



Braun pushes Plymouth girls tennis toward state finals

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

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Duo complete Schoolcraft apprenticeship

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Jesse Dennis has spent the last several years taking classes and learning more about the tool and die trade. He took the next step in his career as he and Royal Oak resident Timothy Buffett

each completed a multi-year apprenticeship through Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

"It feels good," the Monroe resident said. "Accomplishment is always a good feeling."

The two men, who work at Wellington Industries in Van Buren Township,

are the first to complete the apprenticeship program launched between Wellington and Schoolcraft College. Launched in 2015 as a tool and die apprenticeship through the Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Apprenticeship, Buffett and Dennis are the first two to complete the program. The two were

recognized during a ceremony in the VisTaTech Center on campus.

The two were required to complete 48 credit hours through the college, earned after spending 8,000 hours in on-the-job training.

See **SCHOOLCRAFT**, Page 3A



Leyna Harris, 4, perches atop her parents' piano in their Birmingham home on March 26. Harris auditioned for and got a small role in the upcoming production of the musical "Waitress" at Detroit's Fisher Theatre. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Birmingham actress, 4, will debut in 'Waitress'

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Leyna Harris likes to play with her dollhouse, perhaps not surprising for a 4-year-old.

But the Birmingham preschooler will take child's play to an extraordinary level when she steps on the Fisher Theatre stage in front of thousands of people to act in "Waitress" in May.

Leyna was chosen from three dozen

4- and 5-year-old girls who auditioned for the part of Lulu, and will make her stage debut in the Broadway in Detroit production of the nationally touring musical.

She seems pretty unfazed when asked about it on a recent morning.

"I feel good," Leyna says, and then moves on to plans for her June birthday — a unicorn party.

See **ACTRESS**, Page 2A

If you go

■ **What:** "Waitress"

■ **When:** May 7-19

■ **Where:** Fisher Theatre, 3011 West Grand Blvd., Detroit

■ **Tickets:** broadwayindetroit.com or by calling 800-982-2787.

■ Leyna's performances will be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Developer who changed local landscape dies

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

William "Bill" Walter Bowman III, a builder, developer and realtor instrumental in changing the landscape of southeast Michigan, died April 3.

He was 92.

Bowman played a role in many area mainstays, including Providence Hospital, the Novi Town Center, and the Farmington Freeway Industrial Park, as well as thousands of residential housing units and a dozen industrial and business parks.

"He would always say his kids and grandkids were his greatest accomplishment, even though he was so successful in business," Blair Bowman Sr., his son, said. "He was one of the hardest-working individuals you would ever know."

He adds that he thinks his father will be remembered fondly as a "very prolific and thorough communicator," and laughs as he recalls one voicemail message Bowman left him that lasted over 20 minutes.

As he was concluding the message, he could be heard fumbling the phone as if about to put it down, before bringing it back up to say at the end, "Oh, by the way, this is Dad."

"He could be a little long-winded, but in such a nice way that no one minded," Blair said. "He was extremely thoughtful and everyone I ran across just always thought he was the nicest guy."

Bill Bowman was a resident of Farmington Hills for the majority of his life after coming to Detroit in 1954 at age 28 for a part-time summer job selling vacant residential lots for Thompson-Brown realtors.

He had grown up in Topeka, Kansas, served in the U.S. Marine Corps for two years, and then earned a bachelor's degree in administration from William Jewell College in 1952, where he had been a standout athlete.

When he came to Michigan, he was on a summer break as dean of admissions at Northwestern University, and just never returned.

Instead, he hit his stride in real estate — and throughout his career, received accolades and recognition.

In 1970, the 250-acre Farmington Freeway Industrial Park became the first Class A-certified industrial park in the Michigan Commerce Department Certified Industrial Park Program.

Later that decade, Bowman brought Providence Hospital to Novi.

He kicked off the 1980s by assembling and rezoning the property for Trammel Crowe for development of the Novi Town Center.

See **BOWMAN**, Page 6A

Actress

Continued from Page 1A

She also explains her choice of apparel for this sunny day, pointing to her shirt, and adding, "I like butterflies."

What she really wants to do is show off her dollhouse and play blocks with brother, Sam, 2.

Julia Harris, their mother, and her husband, Steve, aren't planning a career for their daughter as an actor just yet — they want her to have a normal childhood. But when a friend who keeps up to date on theater news told Julia about the Lulu auditions, she thought she'd take Leyna and see what happened.

Broadway aspirations

Julia describes her daughter as outgoing and confident and said she has always had a propensity for being creative and passionate. Leyna closes her eyes when she sings, places her hand on her heart, and puts her all into dance, for which she takes lessons.

Her mom notes she didn't have that

confidence herself as a child, but Steven is musically inclined, singing and playing piano at home, particularly favorites from "Les Miserables" and "Phantom of the Opera." Leyna's parents both love musical theater and their daughter appears to be developing a fondness for it as well.

Julia recalls watching the performance of "Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert" starring John Legend and Sara Bareilles (who wrote the music for "Waitress") on television with Leyna, who loved the song "Could We Start Again Please?" performed by Mary Magdalene.

Some time later, when the family was on vacation in Mexico and saw a stage at their resort, Leyna turned to her mother and said, "I want to be Mary on stage."

This out-of-the-blue, unprompted wish wasn't one that could be instantly fulfilled, but Julia thought the opportunity to pursue dreams of the stage was worth a look.

"I would never have pushed her to perform if she didn't show interest," Julia said.

She had missed a sign-up deadline for "Waitress" auditions, but Julia emailed a picture of her daughter and inquired whether the staff for the musical could find a slot for Leyna.

Finding young stars

Casting director Dayna Dantzer, who travels from city to city to oversee auditions for the part of Lulu in each place on the musical's national tour, was accommodating.

She has been casting children in Lulu's role for two years for "Waitress," which tells the story of Jenna, an expert pie baker working at a local diner and stuck in a loveless marriage. Jenna's salvation comes in the form of her daughter, Lulu.

Dantzer had already seen 35 girls audition in Detroit, all under the age of 5 years and 3 months, none more than 4 feet, 2 inches tall. Their hair and eye color did not matter, and in fact, Leyna and Caroline Hubbard, 5, of Chelsea, who will alternate performances in the role, look nothing alike.

Leyna's big moment was the last audition Feb. 5.

What Dantzer is looking for when casting Lulu is charisma, and each girl has just a few minutes to display it in an interview and some role play.

"It's really about personality and how quickly these young ladies can pick up the material I give them, and if they are able to take direction at all," Dantzer said, adding that she starts by asking what they did at school that day, or about their favorite colors and animals.

She then watches for reactions that vary. What she doesn't want is a child that shuts down, or gets too excited and loses focus. Some want to chat, but don't want to act. Some carry on long extended conversations where Dantzer said they want to tell their life story in seven to eight minutes.

After the conversation, she asks them to do a few things that they will have to do for the three minutes they would be on stage — including a little dance and a big belly laugh — without prompting.

"The rehearsal process is very short for them," she said. "Unlike Broadway, I have to make sure they are able to retain all the info and focus at the same time. ... If I tell them what to do and they get it right the first time, that's in their favor. Sometimes I can see something in them, and if they can do it several times in a row, that's always good."

What she sees in contenders is serious maturity for a 4- or 5-year-old who blows her away with their intelligence.

Dantzer was exceptionally impressed by Leyna.

"There was something so grounded about her," she said. "We chatted, she was sweet and kind and she made us giggle a few times and then we changed to the actual material part of the audition. She nailed it, and it was a no-brainer. We reviewed the tape (of the audition) and she was a standout."

Getting ready for the spotlight

Julia Harris was notified by email about a week later that Leyna had been chosen to play Lulu. The process included signing a contract and getting Leyna's W-4 forms filled out. She will earn about \$3,000 total for her eight performances, with the money deposited into her college fund or a savings account. Nothing will be altered for her appearance and Julia laughs as she said she would not have allowed them to cut or dye her daughter's brunette locks.

Julia was given a script with which to practice Leyna's lines with her, which includes the words "a lot" and "Hi, Mama," and for actions, includes kissing

the cheek of the woman who plays her mother.

Julia admits they practiced a lot in February, but have relaxed somewhat in the past month. Leyna will not have a formal rehearsal with cast on stage until just a few hours before her first performance in the show, which runs May 7-19 at the Fisher, and in which her performances will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

"I was excited, but I started to be nervous about making sure it wasn't too much on her," Julia said. "Then I realized, these people know what they are doing and they work with Lulus and know what they can handle and can't. They picked her for a reason and it's going to be fine."

Julia is planning as much as possible for her daughter's appearance in the final scene of the show, which will put Leyna on stage at about 10:30 p.m. for shows that start at 8. The 4-year-old doesn't take naps anymore, but does fall asleep in the car, so she is planning drives before the performances.

Julia will be backstage at every show except for the performance which she will view as part of the audience, and she will have cookies for bribery if needed.

Four-year-olds, like live performances, can go off script. Dantzer said there is a contingency plan in case a young actor is having an off moment or doesn't react to the spotlight as desired.

She doesn't seem worried about it, confident in Leyna's ability. Julia has high hopes as well, but isn't looking too far into the future.

"I'm going to watch and see what happens," she says. "If she says, 'Mom, I really liked that,' I will pursue having her in community theater."

Leyna currently participates in the program Drama Kids, and Julia said a larger dream musical role might be "Annie" or Cloisette in "Les Miserables."

For now, Leyna as Lulu is just right. "This is a wonderful opportunity and if she wants to pursue theater, what an amazing beginning to a career," Julia said.

