



Salem's run ends in state quarterfinals

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SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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AG reopens claims for snow removal co.

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Customers who have had issues with Titan Seasonal Services across the region can now submit claims if they feel they have been scammed.

That was the announcement made Wednesday afternoon by Attorney General Dana Nessel, who said she was reopening the claims process against the company owned by John and Michele Church of Livonia.

Citing finding from the Better Business Bureau, Nessel said in a news release she would reopen the consumers

claims process that had been initially started by her predecessor, Bill Schuette, in 2010.

That process saw about 150 complaints filed.

A Consumer Protection Act investigation done by the attorney general's office last year resulted in the creation of an assurance agreement.

That agreement would allow customers who had been wronged to receive a refund through the claims process.

The couple has paid out \$5,000 of the \$15,000 owed as a result of the agreement, the attorney general's office said, and have been in touch with their lawyer

regarding the rest.

"It is clear Mr. and Mrs. Church have a long-standing reputation of deceit and failing to deliver on the services consumers paid for," Nessel said in a statement. "We urge any consumer who can document losses from doing business with Mr. and Mrs. Church and their businesses to file consumer complaints with our office."

The Better Business Bureau reached out to the company earlier this year regarding its investigation but did not get a response several times after reaching out.

In addition to Titan Seasonal Services, the couple operates The Snow

Guys, Greenkeepers Lawn and Landscape, Friendly Neighborhood Lawn Service, Lawn and Snow King, Northstar Snow Removal, Mike's Best Snow Plowing and BlueJay Outdoor Services.

The attorney general's office said any consumers who were affected by the couple's business practices are encouraged to file a complaint with the Attorney General's office online at mi.gov/agcomplaints or by calling 877-765-8388.

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



Marit Alsager of Canton shows her doberman at last month's Westminster dog show in New York City. SUBMITTED

Canton teen competed at Westminster dog show

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When it comes to overcoming pressure with poise, Tom Brady has nothing on Canton's Marit Alsager.

The just-turned-16 Alsager competed in last month's Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show — widely considered the Super Bowl of its genre — with her toy Manchester terrier, "Sailor," and her doberman, "Duchess."

While Alsager didn't advance to the nationally-televised finals at Madison Square Garden, the high school fresh-

man defied the odds simply to qualify for the New York City-hosted event.

"Less than one percent of junior handlers in the country qualify (for Westminster)," said Judi Fleischaker, Marit's mom and a renowned southeastern Michigan veterinarian. "To qualify to be invited, junior handlers must win seven best junior handler awards with competition in two or more classes."

Junior handlers are judged on their ability to present a dog to a judge, Fleischaker added.

See TEEN, Page 6A

"I'm a fifth-generation dog-handler, so I was kind of born into it. I was shy at first, so it was hard for me when I started. But showing dogs has actually really helped my confidence a lot."

Marit Alsager

Galloway arraigned on murder charge in Stislicki case

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Richard Stislicki said he was hoping to get a better view of the man accused of killing his daughter Wednesday in the 47th District Court in Farmington Hills.

But seeing Floyd Galloway Jr. arraigned on the charge of first-degree murder in the death of his daughter, Danielle Stislicki, is something for which he and his family have waited several years.

"It's been a long time coming," he said after the hearing. "We're naturally anticipating the next (hearing) coming up."

Galloway was arraigned via video on the charge Wednesday morning before District Judge James Brady.

Appearing from a state prison, Galloway responded with only "yes" or "yes, sir" to Brady's questions. A not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf. If convicted, Galloway faces a maximum of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Galloway is currently locked up in the Alger Correctional Facility in Munising, serving 16-35 years in connection with an attempted sexual assault that happened in Hines Park in Livonia in 2016.

Because of Galloway's current status as an inmate in the Department of Corrections, bond was denied by Brady.

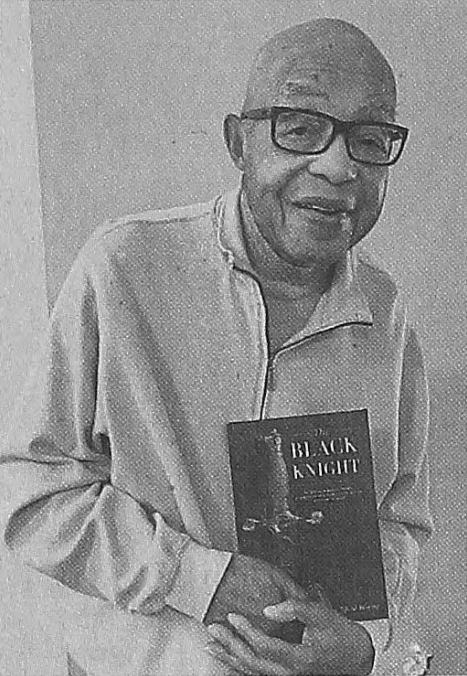
That charge was announced Tuesday by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel in Lansing, a charge she felt was appropriate to move forward on with Danielle Stislicki now missing for more than two years.

Danielle Stislicki's body has not yet been found, though police have long stated they believed she was the victim of a crime and was deceased.

Galloway's attorney, Jim Williams, said his client is innocent of the charges and called the filing of them by Nessel a "publicity stunt." He said if Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper felt there was enough evidence against his client, she would have filed the charges.

See GALLOWAY, Page 8A

Autobiography focuses on family, military



Col. Clifford Worthy (Ret.) holds a copy of his new book, "The Black Knight."
DIANE BERT/FOR HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Diane Bert Special to Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Throughout his 90-year life, modest, articulate Bloomfield Hills resident Colonel Clifford Worthy (Ret.) has challenged himself to meet high expectations.

Thirty-five years ago he decided to write a book about his life experiences, and now that book has become a reality. His autobiography, "The Black Knight," was published in January. The title refers to cadets of West Point, who are affectionately called Black Knights as University of Michigan students are called Wolverines.

After graduating from high school at age 16, he enrolled at Wayne University. One day in 1946 he observed a student wearing a West Point uniform. He engaged the student in a long conversation about his experiences. Noting his interest, the student encouraged him to write a note to his Congressman. Worthy notes, "It was only a three-cent stamp.

Why not try?" He wrote a note to Congressman John Dingell, Sr.

This was the beginning of a three-year process of Dingell supporting Worthy's nomination to West Point. It was a time when President Franklin Roosevelt had integrated the armed services and Dingell was very supportive. When Worthy was appointed, he was one of three African-American "plebes," as first-year students were called.

Worthy successfully met the high expectations of the curriculum and other demands of West Point and graduated in 1953. At the time of his graduation, he married his beloved wife, Lillian, whom he had met at Wayne University. Many of their proud extended family members attended the graduation and wedding ceremonies.

As the newlyweds traveled to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, they experienced some incidents which reminded them that discrimination was still rampant. However, their early experiences of Army life were positive. Both Cliff and Lillian adjusted to the social expectations well. As they traveled from Fort Sill to Col-

orado Springs, they experienced a dramatic show of intolerance in a restaurant where African-Americans were not welcome. The patrons got up and menacingly followed their car on the highway. Fortunately their followers turned around at the state line.

The birth of their first child, Mark, who had developmental disabilities, led to lifelong efforts to meet his needs. Their second child, Kym Worthy, was an outstanding student who became a lawyer and is now Wayne County prosecutor. Jennifer, their third child, enjoys artistic endeavors.

Clifford served for a year in Vietnam. "I felt blessed that I never lost a soldier in my field artillery battalion during my leadership," says Worthy.

In his book, Worthy describes his experiences in many realms of Army service, including an assignment to the Pentagon. Participating in spiritual groups in the Army was important to Worthy. After the sad demise of Lillian, he requested duty in the Detroit area so his extended family could help with Mark's care.

Four years after Lillian died, Worthy met Mildred, a Maryland teacher, whom he later married. She was very loving and supportive to Mark.

Following his 23-year Army career, Worthy worked for General Motors at the Tech Center.

In his civilian life Worthy has used his fine leadership skills serving on boards of organizations which serve people with developmental disabilities. His marriage to Mildred in 1979 has been a loving, supportive relationship.

Worthy has successfully accomplished his goal of telling the story of his military career and the challenges faced in raising a special needs child. He credits his West Point colleague Walter Oehrlein as his mentor, who helped guide him through publishing and Al Tochet who helped him meet publishing requirements. Bob Toohey provided legal counseling.

Kym and Jennifer were constant sources of support and encouragement during the writing of the book. In her preface, Kym wrote, "...you will have a great portrait of what a real American hero looks like. And that is a very good thing."

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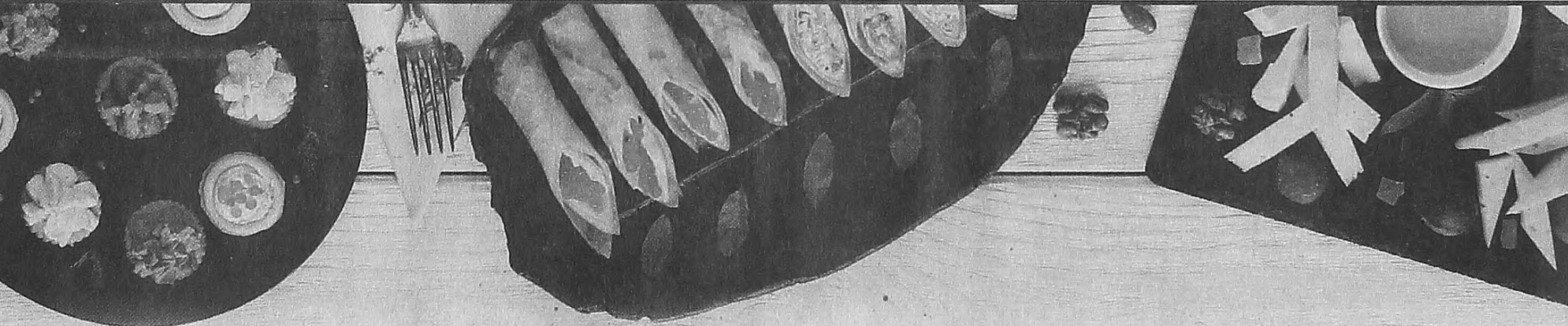
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It is now much easier to track refund



Money Matters

Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

It's tax time which means one of the most frequent questions I'm asked is, when am I going to get my refund? In fact, just the other day, I received a call from a client who was somewhat panicking because he did not get his refund. I asked him when he filed his return and he said a few days before. I then informed him that it still takes more than a few days to receive your tax refund. In fact, what I generally tell people is that if you file your return electronically, you can anticipate receiving your refund in two to three weeks. On the other hand, if you file your return by paper, it could take to six to eight weeks. Of course, this assumes that your return was filed accurately without errors.

The IRS has also made it easier to track your refund. In addition to a mo-

bile app, you can actually go to the IRS' website at www.irs.gov/refund to track your refund. Typically, you can track your refund approximately 24 hours after you e-file your return, or about a month after you file your return by mail. In order to check the status of your return you will need your Social Security number, your filing status and your exact refund amount. In addition, one of the nice things about the "where's my refund" feature is that if there's a problem with your refund, they will tell you that as well.

Over the last number of years, the IRS has gotten more efficient at processing your return and sending your refund. Unfortunately, Michigan is not as efficient as the federal government. That being said, you can check the status of your refund through the Michigan Department of Treasury. On the Michigan Department of Treasury's website, www.michigan.gov/taxes they have a page entitled "where's my refund." To check on the status of your refund

through the state, you'll need your Social Security number, filing status and adjusted gross income. Typically, you can check the status of your refund through the State two weeks from the date that you received confirmation if you e-filed your return, and about six to eight weeks if you filed your return by mail.

If you do not receive your tax refund within the appropriate time, check the status of your returns on the websites. If nothing more, it's important to determine if you have been a victim of identity theft or fraud. Quite frequently over the last few years, tax refunds have been rejected because of fraudulent returns that had already been filed in the taxpayer's name. Fortunately, the IRS is very good at resolving these issues; however, the key is to notify them as soon as possible. Michigan is not as good as the IRS at resolving this issue; however, it is still important to notify them as soon as possible.

For those of you who are receiving re-

funds, there are a couple of things you should consider. First, if you are receiving a large refund it may mean that you're having too much withheld from your wages, or you're paying too much in estimates. Either way, you may want to adjust these numbers.

The other issue you should consider when you receive a large refund is what to do with the money. If you have charge card debt, use your refund to pay it down. On the other hand, if you don't have debt, consider investing your tax refund. If you're eligible for an IRA, consider making a 2019 IRA contribution with your refund. On the other hand, if you don't have an emergency fund of money, using your tax refund to set up an emergency fund is a great way to use your tax refund.

Good luck!

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

Master chef exam held at Schoolcraft College

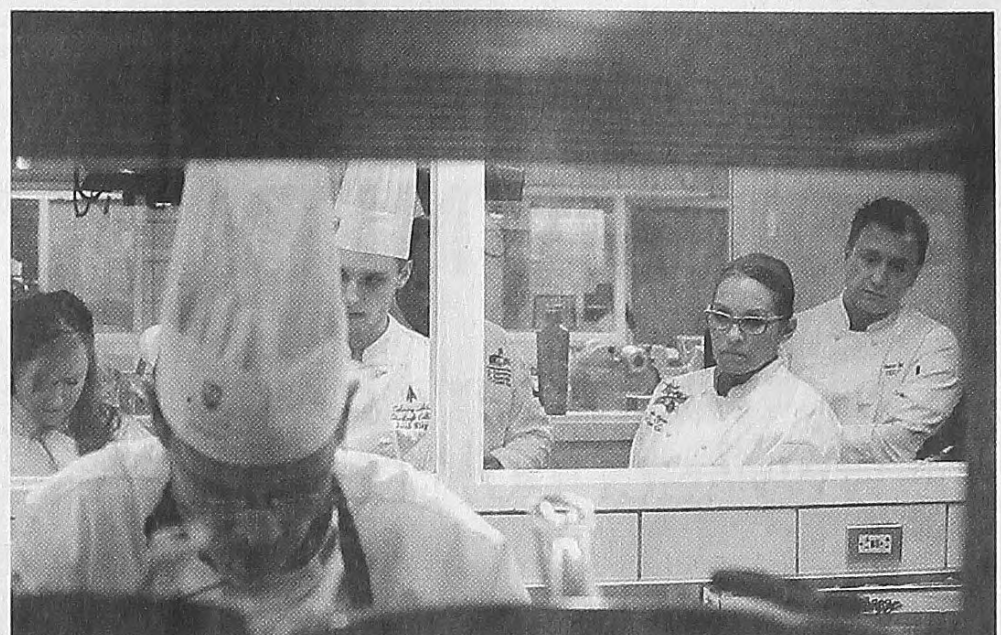
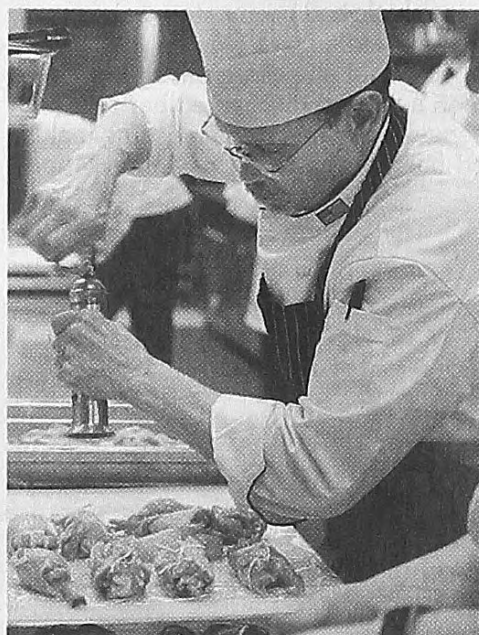
The pressure's been high in the kitchen at Schoolcraft College.

