds help to benefit the Friends of the Barn and to upkeep that barn," said Ken Stempien, president of the Friends of the Barn. "Any work that needs to be done to that barn, the Friends do it."

Also available during the weekend is the haunted barn stroll, designed for children ages 12 and younger. Admission is \$1 and the level of scariness is determined by the patron. The haunted barn stroll is open from noon to 7:30 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday through October.

More information on the annual Pumpkin Fest, as well as the Wilson Barn, can be found at wilsonbarn.com.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
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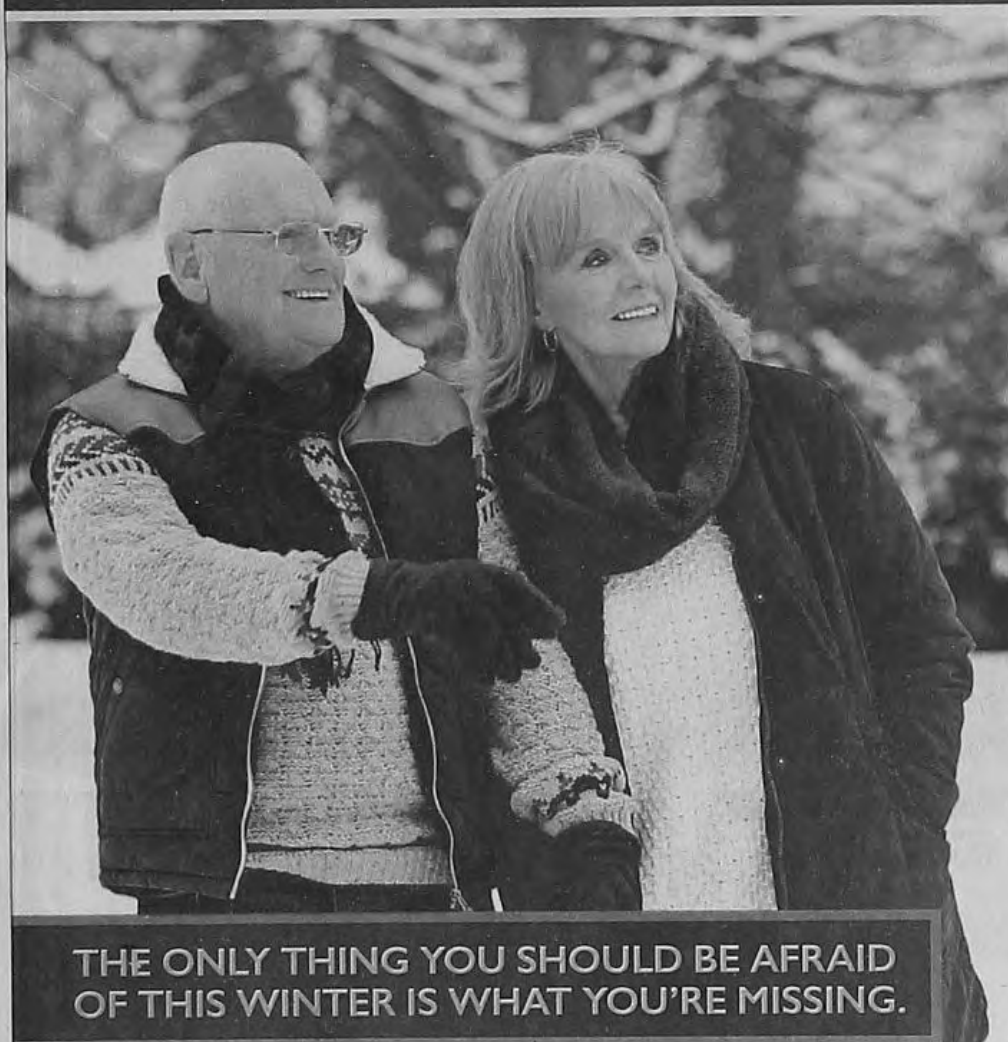
Although he attended Catholic grade and high schools, **Dorian Bellinger**, Council President of the Detroit Society of St. Vincent dePaul and Director of their Justice Initiative Prison Ministry, grew up non-Catholic and essentially non-Christian until God sent him on what he now calls "a Saul on the road to Damascus" conversion.



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Life is golden for retriever who 'works' at law office

Sharon Dargay
hometownlife.com

Bart Liblang has his own Facebook page, a cushy bed at work and a pretty sweet job.

He's the official greeter at Liblang Law Firm in downtown Birmingham. When the elevator doors open to the second floor at 346 Park, the 10-year-old golden retriever welcomes clients with a wag of his tail, a broad grin and occasionally a favorite toy.

"He's such a people-oriented dog," said owner Dani Liblang, who took him to the Sportsman's Dog Training Club as a puppy. "I took him all the way through Canine Good Citizen (class), so he knows how to behave in an office. He's a pretty good boy. But also, I'm fortunate enough to work with a bunch of dog lovers. He has it made. Everybody pitches in if I'm out for the day, if he needs to go out, if he needs more water."

"I have a client that bakes homemade treats for him and sends him his own tin of treats every Christmas," she added. "The Fed Ex people bring him treats. The postal lady brings him treats. He has a pretty good life here."

Liblang created a dog-friendly environment when she moved into the Park Street building in 2008. She established her practice in 1982, a year after graduating from the University of Detroit Law School, and specializes in consumer law, with an emphasis on lemon law and auto fraud. Bart has been the office greeter since he was 2. She took Bart's predecessor, Jillian, who also was a golden retriever, to work with her on weekends and after business hours when the firm was located in an office building.



Dani Liblang plays with her dog Bart during a break at work.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Office therapist

"I think bringing a dog to work is really wonderful. I know I enjoy it and he really loves it," she said. "Since the law is such a stressful business, I think he does add a dimension of calmness. He's definitely our resident therapist and stress reliever. And for clients, we also do personal injury and I've had some catastrophically-injured clients. When they come in for depositions or even when they have to tell their story and have to relive the story enough to tell it to us, it's very traumatic."