There is a knock at the door and a photographer enters. After posing for pictures on the family's piano, Lulu carries on with the day-to-day business of a 4-year-old:

"Want to see my dollhouse?"
Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Consumer Experience Director

Mobile: 248-396-3870

Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

Follow us on Facebook: @OEHometown

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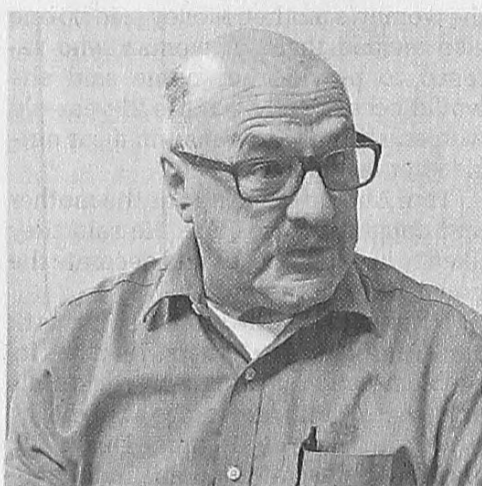


Schoolcraft College President Conway Jeffress addresses the gathering on March 27 honoring apprenticeship program graduates Jesse Dennis and Tim Buffett.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Schoolcraft

Continued from Page 1A



Gary Sievert, director of Human Resources at Wellington Industries in Belleville, talks about the company's welding program.

The pair work as tool-and-die makers.

There are about 30 students working through the apprenticeship program at the college, said manufacturing instructor Gene Keyes. He said such a program is just another way the college prepares students for careers in manufacturing.

"It's a win-win for everybody," he said. "It helps us put workers in plants. They're desperate. They're crying for workers, qualified workers, and this is one way that helps."

Buffett has worked at Wellington in tool and die for 10 years. He said he was



Dennis



Buffett

interested in applying for the program after going through the interview.

"It's good pay and it's faster than going to college," he said. "I know Gene's got a few programs that only take a few weeks of school to get into it."

Having such apprentices is beneficial

to the companies as well, allowing workers to find their way up the business' ladder to a higher-paying job.

"As they get more skilled and go through the program, now that he's a journeyman, now he can work on details," said Anna Harris, director of operations at Wellington. "There's a lot that goes into tool-and-die making."

Keyes said such an honor will allow the men to have recognition and help them in their careers for the foreseeable future.

"They've got a national credential. It helps," Keyes said. "They're on a pathway for the rest of their life."

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

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Annual drug take-back in Farmington Hills set

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills been hosting a Prescription Drug Take-Back Day for nearly 20 years, and it doesn't plan to stop now.

The police department is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 27 for a take-back event at headquarters, 31655 W. Eleven Mile Road.

Residents from any city can bring in prescription drugs in any type of container.

The goal is to safely and anonymously remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from homes throughout the community.

Farmington Hills police collected more than 197 pounds of prescription drugs at their October Take-Back Day. The medications then were destroyed by the DEA according to federal and state regulations.

Disposal of prescription drugs means those who aren't prescribed the medication can't start taking it.

Farmington Hills Police Department joins others throughout Oakland County in participating in Operation Medicine Cabinet, another endeavor to take prescription drugs off the streets.

For more information, call 248-871-2610.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432.

Novi woman's death ruled homicide

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The death of 21-year-old Tia Jones of Novi has been ruled a homicide, Novi Police Chief David Molloy said Monday.

"We are not prepared to go into the details," Molloy said. "We believe this to be an isolated incident. It could potentially be a domestic type of situation. We are very early in the investigation."

Molloy said an autopsy report from the Oakland County Medical Examiner Office indicated a gunshot wound was the cause of death.

Novi police have not arrested anyone since the homicide along Rousseau Drive in the Oakland Glens mobile home community at 13 Mile and Novi roads.

On Monday morning, the crime scene tape was gone. A screen door was hanging open and black residue was on the door. Some spots had circles around them with the following written nearby: "pheno neg am."

Neighbors said they didn't really know the deceased woman.

"I heard screaming, then 'Oh, my God!'" Deana Linegar said.

Neighbors said the screaming started

around 3 a.m. One peeked outside but didn't see anything. Another was smoking on her porch but didn't think it was safe to check out the situation.

Novi police continue to investigate why they were dispatched to the home shortly before 4:30 a.m. Sunday morning. They arrived to find the dead woman and an injured infant.

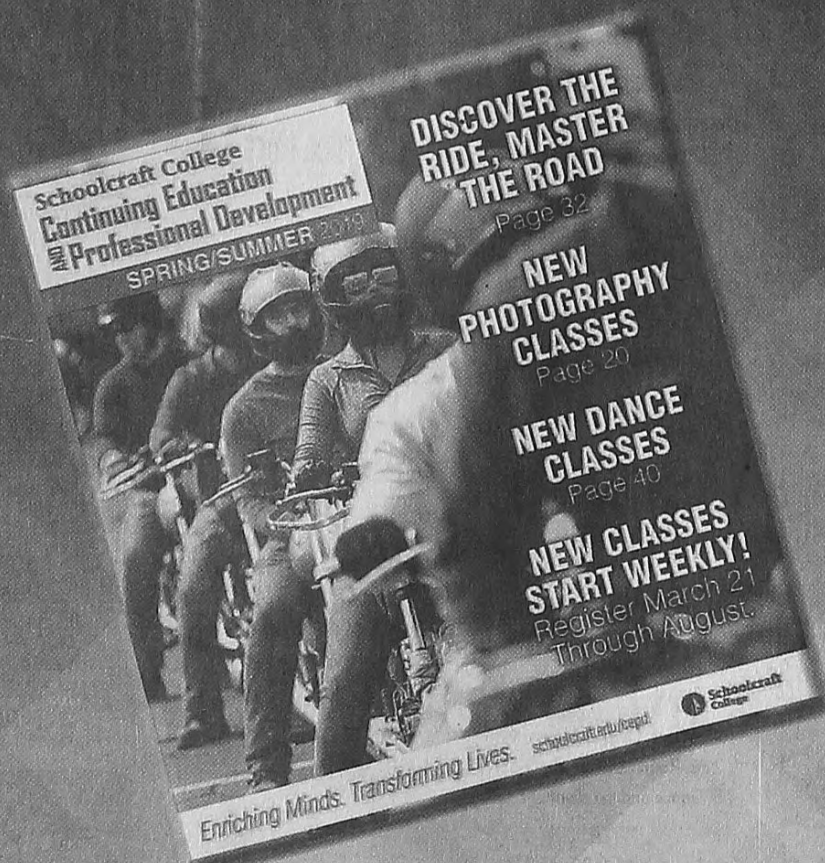
Neighbors said they lived there with the woman's mother. Molloy said no one else resided there. A woman who refused to provide her name said she would occasionally see the 21-year-old woman sitting with a man in a car outside her residence.

Tom Abele has lived near the mother and daughter since June. He said they liked to host barbecues and decorate the home for Halloween.

Neighbors say the mobile home park can seem safer than others. Yet it has its problems, such as drinking, pedestrians and parking outside homes at night.

On Jan. 4, 2018, Heather Dixon, 32, was found dead at her home in the mobile home park. Her husband, Derrick Dixon, was sentenced to 35-80 years in prison after entering a no-contest plea to a second-degree murder charge.

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Kentucky bars sued for over-serving driver who killed Northville family

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

They lost five family members in a wrong-way collision on Interstate 75, and now they're suing the two Kentucky bars that served alcohol to the other driver before the crash took his life, too.

Relatives of the Abbas family filed a wrongful death lawsuit Tuesday against Roosters Wings in Georgetown, Kentucky, and Horseshoes Kentucky Grill & Saloon in Lexington, Kentucky.

Authorities have said Joey Lee Bailey, 41, of Georgetown, Kentucky, had a blood-alcohol content of .306, more than three times Michigan's legal limit of .08, and was at fault in the crash that happened Jan. 6 in Lexington, Kentucky.

Roosters had served Bailey two 22-



The Abbas family COURTESY OF BILL MCDAD

ounce beers and three double White Russians. From Horseshoes, Bailey had ordered a beer and four double White Russians, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit alleges the bars behaved "negligently, recklessly and carelessly" by serving an obviously intoxicated Bai-

ley. It also claims the bars' decisions to keep bringing him drinks played "a substantial factor" in the injuries that killed the Abbas family of Northville.

Attorney and real estate agent Issam Abbas, 42, his wife, Dr. Rima Abbas, 38, and their three children — Ali, 13, Isabella, 12, and Giselle, 7 — were returning from a Florida vacation in their Cadillac Escalade when Bailey's white Chevrolet pickup crashed into their vehicle.

"For the surviving family members, as well as for their many friends left behind, the nightmare and grief caused by that crash will never go away," said Greg Bubalo, a Kentucky attorney representing the Abbas family, in a statement. "By filing the lawsuit, the family hopes to hold those responsible accountable and ensure that this type of tragedy does not occur to another family."

Relatives are seeking compensation and damages from the bars and Bailey's estate. Family attorney Andrew Morayas said a portion of any proceeds will go to the Abbas Family Red Wagon Fund.

The fund was established to honor the family and continue their legacy of helping the less fortunate and supporting their community.

"The family did not come to the decision lightly," Morayas said. "Their goal is to stop this from happening to any other families."

He added that the family became determined to take legal action once they learned that Horseshoes, in 2015, was alleged to have over-served another person who left the venue and fatally struck someone. The incident is mentioned without detail in the lawsuit.

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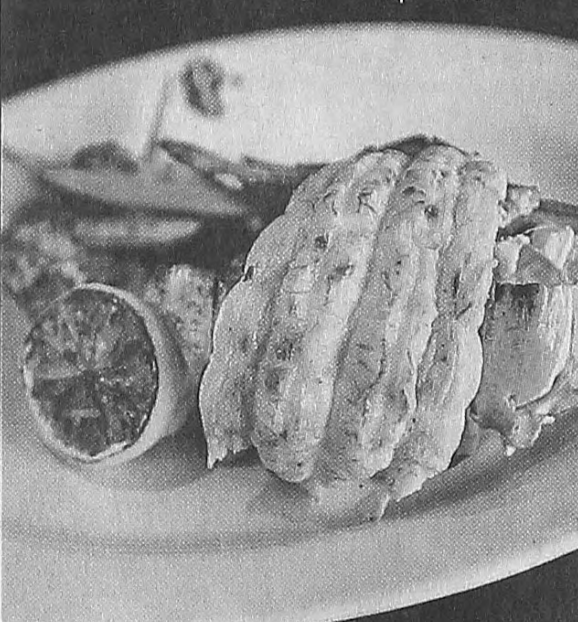
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HANS leaving Farmington Hills for new plant in Lyon Township

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A 500,000-square-foot plant at which water filtration devices will be assembled, employing at least 200 people to start, is coming to Lyon Township.