The Livonia college hosted the American Culinary Federation's Certified Master Chef exam this past week. One of the more prestigious and grueling exams, four chefs from across the country came to Livonia to test in several areas of the culinary arts. The exam continued through last week with final results not available at press time.

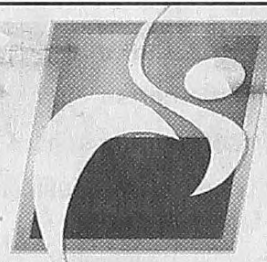
It's the second time the exam has come to Livonia. The first was in the fall of 2017, where Schoolcraft College's culinary arts department chairman Shawn Loving earned the certification.

Brian Henson, the chairman of the board for the Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Association and a Wixom resident, said earlier this year the exam is truly a test of culinary proportion.

"You can see the real pressure, you can see the real judges. It's the real thing," he said.



At left, Certified Master Chef student Timothy Bucci grinds some pepper on chicken before sauteing it during his March 5 exam at Schoolcraft College. At right, Bucci is watched by other chefs as he cooks. Melinda Burrows, second from right, came from Springfield, Missouri, to judge the exam. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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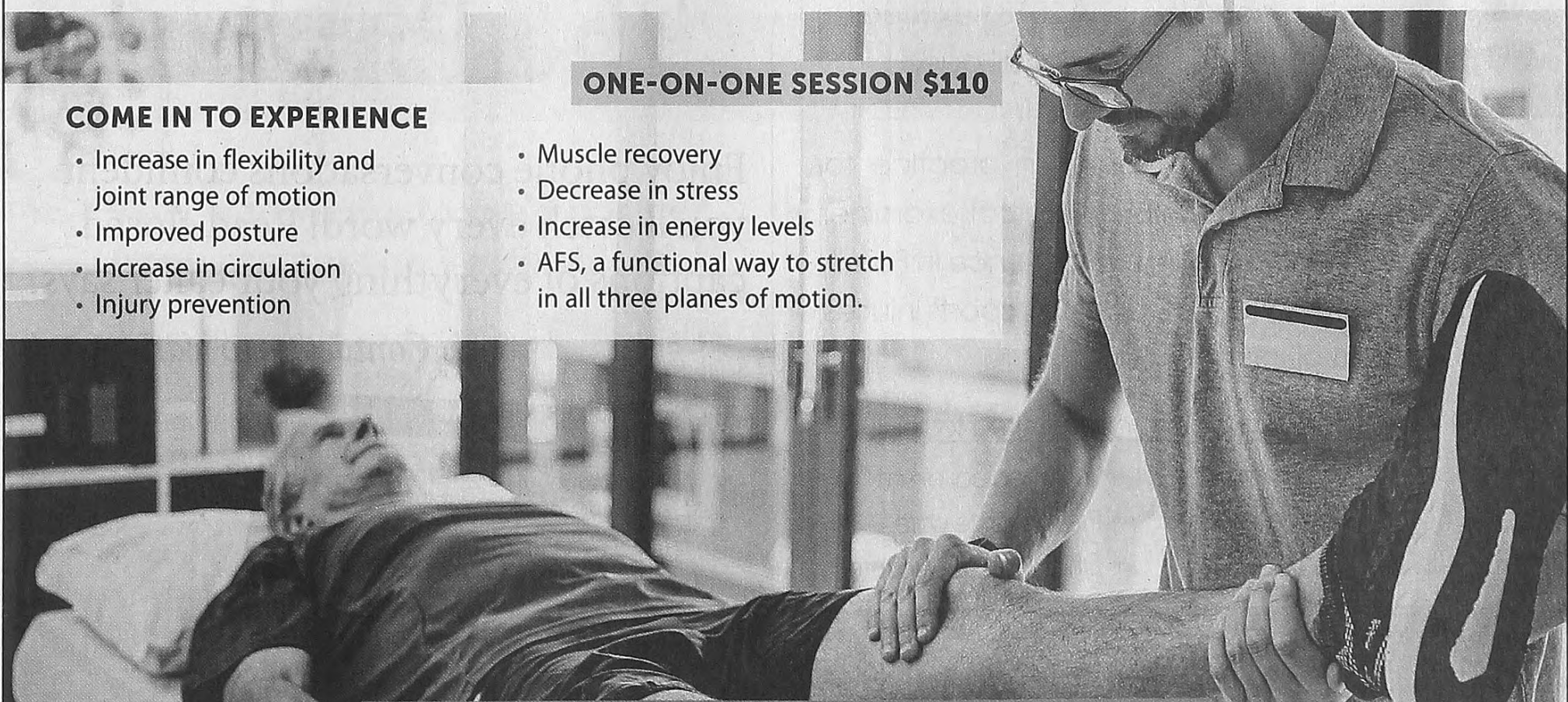
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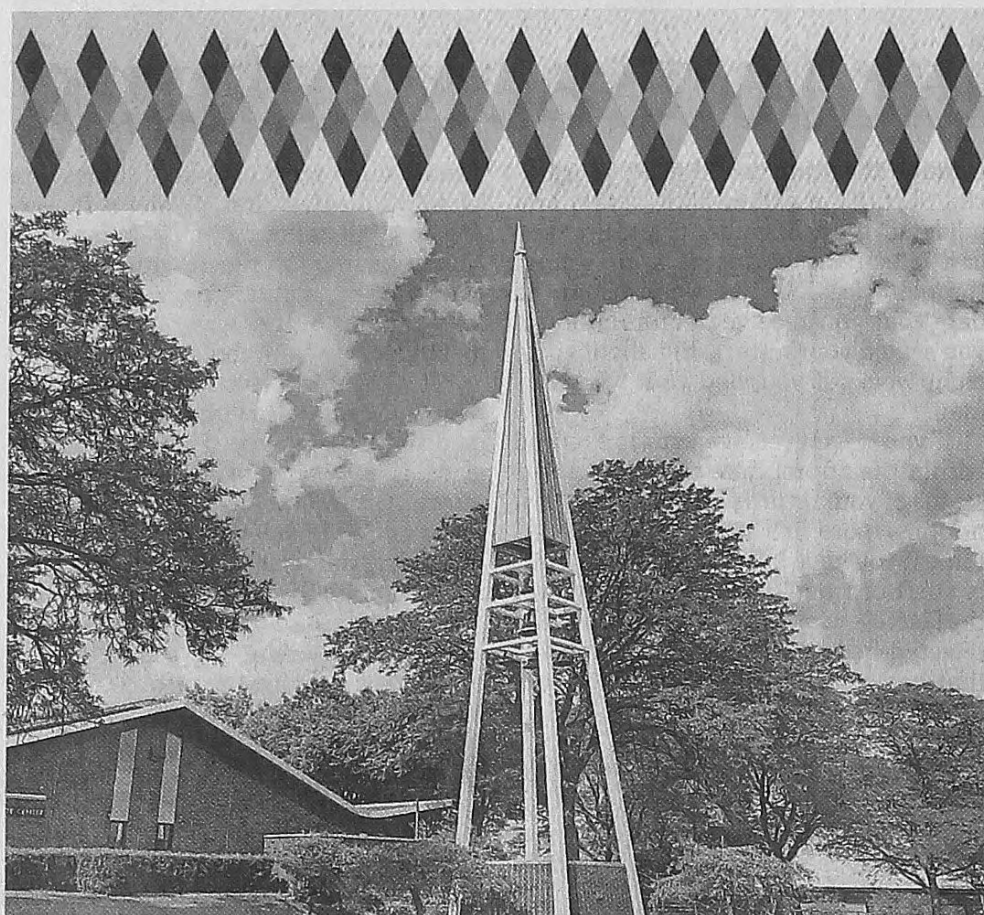
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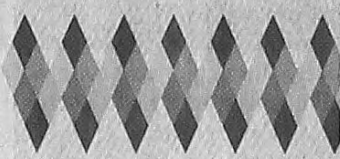
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Car left for tow truck stolen from Rite Aid off Eight Mile

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia police say a 49-year-old Southfield woman came into the police station Feb. 21 to report her car stolen. She was eastbound on Eight Mile west of Merriman the night before when she hit a pothole and damaged her vehicle, a 1992 Chevrolet Astro van. That stretch of road is maintained by the Road Commission for Oakland County.

She called police, who assisted her in pulling into the former Rite Aid parking

lot at Eight Mile and Merriman, and she contacted a tow truck. Not wanting to stay alone while she waited for the tow truck, she left the vehicle unlocked in the lot with the keys in a cup holder.

She called the towing company again to pick the car up in the morning, but said they arrived and could not locate the vehicle. She then decided to report it stolen. She said the vehicle could not have gone far since it was disabled.

Anyone with information on the missing van is encouraged to call Livonia police at 734-466-2470.

Vehicles broken into at Livonia apartments

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia police are asking for the public's help in locating a suspect accused of illegally entering vehicles at an apartment complex.

Police were called the morning of Feb. 21 to the Plymouth Woods Apartments on Plymouth Woods Drive. There, they spoke to a resident who said her vehicle had been entered and several items stolen.

She said she came out to her car at 5:45 a.m. and discovered her rear passenger door ajar. Items missing included her purse and set of dental loupes.

The purse was described as a black Michael Kors bag and the dental loupes were described like silver eyeglasses in a small briefcase.

She said she believed she had locked the car the night before, though there were no signs of forced entry.

While police were speaking to the first resident, another approached them and informed them her car was also entered. She said she went to her car and found the glove box opened. A GPS unit and a black knife were taken.

Anyone with information regarding the larcenies from auto that took place are encouraged to call Livonia police at 734-466-2470.

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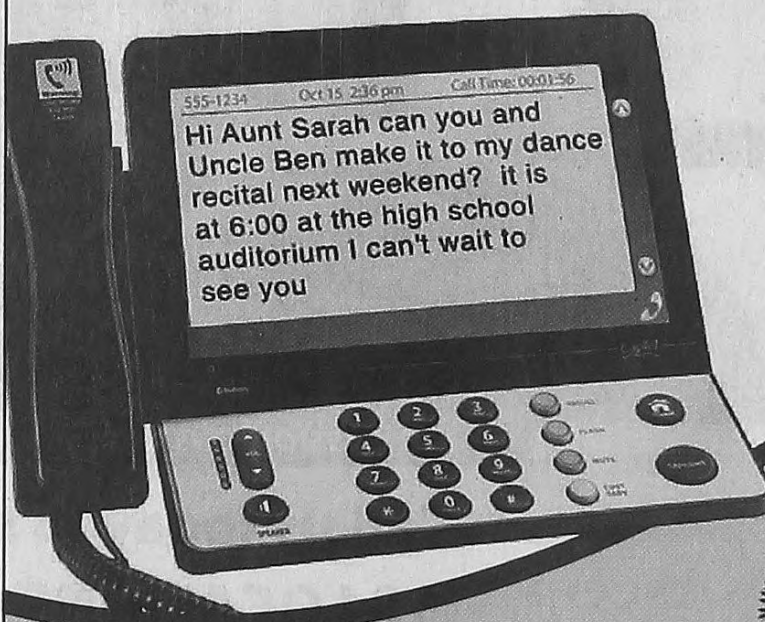
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Red Wings broadcaster shares son's addiction story

With a heavy heart, Ken Daniels is on a mission to save lives.

The Detroit Red Wings television broadcaster says he will never get over the loss of his 23-year-old son, Jamie, to an opioid overdose in December 2016, but he is following a "calling" to share lessons from his painful story in the hope others don't experience the same fate.

"If 10 people in this room tell 10 people, who tell 10 people, we can end this (expletive)," Daniels said during an emotional Livonia Chamber of Commerce program involving 150 business people and high school students February 27 at Schoolcraft College.

He said Jamie struggled with addiction to opioids as a young adult and his family moved him into several treatment programs. He acknowledged his family made some regrettable decisions in handing Jamie's treatment to hide the family from "embarrassment."

Daniels said people need to be honest about mental health and addiction because the casualties continue to skyrocket in the United States. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, more than 70,200 nationally died from drug overdoses in the in 2017. That figure was less than 17,000 in 1999.