"I think one of the things Bart does is he seems to know when people need comfort and I've actually seen him rest his head gently or sit gently by someone's wheelchair and comfort

them. And I've seen people be able to really relax and feel stronger when dealing with depositions. Because that is tough when you have the opposing side grilling you, but then you have a nice big dog there."

She has taken Bart to visit at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City and hopes to have him certified as a therapy dog. She also took Jillian to visit patients at a hospital in Grand Rapids.

Liblang has been an animal lover since she was a youngster. She grew up in Waterford with her parents and three siblings and rescued "everything," including orphaned bunnies, squirrels and even birds that had fallen from their nests.

"We went from one extreme to another. We had a great Dane for a

little while and we had a little Yorkshire terrier," she said. "But I've always gravitated toward big dogs, like Bart."

When she and her husband Eric, who's also an attorney, moved from a condo into a house in Birmingham, the couple brought Jillian into their new home.

"She was the prettiest golden I'd ever seen," Liblang said. "Just the best dog. I was heartbroken when I lost her. She lived to be 16."

She was so heartbroken that her staff pitched in and bought her Bart for Christmas. Now she's considering dog adoption. She noted that October is National Dog Adoption Month and encourages dog lovers to adopt pets, foster dogs, volunteer at shelters and donate to rescues.

"I'm trying to talk my

husband into adopting another dog to keep Bart company," she said. "One of the reasons I like golden retrievers — but I love all dogs — is they are so good as therapy dogs. And their temperament is perfectly suited to be an office dog. But there are many other breeds that are just as well-suited. And there are many (mixed breed) dogs that are very well-suited and have great personalities."

In the meantime, Bart has most of the office canine amenities to himself, although office manager Eileen Wheeler brings her dog Willow to the office nearly every day, too. Willow mostly stays in Wheeler's office, which is outfitted with a dog bed, a crate and other canine items.

"Bart likes Willow. Willow is pretty standoff-

ish to Bart," Liblang said, with a laugh.

His territory

His food and water bowls are kept on the floor in the office kitchen. His toy box and bed are in Liblang's office, near her desk, which is decorated with his photos and a sign, "Live, Laugh, Bark." In the winter, Bart likes to stretch out in front of the fireplace in the room.

Liblang has been tapped a few times to work on cases involving dogs, even though it's not her specialty.

"I'm such a dog person that probably everyone who meets me hears about dogs. I'm sure that's how I got the calls in the first place," she said. "I do think the law should recognize that most pets aren't just property, that they are members of people's families and, that when bad things happen to pets, that can be devastating to the family."

Recognizing that some clients may be afraid of dogs or may be allergic to fur, she posted a sign inside the elevator at her office, advising them to call before they walk into her office suite.

She can think of only one time Bart exhibited "bad dog" behavior at work. He swiped a sandwich from a court reporter's purse during a deposition. When he was caught, the sandwich was still in one piece, but an office staffer photographed him wearing a "dog shaming" sign and posted it on Facebook.

"We had actually been hoping he had stolen it from the defense counsel because we like the court reporter," she said. "The court reporter liked him so much that she actually wanted to trade treats with him. He's a good dog."

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Personal rep doesn't have to be a family member

Q: I'm in the process of doing my estate plan and I would like a second opinion. Here is my situation: I am in my mid-50s and single. I never married nor have kids. I have a significant other whom I live with. We have no plans to marry, but we are committed to each other. It is her house and we split the expenses. The only family I have is a brother and a sister and some nieces and nephews. Basically, upon my death, I want to leave everything to my significant other. My first question is, in my situation, who do you think should be the executor of my estate? Is it appropriate to have a non-family member? My second question is, I



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

want to leave something to charity. Is it best to give a percentage of the estate or a set dollar amount?

A: First, there is no requirement that you have to have a family member be your personal representative, the individual in charge of handling your estate. In the past, the person in charge of an estate was known as the executor, but today it is officially known as the personal representative. I think in most situations, a family member is the appropriate choice, but in your

situation, I see no problem in naming your significant other. In fact, I think it will make it easier in handling your estate. After all, other than the charity, she is your sole beneficiary; it is natural that she should be in charge of the estate.

With regard to the personal representative and the beneficiary, I would recommend that you also name alternatives. After all, if your significant other predeceases you or is unable to be your personal representative, you should have alternatives in place.

I am not a fan of naming a bank or lawyer as the personal representative of an estate. I believe the best personal

I think in most situations, a family member is the appropriate choice, but in your situation, I see no problem in naming your significant other.

representative is the person you trust the most to follow your wishes. That person may not have the legal expertise to handle an estate, but they can always hire an attorney — one they can fire if they are not pleased with the services provided. In many situations, if you have a professional personal representative, the fees go through the roof. In addition, there is no problem naming co-personal representatives in certain

situations.

With regard to giving to charity, I like the idea of a set dollar amount. It would make administering the estate as easy as possible. One of the problems that you run into with estates is how you value things. Stocks, bonds and other financial assets are relatively easy to value, because there is a ready market for them. Collectibles, artwork and other such items can be difficult and expensive to value. In the situation at

hand, I think it is much easier to leave the charity a set dollar amount. Of course, as your financial situation changes, you can always make a short amendment to increase or decrease the amount you wish to leave to charity.