The township board unanimously approved at its April 1 meeting a special land use request by SI Capital, LLC, for the purpose of putting a HANS Water and Power assembly plant on a 30-acre parcel of land on the north side of Grand River Avenue between Cleslie Court and S. Hill Road.

"It's a water filtration system you may not need here in the township, but others may," Conrad Schewe, representing SI Capital, said, making reference to the township's recent water improvements.

HANS Premium Water Appliances, the company's flagship product is a whole house water filter system that removes "virtually all" contaminants, including lead, chromium hexavalent, PFOS, arsenic, iron, nitrates and more, according to its website.

Bob Freeborn, head of technical operations for HANS, said the year-old company based in Farmington Hills, currently serves the Great Lakes region, but is ramping up production with plans to branch out and offer the device in other areas of the country.

Brian Keesey, township planner, told the board the company's plan for assembly of the devices is compatible with light industrial uses zoned for that area on the future land use map. The planning commission approved last month a preliminary site plan for the 505,780-square-foot facility.

"There is a need for this type of use in the township and we see that in a lot of parcels developed in the last few years," Keesey said. "This will bring additional jobs and tax base for the township."

"It will make use of existing infrastructure and is not expected to make a negative impact."

Additional traffic considerations have been taken



A rendering of the HANS Water and Power assembly plant, planned for a 30-acre parcel adjacent to Grand River Avenue in Lyon Township. SUBMITTED

into account, he added, with acceleration and deceleration lanes to be installed on the approaches to the plant.

A parking lot on site will provide 430 spaces for employees. Schewe said the company plans to start with one shift of about 200 workers, but may increase to two or three shifts.

"We are excited to move forward with permitting and are looking at construction this summer or fall," he said.

Supervisor John Dolan welcomed HANS Water and Power to the township.

"With the jobs coming in, the Grand River corridor is second to none," Dolan said. "This is really a great thing, this is what we have been looking for. They will probably ask for a tax abatement, but when you bring that many jobs to the neighborhood, giving a tax abatement is a good thing and it only goes for a number of years. ..."

"Commercial and industrial is amazing to bring to any township and any city. They make it livable for residents by lowering their taxes."



William Bowman III, a real estate developer who changed the face of southeast Michigan, has died. SUBMITTED

Bowman

Continued from Page 1A

Following his success with the 12 Mile Corridor development in Farmington Hills, he led development of the OST zoning ordinance, which paved the way in Novi for the Haggerty-M5 corridor major corporate development.

"For me personally, his legacy is right in front of us as a family, nothing we have accomplished would be possible but for him," Blair Bowman said. "I get to remember and was mentored by one of the most incredible business people in the world."

"I can't think of or ask for a better man to live up to and respect."

Bill is survived by his children from his marriage of 38 years to Barbara (Ballard); William Walter IV and his wife, Kris; Robert Vern and his wife, Kathy; Blair Mathew and his wife, Kimberle; and Brenda Elizabeth (Marrone) and her husband, Steve.

He was a loving grandfather to Brittany, Maclain, James, Christopher, Matthew, Kelsey, Blair Jr., McKenzie, Grant, Parker, Anthony, and Nick and great-grandfather to Aidan and Reagan.

The funeral was held April 10 at the Suburban Collection Showplace Diamond Center in Novi.

Contact Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

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Bloomfield Animal Hospital burglarized

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Daniel Joseph Binsfeld, 58, of Highland Township, was arrested for allegedly breaking into the Bloomfield Animal Hospital and stealing cash from the register.

Bloomfield Township police said they responded to an alarm at the 1669 S. Telegraph Road facility around 6:45 a.m. April 3.

They found signs of a forced entry and the cash gone.



Binsfeld

Binsfeld was later arrested and arraigned in 48th District Court on a felony charge of breaking and entering into a building. He remained at Oakland County Jail as of Wednesday. His bond was set at \$25,000.

Representatives from the animal hospital declined comment.

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

Man loses \$4K in scam

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

An elderly man purchased four \$1,000 Best Buy gift cards to get a loved one out of jail, and then learned he had been scammed.

In one of two fraud complaints involving clothing and gift cards April 3, Bloomfield Township police were dispatched around 8:15 a.m. to Ridgewood Court because a resident received a call from someone claiming to be a relative needing money for a jail release.

The man was told to buy four \$1,000 Best Buy gift cards and mail them to a Southfield attorney's office because law enforcers would not accept cash as bond money.

The elderly man purchased the cards, attempted to deliver them and realized the address provided did not exist.

He visited the Southfield Police Department, which redirected him back to Bloomfield Township police.

Contact Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432.

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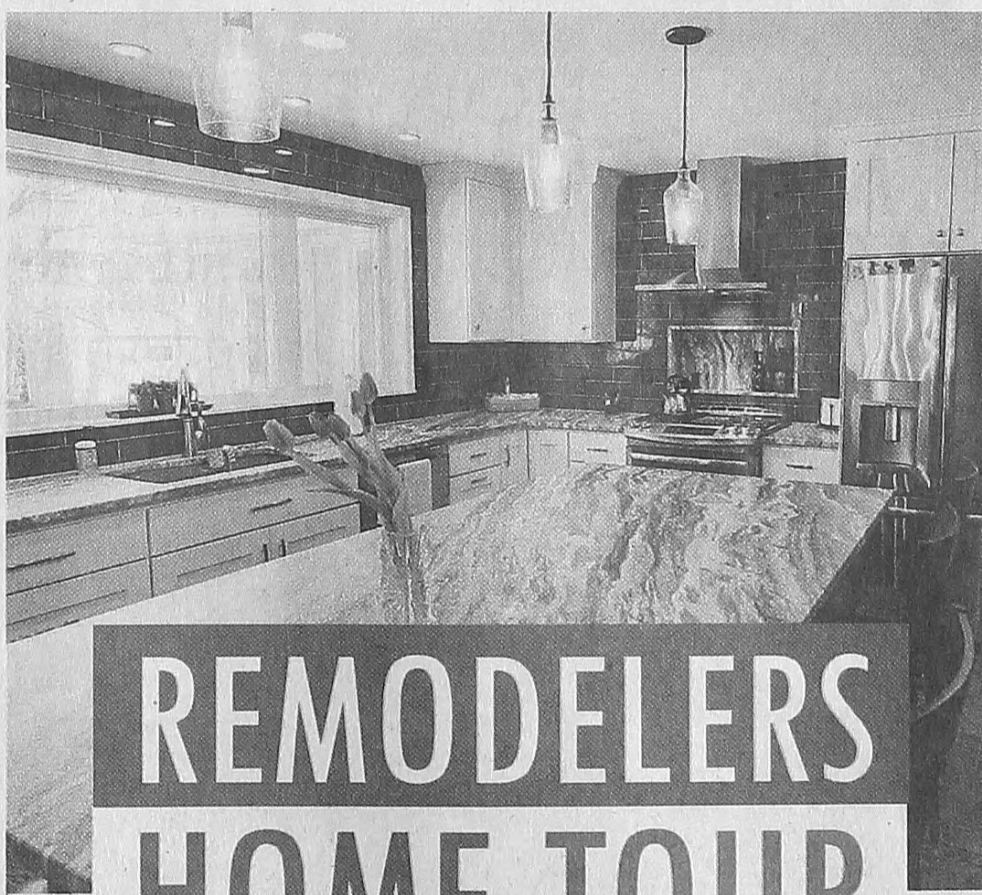
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At 71, adopted man finds biological mom

Kayla Daugherty Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

When Bill Jacobs got his ancestry test back, he figured the biggest surprise would be finding out he's not as German as he thought. Little did he know that by taking that test he would grow his family by 10 siblings.

Jacobs was adopted in Detroit in 1947 when he was 4 months old.

The Howell man said he never thought much about his biological parents growing up and didn't look into his adoption records previously because he didn't want his adoptive parents to think he wasn't happy.

"They were phenomenal parents," Jacobs, 71, said of his adopted parents, who are now deceased.

Carol Gaffaney and her husband, Ralph, were sitting at their son Alan's kitchen table in early January looking through Ralph's possible ancestry connections. They came across a name they didn't recognize.

Carol contacted Jacobs a week later and told him the couple thought he might be Ralph's cousin.

It took two weeks, but the families determine Ralph and William, who goes by Bill, are half-brothers, sharing the same father.

Three weeks after their first contact with the Jacobses, Ralph Gaffaney and his brother, Richard, met Bill for the first time in Wisconsin.

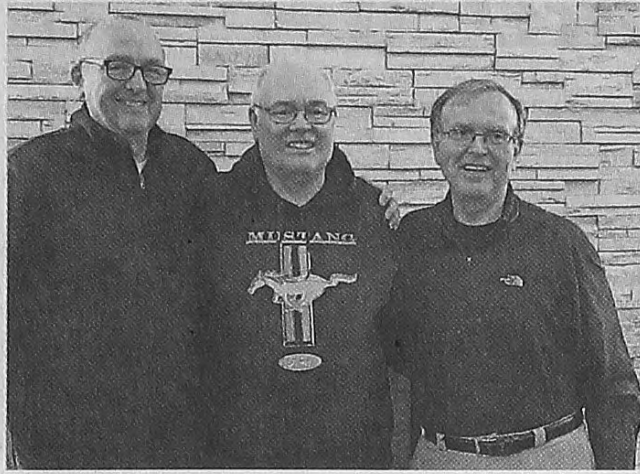
"It was just superb," Ralph said of the meeting. "Bill looks more like our dad than my older brother (Richard) and I do."

While the reunion was short, Janine Jacobs, 71, said "there was more hugging in a 24-hour time period than Bill had his entire life."

Ralph said he and his wife are planning a trip to Michigan after Memorial Day this year.

He said he and his other brother Richard "believe (their father) probably didn't know about Bill and if he did, he would have fully embraced him."