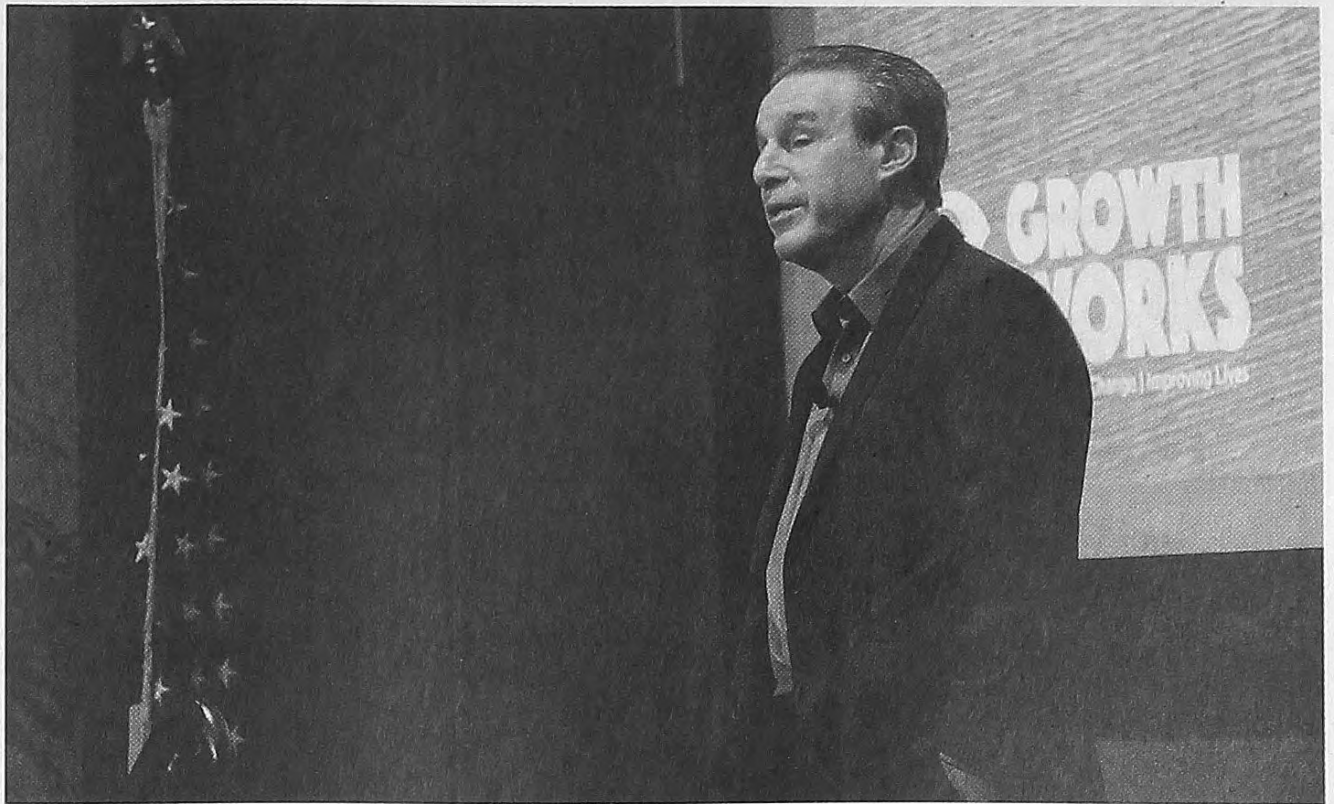
He said people are open to discussing cardiac, digestive, even erectile health issues, but uncomfortable discussing mental health issues.

"For some reason, we have no problem talking about issues from the neck, down, yet there is a stigma about talking about issues from the neck, up," Daniels said. "That has got to stop."

He said if a doctor's prescription seems to be more than necessary — such as pain-killers for teeth extractions — parents and patients should ask questions.

Empathy is the key in supporting those in the throes of addiction. A judgmental response to those in this fight does no good because "addicts do not want to be addicts," he said.

Daniels' presentations raise money for the Jamie Daniels Foundation Fund, administered by the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation. He hopes to build new treatment facilities and coaching programs



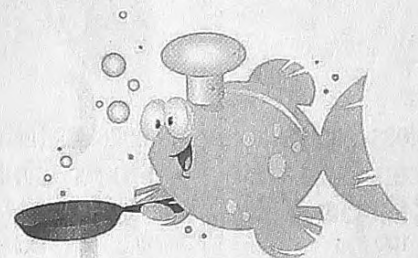
Ken Daniels speaks during a Livonia Chamber of Commerce event on Feb. 27 at Schoolcraft College. COURTESY OF THE LIVONIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

in southeastern Michigan for those battling addiction — realizing it's a long-term effort.

"You are never completely cured from addiction," Daniels said. "These people need continuous support to stay clean."

Karen Bonnanno, who leads substance abuse initiatives for the Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition, found great value in the Daniels program. She hopes those who heard the message will advance conversations in schools and homes.

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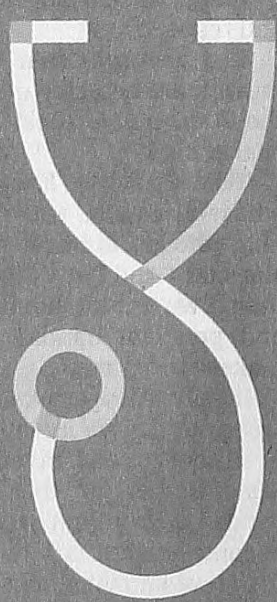
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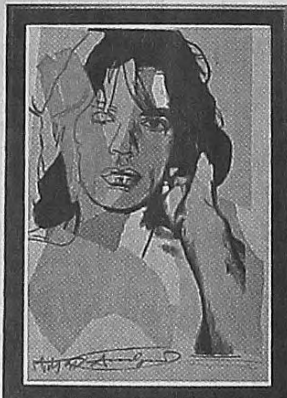
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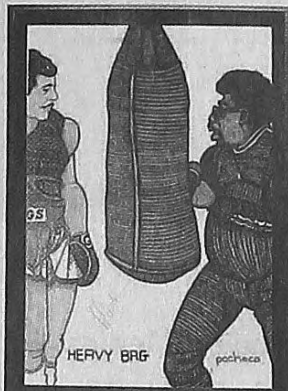
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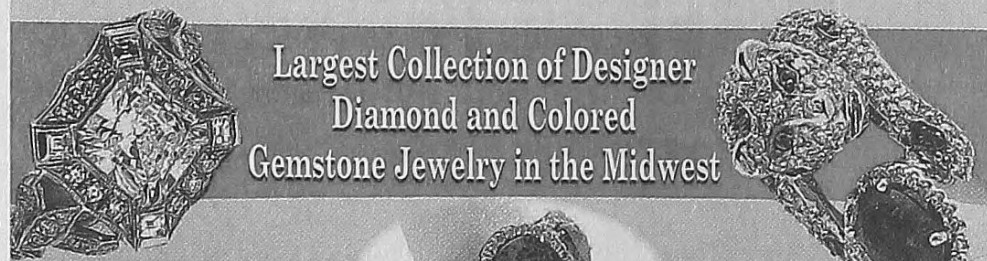
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Man who killed sheriff's deputy sentenced

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A Detroit man will spend the next several years in prison after pleading guilty to striking and killing an off-duty Wayne County Sheriff's deputy with his vehicle in Hines Park.

Desmond Lamont Robinson, 47, was sentenced Tuesday to serve between 4.5-15 years in in prison after pleading guilty last month to striking and killing Sgt. Lee Smith last year in Hines Park. Robinson pleaded guilty last month to all three charges he faced: reckless driving causing death, failure to stop at the scene of a fatal accident and tampering with evidence.



Robinson

In addition to the prison time, Robinson was ordered to pay \$1,634 in fines and fees by Circuit Judge Qiana Lillard. He will receive credit for 201 days served in the Wayne County Jail, where he was locked up pending trial.

Smith was running along Hines Drive west of Inkster in Westland on Aug. 14 when Robinson struck him with his car. A search then took place after the suspect's vehicle was found abandoned in Inkster. Robinson was arrested two days later in Garden City.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

Teen

Continued from Page 1A

Alsager placed first with Sailor in the Male Toy Manchester division before guiding Duchess to a final-eight showing.

This was the third year Alsager has advanced to the Big Apple stage.

"I'm a fifth-generation dog-handler, so I was kind of born into it," Alsager said, smiling. "I was shy at first, so it was hard for me when I started. But showing dogs has actually really helped my confidence a lot.

"Westminster is kind of nerve-racking for me, not necessarily when I'm in the ring, but getting through all the crowds in New York. That city is crazy, but fun."

Watch your step

Getting situated for the competition can be as stressful as the show itself.

Alsager flew to New York City while friends of hers transported the dogs in a specially-designed van.

"I don't feel good about the dogs traveling in the lower part of a plane," she said, "so my friends help me out. Pets aren't allowed in a lot of New York City hotels, but they make an exception during the days Westminster is in town.

"It's a lot of fun, walking around the lobby and seeing all the handlers with their dogs."

Alsager started showing dogs when she was 5, competing in some shows against veteran handlers.

It didn't take long for the sport to grow on her, especially with two parents in the animal-care field (her father, Mark, owns Alsager Animal Care Center in Canton).

"I'm usually traveling to a show every other weekend, if not every weekend," she said. "In the winter, we have practices every Wednesday at the Ann Arbor Kennel Club, which is nice because it has the same kind of mats that the dogs will compete on, so they get used to the surface.

"Once the weather warms up, we practice outside and inside. Sometimes, (other owners') dogs will stay with me for weeks or months at a time, so it's really an all-the-time thing for me. I love it."

The junior competitions demand a cool hand and top-shelf composure.

"If something doesn't go right in the ring, you just have to forget about it and keep going," Alsager said. "I was showing a puppy doberman at an outdoor



Marit Alsager shows her doberman, Duchess, at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in February. SUBMITTED

show once. He spotted a bird and went one direction and I was going the other direction. It was a train wreck, but I worked through it."

Alsager said most of the dogs she shows know they're competing.

"The best dogs to show are the ones that are competitive," she said. "Generally, the dogs don't get nervous once they're in the ring. But if they sense their handler is nervous, it seems to affect them."

As in any sport ruled by opinion, dealing with dog show judges can be trying at times, Alsager said.

"I remember one show when my doberman was still trying to get the hang of things because we hadn't been working together for very long," she reflected. "It turned out we had the best performance, in my opinion, that we'd ever had, but the judges didn't agree. It was a little frustrating, but I was fine with it.

"Most of the judges are really nice and respectful."

The scenarios that unfold at Westminster are reflected quite accurately in the 2000 movie "Best In Show," Fleischer said.

"There's a Shih Tzu guy in the movie whose character was modeled after a man who is still a professional handler," she said. "And Patty Hearst's dogs have their own motor home, private plane and personal handler who no doubt makes six figures."

Ideally, Alsager would like to earn a four-year degree in veterinary sciences at either Cornell University or Colorado State University, then secure an advanced degree that would allow her to become a veterinary radiologist.

"I love showing dogs — and I'm sure I'll do it for a long time — but I don't want to make a career of it," she said.

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

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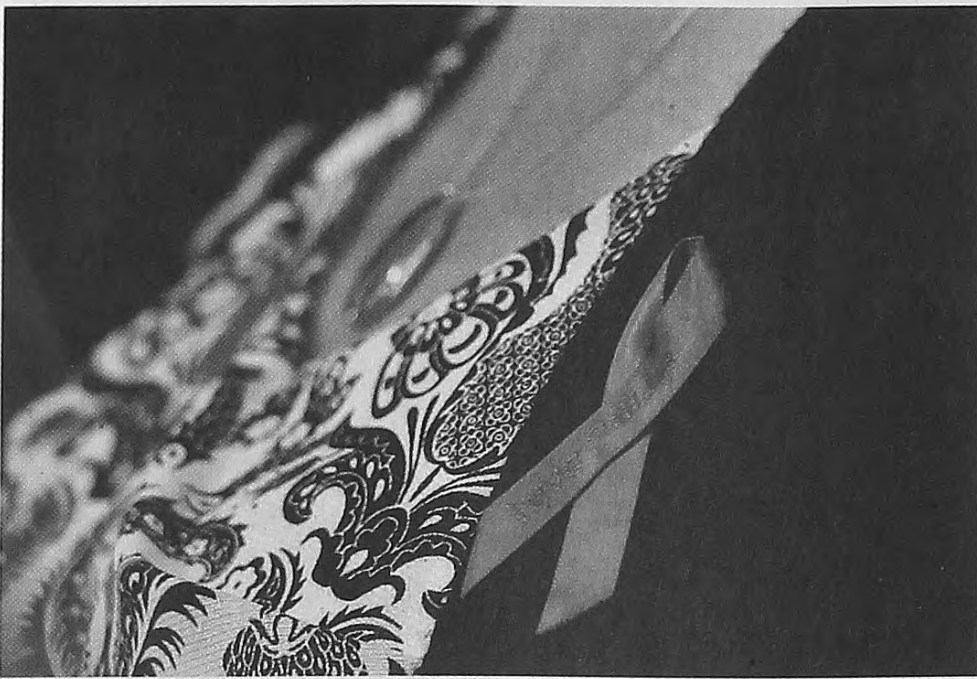
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Ann Stislicki wears a ribbon honoring her daughter, Danielle, during a news conference Tuesday at the attorney general's office in downtown Lansing. PHOTOS BY MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Stislicki family speaks on the murder charge

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The ramifications of Attorney General Dana Nessel bringing a first-degree murder charge against the man accused of killing Danielle Stislicki weren't lost on her family Tuesday afternoon.

"This is big news for us. It's big news for Danielle," said Ann Stislicki, Danielle's mother. "As I said before, it was the opportunity for Danielle — and for us — to be the voices of Danielle, to go ahead and take the next step into justice."

Danielle Stislicki's family were all on hand Tuesday afternoon in Lansing when Nessel announced the charges against Floyd Galloway Jr., a name long connected to her disappearance.

Danielle Stislicki, 28, of Farmington Hills, has been missing since Dec. 2, 2016. Since then, police have spent countless hours investigating. She is presumed dead, though her body has not yet been found.

Ann Stislicki said it's been frustrating at times, but she and her family trusted the work of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

"We trusted what the Farmington Hills Police Department had together. There's always frustration when your child is not found," she said. "There's always frustration when you have to follow the legal process."

"But never was there any doubt in what the Farmington Hills police were doing for us."

She said it hadn't been long since the attorney general's office had reached out to them to say they would look at bringing charges in the death of their daughter.

Danielle's father, Richard Stislicki,



Holly and Jillian Stislicki hold hands Tuesday during the news conference.

said they know moving forward on the murder charge is the one chance their family will have when it comes to justice. But they all felt comfortable going for it.

"It was made clear to us early on you only get one chance at bat," he said. "They could have gone for smaller things. But everybody involved, from the Oakland County prosecutor to attorney general want to see the full measure of justice."

Danielle's parents said they have nothing else to say to Galloway, who was arraigned on the murder charge Wednesday in Farmington Hills. They said knowing she's by their side all the time now is what matters to them.

"I know that Danielle is always in my heart and always in my thoughts and in my prayers," she said. "I have a personal angel. How great can that be?"

"I don't want to waste any more time with Mr. Galloway Jr."

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Floyd Galloway, was arraigned via video from prison in Munising in the Upper Peninsula.