About leaving money to a charity, it pays to name an alternative. Just like businesses come and go, the same can be said about charities. You may want to name an alternative charity, just in case.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

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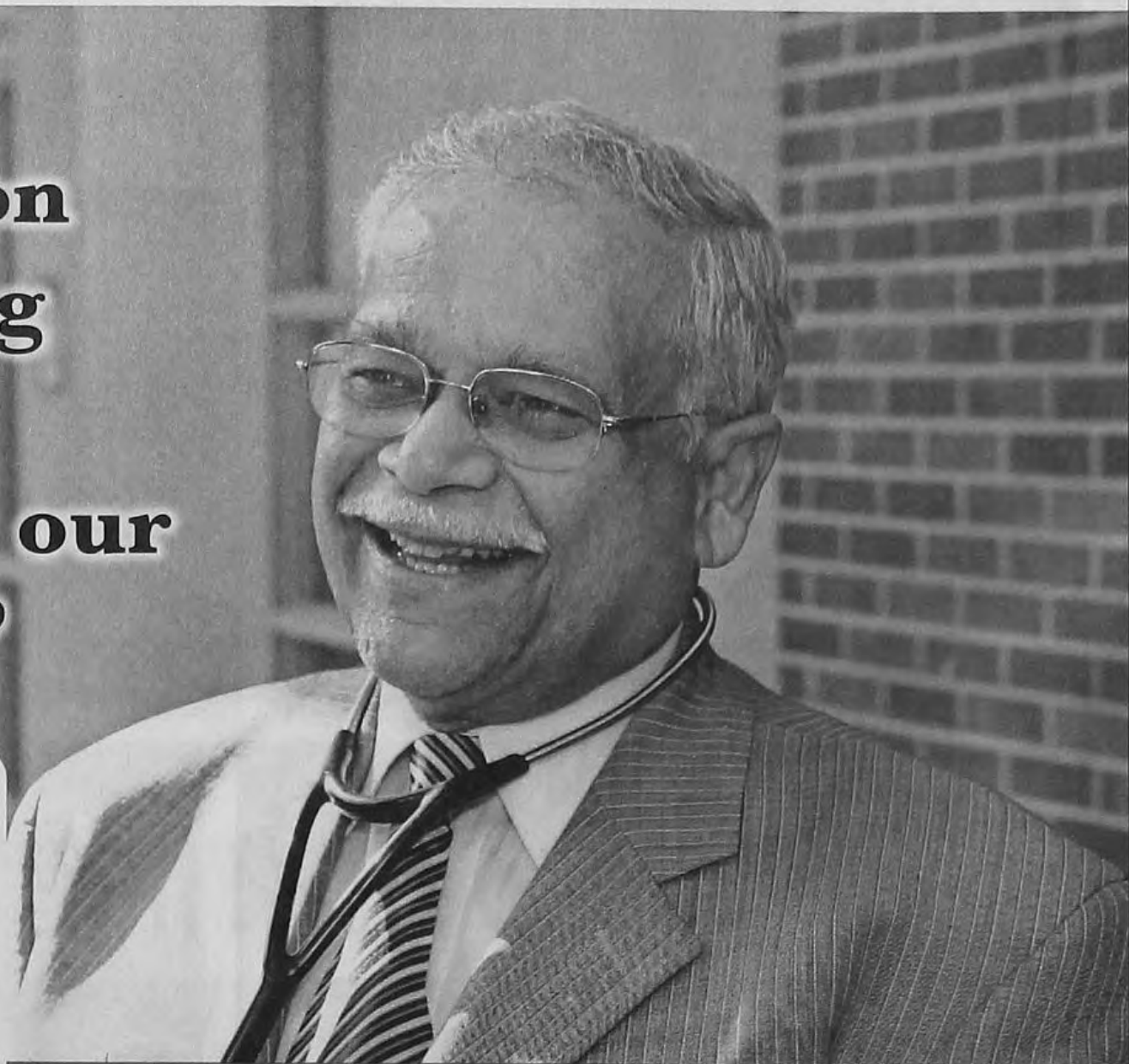
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- Dr. Taj serves on The Senior Alliance Board. As a member he is able to use his experience as a physician to speak on behalf of our seniors.
- Dr. Taj served on the Board of Directors for the Canton Community Foundation (2009-2015), working to give back to our community.
- Dr. Taj sponsors a scholarship program for one high school graduate, each year, from each of the four Canton area high schools.

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PREP FOOTBALL

Canton run game corrals Mustangs

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Tom Holzer Field suffered carpet burn Friday night, courtesy of Canton's vaunted running attack.

The Chiefs, who have perfected the wing-T over the years, didn't attempt a pass and didn't need to as they wore a hole in Northville's artificial turf with a total of 448 yards rushing in a 42-27 win.

It was Canton's first Kensington Conference championship since 2010, something Canton coach Tim Baechler would savor.

"We haven't won a league championship in a while, so that's big," he said. "I like winning that and my son (Lou) is on the team and he had a hell of a game today, both sides of the ball. That's what really makes it sweet. He played great."

The Chiefs, who have won seven straight after losing their first two games

of the season, built a 28-6 lead in the third quarter before Northville (7-2) made a valiant comeback, pulling to within 35-27 on a 16-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Jack Burke to Stephen Ernst with 10:53 left in the game.

The Mustangs' Trenton Guthrie then pounced on a pooch kick that Canton fumbled on the ensuing play at the Chiefs' 27. But Northville couldn't convert on the turnover as Jake Moody's 50-yard field-goal attempt sailed wide right.

"We had the momentum going, had them on their heels and we felt really good about the situation we were in," Northville coach Matt Ladach said. "Unfortunately, we sputtered there."

Canton then put the game away with one of its patented time-consuming drives, going 80 yards in 10 plays as sen-



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Canton's Reid McDonnell is tackled by Northville's Ryan Nelson (left) and Luke Skillman.

See CANTON, Page B2

PREP SPOTLIGHT

Miri a man among boys

After missing year due to injury, Canton senior comes back stronger than ever

Mick McCabe
Detroit Free Press

If you wonder why Mohamad Miri is a marked man, go to a Canton soccer game.

You won't be able to take your eyes off him.

Miri, a senior, is Canton's striker, but that is a misnomer. He is Canton's leading scorer and he does play in the front row, but there are times he also is part point guard, staying back and directing teammates' moves as they close in on the opposing goal.

He points to a spot, and you wonder why he wants a guy there, but seconds later Miri gets the ball and sends a perfect pass to a teammate in the spot where he directed him and a shot on goal is taken.

Then there is the fact that at 6 feet and 182 pounds, Miri looks like someone who would be a linebacker in the other brand of football.