Their paternal grandfather's name was William John Gaffaney, their father, William Gaffaney, and Bill's adoptive parents unknowingly continued the tradition.



Bill Jacobs, left, met his two half-brothers, Richard and Ralph, earlier this year after taking an ancestry test. Jacobs plans to meet his biological mother, Frances Revord, in June. COURTESY OF JANINE JACOBS

Bill Jacobs said he recently started looking into his adoption records and found the name of his biological mother at the urging of Janine and their daughters, Angie and Jen.

Janine said originally Bill didn't want to reach out, especially after hearing stories of birth parents rejecting communication when sought by adopted children.

"My daughters and I had been encouraging him to look into it," she said. "He was rejected once; he didn't want to be rejected again."

Bill discovered his biological mother now lives in a retirement home in Nebraska. He and Janine decided to mail her a letter.

"Just to let her know who I was and to thank her for having me and putting me up for adoption," he said. "I wanted to let her know that what she did in 1947 was a great gift to me and my family."

Janine said she and Bill didn't know what to expect after mailing the letter.

"Four weeks went by and every time the phone rang

we would jump up," Janine said.

Just over a month later, the Jacobses received two letters — one from Bill's biological mother, 97-year-old Frances Revord, and another from a woman named Carolyn, who said she was Bill's youngest half-sister.

Both women thanked Bill for reaching out and expressed how happy they were to find out about him.

Shortly after receiving the letters, Bill and Frances Revord spoke for the first time in 71 years.

"She was very happy to talk to me," Bill said. "She couldn't say enough about how happy she was."

He said she told him she wondered what happened to him. Bill said his mother hadn't told anyone that she had given birth and put him up for adoption.

"When I gave that baby up, I asked the good Lord to give him a good family," Revord said in a phone interview.

Bill said the first thing Revord did was contact her youngest daughter, Carolyn Hollenbach.

"Until that point, none of her children knew about me," he said.

Hollenbach, 56, scheduled a family meeting where she and Revord told the other seven children that they had an older sibling.

Hollenbach said this experience has been exciting because of the joy it has given her mother "to realize that she made the right decision all those years ago."

"It really tickled her to know that he was still around," she said.

Bill and Janine are traveling with their daughters and their families in June to Nebraska to meet Revord.

Revord said she was very shocked to receive the letter from Janine and Bill.

"Now I can know he is okay," she said.

Bill said he is excited to meet Revord and that the meeting will be "interesting" for sure.

"I went from having one sister to having 11 brothers and sisters," Bill said.

Janine said Bill's new family has been very gracious and she can't wait to meet them.

"This was destiny," she said. "God's hand played a role."

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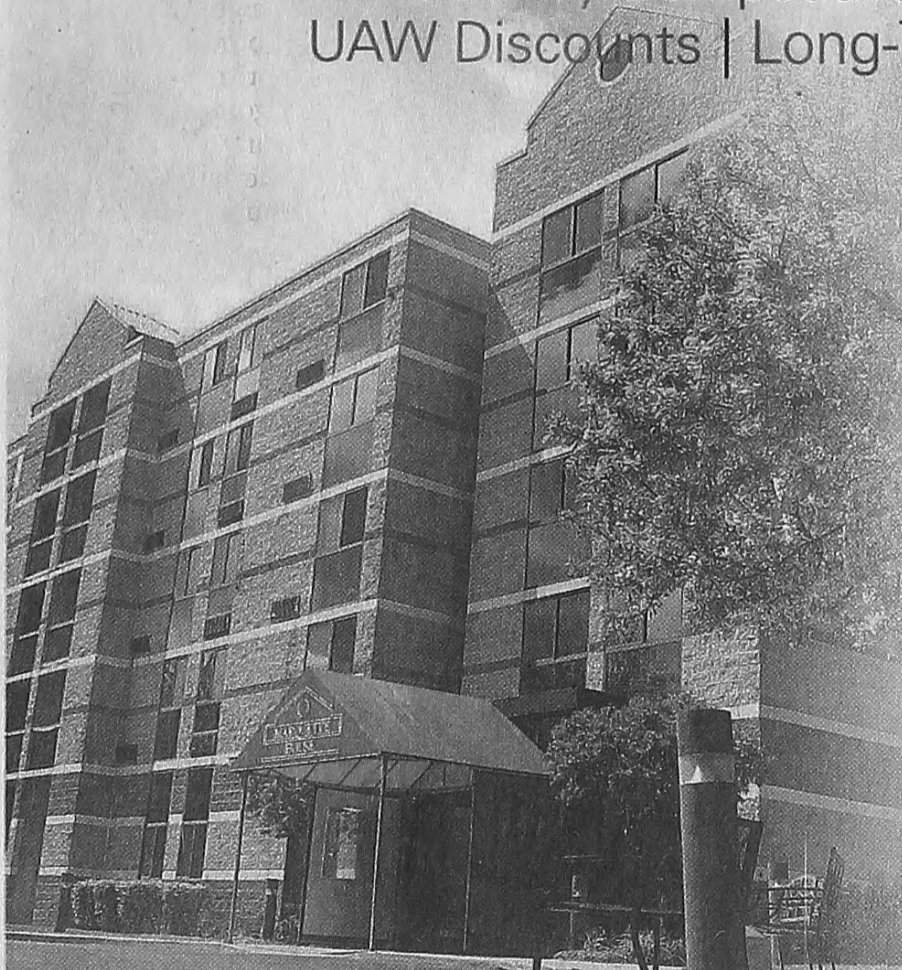
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Obituaries

Mary Knaff

HUDSON, OH - Mary Jayne (Rogers) Knaff, born July 12, 1923, passed away peacefully in Hudson, Ohio on April 3, 2019. She is survived by her daughter Janet Knaff Mabrey, son in law Bernie Mabrey, and grandchildren Caitlin Rogers Mabrey and John (Jack) Rodman Mabrey as well as many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband John (Jack) Aloys Knaff, her father Vincent Rogers, her mother Sarah Rogers and all 6 of her siblings.

Mary Jayne was a loving daughter, wife, sister, mother, grandmother, and aunt. Her favorite holiday was July fourth and she loved all things patriotic. She was known for entertaining and had friends in every generation all across the country.

She was a member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and spent years giving her time and talents to her church and community. She loved gardening, genealogical research, snow skiing, boating, golfing, and traveling far and wide to visit friends and family. She was well loved and will be missed, but as she often referred to death, she's off to her "great reward".

The family will hold a memorial service on Friday, June 28th in Birmingham, Michigan at Saint James Episcopal Church, time of day to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America or the American Parkinson's Disease Association.

A special thank you to the staff and caregivers at Hudson Grande Senior Living facility in Hudson, Ohio and to Harbor Light Hospice for making these last several years and months a loving, caring atmosphere for Mary Jayne, her family, and friends. (REDMON FUNERAL HOME, STOW, OHIO, 330-688-6631)

Hugh Francis Ableson

SHEPARD - Hugh Francis Ableson, age 92, passed away peacefully with family at his side at Stone Lodge of Shepherd on April 4th, 2019. He was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan on July 14, 1926 to Olive Brotherton and Guy Ableson. He married Elaine Werda of Alpena on August 21st, 1946 who preceded him in death April, 2015. Throughout his life Hugh was a devoted father of his three surviving children Hugo Ableson of Terrero, New Mexico, Joy Ableson of Ben Lomond, California, and Sharon Ableson (Fishback) of McMillan, Michigan. Hugh was an outgoing man who played tennis until he was 88 years old and could beat you in cards up to three months before he died. He loved partying, butter pecan ice cream and early morning swims in Lake Charlevoix. He is also survived by one sibling Don (Muriel) Ableson of West Bloomfield, Michigan; 7 grandchildren: Orpheo, Bea, Meggen, Zora, Toshi, Ian, and Jazcinda and 7 great-grandchildren: Kylee, Dresden, Hugh Patrick, Larrea, Zivah, Natalia and Samuel. His memorial will be at a later date to be announced and please make donations in lieu of flowers to Stone Lodge Memory Care, 415 N Chippewa St., Shepherd, MI 48883. Arrangements have been entrusted to Berry Funeral Home of Shepherd.

Duncan G. McIntyre

PINCKNEY - April 9, 2019, age 83 of Pinckney. Beloved husband of Elaine (nee Rich) for 64 years. Loving father of Tom, Dana (David), and Holly (Kip). Dear brother of Kenneth (Eileen), H. Neil (Shirley), Scott (Jean), and sister-in-law of Mary (Joe) Bagnasco. Proud grandfather of Alexander, Erin (Jacob), and Kyle; as well as great-grandfather of Olive and Griffin. Cherished uncle of several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Service was held on Saturday, April 13 at St. George Lutheran Church, Brighton. Memorial contributions are suggested to St. George Lutheran Church Building Fund, 803. W. Main St. Brighton, MI 48116.

Duncan served in the U.S. Army from 1954-1956 in Japan. He then graduated from Eastern Michigan University in June, 1959. Duncan taught high school and coached basketball, football, and track in Stanton, MI for four years after which he switched careers and joined the insurance industry until his retirement in 1997. Duncan was a member of St. George Lutheran Church in Brighton. He was an avid golfer and he served for 30-years as an usher for U.M. football games.

Share a memorial tribute with the family at www.kehnfuneralhome.com



Rodger Lynn Williams

CANTON - Rodger Lynn Williams of Canton, MI, passed away peacefully on April 3, 2019 at the age of 55. He was born on March 28, 1964 in Detroit, MI.

Rodger was a Pastor for 13 years at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor. He was a fairly prominent member in the LGBT Community in Ann Arbor.

Rodger is survived by his father Oscar Williams, son Jeremy Williams and his siblings Ron Williams, Joyce Counterman, Oscar Williams Jr., and Martin Williams. He will be dearly missed by his former wife Heidi Sargis as well as many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his late mother Dovie and brother the late Ray Williams.

Services were held through Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia.