Galloway

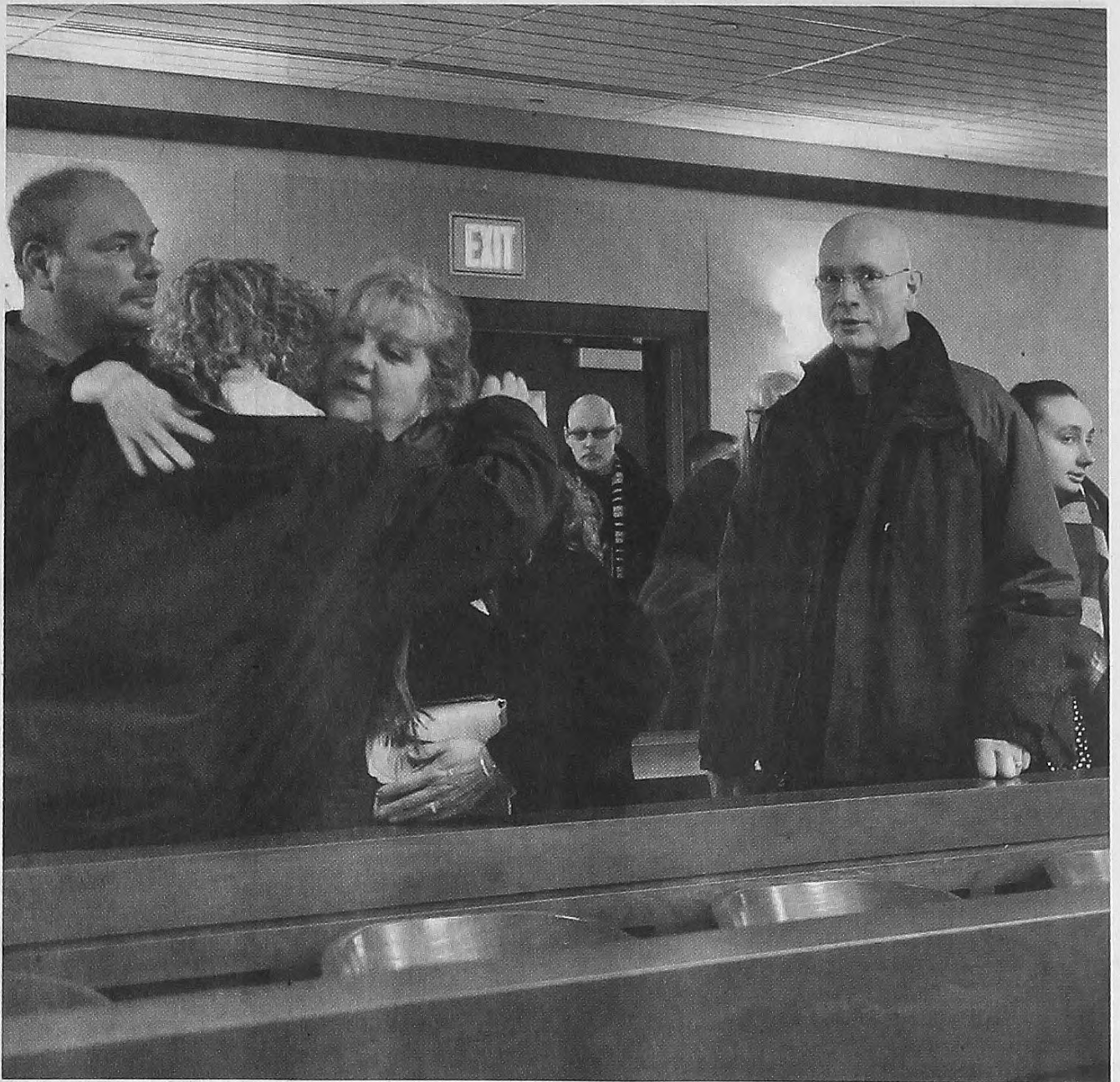
Continued from Page 1A

"If they had a case, they would charge," Williams said of the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office. "I think Jessica Cooper (is) right in not charging."

Galloway's next hearing will be a pre-exam conference, which will take place at 9 a.m. March 15 at the Farmington Hills courthouse.

Galloway will appear via video in that hearing as well, though paperwork was presented by Special Assistant Attorney General Jaimie Powell Horowitz to Brady to petition having Galloway brought to the area from the Upper Peninsula prison he's currently housed at for future proceedings.

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



Ann Stislicki gets a hug from a supporter inside the 47th District Court in Farmington before Galloway's arraignment on the murder of her daughter, Danielle. Richard Stislicki, Danielle's father, stands at right. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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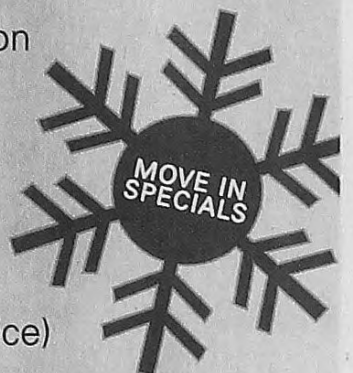
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Obituaries

Doris Gaston

SOUTHFIELD - Doris Gaston, 94, passed away peacefully on February 18, 2019. She was born in Worthington, MN to Edla and Oscar Johnson - both originally from Sweden. She grew up on a farm near Gladstone, IL with her older sisters May Johnson and Gunda Landerholm. She attended a one-room elementary school near the Weir Fruit farm and then Stronghurst High School - after a long walk each day to pick up a bus at Bogus Hollow. She continued to visit the farm well into the 70's when it was sold.

She was preceded in death by her parents Edla and Oscar Johnson, her sisters May Johnson and Gunda Landerholm, her beloved husband of 61 years Ernest Gaston, and her daughter Marie (Kevin Duke) Gaston. She is survived by her son Peter (Robin) Gaston, grandchildren Carl (Chen Yu) Duke, Rune (Xin) Duke, Spencer (Sarah) Gaston and Leila Gaston, and great-grandchild Lucia Duke.

Doris graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in Political Science - Go Wildcats! She spent most of her adult life in Southfield, MI. During that time she was very active, including being local president in the AAUW and the ZTA; being on the board of the Southfield Public Library; involved with multiple Michigan initiatives, including the Art Train; enjoying the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Arts Museum, and most especially the Detroit Zoo; a member of the Swedish club; active member of the PTA; member of the local garden club; doing taxes every spring in the community; constructing an annual gingerbread house; and extensive worldwide travelling. Whew. She was a gracious and friendly neighbor with many lasting friendships.

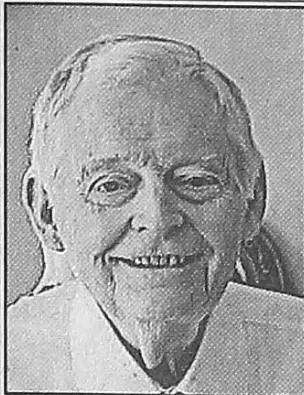
A memorial service is being planned for this spring in Southfield, MI. Please contact peter.gaston@gmail.com for upcoming details.

Doris would be honored by a donation of a book to your local library or other charity.



Michael S. Himm

- - Michael S. Himm, age 65, passed away on Thursday, February 7, 2019. Born December 7, 1953, the son of Mary (Peak) Himm and the late William Himm. Survived by his mother, son Matthew (Julie) Himm, grandchildren Troy, Alayna, and Ethan; siblings William (Carol) Himm, Linda (Dennis) Pesonen, Jeffrey (Beverly) Himm, Laura Himm, Lisa (Thomas) Kalesavich, Deanna (Robert) DuBois. Preceded in death by sister Maureen (Paul) Cartwright. Graduated from Stevenson High School where he was a member of the varsity hockey team. Graduated from MSU with a degree in Business. Mike lived in the Cincinnati, Ohio area for over 30 years and will be remembered by all his many friends and family for his good humor, big-heart, and unselfish character.



Bruce L. Johnston

FARMINGTON HILLS - 86, retired Systems Supervisor at WDIV, Detroit, died February 11, 2019. Loving husband of Mary; beloved father of Keith Johnston and Dawn Johnston (Bryan Pijanowski); and cherished grandfather of Alexander and Benjamin Pijanowski. In accordance with his wishes, no services are scheduled. heeneysundquist.com

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Earl L. Smith

PLYMOUTH - Earl L. Smith of Plymouth, died March 2, 2019 at the age of 90. He was born on April 8, 1928. Earl was the beloved husband of the late Bonny Smith who died in 2016. Earl is survived by his daughter Lauren (John) Falcusan, his grandchildren Jansan (Chandler) Rhoads and Jordan (Valterri) Filppula, and his great grandchildren Jaxson and Easton. He was preceded in death by both of his parents and his siblings. Earl was a lifelong Plymouth resident and a prominent business owner in the community with many businesses and properties. Funeral Services were entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.


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Nan Joy Tribble

WHITMORE LAKE - Nan Joy Tribble of Whitmore Lake, MI passed away on February 22, 2019 at age 63. She was born November 5, 1955 to Bob and Betty Richter of Plymouth, MI. She was married to Dan Tribble for 37 years and loving mother to Darren Tribble. Dear sister to Daniel Richter (deceased) and Jill Vernal of Plymouth. Friends and family will gather for a memorial at United Church of God in Saline on March 16th.



IN HONOR OF HIS 80TH
BIRTHDAY...

CARL J. AUSTER MILLER

Mar. 8, 1939 - Aug. 2, 2006
Carl (aka CJ) was born on a wheat farm in Rush County, Kansas and attended a one room school house from kindergarten through third grade. It's where his life time love of learning began.

In fourth grade, he moved to Great Bend, Kansas, and attended public school. When he was fourteen, he moved to Caracas, Venezuela for a year to live with relatives. When he returned to Kansas, he attended Great Bend High School. In addition to excelling in academics, he was on the debate squad, basketball team, and in Drum and Bugle Corps.

After graduation, CJ attended Kansas State University. He was a member of the debate squad; President, Sigma Chi; President, SSIE; President, Delta Sigma Rho, and VP Blue Key Honor Fraternity. He graduated with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering and moved to Houston, Texas, where he worked as an engineer. A year later he moved to Washington, DC. He had an internship with the Department of Labor. It was the experience that changed the course of his life.

He moved to Detroit, Michigan and enrolled in graduate school at Wayne State University majoring in Labor Economics. After graduation, he moved to St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, where he was a Professor of Economics at the College of the Virgin Islands and an economist for the Department of Labor.

Four years later he moved back to Michigan and was hired as a Professor of Economics at Oakland County Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus. It was his academic home for over forty years. He motivated thousands of students to think "outside the box." He also served as President, OCC Faculty Association; Chair, Department of Economics and Political Science; Campus Academic Senate; and Bargainer, OCC Faculty Association.

In the 1970's, CJ took a sabbatical leave. He was a Professor of Economics at the University of Guam and worked as an economist for the Department of Labor. In 1987, he was awarded a Fellowship at Oxford University and moved to Cambridge, England, for a semester.

In addition to teaching, he worked as a labor economist for numerous law firms and municipalities. He was an active member of the Detroit Chapter of the Industrial Relations Research Association and served as its President from 1991-92.

CJ loved his family, friends, and pets. Even in the darkest times, he could always find some sunshine in life. He's gone, but he's not forgotten by anyone who had the good fortune to know him.

Carl was the son of Marion and Delma Auster Miller. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia (Kryvicky) Auster Miller; his daughters, Heidi Marie Weiss; her husband, Ken; Rebecca Leichtweis; her husband, Adam. He is also survived by his granddaughters, Hannah Weiss and Haley Weiss Hinton; and his great granddaughter, Avery Hinton.

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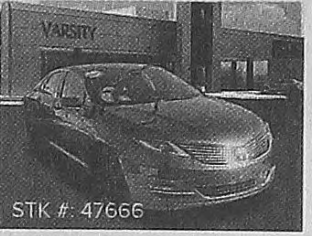
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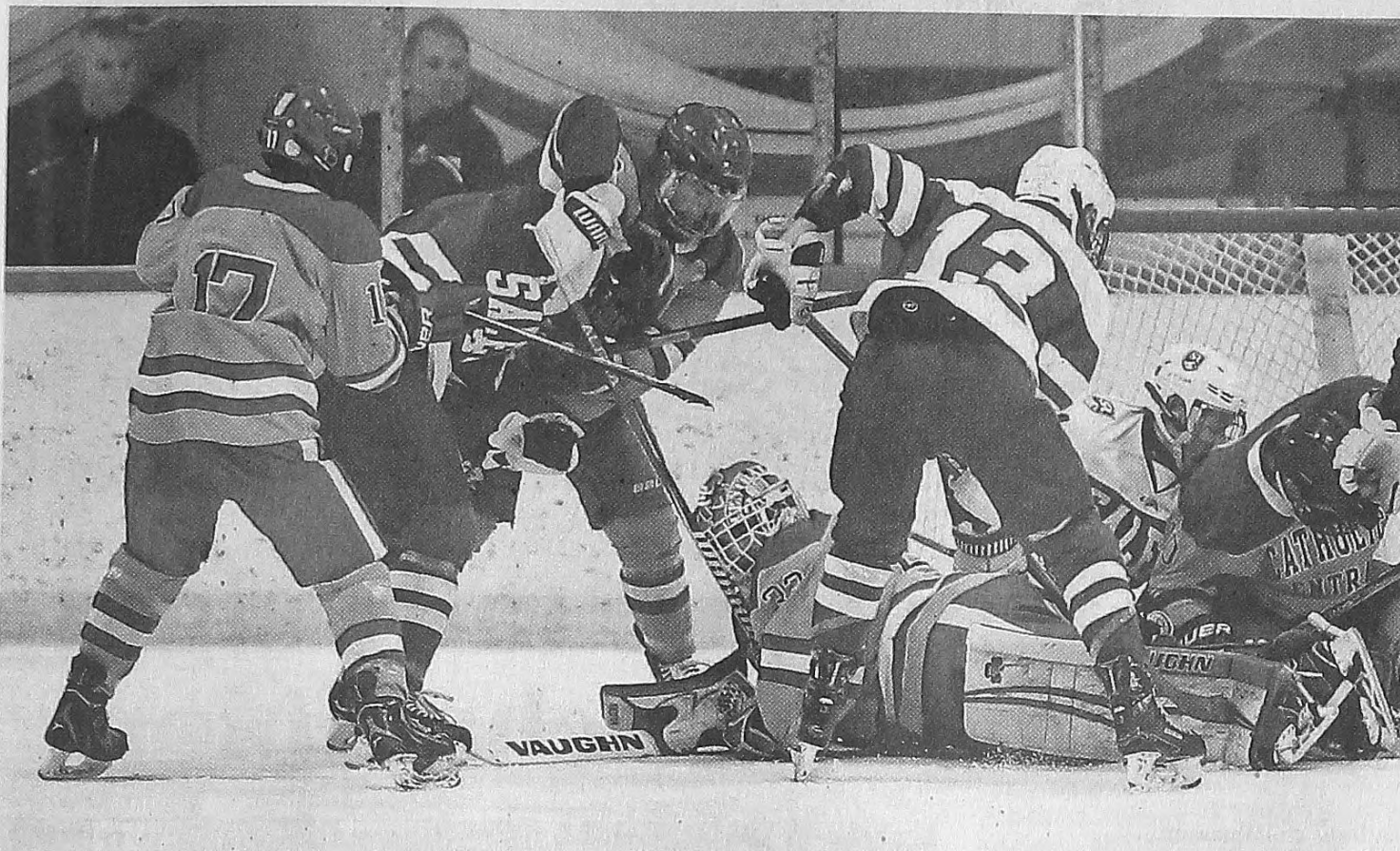
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Sports

PREP HOCKEY



An absolute pile of bodies greets CC goal tender Stephen Sleva late in the third period. Sleva didn't allow a single goal all night - even after facing a 5 on 3 Salem power play. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Salem run ends in state quarterfinals

Andrew Vaillencourt Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was a much closer game than many anticipated, but the Detroit Catholic Central hockey team is moving on to the state semifinals after it beat Plymouth Salem, 1-0, Wednesday night at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

Catholic Central controlled the puck for the vast majority of the game, peppering Salem senior goalie Austin Goleniak with shots all night long. Salem, however, played tough and kept it close throughout the entire game.