"His presence, his size at a high school game, a lot of people can be intimidated by it," Livonia Franklin coach Mike Bona said. "Most of all it's physicality and his ability to draw defense even if he's not part of the play. He's good in open space. I think, from knowing him from club soccer as well, he strikes the ball unbelievably well."

Entering Thursday's district semifinal, Miri had 24 goals for the Chiefs. But Canton fell 3-2 to Salem, ending his quest to make up for what happened to him in 2015.

A year ago, Canton was preparing to defend the state title it won when Miri was one of only two sophomores on the club. But before he had the

See MIRI, Page B2

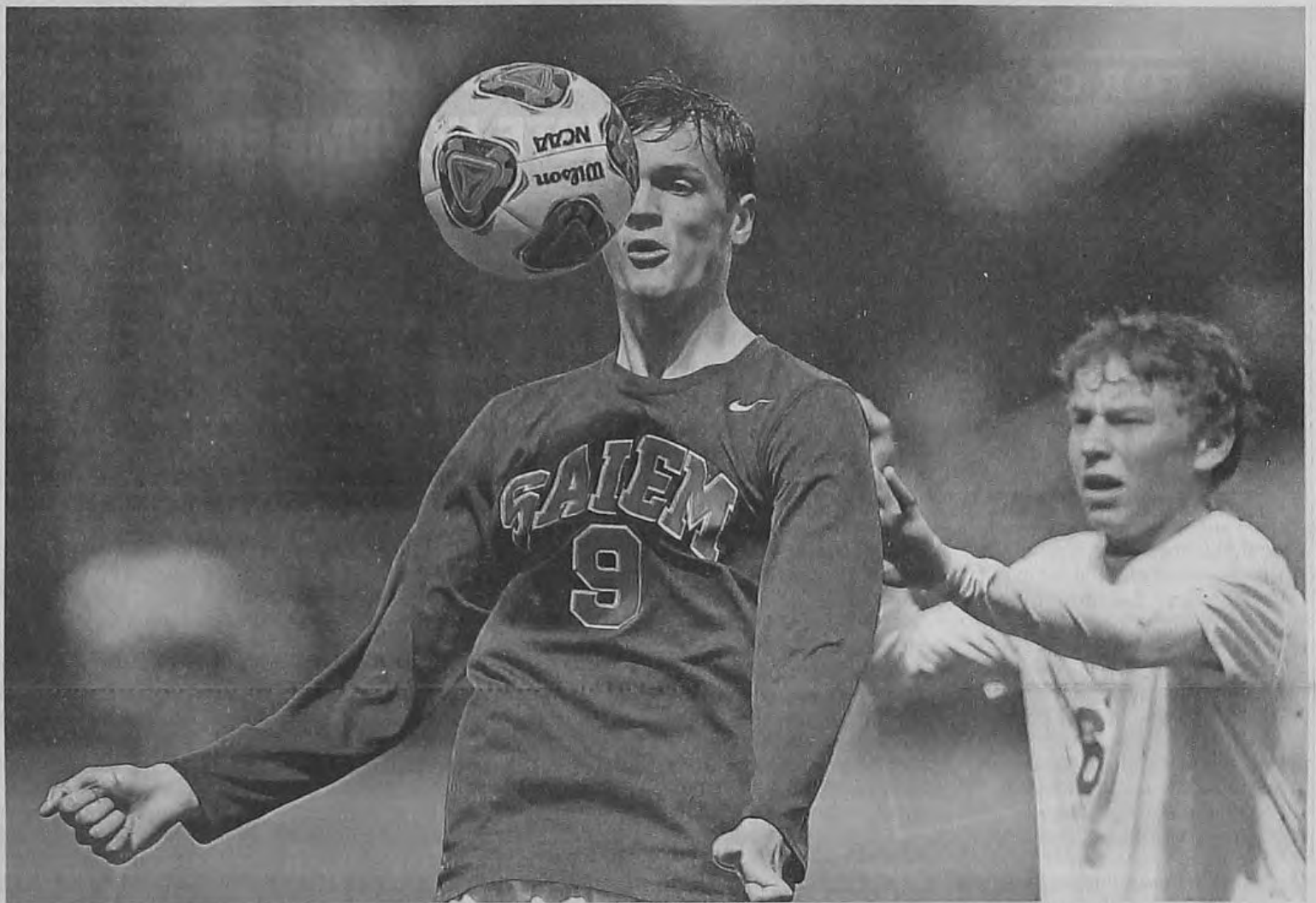


JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Demonstrating complete concentration during the recent KLAAs championship game against Grand Blanc is Canton senior Mohamad Miri.

D1 SOCCER DISTRICTS

OVERTIME SHOCKER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Christian Freitag (left) watches the ball Thursday while Canton's Aidan Hurley defends. Freitag was the hero for the Rocks with all three goals.

Salem's Freitag scores three straight late to oust top-ranked Canton from tourney

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Canton's uber-talented varsity boys soccer team looked poised Thursday to take another step on what was hoped to be a long postseason run.

But Salem — seemingly down and out in the Division 1 semifinal, losing 2-0 with nine minutes left in regulation — scored twice to force overtime and then won 3-2 on junior midfielder Christian Freitag's third goal of the rainy, muddy evening.

"We played quick, we played fast," Freitag said. "Jason (Warras) plays it in, I hit it, it's as simple as that. But it's the whole team's work."

"It feels amazing, it's awesome for everyone. I think everyone's loving it."

Salem (11-6-3) was scheduled to play for the district championship Saturday afternoon at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park against Dearborn Heights Crestwood (7-1 winner against Wayne Memorial earlier Thursday).

"A sloppy game like this, smart teams win," Rocks head coach Kyle Karns said, recalling his pregame message to the team. "And the team that wants to play a little harder at the end and show their heart and battle all the way to the finish is going to be



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Jamie Crosby (right) and Jason Warras look to maintain possession of the ball, while Canton's Matt Rockafellow closes in.

victorious.

"Before the game, I told them to be conservative in the back. You don't want a random skip to get by you and cost you. I felt like we did that. But to battle back from two down and continue to fight all the way to the end, that was

great."