Harry J Will Funeral Homes

Dorothy Trickey

SANTA FE, NM - Dorothy Chambers Trickey, 92 years, died on April 1, 2019, in Santa Fe, NM. She is survived by her children, Frederick (Birmingham, MI), Richard (Holland, Ohio), Dennis and wife Gaye (Lakewood, CO), Elizabeth and husband Richard Glassman (Santa Fe, NM), many grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Services will be held in Boca Raton, FL.



Lawrence "Larry" Albert Arnold

CANTON - Lawrence "Larry" Albert Arnold, age 80, passed away on April 2, 2019. He was born December 18, 1938. Beloved husband of Joyce for 59 years. Proud and loving father of Laura (Ed) Wright and Jeffrey (Kellie) Arnold, and loving and doting grandfather of Erik, Brandon, and Benjamin Wright, and Kyle, Jason, and Jacob Arnold. Son of the late Ruthanna Barth and Grady Albert Arnold, Larry was the oldest of eleven children. Larry is survived by brothers Ronald Bame, Roger (Jane) Bame, William (Penny) Barth, Christopher (Dane Lee) Barth, Kevin Barth, Kip (Stacy) Barth, and sisters Kathy Fields, Karen (Bruce) McElroy, and Pamela (Jerry) Lawrence, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, and his very special Aunt, Sharlet Hill. He was also preceded in death by his sister Debra Barth. Larry graduated from Scott High School in Toledo in 1956, and later from the University of Toledo in 1962 with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree, majoring in Marketing. He had a successful career in Sales Management with several major food companies, including Del Monte, Sunshine, and Sanders, before retiring from Best Foods at age 59. He had a lifelong interest in history and particularly in the American Civil War. He enjoyed researching history and traveling and touring various historical sites before his stroke in 2008. He was a past member of the Plymouth and Canton Historical Societies and the Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table. Active in junior athletic sports and an avid supporter of local high school sports, Larry was a coach for his daughter, Laura, and son, Jeff, for many years in the junior leagues, and once served as President of the Plymouth Canton Junior Basketball Association. In recent years, he had been an avid follower and proud grandfather of his grandsons' athletic activities and accomplishments. Larry enjoyed all types of music, particularly the Big Bands of the early 1940's. He always thought his greatest legacy was his children and grandchildren. Larry will be remembered as a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Visitation for Larry will take place on Thursday from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at McCabe Funeral Home, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187. Visitation will continue Friday at 10:00 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow the service and take place in Toledo Memorial Park at 6382 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH 43560.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are appreciated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

McCabe Funeral Home

James Charles Greenlees, D.D.S.

-- Age 79, passed away on April 5, 2019.

Survived by the "Love of His Life" Janet, they enjoyed 55 years of marriage. Jim was born May 19, 1939, the son of Harold and Laura (Wegner) Greenlees in Cheboygan, Michigan. He grew up in Auburn Heights, Michigan and graduated from Avondale High School. He attended Alma College where he was an outstanding member of both the Scots football and golf teams. Jim went on to the University of Detroit Dental School where he earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree specializing in Orthodontics. Jim practiced in Clawson, Michigan for 35 years.

He enjoyed working with children and created thousands of smiles including many in his own family. Later he taught at University of Detroit Dental School for many, many years. Jim married Janet Treischmann, of Alma in 1963. Jim and Janet loved to travel and enjoyed their large family, including 79 nieces and nephews. Jim is survived by brothers Jack (Caroline), and Don. A third brother Tom (Sharon) and Don's wife, Dorcas, preceded him in death.

At their home in Birmingham, Jim was known to the neighborhood children as the "Balloon Man." He would open the garage door on Halloween night to blow up balloons and hand them to the "trick or treaters".

Jim loved all sports and was a single digit handicap golfer until illness took the game away from him. Jim and Janet enjoyed many years of membership at Birmingham Country Club. As a former caddy he had great interest in growing the caddy program. He was also a founder of the BCC Scholarship Trust.

Family will receive friends on Saturday, April 27, at A. J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. A family "Celebration of Jim's Life" will be held at a later date. Donations can be made in his memory to the Birmingham Country Club Scholarship Trust, 1750 Saxon Drive, Birmingham MI 48009.

View obituary and share memories at AJDesmond.com



George Albert Davidson

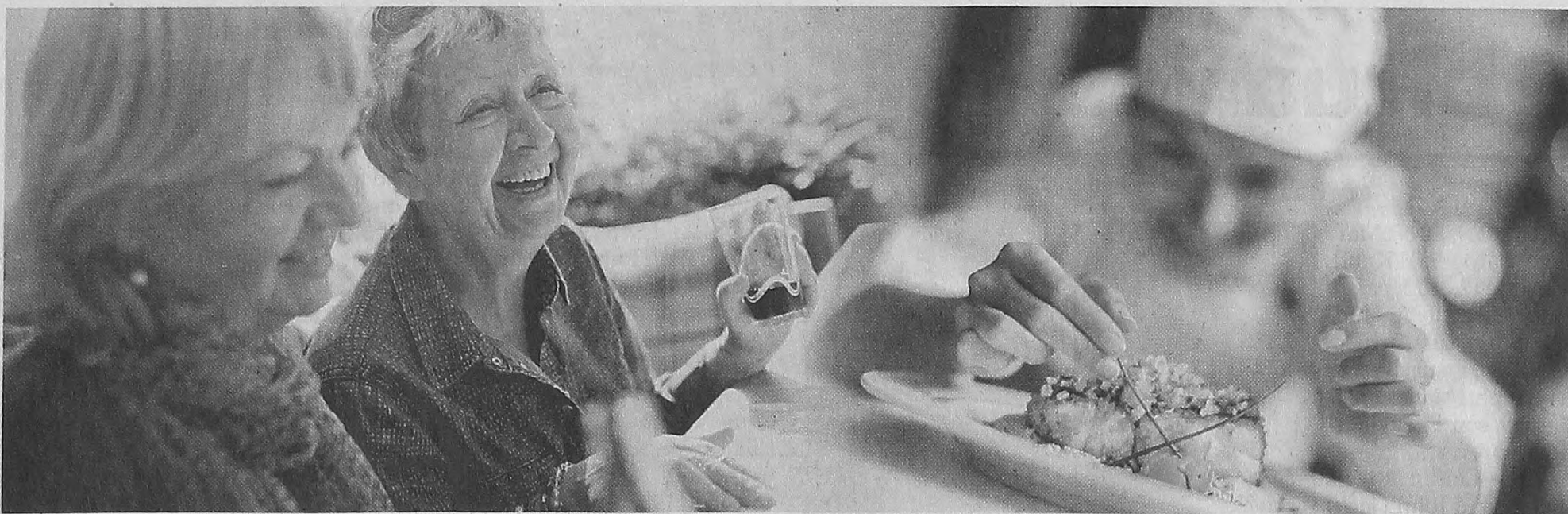
VENICE FL. - George Albert Davidson, age 89, of Venice, FL, passed away on April 6, 2019. The son of Jane Dunsmore Davidson and John Davidson, of Mishawaka, Indiana, he is survived by his wife of 67 years, Pauline Davidson, and his children Georgia Davidson (Margaret Fischer), Paula Davidson, Douglas (Suzanne) Davidson, and Laura Davidson (Gabrielle Schaffner). His grandchildren include Sara (Alec) Tomasin, Amy Davidson (Abe Hill), and Michela Schaffner Davidson. His great-grandchildren are Autumn and Alice Tomasin. He was beloved by his nieces, nephews, and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Betty Neprud, and his brothers John and Gene Davidson.

George served in the army during the Korean Conflict. He worked as an automotive design engineer at Studebaker Corporation, Ford Motor Company, and later his own company. George and Pauline travelled the world for Ford making friends and enjoying the flora and fauna wherever they went. He loved designing and building.

A memorial service will be held at Christ United Methodist Church in Venice on Friday, April 12th at 10:30 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alberta House Arts Center, 219 Ferris St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

To share a memory of George or to send a condolence to the family visit farleyfuneralhome.com.



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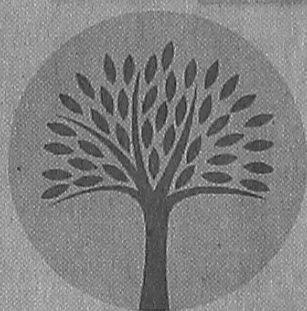
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Sports

GIRLS TENNIS



Plymouth senior and No. 1-ranked singles tennis player Jessica Braun takes a backhand swing at the courts off Joy Road. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Top-ranked Braun pushes Plymouth toward state finals

Andrew Vaillencourt Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Not every team has the luxury of sending out one of the nation's best tennis players to anchor its lineup — but the Plymouth Wildcats do.

For every match over the last four years, Plymouth girls tennis coach Rob McLaren has penciled in senior Jessica Braun at No. 1 singles, a rare feat in itself. It's not often a freshman is put in such a challenging position. Braun has not only accepted the challenge, but gotten stronger each season.

She advanced to the state tournament in each of her first three seasons, reaching the state quarterfinals twice and semifinals last season before being ousted. This year, she hopes to not only

win the state championship at No. 1 singles, but also to lead her team to the state tournament, which has yet to happen during her career.

"I've always wanted to win states," Braun said. "I just want to do as well as I can and at least make the final, do better than I've done before."

"I think this is our best team in my four years. Our goal is to make it to states and qualify as a team. We're in the region with Ann Arbor so it'll be really tough, but I think we can do it."

Braun is the No. 3-ranked player overall in the state of Michigan and the No. 85 player nationally according to tennisrecruiting.net. She is committed to Ball State, where she feels she will

See BRAUN, Page 2B

PREP SOFTBALL

Livonia charity game will benefit Gift of Life

Andrew Vaillencourt Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The annual charity game between the Livonia Churchill and Livonia Stevenson softball teams is just around the corner.

This year, the event will mean a little bit more to Churchill coach Abe Vinitiski, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 kidney disease and is in need of a kidney transplant.

Vinitiski and Stevenson coach Kevin Hannigan chose Ann Arbor's Gift of Life as this year's charity, which is the state's only federally-designated organ and tissue recovery program, providing all services necessary for organ donation to occur in Michigan.