The Shamrocks were scheduled to play Rochester Adams in the state semifinals on Friday night in Plymouth. The state finals were scheduled for Saturday.

They improve to 27-1-1 with the win, while Salem concludes its season at 14-13.

See **QUARTERFINALS**, Page 2B



Detroit Catholic Central player Rylan Clemons and Salem Rock Anthony Gattoni collide near center ice. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS HOCKEY



Howell Highlander Cameron Sturos gives chase to Stevenson's Josh Stuzio during the teams' March 2 playoff game at the Novi Ice Arena. Livonia Stevenson won the game 3-0 to advance in the playoffs. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Stevenson's season ends with loss to Trenton

Andrew Vaillencourt Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Stevenson hockey team concluded its season Tuesday night, losing to Trenton, 3-2, in the state quarterfinals.

It's a tough loss for the Spartans, who won their regional and had state championship hopes. They finish the year 21-6-1, while Trenton advanced to the state semifinals.

It was a closely contested game all night long. Trenton scored first, but Stevenson tied it up with a goal by Steven Hunt.

It was 1-1 after the first period. Trenton scored to take another lead in the second, and held the lead into the sec-

ond intermission.

Austin Adamic tied the game at two for the Spartans. They then went on a 5-3 power-play, but Trenton killed it off and soon after scored the game-winning goal.

Stevenson had a chance to tie it in the final minutes after Trenton picked up a five-minute major penalty, but the Spartans were unable to convert.

The division two semifinal matchups are Hartland vs. Birmingham Brother Rice and Trenton vs. Marquette. Both games were played Thursday. The state finals were scheduled for Saturday.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewV-court.

PREP BASKETBALL

Wayne Memorial falls to CC in regionals

Andrew Vaillencourt Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit Catholic Central continued its strong postseason run Tuesday night, defeating Wayne Memorial 73-51 at Ypsilanti Lincoln High School to advance to the regional final.

It was a mismatch from the beginning. Catholic Central dominated the opening quarter, taking an 18-5 lead into the second. Wayne, despite a 10-0 run in the second quarter, never recovered. Catholic Central held a 10-point lead at the half and built on that lead throughout the third, boosting the margin well over 20 at one point.

"Our guys were ready to play," Catholic Central coach Brandon Sinawi said. "We knew after yesterday's practice that we were going to have a strong start, we could feel it. We preached it and talked about it in the pregame and our kids came out and delivered. We got guys that are hungry to play. Wayne is a really good team but we knew if we got them down early, we could play with the lead and take advantage of our size."

Catholic Central improves to 17-6 overall with the win. Find results from Thursday's regional action online at hometownlife.com

Wayne, which knocked off Canton last week, ends the season at 18-6.

Here are three takeaways from the game:

Three-point barrage

A huge part of the Shamrocks first half surge was thanks to their three-point shooting. Catholic Central made five threes in the first half compared to Wayne's zero. The key shot came at the first quarter buzzer, when the Shamrocks made a three right after the Zebras scored a bucket to get the lead down to 10.

"We're not the greatest three-point shooting team by any stretch, but we have guys that can hit them, and if they're going to leave them open, our inside out guys and going to be able to knock them down," Sinawi said. "It's a nice complement, when everyone's looking to play inside, we can stretch the floor, open up space and attack the basket later."

Wayne hit a few second half triples, but by that time, the game was essentially decided. Catholic Central had more players capable of making a three, which forced Wayne to play each man tightly on the perimeter. The Shamrocks had better length and speed, leaving Wayne, which is more of an inside, pound the rock type team, struggling.

The Shamrocks were led in scoring by senior forward Davis Lukowski, who had 24 points. Senior Brendan Downs added 14, while seniors Justin Rukat and Jacob Woebkenberg each tallied nine.

Senior Kenneth Bowie led Wayne with 14 points, while senior Isaiah Lewis recorded 10 points.

See **REGIONALS**, Page 2B

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Regionals

Continued from Page 1B

CC more aggressive

The most noticeable difference between the two teams were their aggression levels. Catholic Central not only was bigger and longer, it used it to its advantage. The Shamrocks crashed the boards, blocked plenty of shots throughout the contest and had a lot more position flexibility, with multiple players able to bring the ball up the court each possession, compared to Wayne, which utilized more traditional position roles with its two established guards.

"We're big and tonight I thought we played like it," Sinawi said. "We tried to control the tempo early and it worked, so we just kept pressing and pressing at the hoop. We knew they were going to take chances, and it worked for them at times, but over the course of the game, we knew we were going to take care of business."

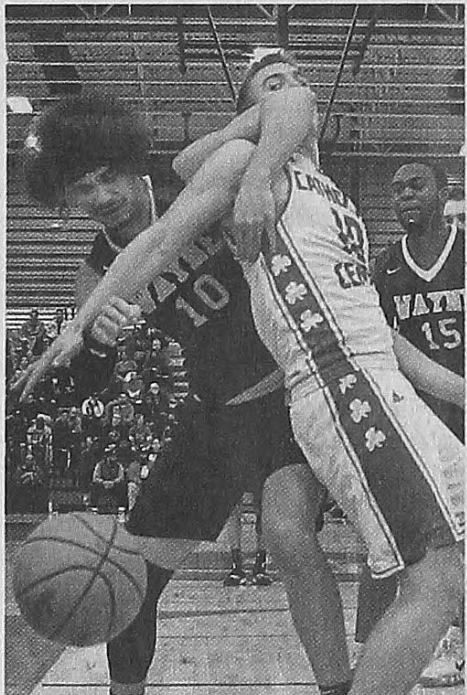
It just didn't look like the same Wayne team that took it to Canton the week prior, whereas Catholic Central continued to grow stronger after its win over Northville.

Contender emerges

Catholic Central's performance was impressive, there's no doubt about it. The Shamrocks entered the postseason as a team with talent and good coaching, but a tough path in districts. After making it out alive and beating a Wayne Memorial team that had a phenomenal season in its own right, beating arguably the best team in the area in Canton, the Shamrocks have to be considered premiere threats to reach the state finals and contend for a title.

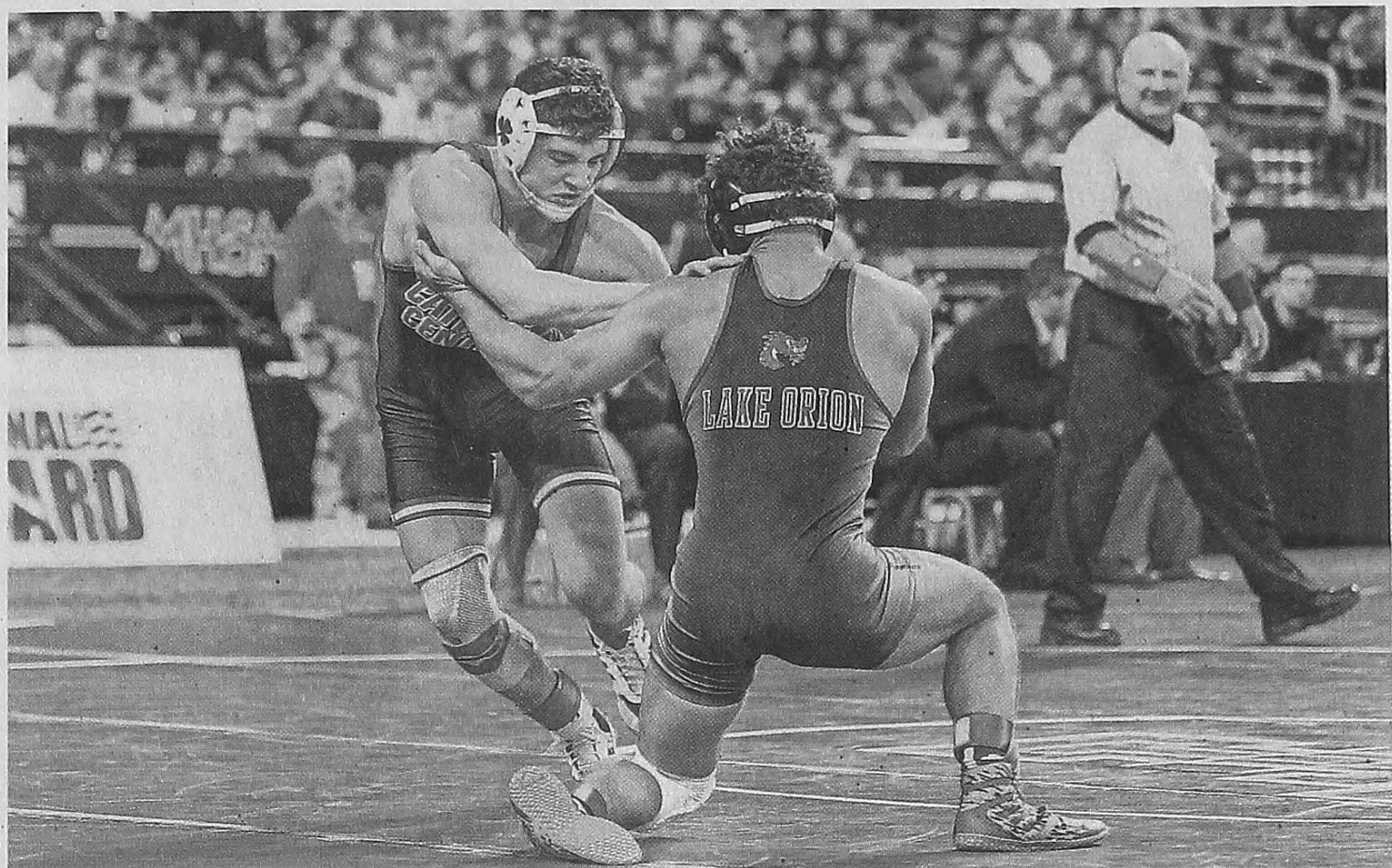
"We could play better, there's no question, we've had a really tough schedule all year and hopefully we can continue this run," Sinawi said. "If we don't play our best game, we could be going home."

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Wayne Memorial forward Ricardo Covin, left, locks arms with Detroit Catholic Central's Mike Harding as the pair try to go after a loose ball. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS WRESTTLING



Catholic Central's Cameron Amine won his third state title. SCOTT CONFER

Farmington, CC tally eight wrestling state champions

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was a big weekend for Detroit Catholic Central wrestlers.

A week after its team won the team state championship by beating Brighton, seven individuals brought home individual state titles March 1-2 at Ford Field in Detroit. The Shamrocks were the only local team to win any Division 1 titles, but Farmington senior Donovan King took home a championship in Division 2, winning the 285-pound weight class.

King finished the season with a record of 52-2, 42 of those victories coming via a pin. He wrestled the entire year after overcoming a torn ACL he sustained during football season. He's the first Farmington wrestler to win a state title in 44 years.

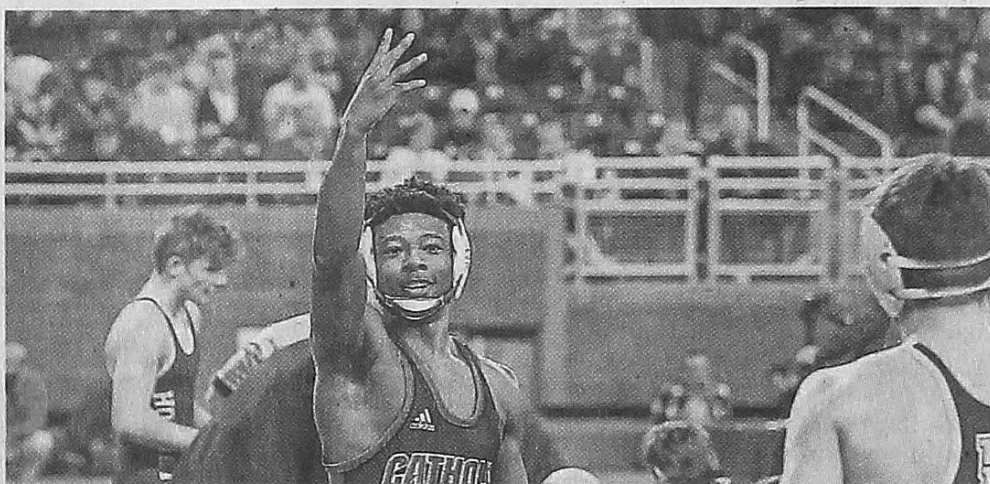
He defeated Jaren Johnson from Warren Lincoln in the finals.

For Catholic Central, junior Steven Kolcheff got the day started by winning the division one title at 285 pounds. He beat Fordson's Mahdi Hazime to finish the year 39-3.

Junior Joshua Edmond repeated as the 135-pound champion for Catholic Central, defeating Brody Kemper from Grand Blanc. He ended his year with a record of 40-2.

Next up was junior Derek Gilcher, who beat Catholic Central teammate Marc Shaeffer to win the title at 140 pounds. It's Gilcher's second individual championship. He finishes 35-2.

At 145 pounds, it was CC senior Kevon Davenport, who made history by winning his fourth straight title. He is the first African-American wrestler in



Catholic Central's Kevon Davenport won his fourth state title, making history. SCOTT CONFER

Michigan to win four consecutive individual championships. He beat Bay City Western's Vic Schoenherr 7-3 to earn the win. He ends his season 38-1.

Shamrock senior Cameron Amine kept the streak alive, winning his third state title. He beat Jaden Fisher from Lake Orion in the 152-pound weight class, and went a perfect 40-0 on the season.

Catholic Central senior Easton Turner won the 189-pound title, beating Davison's Cal Stefanko. Turner went 41-3 this season and won his second championship.