On the board

The Chiefs, a top-ranked team with championship aspirations, needed only five minutes to start the game with a goal. Scoring was Alex Spratte and things were going according to the Canton script.

Canton then went up 2-0 with 36:25 left in the second half, seemingly putting a stranglehold on the game, when Jordan Forney laced a 15-yard shot from the right side of the box that got past Salem senior goalkeeper Andrew Kozan.

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, the third goal never came.

Kozan stopped a penalty kick with about 34 minutes remaining. Then, with about 13 minutes to play, Canton senior co-captain Matt Rockafellow's direct kick was acrobatically tipped over the crossbar by the keeper.

"I thought it was going to go in, but then he made a great save," Rockafellow said. "I wish it would have gone in."

"They got their momentum. They got going and we couldn't stop them."

Karns said the entire game shifted "at that point. They had just gotten their second. If they get that third, things

See SALEM, Page B2

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PREP FOOTBALL

The digital blitz: Sideline technology on the rise

Ed Wright

hometownlife.com

Following the same path to extinction as leather helmets and the wishbone offense, the one-time irreplaceable football coaching tool known as the chalkboard (and its loyal accomplice, the chalk) is facing a bleak future.

After all, what high school coach in his right mind would choose to scribble X's and O's on a dull-green erasable surface when he has a state-of-the-art iPad or a 50-inch high-definition television set at his disposal?

A technological revolution is playing out on sidelines around the gridiron globe and, while it probably would make Knute Rockne and Vince Lombardi cringe at first sight, the tech boom is creating stunning new ways to make in-game adjustments, scout upcoming opponents and simply teach players how to play better and safer.

With the innovative software company HUDL serving as the wedge buster, football coaches can literally show their players what they did wrong or right a few minutes ago on wired-in computer devices.

"Drawing up X's and O's on a chalkboard or whiteboard was OK, but the problem is, they don't move," Livonia Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert said. "With the technology available today, we can show them images that move, so it's obviously much more effective."

And it's not just in-game situations that have been positively impacted by the evolving technology.

"When I started out coaching freshman football about 20

years ago, a coach would have a big camera on his shoulder and we'd use the old VHS tapes," Livonia Stevenson head coach Randy Micallef said. "As far as scouting an opponent, the varsity head coach would give me a \$5 bill and a camera on Friday nights and send me out to Chelsea or Monroe or someplace."

"Now, with HUDL, it's so much easier because we can access our opponents' game tapes online, the day after the game. It frees up more time for coaches to actually coach."

The game-changer

HUDL was founded in 2006 by David Graff, Brian Kaiser and John Wirtz, three friends who originally met while students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The company soon transformed from a modest start-up in the country's heartland to a worldwide must-have for coaches of all sports.

HUDL offers tools to edit and share video, study related play diagrams and create highlight videos — chalkboards not included.

What makes the software so attractive is that it's available online, so coaches and players can access their highlights everywhere they carry their cellphones — in other words, everywhere.

"Before HUDL came along, our coaching staff used to meet on Saturday mornings and we'd have to burn the game film 10 times so that each coach would have a copy," Kelbert said. "It was very, very time-consuming — and as far as the players seeing the tapes, they were at the mercy of when we'd have them ready. Now, they can



JOHN KEMSKI

Members of the Plymouth football coaching staff show players replays of plays that just unfolded during a game against Livonia Franklin.

watch them at home on their phones.

"We film our practices, too, so the players can see what they're doing and the coaches can better evaluate the players. This technology is one of the best things to happen for high school football, because it gives us more time to actually work on technique."

During Saturday's game at Plymouth, a Franklin assistant coach armed with an iPad was perched atop a 15-foot-high tripod just beyond the north end zone at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity stadium.

The Patriots also had a coach videotaping the game

from the press box, so that they had two distinct angles of every play.

Once a group of players left the field, coaches could immediately critique them in living color on their iPads.

Cost concerns

With increased technology comes increased costs, which isn't a huge issue for most programs that pay for the annual HUDL subscription and the various devices out of their general fundraising budget.

However, schools that are located in less-than-affluent communities can be hamstrung, to some extent, when it comes to squeezing the high-

tech offerings into their football budget.

"I thought it was neat when the MHSAA approved the use of this technology a couple years ago," Redford Union head football coach Miles Tomasaitis said. "But what it did, in a way, is create a situation of haves and have nots. Obviously, it's easier for football teams in more affluent communities to fund raise than it is for teams in districts like Redford Union."

"Although we may not have the level of technology on our sidelines during games that other teams have, we do use HUDL for scouting purposes and for evaluating our own team. The advancements that have come along in just the past five years have been huge."

It's only just begun

The pace at which the technology boom is spreading could mean that today's iPads are tomorrow's chalkboards.

"Some college programs are already using virtual reality software to give their players more mental reps of what they're going to see in the upcoming games," Micallef said. "It will definitely filter down to the high school game; it's just a matter of cost and accessibility."

"I could see a day when drones are used for filming, too, just to give us a perspective from above the play," Kelbert added. "And 10 years from now, who knows new technology will be developed?"

It's enough to make Vince Lombardi shake his head and throw down his clipboard.

ewright@hometownlife.com

WOMEN'S SOCCER



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Schoolcraft freshman forward Lauren Wynns (right) stays a step ahead of Jackson Community College player Darbie Jones during Wednesday's game. Wynns is a Livonia Churchill graduate.

Lady Ocelots enjoy flawless game

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

The first time Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team faced Jackson Community College this season, the Lady Ocelots played a less than perfect game despite winning 5-2.

On Wednesday, Schoolcraft played a mistake-free 90 minutes en route to a 13-0 shellacking of the visiting Jets.

"We played a game today that we've been looking for the whole year," Schoolcraft head coach Dave Carver said. "Today everything was on display that we've been working on... all of it came together and that's how you end up doing that in a game, when you get it all right."

"We've played well this year, but today was the game we've been waiting for."