"The idea is not so much to raise awareness that I need a kidney, it's more about raising awareness about if more people understood what it meant to give a kidney or part of a liver, they can live completely normal lifestyles and help thousands of people," Vinitiski said. "There's probably 3,000 people on the donor list in Michigan right now waiting for a kidney."

Since Churchill and Stevenson play twice this season, the charity event will take place over two days: April 15 at Stevenson and April 17 at Churchill. JV games will start at 4 p.m. and Varsity will play at 5:30 p.m.

Each game will feature a 50/50 raffle, charity gift baskets, and education tables, and will have representatives taking donations. Concession profits will be donated to Gift of Life as well. The teams are hoping to raise between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

The charity game started several years ago when former Churchill coach Steve Gentilia's father died suddenly from a heart attack. That year, the schools raised money for the American Heart Association.


The teams have also supported breast cancer awareness and autism groups in recent years.

Vinitiski, 47, has three daughters who have gone through the Livonia school system. His middle daughter played for Gentilia and graduated last year, having played one season for her dad. Despite the diagnosis and his daughter graduating, Vinitiski stayed on as Churchill's coach. He acknowledged the emotional impact the disease has had on himself and his family, but is thankful to have softball to take his mind off things.

"It's a lot," Vinitiski said. "The diagnosis is definitely difficult to wrap your brain around, but the prognosis is positive. If we're able to find a live donor, people live 25 years with donated organs. When you take a step back and put everything in perspective, softball has been a conduit for me to take my mind off of it. I love the competition."

He is on the donor list at the University of Michigan health system, where he receives care. His doctors want him to live with his own kidneys for as long as he can, and even though he is on the


See GAME, Page 2B



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Game

Continued from Page 1B

list, would not receive a kidney, since his own kidneys are still working well enough. The disease isn't reversible, however, so he will eventually need a kidney.

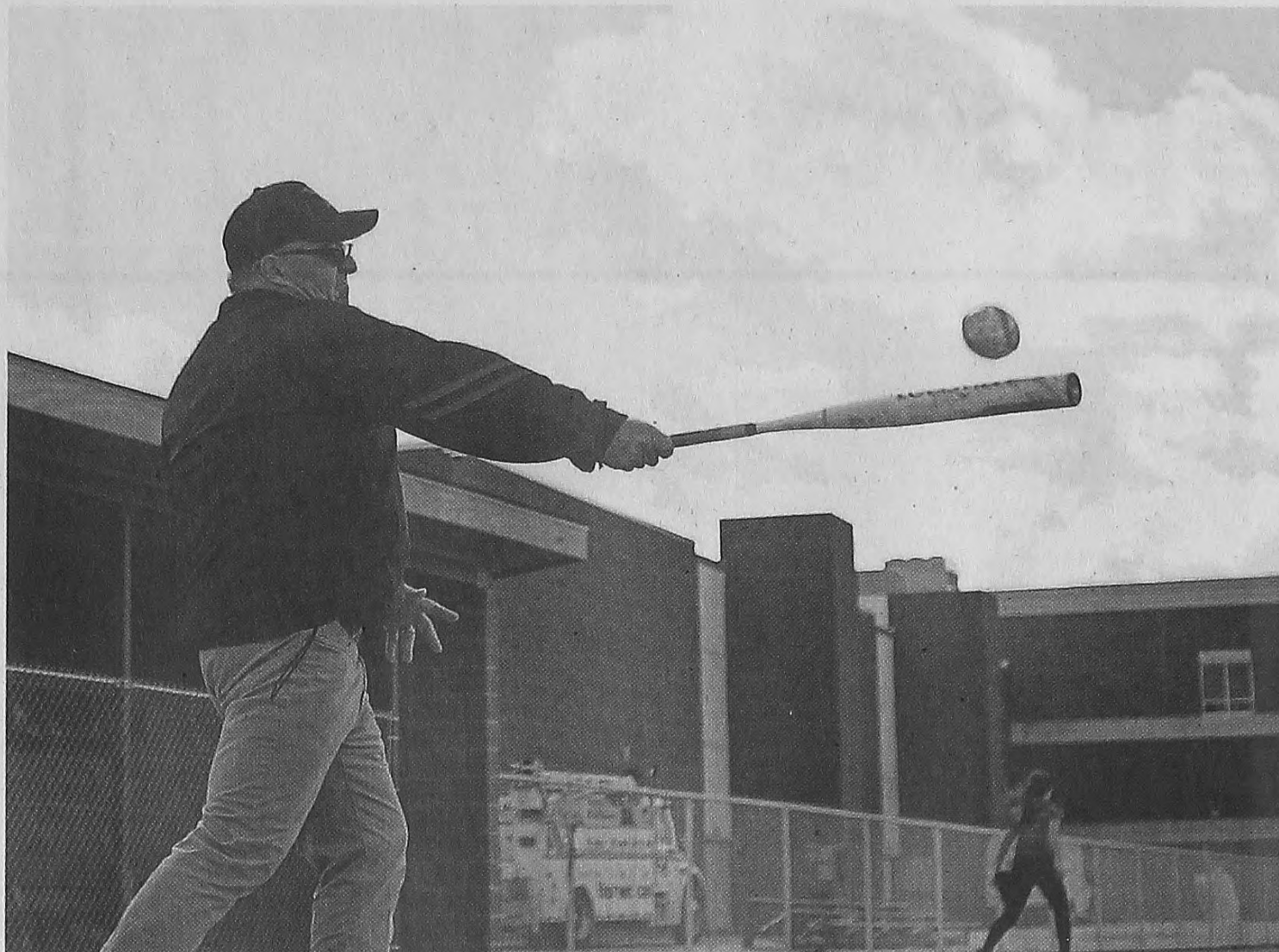
He added that he's lucky to have the support system he does, and that his wife, kids, friends, and team have been especially great.

"We really want to use softball as an avenue to educate people about this topic. The team has been incredibly supportive," he said. "A couple of weeks ago was National Kidney Day and you're supposed to wear orange, so the kids all wore orange to practice one day and completely surprised me. Parents and kids have been absolutely tremendous."

Churchill and Stevenson have often played for the city championship over the last several years, and that could be the case again this season. By all accounts, both games should be close and competitive.

"Stevenson returns a lot of players," Vinitski said. "We're young and aggressive, but they're going to be a little more veteran. It'll be a really good game. Kevin knows it, I know it. We look forward to this game every year."

Contact Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt.



Livonia Churchill softball coach Abe Vinitski has been diagnosed with stage 4 kidney disease, so this year's charity game against Livonia Stevenson will benefit Gift of Life as a symbol of support for him. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



No. 1-ranked doubles partners Alayna Stults, left, and Olivia Schafer tap their rackets together to celebrate scoring a point. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Braun

Continued from Page 1B

have a chance to win league titles and get a good education.

"I felt like the players were really close and they cared about winning and staying as a team and doing it together," Braun said. "The coach was really interested in me personally, so I felt like I was wanted there. He cared about academics and athletics, so I thought that was a good balance. The campus is really nice there, and I feel like our team could do well in the MAC."

Armed with a powerful serve and consistent play, Braun practices every day with her team and privately, often in Ann Arbor. This allows her to continue to face top competition, all while supporting the Wildcats. McLaren said Braun is a pleasure to coach and makes Plymouth a big challenge for other teams to face.

"Another coach called it the ripple effect," McLaren said. "Having that one person at one singles, letting everyone else play one spot lower than they might normally play without Jessica, it really makes our team that much stronger."

Braun hopes people remember her as a competitor, but also as a humble player who will do what it takes to help the team win.

"I think the good thing about Jessica is she's not just a really good No. 1 singles player, she's also a good teammate,"

Plymouth senior captain Olivia Schafer said. "I think she gives a lot of the girls somebody to look up to ... she's a good role model."

Plymouth beats Salem in opener

Plymouth took on Salem in the KLAA opener Tuesday evening, and the Wildcats put their power on display.

They beat Salem, 9-0, giving them reason to keep expectations high.

"I was really pleased with how the girls came out," McLaren said. "It's been three weeks of practice without playing anyone. We really wanted to play another opponent and the girls were ready."

"This might be our strongest team ever. ... Most people are playing in the same positions as last year, we haven't really had to move many people up. We're ready to go."

Braun started off well, beating Salem's Lizzy Lu 6-0, 6-0. At No. 2 singles, Plymouth's Allie Zhang beat Salem's Aria Mason 6-0, 6-1. At No. 3 singles, Plymouth's Allie Baker defeated Salem's Neha Narayan 6-3, 6-1. At No. 4 singles, Plymouth's Alicia Qin beat Salem's Nupur Huria 6-0, 6-2.

The Wildcats swept doubles as well. At No. 1 doubles, Schafer and Alayna Stults defeated Emma Telepo and Mary Kate Kirkpatrick 6-0, 6-1. At No. 2, Praveena Mohanraj and Samitha Yerrakalva knocked off Panida Khuansangan and Mariam Deeb 6-0, 6-1. At No. 3 doubles, Plymouth escaped after winning a tiebreaker as Paige Cristea and Grace Ia-

copelli beat Mahi Shah and Srikruti Vinakota 6-4, 4-6, 10-3 (tiebreaker). Anna Mueller and Kokoa Kaneko beat Irene Rush and Hannah de Buhr 6-3, 6-0. Finally, at No. 5 doubles, Cate Whelan and Simran Bhutia defeated Grace Dai and Suhitha Kotala 6-2, 6-3.

"We are a very young team. We have a lot of freshmen that have never played before. However, I saw a lot of good points, a lot of good shots," Salem coach Deanna Henderson said. "I'm impressed with the girls so far. Can't wait to improve."

The two schools are located right next to each other, and many of the girls are friends off the court.

"We know a lot of these people because we all go to the same school district but are on separate teams," Braun said. "It's definitely a rivalry, we always want to say we're park champs. It's definitely a good win."

Schafer believes this Plymouth team has the best chance to reach states out of any team her previous three seasons on varsity.

"This is the biggest team we've had yet and we have a lot of good incoming freshmen, so we're hoping to make it to states for the first time," Schafer said.