To wrap things up, CC junior Brendin Yatooma won his first title, knocking off Hudsonville's Kyle Scott. He ends the season 42-3.

Other top performers

In addition to the eight local champions, several wrestlers finished in the top

four for their weight classes.

Livonia Franklin junior Jake Swirple took third in the 285-pound weight class. He finishes a strong season with a record of 57-3.

Catholic Central freshman Anthony Walker came in third-place in the 103-pound weight class. He ended the season at 33-10.

John Glenn senior Caleb MEEKINS took home third in the 125-pound weight class. He went 56-5 this year.

Catholic Central sophomore Camden Trupp came in third in the 130-pound weight class, ending the year 41-8.

John Glenn senior Kyle Borthwell finished fourth at 135 pounds, concluding his year at 47-8.

CC's Shaeffer, who took second-place after losing to his teammate in the 140-pound final ended the year 22-5.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659 or on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.

Quarterfinals

Continued from Page 1B

Here are three takeaways from the game:

Salem defense keeps Rocks alive

The star of the game was, without a doubt, Goleniak. The Salem goaltender was phenomenal all game long, despite CC putting puck after puck on net.

"He played fantastic," Catholic Central coach Brandon Kaleniecki said. "On their end they blocked a ton of shots and made it tough for us to get to the net, and when we did, he made great saves. There were some of them where you just tip your hat to him and when we did get it by him we hit the post. Those games are tough when you're well but pucks aren't going in."

The posts and crossbar were his friends, with numerous Shamrock shots going off the pipe.

The Salem defense was strong as well. They clogged the shooting lanes, blocked countless shots, kept loose pucks away from the center of the ice and fought off several very long offensive pushes from the Shamrocks. It really could have been a more lopsided affair than it was, so plenty of credit needs to be given to the Rocks and their de-



After a tough shift on the ice Salem Rock Nick Brosky bows his head on the bench. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

fense.

On their heels

Salem's defense was outstanding, but it couldn't stop everything. Just over two minutes into the second period, Catholic Central senior Zach Borchardt make up for an earlier penalty, firing a shot past Goleniak to put the Shamrocks on the board. He was assisted on



With Shamrock Dylan Dooley lurking nearby, Salem High goalie Austin Goleniak pounces on a puck near his net. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the play by junior Gordie Husted and senior Ryan Pearson.

During the first period, Borchardt faced a nearly identical situation but hit the post with his shot.

"It's so frustrating for posts or great saves," Borchardt said. "You have to tip your hat to (Goleniak), he played outstanding. Great saves, and the shots they blocked too. I thought it was really a great effort they put up."

Catholic Central put pressure on Salem throughout the contest, routinely keeping the Rocks back on their heels. It almost had the feeling that because Salem had to focus so much on its defense,

that it didn't have any energy left for any kind of effective offense.

"We felt like we had the upper-hand and that we were pushing more than they were, but at the same time, they get a 5-on-3 that can turn the game," Kaleniecki said. "That's why it's so critical to bury the chances when you get them."

Penalty-kill comes through

With 7:18 left to go in the third period, Catholic Central picked up its fourth penalty of the game. Then just 26 seconds later, it received penalty number five, putting Salem on a 5-on-3 power-play for nearly a minute and a half.

It was a ginormous opportunity for the Rocks, who were looking to tie the game up.

Fortunately for CC, it wasn't just Salem's goalie that had a great night. Senior Stephen Sleva stopped every shot he faced and shut down Salem on the late penalty-kill to seal the victory. It's Sleva's third consecutive shutout.

"We played really well defensively, only giving up I think 11 shots," Kaleniecki said. "Our goalie made the saves when he needed to. There were some pucks that very easily could've snuck through, it was a team effort and it's the goalie that leads the charge."

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Bubble teams who could steal bids

Scott Gleeson
USA TODAY

An NCAA Tournament bubble team's worst nightmare is a bid thief — a team not capable of making the field of 68 as an at-large entry that then unexpectedly wins the conference tournament's automatic berth.

With 19 bubble teams currently in the mix and a total of 10 spots expected to be available on Selection Sunday, one less spot could bump a borderline team to the wrong side of the bubble.

Here's a look at the 10 scariest candidates good enough to win their league tournament and steal an NCAA Tournament bid that otherwise would've been a spot left to bubble teams.

Penn State (Big Ten)

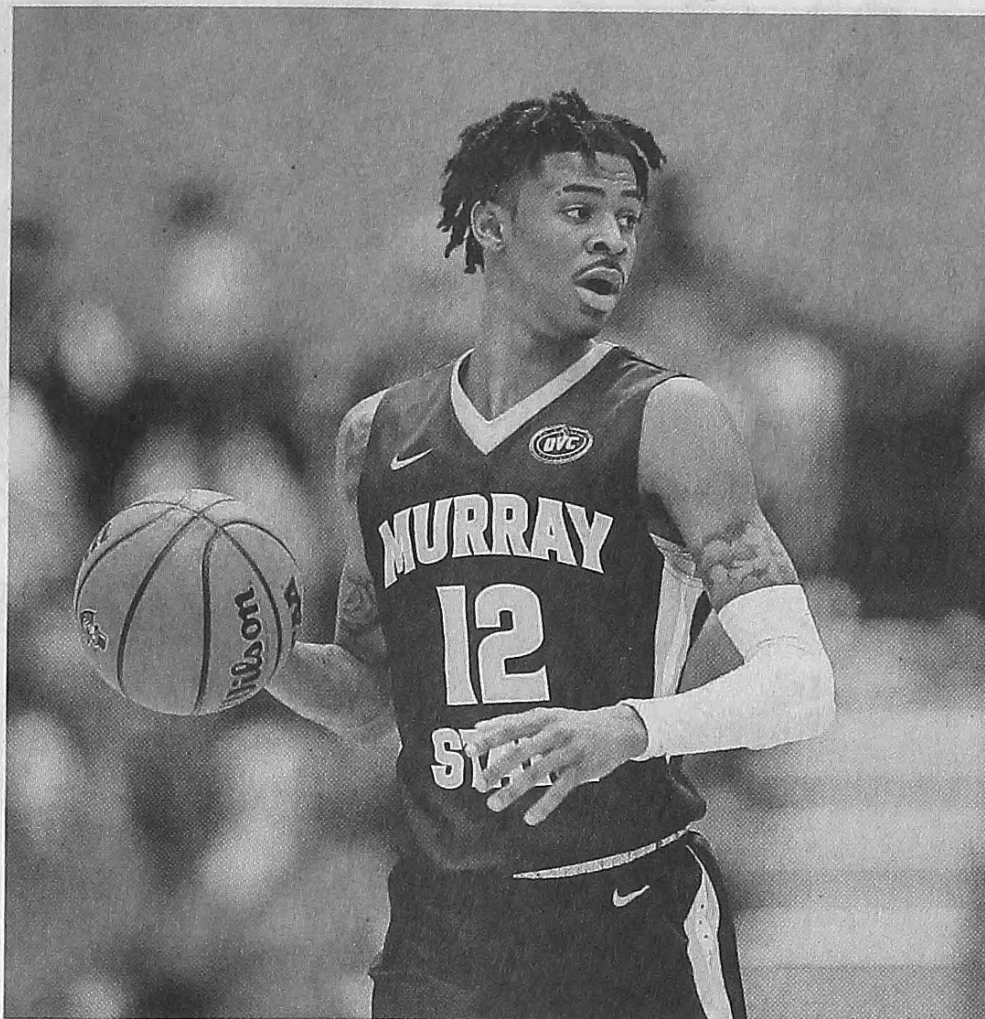
The Nittany Lions (13-17) upset Michigan and Maryland last month in Big Ten play and also beat Virginia Tech squad in non-conference action. PSU's Lamar Stevens (19.9 ppg, 7.8 rpg) is an explosive scorer who can carry this team to four consecutive wins in the conference tourney.

Wichita State (AAC)

The Shockers (16-13) have had down year after seven consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. But don't count out a Gregg Marshall-coached team in March. Wichita State has won eight of its last 10 and has a solid 1-2 punch in Markis McDuffie (18.0 ppg) and Samajae Haynes-Jones (12.1 ppg) to knock off league kingpins Houston and Cincinnati, while playing spoiler to fringe teams like Central Florida and Temple.

Oregon (Pac-12)

The Ducks (18-12) were supposed to be so much better but the season-ending injury of Bol Bol really set them back. Their opportunity has more to do with how bad and unpredictable the Pac-12 has been this season. The conference tournament's top seed, Washington, recently lost to the tournament's worst team, California, so anything can happen. Arizona State is the only bubble



Murray State guard Ja Morant could wow viewers if he can carry the Racers to the NCAA Tournament. BRIAN SPURLOCK/USA TODAY SPORTS

team in contention for another bid, but if another Pac-12 team like Oregon wins this wide-open tournament then the Sun Devils might be the team to get bumped out of the field of 68 as a result.

San Diego State (Mountain West)

The Aztecs (19-11) have upset league leader Nevada and other probable bubble team Utah State, so this is wouldn't be a big shocker. In both those Mountain West upsets, rebounding battles and second-chance points helped SDSU prevail.

South Carolina (SEC)

If Frank Martin can coach an underdog team all the way to the Final Four as

he did in 2017, he sure as heck can get this version of the Gamecocks (15-15) to knock off Tennessee, Kentucky or LSU and win the SEC tournament. South Carolina lost to all three of those teams in the regular season, so it will take an inspired effort. What's aiding this possibility is how this team fared against other SEC opponents as the Gamecocks (10-7 in SEC play) could notch a No. 4 seed to get a first-round bye and only have to win three games.

Murray State (Ohio Valley)

Ja Morant (24.1 ppg, 10.3 apg) is a projected top-three pick in June's NBA draft, but the Racers (25-4) likely have to upset Belmont for Morant to be on display in March Madness. Murray

State only lost twice in Ohio Valley Conference play so it wouldn't be that big of an upset. But Belmont is a good enough mid-major to get an at-large if it doesn't win the OVC tourney.

West Virginia (Big 12)

It's been a down season for the Mountaineers (12-18) but there have been some bright spots — including a win over Kansas and most recently Iowa State. Those wins were on their home court but there's enough talent on WVU's roster to play spoiler in the Big 12 conference tournament. Playing in the toughest league in the country makes any team battle-tested, so it's not like the Mountaineers won't know what they're up against.

Saint Mary's (WCC)


The Gaels have a tall task in knocking off a dominant Gonzaga team that drubbed them by 48 points earlier in the season. But they might be best positioned to pull off the stunner. Jordan Ford (21.5 ppg) can erupt for major performances, and he'll need a massive one to cut down the West Coast Conference tournament nets.

Davidson (A-10)

The Atlantic 10 is likely to only get one bid if VCU wins the conference tournament. The Rams are relatively safe as an at-large bid should they lose to a team like the Wildcats (22-8), who are the second-best team in the league with an impressive backcourt tandem in Kellan Grady and Jon Axel Gudmundsson (the duo combines for 34 points a game).

DePaul (Big East)

The Blue Demons (15-13) have fared much better in Big East play this year than previous seasons with seven conference victories, the most since 2007. And without a dominant Villanova team this year and Marquette recently struggling, there's a possibility DePaul becomes all the worst enemy of all the Big East bubble teams — Georgetown, Seton Hall, Creighton, Xavier and Butler.



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Should LeBron sit for rest of season?

Jeff Zillgitt, Martin Rogers,
AJ Neuharth-Keusch and Matt Eppers
USA TODAY

The Los Angeles Lakers aren't making the playoffs.

Mathematically, they still have a sliver of a chance.

But as of Wednesday's games, they're in 11th place in the West, 6 ½ games behind the eighth-place Los Angeles Clippers with only 17 games remaining. It's not happening.

So, should LeBron James — at age 34 and in his 16th NBA season — shut it down for the rest year?

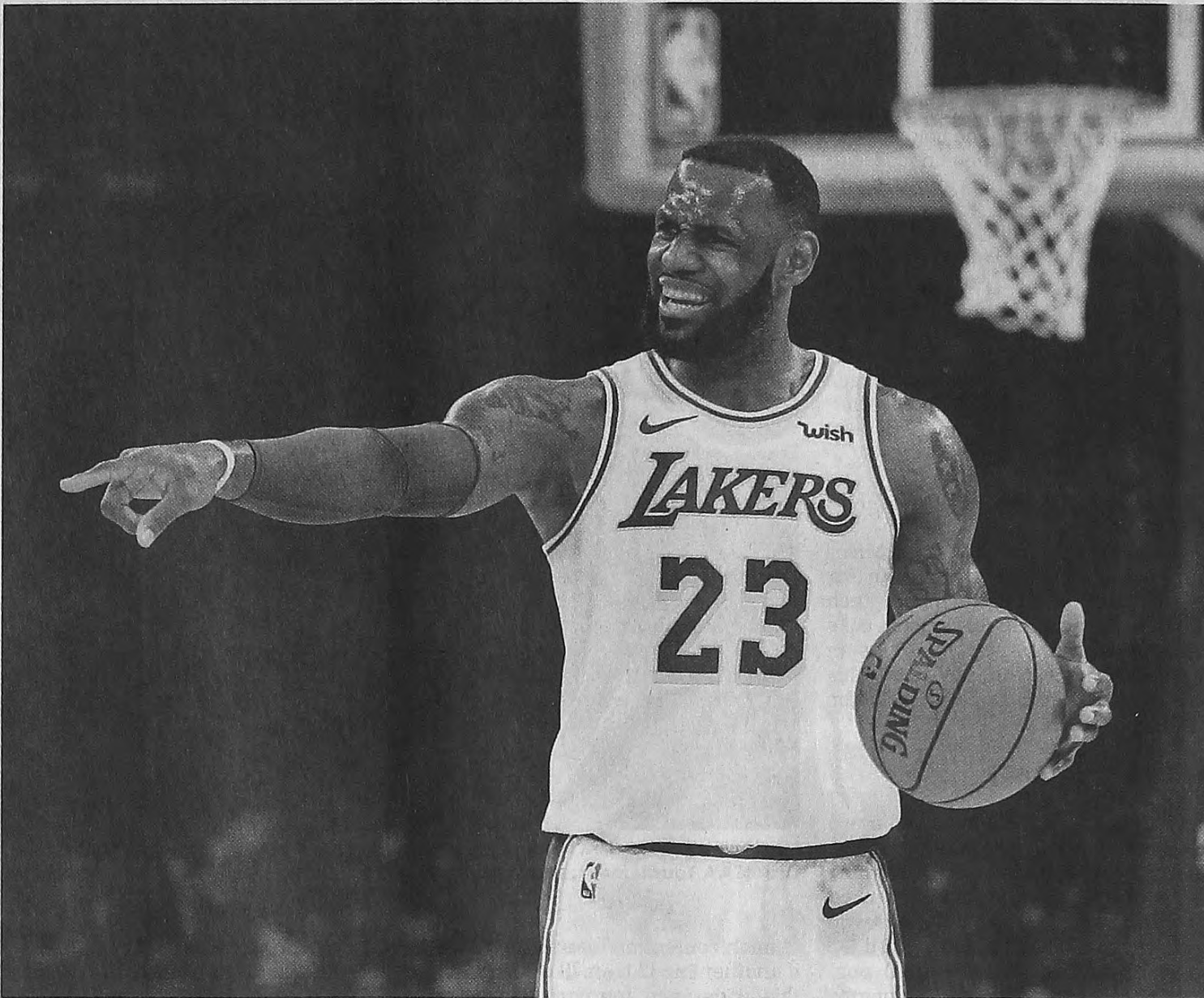
Yes, he already said he's not going to unless he's injured.