Schoolcraft improved to 11-2 overall and 9-0 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

The Lady Ocelots already have clinched the conference and have earned a spot in the NJCAA Region 12 tournament.

Scoring three of the goals was freshman forward and Livonia Churchill graduate Lauren Wynns, who leads the Lady Ocelots with 17 goals. The Lady Ocelots also were bolstered by three goals from sophomore forward Katie Vitella.

"Her work rate, her personality, she's just so confident right now," Carver said. "You can tell in the way she plays, every time she steps on the field you think she's going to

score or create a goal."

Trusting each other

Wynns said it has been a fun season, getting to know a new group of teammates while christening the new turf field at Schoolcraft — where Wednesday's romp took place.

"They used to have a grass field, so it's nice that we got to have turf the year I came here," Wynns said. "I'm used to playing on turf."

She added that the Lady Ocelots' remarkable season so far — ranked No. 15 in NJCAA Division I — has a lot to do with how well the team has meshed.

"We're all real good players individually and we work well together," Wynns added.

"(Good team chemistry) makes us better because we get along on and off the field. We trust each other on the field."

Whether or not the Lady Ocelots can repeat last season's run to the national tournament remains to be seen. But Carver is confident, especially with returning co-captains Colleen McKay and Emily Bondy (three assists each Wednesday) setting the tone for the squad.

"Colleen McKay and Emily Bondy, they're our captains, and I think they're running off of the experience they had last year when we got to national championships and didn't succeed when we were there," Carver said. "I think that's a motivator for them and that's driving them and they're driving the team. They know what's at stake."

An influx of first-year players also has been a big factor.

In addition to Wynns, other key contributors have included freshman forward Jenna Smith (Milford) and freshman forward Elliss Jenkins of Edinburgh, Scotland (who scored two goals Wednesday).

"It took a little bit of time for (Jenkins) to settle in with the culture change," Carver said. "She's really gotten comfortable and her talent is starting to shine through."

Smith, described by the coach as a "super lively" creative spark plug, scored one of Schoolcraft's first-half goals against Jackson, helping build an insurmountable 8-0 halftime lead. She finished with two goals, as did freshman forward Sophia Shumylo.

After Schoolcraft closes out the regular season with a home contest at 3 p.m. Sunday against Lake Michigan, the Lady Ocelots will gear up for a NJCAA regional quarterfinal against Muskegon (noon Oct. 29 at Schoolcraft).

How far down the tourney road can the 2016 team travel?

"I think it's got a enough talent to get us to a national championship," Carver said. "It would be silly for us not to think that based on the season we're having. We have to be confident in ourselves."

"If we were to get there, I think the team chemistry and what this team has off the field is what can help this team on that stage."

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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YOUTH FOOTBALL

Big weekend for both Steelers and Lions

The Plymouth-Canton Steelers youth football team got back into the win column Oct. 16 with a 30-7 win over the Rochester Redskins Gold Squad.

After the defense stopped the Redskins on downs at their own 22 yard line, the offense took over and marched 78 yards in 14 plays, as Brady Blakita went untouched into the end zone from 3 yards out to make the score 6-0. The offense continued to roll when Barrett Barker connected with Baechler Houser on a pass play down the right seam for a 43-yard touchdown pass. Houser was aided by a downfield block by Zach Badger. A Charlie Tams 2-point kick made the score 14-0 headed into the half.

The Redskins got on the board on their initial possession of the second half after a Steeler turnover on downs with a long catch and run touchdown pass but the Steelers needed three plays to respond with Barker again hooking up with Houser for a 59-yard TD pass.

Closing out the win was a 34-yard scoring run by Houser, helped again by blocking from Cavanaugh Diton, Michael Beydoun, Charlie Tams, Trevor Moulton, Adam Nicholas, Ryan Fisher and Zach Badger. The defense was led by Brayden Willis, Andon Locke, Brendan Mathews, Jack Weiss and Tate Marco. The Steelers close the regular season Oct. 29 at home against the Pontiac Panthers at 2:00 at the PARC.

Canton Lions

JV: Both offense and defense put points up for the Canton Lions junior varsity, blanking Belleville 51-0, improving the JV record to 5-1.



Canton Lions freshmen player Julian Nichols breaks a tackle, with help from Brendan Seed (left) and Aaron Pryce.

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Don't get discouraged by a job demotion

BY DEBRA AUERBACH
 CAREERBUILDER

Most workers set professional goals that include working their way up the corporate ladder. However, from time to time, certain company, team or individual circumstances may require an employee to face a demotion.

If this happens to you, your initial reaction may be to start looking for a new job. But before you make a move you might regret, get to the bottom of why it happened and determine if anything can be done to get back on the right path.

Stay calm and respond professionally.

"Hearing you have been demoted can certainly cause an emotional reaction, especially if it came as a surprise to you," says Jayne Mattson, a senior vice president at Keystone Associates, an outplacement and leadership-development services company. "Try to hold onto your emotions and take a deep breath. There are professional ways to respond to the news, such as saying, 'I am disappointed to hear this news,' or, 'Can I take a moment to collect my thoughts?'"

Step away from the situation.

While you want to remain



THINKSTOCK

professional in front of your boss, once you're away from the office, it might do you some good to vent. "Before reacting or making major decisions, like quitting or suing, take some time to calm down

and clear your head," says Dele Lowman Smith, founder and CEO of Bold Move Consulting. "Get your feelings out: cry, scream, vent, whatever you need to do. Take a day off if you can, or take the week-

end to get some distance from your workplace."

Ask for feedback.

In order to improve or change behaviors, you first need to have a full understanding of why you were demoted. Schedule some time to talk with your boss, and be sure to listen and ask specific questions during the meeting, says Laura MacLeod, a human-resources expert who created the From the Inside Out Project, which is designed to improve communication among employees.

"For example, if you are told that staff or executives do not have confidence in your abilities, make sure you ask for specifics," she says. "Make it clear you're not looking for names.... Your goal is to make adjustments and improve. 'What is it that I'm doing or not doing that doesn't appear confident?' Get the facts, and then ask for suggestions and direction on how to improve and enhance."