She was happy with her performance alongside Stults, with whom she has played since before high school. Both now seniors, they're hoping to go out on top, and had to take care of business against Salem first.

"I think we did pretty well," Schafer said. "The wind was a little rough today,

so it always takes time to adjust, but I think we did pretty well.

"I think our skills really complement each other. Her serve is really good and I'm more aggressive at the net, but she has stronger baseline shots. It's a good pair because you need some of both skills. We've been playing together so long that we really know how each other plays."

Stults is also a team captain. McLaren has been thrilled with the way the pair have led the team and is excited to see how they continue to lead.

"They bring incredible leadership," McLaren said. "Having Olivia and Alayna, they've been leaders for all four years. They came into their own last year as juniors and helped back up the senior captains last year. I haven't seen too many senior captains who are more well prepared than those two."

It will take strong leadership, continued improvement and mental toughness to make the jump to the state tournament at the end of the season. With talented players and plenty of experience, this could be Plymouth's year.

"We happen to be in what I consider the hardest region in the state," McLaren said. "We're in the Ann Arbor regional that has three top 10 schools, and typically only three teams (from the regional) make it to states, so everything really has to go right for us to make states."

Contact Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Twitter: @AndrewVcourt.

OAA BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

The Oakland Activities Association (OAA) has released its boys and girls basketball all-conference teams. Bloomfield Hills, Farmington and Birmingham area athletes were well-represented. Each division's all-league team is below, along with the coach of the year.

OAA Boys All-Conference Teams

OAA Red Division

Clarkston: Freshman Fletcher Loyer, freshman Keegan Wasilk, junior Matt Nicholson
North Farmington: Senior Yusuf Jihad
Lake Orion: Senior Nate Talbot, junior Drew VanHeck, junior Jake Rydquist
Oak Park: Junior Maliq Carr
West Bloomfield: Senior Donavan Moore
Bloomfield Hills: Sophomore Mason Canfield
Troy: Sophomore Brody Parker, senior Clay Sebastian
Coach of the Year: Tim Wasilk, Clarkston
Honorable Mentions: Bloomfield Hills junior Collin Hecker, Bloomfield Hills senior Alex Igwe

OAA White Division

Adams: Sophomore Ethan Emerzian, junior Peyton Preiskorn, freshman Gunner Walters, senior Jake Schuler, honorable mention (Sr.)
Farmington: Sophomore Jaden Akins, senior Tariq Shepherd
Groves: Senior John Garrett
Southfield: Senior Cameron McEvans
Stoney Creek: Sophomore Trevor Smith, senior Patrick Ghaly
Avondale: Senior Kobe Anthony
Rochester: Senior Cameron Caggins
Coach of the Year: Brad Crighton, Adams
Honorable Mentions: Athens junior Davis DiGiovanni, Athens senior Josh Seifert

OAA Blue Division

Oxford: Junior Trey Townsend, senior Michel Raisch, senior Connor Nicholson
Pontiac: Senior D'Quarion Cole, senior DeVeaun, senior Dominique Stovall
Ferndale: Senior Teonta McKeithen, senior Sudi McElroy, senior Keelan Lucas



Farmington High's Tariq Humes. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Bloomfield Hills: Senior Maryam Hashim, junior Jordan Banks
Groves: Junior Ellie Ruprich
Stoney Creek: Senior Emily Eckhout
North Farmington: Junior Molly Simpson
Coach of the Year: Brian Sopata, Royal Oak
Honorable Mentions: Royal Oak sophomore Sarah Soraghan, Bloomfield Hills senior Grace Getz, Groves senior Emilie Felax, Stoney Creek junior Lily DiPanni, Stoney Creek senior Meghan Solek, North Farmington junior Maya Kelly

OAA White Division

West Bloomfield: Junior Mya Bobo, sophomore Logan Lewis, senior Jada Grandy
Avondale: Senior Olivia Russell, junior Keiori Lee
Oxford: Senior HaLaya Cato, senior Ashley Hershman
Troy: Freshman Kendal Zeiter, junior Athena Samson
Adams: Junior Amelia Drahnak
Lake Orion: Senior Paytin Shadaia
Athens: Junior Isabelle Crum
Coaches of the Year: Bert Mosley, West Bloomfield; Rachel Bryer, Oxford
Honorable Mentions: Farmington senior Iasia Rimson, Farmington senior Cecelia Norris, Avondale senior Meleisha Rodriquez, Avondale freshman Raigan Lawrence, Oxford sophomore Mackenzie Methner, Adams sophomore Maddie Dolenga, Adams sophomore Lauren Petersmark, Lake Orion senior Sophia Wyborski

OAA Blue Division

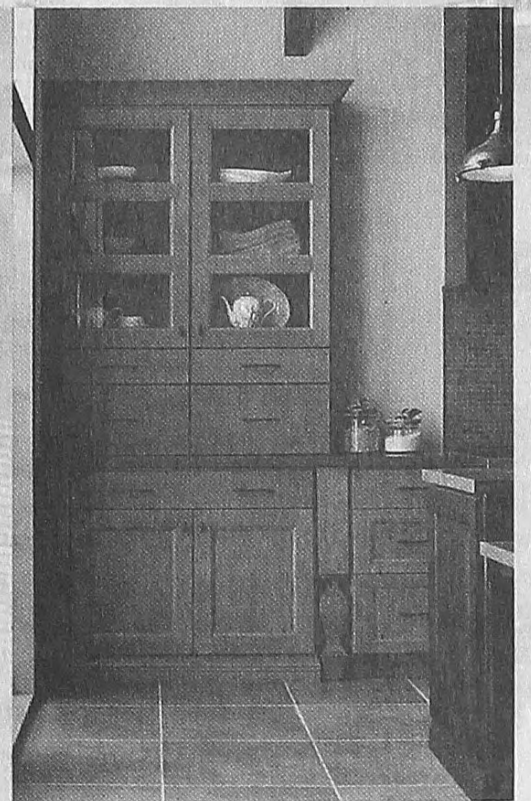
Rochester: Sophomore Megan Lorenzo, senior Tori Hawkins, junior Laura Kucera
Berkley: Freshman Ashley Loon, junior Charles Rice, junior Laury Thomas
Seaholm: Senior Chloe Burkett, junior Julia Crump
Pontiac: Senior Taleah Washington, senior Josephine Lofton
Oak Park: Sophomore Maxine Hall
Hazel Park: Junior Heaven Varner
Coaches of the Year: Jeff Haney, Rochester; Chris Manchester, Seaholm
Honorable Mentions: Berkley senior Marshayla Denham, Berkley senior Savannah Casida, Oak Park sophomore Tamyra Todd, Hazel Park senior Jaysa Larkins
— Andrew Vaillencourt

Berkley: Senior Ari Yaker
Seaholm: Senior Alec Tripp
Harrison: Senior London Young
Royal Oak: Senior Jovan Martin
Coach of the Year: Steve Laidlaw, Oxford
Honorable Mentions: Berkley senior Jackson Sewell, Berkley junior Ari Belchensky, Berkley senior Jeff Vlahakis, Harrison senior Trenton Ramsey, Harrison senior Makario Dell, Seaholm junior Alex Lonze

OAA Girls All-Conference Teams

OAA Red Division

Southfield A&T: Senior Alexis Johnson, junior Cheyenne McEvans, senior Soleil Barnes
Royal Oak: Senior Samantha Potter, senior Jessica Adams, senior Nila Coney
Clarkston: Freshman Madison Skorupski



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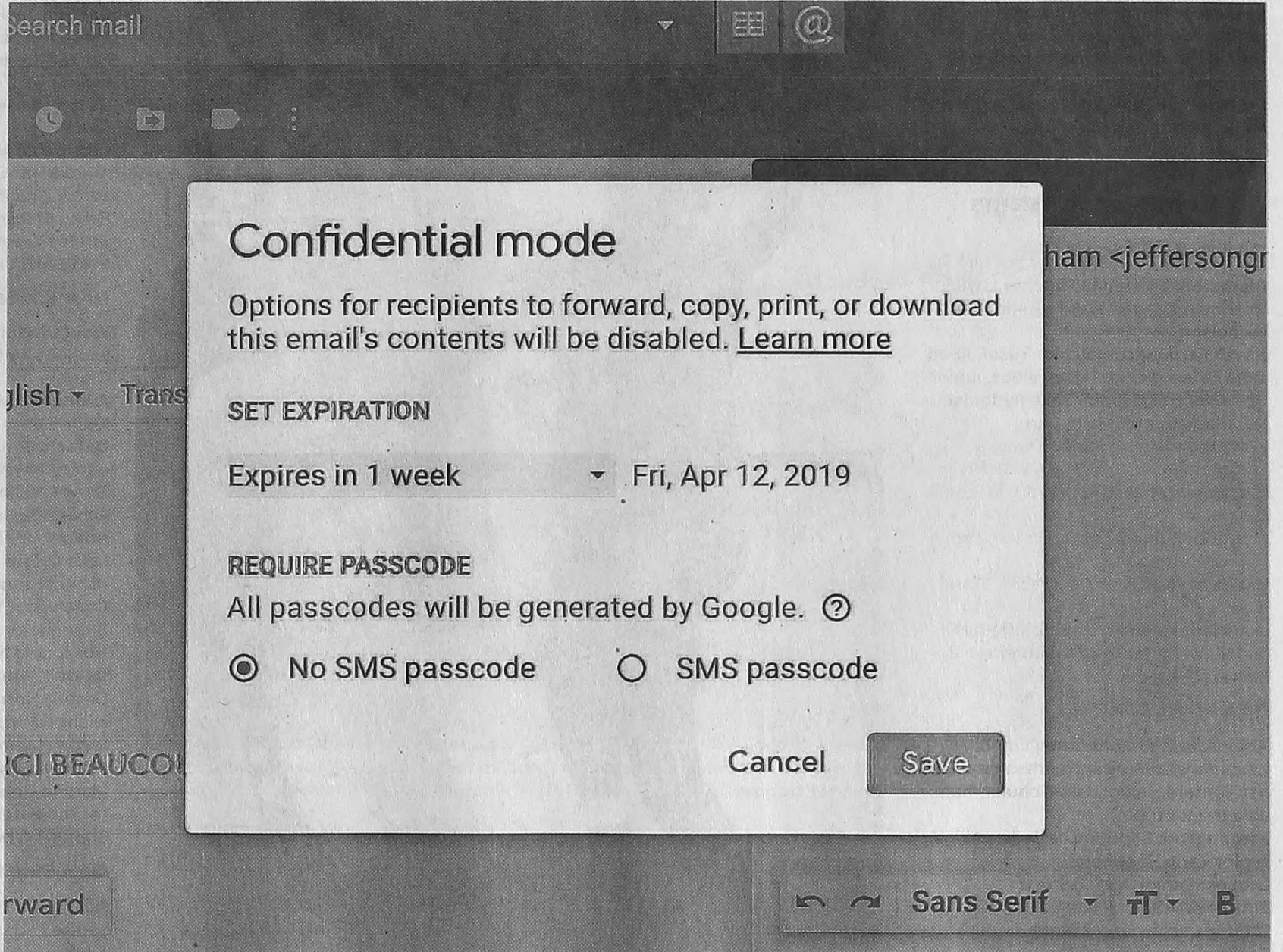
There's a reason Gmail is far and away the world's most popular e-mail program with 1.5 billion users. It has way more features than rivals.