But *should* he?

USA TODAY Sports' Jeff Zillgitt, Martin Rogers, AJ Neuharth-Keusch and Matt Eppers address that question in this NBA roundtable.

Zillgitt: No. I understand James has many miles on him, and resting his body is important. But it's not likely he makes the playoffs, so he'll get two months off (mid-April to mid-June) that he normally plays. Plus, not to be a stickler, but there *are* NBA rules for resting healthy players — see New Orleans and Anthony Davis — and commissioner Adam Silver has the power to fine teams. So as long as James is healthy, expect him in the lineup most nights. Now, if it's the final two weeks of the season and the Lakers have been mathematically eliminated from the playoffs, James might sit. But with five weeks remaining, it's too early.

Rogers: Not if he wants anything to be different next season. I understand the logic in giving James extra rest and thereby offering his body a head start on rival players who go deep into the post-season. But for a guy who is, justified or otherwise, battling the perception that he has been a poor and unengaged leader for these young Lakers, it would send a horrible message. Even if another star joins the Lakers as a free agent this summer, the inexperienced core still needs to perform more effectively if it wants to contend for a championship. The biggest issue for the likes of Brandon Ingram and Kyle Kuzma isn't how to play better, it's how to play better *with James*. The time to start working on that more purposefully is now, even with the



LeBron James getting rest may not be as important as salvaging his lost season with the Lakers. JAKE ROTH/USA TODAY SPORTS

playoffs likely out of reach.

Neuharth-Keusch: As far as his body is concerned, yes he should. As for the optics? Not a chance. The Lakers have a lot to prove over these final few weeks — both to themselves and to potential free agents. Laker Land isn't exactly the hottest destination in the league right now, and James sitting would only add fuel to the dumpster fire that has been the Lakers' 2018-19 campaign. If free-agency started today and you're Kawhi Leonard, Kemba Walker, Kyrie Irving, Klay Thompson or any other big-name player

set to hit the market, is this *really* the team you want to join? James getting rest is important, but not as important as doing everything in his power to somewhat salvage this lost season. And that starts on the court.

Eppers: There is perhaps some strategic sense to James sitting. It would mean fewer games of wear and tear on his body, and the Lakers would likely increase their odds of landing a higher pick in the draft lottery, thus potentially giving themselves a better asset to use in their pursuit of Davis. But it would be

a terrible look for James and the team. Fairly or not, James has faced questions about his attitude and leadership all season. Shutting it down now with over a month left — even in what increasingly appears to be a lost season — would essentially be a public admission of giving up. Missing the playoffs will be a massive failure for the Lakers. They will face enough questions about their on-court play. As the face of the team, James can't compound that humiliation by sitting out the final stretch and opening himself up to even more scrutiny.

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Spring training can be a grind

Noah Trister
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAKELAND, Fla. — Earlier this week, Detroit manager Ron Gardenhire left several of his top players out of the starting lineup. It was a rainy morning, but that wasn't the only reason. Gardenhire said some were dealing with aches and pains.

"I talked to a number of our guys," Gardenhire said Tuesday. "Because of these hard fields in spring training, they get little hips and groin soreness, and I just said — weather, hips and groin, that's not good. So I just changed the whole lineup."

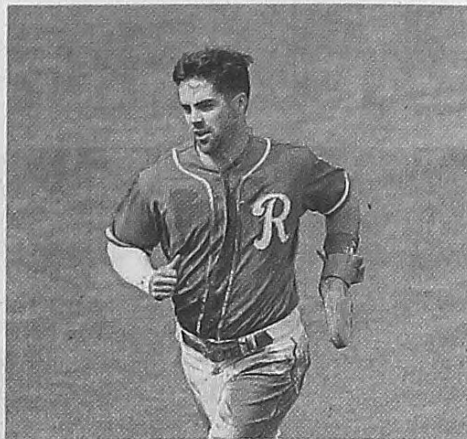
It may look like a few weeks of relaxed fun in the sun, but make no mistake: Spring training can be a grind. Pitchers need to build up their arms slowly, and position players face their own challenges. At this time of year, Florida and Arizona climates obviously are better for baseball than many others, but the warm, sunny weather does have a few drawbacks.

Spring training is halfway over now, and Kansas City infielder Whit Merrifield already feels like he's had enough.

"I wish spring training would be done, right about now — but I understand pitchers need to build their arms up and all that," Merrifield said. "It should be three or four weeks, that's enough. If it was me, it would start about right now and then you go into the season."

Merrifield might be glad to see the following trends in position player workload in spring training: In 2009, Houston's Michael Bourn led the majors in exhibition plate appearances with 107. In 2010, Julio Borbon had 97 for Texas. Last year, nobody had more than 74.

"A couple years ago, I was trying to



"I wish spring training would be done, right about now — but I understand pitchers need to build their arms up and all that," the Royals' Whit Merrifield said. AP

make the team and I played in like every spring game but one," Merrifield said. "I came into the season sore — the spring is tough in that regard — but once you get established, you get days off, play the first half a game and get out."

Gardenhire isn't alone in his concern about hard fields. Merrifield, whose team trains in Arizona, said "it's like concrete out there" on hot, sunny days. New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone experienced spring training when he was a player, and now he has to monitor his team.

"At different times probably in my career, yeah, when the sun's going and it dries out a little, it can get a little bit hard," Boone said. "Especially as you're building yourself up and getting used to standing out there and playing a couple hours in a game in your spikes all the time. It's part of the buildup."

Gardenhire was already looking beyond Tuesday's game in Lakeland. The next day, his team was slated to play Atlanta at the Braves' complex in Kissimmee.

"Going over to Disney, it's a rock," he said. "The infield is really hard over there. I don't even want to take my players over there."

The Tigers did indeed send a team to Disney, but Miguel Cabrera, Josh Harrison, Jordy Mercer and Jeimer Candellario — Detroit's likely starters this year in the infield — didn't play Wednesday.

In about three weeks, the 162-game regular season starts — with its own grueling elements. At least those games will count.

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Is it too soon for Hendrick to panic?

Bob Pockrass
Special to USA TODAY

One race shouldn't cause panic in a NASCAR organization. But when Hendrick Motorsports left Atlanta Motor Speedway two weeks ago with its four drivers finishing from 15th to 24th, it raised eyebrows from those inside and outside the Rick Hendrick operation.

"Boss man is not going to put up with that," driver Alex Bowman said. "Mr. H wants to go win races, and we have a lot of work to do."

The work appeared to pay off Sunday at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, where the team felt good about its performance as the average finish of the four drivers went from 19th to 14th.

Chase Elliott was the only Hendrick driver to finish in the top 10 at Las Vegas, and that average organizational finish still doesn't scream strength as the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series heads to the Phoenix area to compete on the 1-mile ISM Raceway this weekend (3:30 p.m. ET Sunday, Fox).

"This is a war and not a battle," Elliott said. "So we've got to think about getting better for 38 weeks. We've got 35 left. We better keep pushing and hopefully take another chunk."

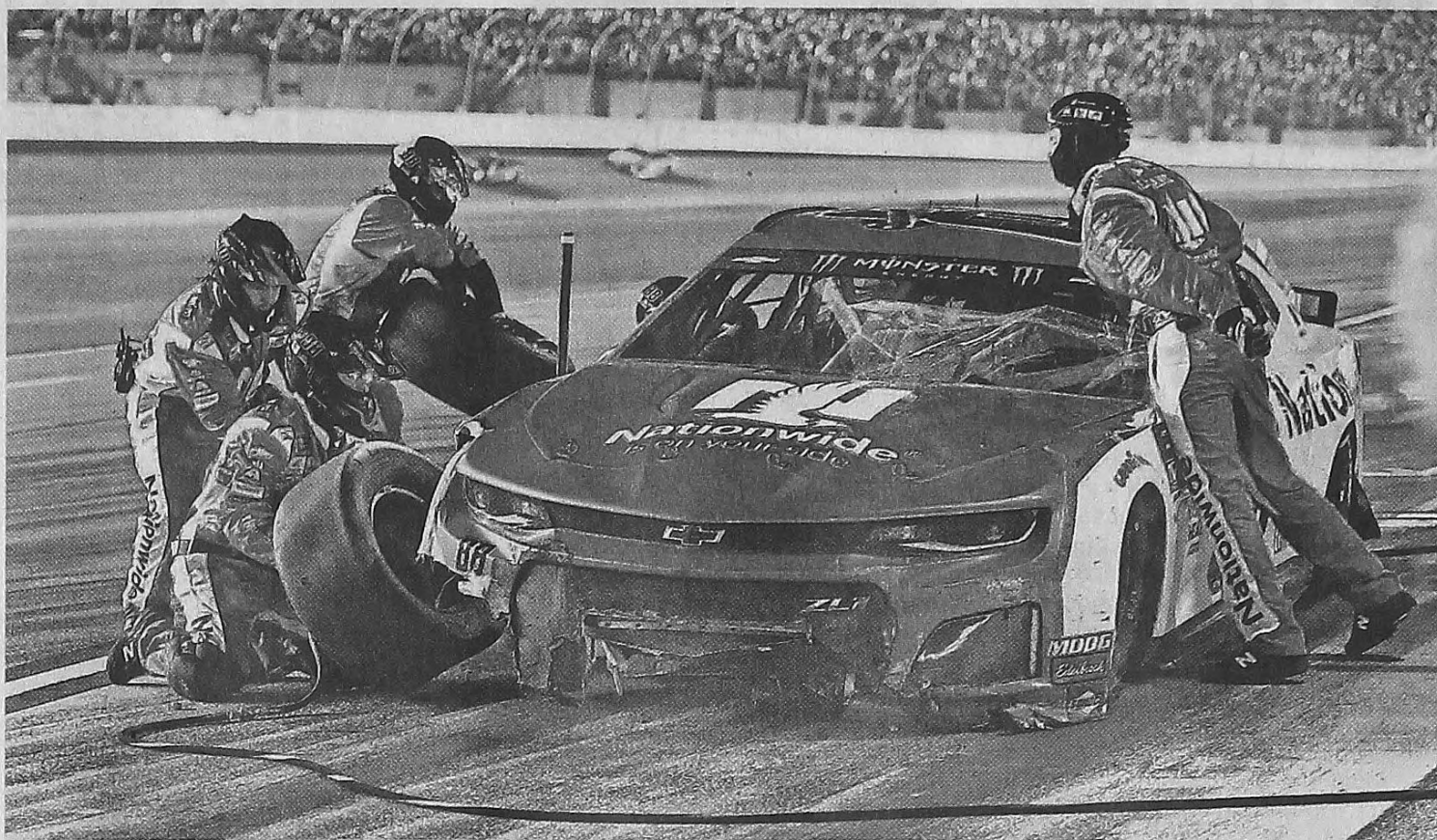
Is it time to panic? Hendrick has found itself in periodic funks since Jimmie Johnson won his seventh title in 2016.

"You can't freak out over it," Elliott said. "It is what it is. ... If we are performing to the best of our ability, that's all you can ask for."

HMS could reason the last two years of struggles with 2017 as just a down year and 2018 as the first season with the Camaro body. But this year with a new aero package designed to tighten the field, an Atlanta day when Bowman finished 16th, William Byron 17th, Elliott 19th and Johnson 24th appeared as one of the most deflating Hendrick performances over the last couple of years.

"The very first call I received post-race on Sunday after Atlanta was from Jimmie, wanting to get together Monday, wanting to know where we go next and wanting to know what our next step was," HMS vice president of competition Jeff Andrews said.

Johnson's average finish the last two



"Mr. H wants to go win races, and we have a lot of work to do," said NASCAR Cup Series driver Alex Bowman, pictured during a pit stop in the 2019 Daytona 500. JASEN VINLOVE/USA TODAY SPORTS

years of 16.8 and 16.7 ranks as the worst of his career. At Las Vegas, the seven-time Cup champion worked his way into the top 10 after the second stage and then fell to 19th.

"We definitely had more speed," Johnson said. "I am really puzzled why we fell apart at the end. That was pretty frustrating. We were more competitive, but we still have a ways to go."

Andrews said with the cars having decreased horsepower and increased downforce, the team focused on building on the increase in downforce to gain an advantage over other teams. It will shift some of that focus, which should give the organization a sense of direction that should help ease concerns.

"HMS moved in the direction of taking something with quite a bit of downforce in it. I think that showed in our qualifying and hoping it would pay dividends for us in the race," Andrews said. "It did. It just didn't pan out to be an advantage that we had hoped for. We made

some big changes towards Las Vegas."

Beyond changing drivers from Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Kasey Kahne to Elliott, Bowman and Byron from 2016 to 2018, the organization has made a variety of personnel moves over the last few years.

Johnson's longtime crew chief Chad Knaus moved to work with Byron this year while Kevin Meendering took over the Johnson car after a successful stint at JR Motorsports.

Doug Duchardt, who oversaw the racing operations, left amid the struggles in 2017 and now works at Ganassi. Hendrick brought in Chevrolet's Cup program manager Alba Colon before last season to oversee its computer simulation and data acquisition systems. It has moved championship-winning crew chief Darian Grubb off the pit box again to focus on key projects of aero and chassis development, an area where Hendrick seemed to struggle.

Any suggestion that all the change

has resulted in growing pains elicits a response of confidence with the people in their current roles.

With their issues at the first two intermediate-track races, if Hendrick could run well this weekend in the TicketGuardian 500 at Phoenix — typically a strong track for Hendrick drivers — that could go a long way in knowing they can focus their efforts on improving on intermediate tracks.

Andrews said the organization "has to learn faster than our competition" as its aerodynamic group works double shifts in the wind tunnel twice a week — results received Tuesday will go on the cars for next week at Auto Club Speedway in California — and the engine department has enhancements scheduled to roll out soon.