MacLeod also suggests getting a specific description of your new position and an idea about the future. Ask, "With measured improvement, do you see me progressing to other positions? You'll get a strong sense of whether the company and your boss are interested in working with you or not. You will also demon-






strate your loyalty and willingness to take criticism and act on it."

Do a self-assessment.

"If your demotion was as a result of performance or conduct issues, you must be willing to take an honest, dispassionate look at yourself and acknowledge where you need to improve," Smith says. "If it was the result of organizational changes or something else outside of your direct control, you will need to determine if you want to stick around or start looking for new employment. Either way, you need to be clear about your vision for your life and career, what your skills and areas of weakness are, what is going on in the job market and your financial and lifestyle needs in order to make the best decision."

When you decide, do so with the right frame of mind. "If you stay, it will take effort and adjustment of attitude, but in the long run, it can be worth it," Mattson says. "If you leave, that is OK, too, but do it respectfully and don't burn any bridges along the way."

Debra Auerbach is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Loch monster moniker
 - 7 — Tomé
 - 10 Party giver's abbr.
 - 14 Disk units
 - 19 And much more of the same; Abbr.
 - 20 Waters off Fla.
 - 21 Part of BSA; Abbr.
 - 22 Target for an exterminator
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 "Me neither"
 - 26 Hunky-dory
 - 27 Address book no.
 - 28 Riddle, part 2
 - 31 Polar vehicle
 - 33 Puts on the burner again
 - 34 Fair-haired folks
 - 35 Sainly glow
 - 38 On top of that
 - 39 Wall St. insider, maybe
 - 41 Brewery oven
 - 42 Riddle, part 3
 - 49 Crooner Jones
 - 50 Lament
 - 51 Perp's charge
 - 52 "Later, José"
 - 55 Ample
 - 57 Trawl, e.g.
 - 58 Typical Tiger Beat readers
 - 61 Brewery tank
 - 62 Round hairdo
 - 63 Riddle, part 4
 - 66 Toshiba rival
 - 68 Neighbor of Arg.
 - 69 U.K. "Inc."
 - 70 Riddle, part 5
 - 79 — "Ca-Dabra" (1974 tune)
 - 83 Stadium shout
 - 84 Without help
 - 85 With 4-Down, gear up
 - 86 Newbies, so to speak
 - 87 Die marks
 - 89 Numbered hwy.
 - 90 Like red soil
 - 92 Ore — (maker of Zesties!)
 - 93 Riddle, part 6
 - 98 "Mamma Mia" quartet
 - 100 Suffix for an enzyme
 - 101 Stadium shout
 - 102 Vatican site
 - 103 Detonate
 - 105 African cat
 - 109 Meat stamp inits.
 - 112 End of the riddle
 - 117 Cal. units
 - 118 Holy Roman emperor known as "the Great"
 - 119 Ian who played Bilbo Baggins
 - 120 Riddle's answer
 - 122 Ban Ki-moon heads it, for short
 - 123 Run up — (drink on credit)
 - 124 "A," in Caen
 - 125 Submissive
 - 126 Big mattress maker
 - 127 Setup on eHarmony
 - 128 Signing need
 - 129 Many stage mutterings
 - 3 Warrior's suit with small, overlapping plates
 - 4 See 85-Across
 - 5 — bitsy
 - 6 Audio effect
 - 7 Ketchup, e.g.
 - 8 Words after attorney or heir
 - 9 Language of early inscriptions
 - 10 Rampaged
 - 11 L.A. hazes
 - 12 Stylish Wang
 - 13 Rigidly formal
 - 14 Bar fight
 - 15 Gave an attention-getting shout
 - 16 Fallen suddenly
 - 17 Clicked-open greetings
 - 18 Least bold
 - 24 "The Skin of — Teeth"
 - 29 Author — Hubbard
 - 30 Peters out
 - 32 Penn & Teller, e.g.
 - 36 July gem
 - 37 Bonobo, e.g.
 - 39 "Law & Order" actress — de la Garza
 - 40 Push away
 - 42 Razor choice
 - 43 Slip up
 - 44 High-end hotel chain
 - 45 Antagonists
 - 46 Way to go
 - 47 Glenn of the Eagles
 - 48 Laces into
 - 53 Sculler's tool
 - 54 Bourbon and Wall; Abbr.
 - 56 Funny Sahl
 - 58 Govt.-issued security
 - 59 Snaky swimmers
 - 60 Bank (on)
 - 63 God that's part goat
 - 64 Conical woodwind
 - 65 The date 6/6/44
 - 67 Earthen pot for liquids
 - 70 Tax-taking org.
 - 71 Tot's break
 - 72 One given to ostentatious display
 - 73 Golf vehicles
 - 74 Offering-plate share
 - 75 Notion, to fill
 - 76 Eye creepily
 - 77 — tide
 - 78 About 5.88 trillion mi.
 - 80 Wedding VIP
 - 81 Traveled by bus, e.g.
 - 82 "That is — commentary"
 - 86 Old toy company
 - 88 Defrosts
 - 90 Rises slowly
 - 91 Always, in odes
 - 94 Neck part
 - 95 West African tree
 - 96 Oscar winner Guinness
 - 97 Rhea relative
 - 98 Monastery heads
 - 99 Actress Danner
 - 104 Wake — cold sweat
 - 105 B soundalike
 - 106 Macduff, e.g.
 - 107 Tunesmith Harold
 - 108 Pork product
 - 110 Sir Arthur Conan —
 - 111 Mules' sires
 - 113 Landlocked African land
 - 114 Tiny amount
 - 115 Fanta, e.g.
 - 116 Grandson of Adam
 - 121 College dept.

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

SUDOKU

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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!