"There's so much hunger inside our company," said Johnson, riding a career-worst 62-race winless streak. "Unfortunately, we're not up there dominating. But we'll get there."

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Trends older workers need to look out for in 2019

Kate Lopaze
thejobnetwork.com

When it comes to workplace trends, it can seem like Millennials are the only ones facing changes and making changes. But if you happen to be a non-Millennial, like millions of American workers, it can be hard to see where you fit in with the changing workplace landscape.

If you're a Baby Boomer (born approximately 1946 and 1964), we've got you covered! Here are three significant trends you should be thinking about for your 2019 professional life.

Experience is still more important than age

Many Baby Boomers find themselves working past the age that their own parents retired, due to a range of factors from financial security to the fact that many workers just not ready yet to hang up their career hats. That trend is making its way into the hiring arena.

According to Labor Department data analysis done by TLR Analytics, nearly half of the 2.9 million jobs gained during 2018 went to workers age 55 and older. In 2018, per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 39.2% of Americans over age 55 were employed—the highest number in that demographic since 1961. So employers are hiring older workers, but many workers are simply hanging onto their jobs longer as well.

Part of the reason is that workers are saying active longer, but also, many employers are seeking stable, mature employees. A recent study by the National Council on Aging revealed that older employees did less job-hopping than their younger counterparts and had lower absentee rates.

Contract work is on the rise

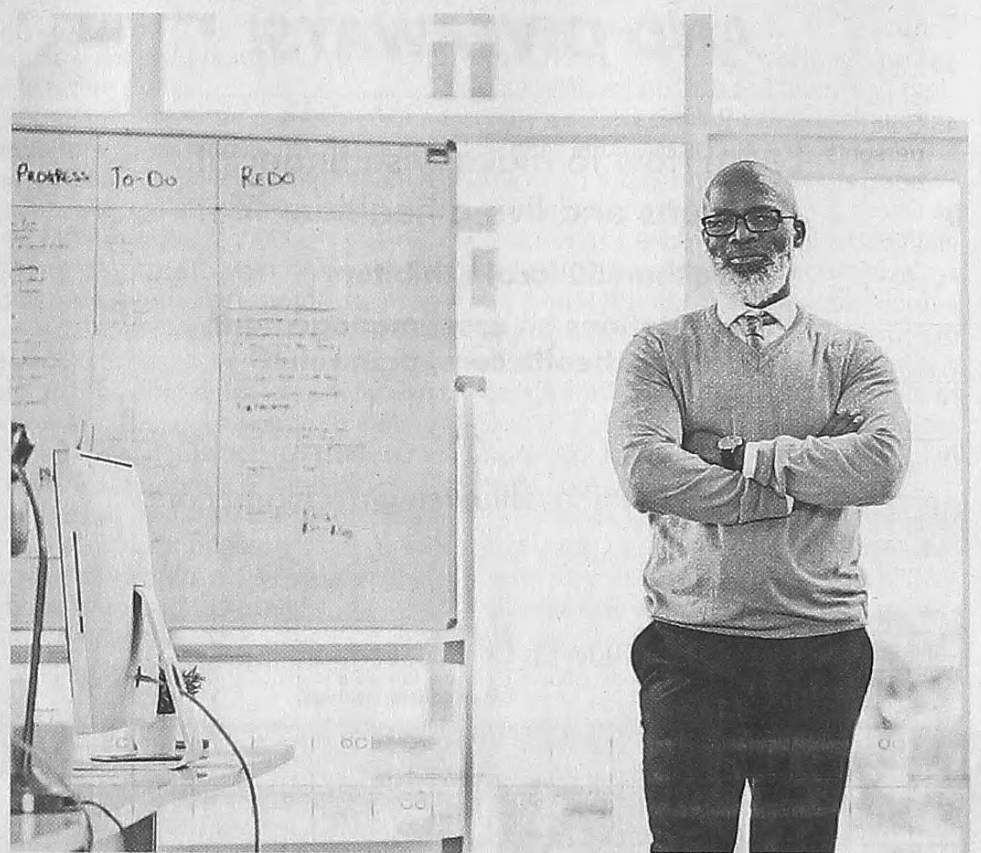
Per a 2018 NPR/Marist poll, 1 in 5 American jobs are held by a contract worker. For many Boomers, this represents a significant shift in how to think about the workplace and the work day. Many companies are shifting from a traditional full-time employment model to hiring part-timers and freelance or contract workers. For a generation that was raised with the idea that work means putting in your time and building your career around a single, stable full-time job for decades, it can be a difficult shift to digest.

This change is especially noteworthy for Baby Boomers, because contract jobs often don't come with the hallmarks of a full-time job: insurance, retirement plans, paid time off, and other benefits. Working in the contract economy can mean extra planning and different financial solutions as you start thinking about your career endgame.

More companies are willing to let you work remotely

With the rise of digital communication in all aspects of the workplace, plus the focus that many companies have on collaborating with partners all over the world, telecommuting and flexible work arrangements (like working from home or working remotely during unorthodox hours) are becoming more and more prevalent.

The 9-to-5, punch-in-and-punch-out model, isn't dead yet, but it's unlikely that we'll see a return to those traditional norms for many industries. And for older workers, this new landscape can be a distinct advantage. The number of companies that offer a remote work option may increase the number



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of job openings available to older workers who may find long-distance work difficult.

Flexible work arrangements can also be a good way to segue into part-time work or consulting if you're thinking about how to move into retirement. And these flexible arrangements also represent a boon in quality of life in many cases, offering savings in time, money, and the aggravation of a commute. Today's older workers are increasingly tech-savvy, which will lead to more and more opportunities in the evolving

physical and digital workplace.

As the workplace evolves, so does the Baby Boomer employee. The stats show that rather than being sidelined, older workers are not only fighting for (and keeping) their jobs, but also that they're a workplace force to be reckoned with—in 2019 and beyond.

Kate Lopaze is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com where this article was originally published. She investigates and writes about current strategies, tips, and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.

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26 Desert region of Israel
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28 IRS worker: Abbr.
29 "Shakedown" singer Bob
31 Stair feature
34 Gem colored by trace amounts of boron
37 List-limiting abbr.
40 Dietary unit
43 Actor Bana of "Troy"
44 Sit for a photo
45 Cold person's bumps
48 Chose (to)
50 Bestows

51 Thinnest coin
52 Beddy-bye garb
55 Palme — (Cannes prize)
56 Author Deighton
57 "You bet!"
58 Joyous hymn
60 Camera since 1924
64 Big — (large German gun)
66 Eminent senior member
70 LAX guess
71 Dog sound
73 Pig sounds
74 — Tac
75 Author Levin
76 It might be next to a napkin holder
80 Hurls
82 Tropical fish
83 "Around — parts ..."
84 Prefix with hazard
86 N.Y.-to-L.A. dir.
87 Part of USMA: Abbr.
89 Exhaust
90 Watchful person

92 Marshy inlet
94 Thrills, informally
98 Flight hub in East Boston
101 Often-twisted treat
102 TT carmaker
105 Bucharest's land
106 A, in Spain
107 Thanksgiving follower
110 Individual
112 Sri —
113 — Poke (candy)
114 Mineo of film
116 Author Ephron
120 Individual
121 Pun on a phrase meaning "square one"
127 NFL
128 Best Actress of 2016
129 Ordinary
130 Topping type
131 "FYI" part
132 Flew through, as a test
133 Reduced

DOWN

1 Like a quilt

2 Great Lakes tribe
3 Little dent
4 Verbalize
5 Fissures
6 Always, to a poet
7 Sideline cry
8 Actress Besch or Andersson
9 Working without —
10 Be fallible
11 Relating to kidneys
12 Big bird dog
13 Prefix with linear
14 "— Beso"
15 High-IQ club
16 Definitely
17 Holy smoke?
18 Got on, as a bus
21 Indefinite
24 "Cross my heart"
30 Kingdoms
32 Exhaust
33 Skip over, as a sound
34 Cell buzzer
35 Carried out
36 Like coated cupcakes
37 Yolk holder
38 Eau de — (cologne)
39 Design on an album, say

41 LP speed
42 Bit of land in le Rhône
46 Dispatched
47 Gleams
49 Old name in video game consoles
53 Actor Eisenberg
54 Formed a lap
57 Unit of length
58 Cylindrical pasta
59 Cable TV's — Geo Wild
61 Words to an absent lover
62 Fatigued by worry
63 Santa — (some hot winds)
64 Finest
65 Oahu locale
67 Easy gaits
68 Rig fuel
69 Mambo
72 In shape
77 Wrestler's restraining move
78 Mu — pork
79 Make operational again
81 Exchange
85 Origami bird
88 Bit of foliage

90 Roman "I"
91 Thanksgiving tuber
92 Just issued
93 Hagen of Broadway
94 Groups of odds and ends for sale
95 Florida city near Epcot
96 Least fatty
97 South, in Mexico
99 Suffix with direct
100 Roman "3"
103 Ban from law practice
104 Does nothing
108 Actress Sagal
109 Vital blood line
111 Pop or jazz
114 January 1 song word
115 Laid up, say
117 Truth bender
118 "Bus Stop" writer William
119 Up in years
122 Med. plan
123 Aussie bird
124 Fabled bird
125 "My — Sal"
126 Nobel-winning poet Andric

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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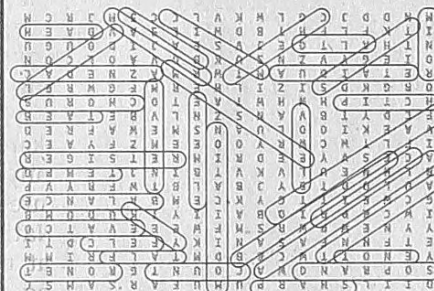
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S O P R A N O W A C O U N T G R O N E T
Y E N O T T W C B B D M T A L F R I M M
E T F N N F A S A N I K Y F E L C D T I
Y Y N E W P W R S M F W E E E V A T C O
I W C R P R I O B A I I Y T K U D O M B
G C W E I T T G Y K C E M B A L A N C E
A U L O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

ANSWER KEY

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

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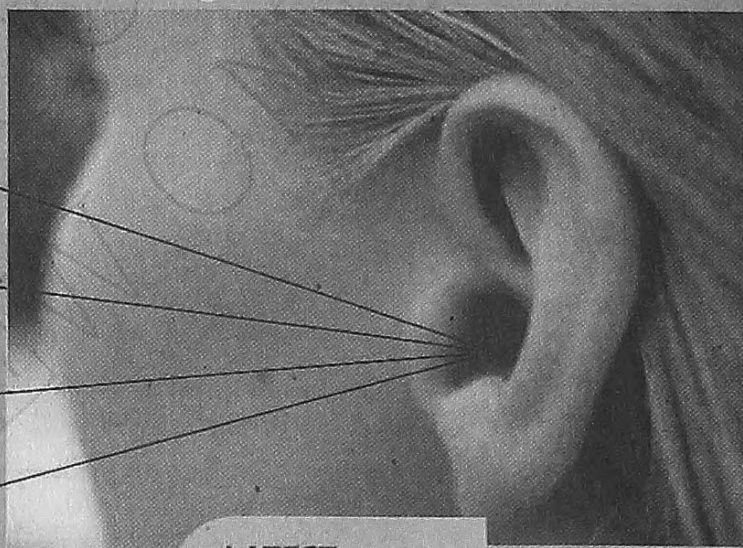
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Enhance your bathroom with a magnificent shower, tub, or both **IN ABOUT ONE DAY!** You won't believe the transformation. We offer the finest replacement tubs and showers in your choice of designer styles at affordable prices. Plus, our expert certified factory installers handle everything for you. **CALL NOW!**



**QUALITY!
VALUE!
LUXURY!**
Plus Affordable Styles For Every Budget!

Call Now For **FREE** Details
248-372-9246

*With purchase of any complete bath or shower system. New orders only. With minimum purchase made at initial appointment and approved credit. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Also home improvement is neither a broker nor a lender. Financing is provided by third party under credit agreement with Bath Planet. Under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender, all subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of financial documents. Any finance terms subject to any estimates only. 13.99-18.99% if not paid within 12 months.

Special Offers for Our Readers:

Give your old BATH a MAKEOVER

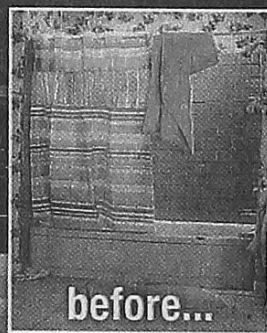
LIMITED TIME OFFER:

FREE AND 12 Months
INSTALLATION SAME AS CASH

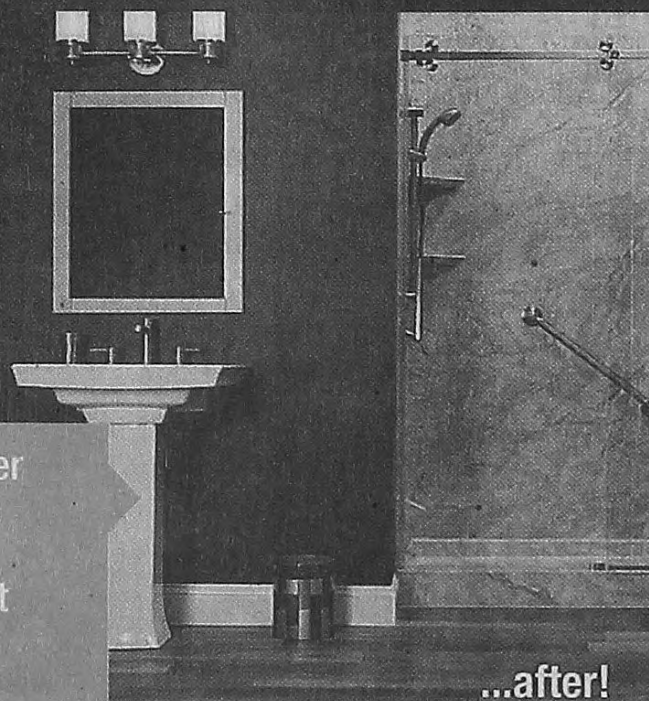
INSTALLED IN AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY

*Includes product and labor; bath or shower and wall surround. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

**Financing subject to approval. Mention this ad. See dealer for details. Each dealership independently owned and operated. ©2017 Bath Planet. Expires 3/31/2019



before...



...after!

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Conversions

Replacement
Bathtubs

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Widest selection of
colors and patterns in
easy-to-clean acrylic!



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VISIT
US ON



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DOWN TO EARTH PRICE.**

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