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

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

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WORDS

- ACCENT
- ACCESSORIES
- ACCLIMATION
- ALCOVE
- AMBIENT
- ANTIMICROBIAL
- APPLIANCES
- AROMATHERAPY
- BACKERBOARD
- BACKSLASH
- BANQUETTE
- BATHROOM
- BEAMS
- BIDET
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- CONDUCTION
- DAYLIGHTING
- DIMENSIONS
- FINISH
- FIXTURES
- FLOORING
- HUMIDITY
- KITCHEN
- LIGHTING
- SEATING
- SINK
- SOFFIT
- SPA
- STORAGE
- TECHNOLOGY
- TUB
- VENTILATION

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

Crossword Answers

NESSIE SAO RSVB BYTES
ETCETC ATL AMER ROACH
WHATSHOULD NORI AOKAY
TEL YOUCALLAGAMEWHERE
SLED RIEWARMS BLOONDS
AURA TOGARBO OAST
AGROUPPOFFINKFLESHED
TOM BEMOAN RAP ADIOS
ROOMY NET TEENERS VAT
AFRO FISHOB EYALEADERS
RCA BOL LTD
INSTRUCTIONSONLY ABRA
RAH UNAIDED GET TYROS
SPOTS RTE CLAYEY TOA
WHENTHEYAREPRECEDED
ADBAASEOHE ROME
BLOWUP GHEETAH USDA
BYASPECIFICPHRASE MOS
OTTOI HOLM SALMONSAYS
THE SUN ATAB UNE DOCCILE
SERTA DATE PEN ASIDES

Word Search

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Car Report

CHRYSLER IS LETTING KIDS DO THE TALKING IN A NEW SOCIAL-MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR PACIFICA MINIVAN



By Dale Buss

There's nothing particularly adorable about the children acting as auto sales people in the new digital Chrysler ads for the Pacifica minivan, just like there's nothing particularly adorable about Jim Gaffigan in his role as the vehicle's "spokesdad."

But the kids -- and the comic -- are effective. Sort of like a modern and more respectable version of the young pickpocket brigands in Oliver Twist, the kids operating as salespeople in Chrysler's new ads manage to filch the resistance out of real-life parents who agree to look at, inspect, consider and even buy Pacifica, responding positively to very practical arguments that just happen to be delivered by a 12-year-old.

One big reason that the kids seem

so at home as salespeople in the ads is that -- well, they're experienced at "selling" cars. The same handful of three "PacifiKids" at the core of the Pacifica ads were first introduced in May in an earlier experiential event that focused on other Chrysler products but included the child's play for Pacifica.

"They were a huge hit," Tim Kuniskis, head of passenger car brands for Fiat Chrysler, told me. "People who didn't have kids were coming over to look at the van. It just kept growing. So next we wanted to take them to places with built-in audiences, because we wanted to extend their reach."

So FCA took over Victorville Motors In California for a day to film the digital shoot, putting the PacifiKids in charge. The new social and digital campaign is one result. And while Chrysler continues its TV campaign featuring Gaffigan demonstrating features of Pacifica, it's possible FCA may soon put the

PacifiKids ads on TV as well.

Kuniskis talked with me about marketing Pacifica, and the Chrysler brand in a changing era:

Q: How have consumers responded to Pacifica since its launch early this year, with a TV ad campaign featuring Jim Gaffigan, the comic?

Tim Kuniskis: The launch has been going great. We're about four months into volume retailing, and we've picked up 20 points of market share in the segment... We wanted to get right into the features and benefits in our marketing campaign, and that's what Gaffigan allowed us to do -- instead of getting six to nine months into the launch and then talking about features. He allowed us to do that with the idea of a "dad brand" -- showing that he was buying the best vehicle for his family, which elevates his dad brand.

Q: Are you seeing that, in fact, fathers are having a bigger influence in the sales of Pacifica than in the market where they used to be aimed at soccer moms?

Kuniskis: There really wasn't the intent to say "dad versus mom" for Pacifica. The Gaffigan campaign has just been a great way to show the features and benefits of the vehicle. It had nothing to do with one gender over another, and we're not seeing that difference in the demographics of buyers. The age is a little lower than [with the previous Town & Country model] but not a change



The adorable "PacifiKids" in the new Chrysler Pacifica digital campaign.

in male versus female.

Q: When will the hybrid version of Pacifica come out, and what will it do for the Pacifica brand and the Chrysler brand?

Kuniskis: We'll start shipping them by the end of the year, and it'll be full speed ahead next year. It's going to be a game changer. Every other hybrid or electrified or [plug-in hybrid] in the market goes with a smaller, faster, commuter-type vehicle. No one has a mainstream, seven-passenger, family-capable vehicle.

We've sold 14 million minivans, and most minivan end users drive the vehicle for less than 30 miles a day. The Pacifica Hybrid will have a 30-mile pure-electric range, and so use no gas -- but it also has a gasoline engine that can take you

for hundreds of miles, so there will be no range anxiety.

Q: Speaking of the cutting edge of technology, Chrysler hasn't had much to say so far about self-driving -- with the notable exception of the fact that Google is helping you outfit 100 of these Pacifica Hybrid vans to test self-driving technology. Does the fact that FCA isn't a huge part of the ongoing conversation about self-driving hurt the company or your brands at the moment?

Kuniskis: No. I don't think it hurts us at all. There's a lot of conversation and talk in the industry, but there really is no self-driving product anywhere to speak of yet. And it's premature to say it's having any impact on any brand, especially if you haven't laid out a strategy yet.



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Accurate Mortgage Solutions	164511	(800) 593-1912	3.25	0	2.75	0
AFI Financial	2431	(877) 234-0600	3.25	0	2.625	0
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	127931	(248) 740-2323	3.375	0	2.625	0
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	399721	(313) 565-3100	3.625	0	2.875	0
Lenderful.com	1326443	lenderful.com	3.5	0	2.75	0
Fifth Third Bank	403245	(800) 792-8830	3.45	0.125	2.75	0.25
Ross Mortgage	107716	(248) 282-1602	3.625	0	2.875	0
Zeal Credit Union	408356	(734) 466-6113	3.5	0.25	2.875	0

Above Information available as of 10/21/16 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a

\$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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