Are you using them? Wouldn't you like to make free phone calls from your e-mail program or translate a French e-mail into English, right from within Gmail? Google's free e-mail program, which turned 15 this week, continues to innovate.

Here are seven things you can do with Gmail that you can't do with AOL, Yahoo or Microsoft Outlook.com or Hotmail.

■ **Make free phone calls:** Technically, Microsoft lets you do this, too, via Outlook.com, but it takes you out of the program and over to Skype. In Gmail, just click "Make a call," at the bottom of the left-hand screen, type in the number of your contact and connect via your webcam mic. Calls to the United States and Canada are free and connected to Google's Hangouts app for the call.

■ **Translate to other languages:** When an e-mail arrives in a foreign language, depending on which version you are using, you can click "View translated message" at the top of the e-mail or click the three stacked dots on the right of the email and select "Translate message" to reveal that option – and voila,



You can put an expiration date on your Gmail message or require a passcode.

right on the spot Google will put it into English, or any number of languages from Afrikaans or Albanian to Yiddish or Zulu.

■ **Have the robot help compose your sentences:** With Google's Smart Assist, Google's ar-

tificial intelligence figures out what you're trying to say and auto-completes the sentence for you. It also offers suggested responses in an e-mail to save you some keystrokes. For instance, in the example below, we

typed "What time do you want to meet" and Google added "tomorrow?" On another e-mail, it throws in "will do" and "got it," as appropriate responses.

■ **Send disappearing Gmails:** It's not Snapchat, but it's a similar idea. You can put an expiration date on your Gmail and have it expire within a certain period of time. You can even add an extra

layer of confidential protection by requiring a passcode that's sent to the recipient by text message.

■ **Request money or pay a friend directly within Gmail:** Apple has this feature in the iChat program, but Google has it built directly into Gmail. You can request money or pay a friend directly from within the

mail – but first, you and your friend will have to be registered for Google Pay.

■ **Only see the good stuff:** In Gmail, Google separates the most important communications into the "Primary" folder and puts the rest into two other, rarely viewed categories, Social and Promotion. That way, all of those endless offers on sales, and forum updates, don't clog up your main inbox.

■ **Schedule e-mails in advance:** This is a feature that is coming to Gmail shortly, according to the company. When you click send, you'll be given a choice of sending it now or having it go out at a later date.

Readers: What's your favorite Gmail feature? Tell us about it on Twitter, where I'm @jeffersongraham

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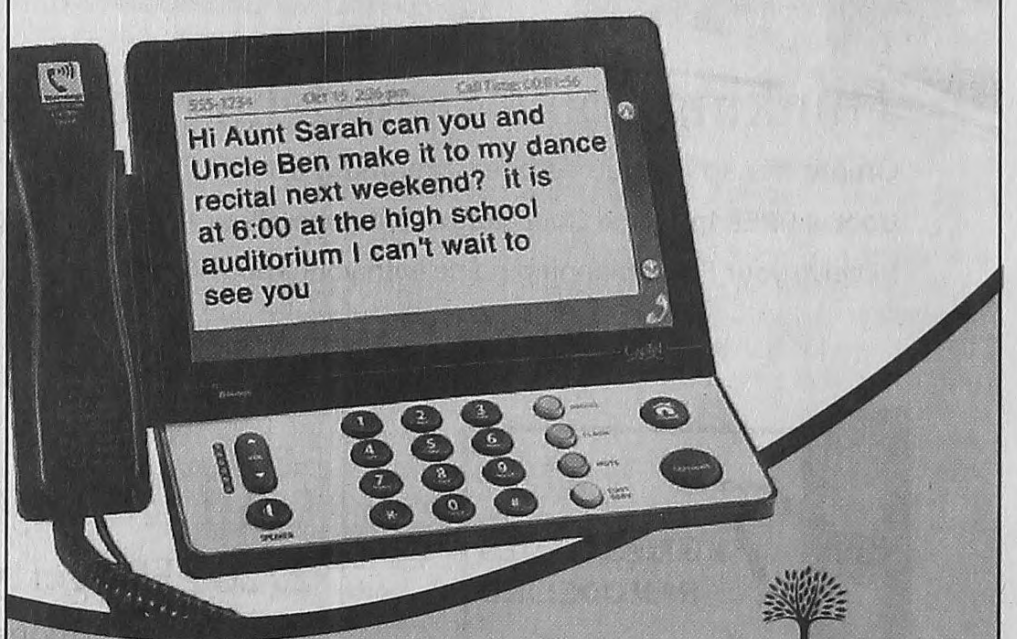
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Costa Rica shares its wildlife riches

Mark Rogers
Special to USA TODAY

There are a handful of destinations around the world where the prospect of animal interaction is central to a visit. Costa Rica is one of them. Each time I've visited Costa Rica, I've taken home memories of animal encounters, from coming upon a sloth dangling from a limb in Manuel Antonio National Park, to peering eye-to-eye with a howler monkey in the rainforest canopy. Travelers visiting the Latin American country will find lots of opportunities for animal interaction, whether they encounter the creatures in their natural habitat or at wildlife sanctuaries.

Note: Before a visit to Costa Rica, it's best to research whether a wildlife zoo, refuge or sanctuary is following best practices.

Sloth Sanctuary

Sloths are off the charts when it comes to the cute factor. As slow-moving animals, they also are vulnerable to the travails of civilization, from fast-moving traffic to crunching construction. The Sloth Sanctuary on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast does a great job rescuing and rehabilitating injured sloths. The sanctuary offers two tours: the Buttercup Tour (named for a 26-year-old resident sloth) and the more comprehensive and expensive Insider's Tour, which gives an up-close look at infant and baby sloths. While it's only natural that visitors may want to reach out and pet these cute creatures, touching the sloths is strictly prohibited.

Jaguar Rescue Center

The Jaguar Rescue Center is located near Puerto Viejo de Talamanca in the Limon Province of Costa Rica.

Before setting off to visit the center, it's important to note that it's unlikely you will see a jaguar there. What you will see is a variety of animals both healthy and on the mend — monkeys, sloths, anteaters, snakes and ocelots. All proceeds from admission go to caring for the animals, including the fee for the JRC Private Tour. Those who want a



Slow-moving sloths are off the charts when it comes to the cute factor. SLOTH SANCTUARY

more immersive experience can rent one of the two houses on the property, or book space in the rescue center's hostel.

Arenal Observatory Lodge & Spa

Costa Rica is famous for its active Arenal Volcano. Dramatic overnights can be had at the Arenal Observatory Lodge & Spa, which lies in close proximity to the volcano and the shores of the 33-square-mile Lake Arenal. Guests can enjoy activities on the lake, as well as nature hikes through forests and grasslands. There's an abundance of wild animals living free on the 870-acre property. A high point during my hike through the forest was coming upon a herd of peccary, coarse-haired wild pigs, which trotted off as I approached. Wildlife at Arenal includes monkeys — howler, spider and white-faced capuchin — as well as 500 species of birds, making the region ideal for the dedicated birder. While a 7-mile network of five well-marked nature trails makes it easy to ex-

plore on your own, visitors also can take a daily guided walk with the property's naturalist, free of charge.

Monteverde Wildlife Refuge

Animal lovers will want to seek out the Monteverde Wildlife Refuge, located in Monteverde Cloud Forest in north-west central Costa Rica. There are a variety of activities at the refuge, but the must-do is the rainforest canopy experience. Visitors can travel along walkways high in the trees. While the experience may sound daunting, it's an effortless stroll high above the ground. This is where I first heard the barking roar of howler monkeys and then saw them appear in the canopy's distance, moving from tree to tree to approach and inspect the visitors to their habitat. The refuge also has a butterfly garden open to visitors. For something different, sign up for one of the nighttime hikes. Given the unpredictability of the wild, there's little guarantee what a hiker will see, although the guide will point out the noc-

turnal haunts of sloths, monkeys, tarantulas, night birds, kinkajous and tree frogs.

Territorio de Zaguates

This is one of those enterprises that make the world a better place. Imagine a 378-acre sanctuary for 1,300 stray dogs, where man's best friend can be fed, cared for and allowed to go on daily walks until they are adopted. The Territorio de Zaguates (Land of the Strays) is a nonprofit, no-kill shelter tucked away in the mountains of Santa Barbara de Heredia. The shelter raised its profile when it was featured in Episode Five of the Netflix series "Dogs." The shelter once welcomed visitors and volunteers, who could accompany streams of dogs on their daily walks. Currently, Territorio de Zaguates is closed to visitors as it works to accommodate infrastructure regulations imposed by the Costa Rican government. Meanwhile, enthusiasts can choose to "adopt" a dog by making a donation.

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The application can be obtained via a link on our website <http://www.phchousing.net> or go directly to <https://plymouths82019.hdswaitinglist.com>. DO NOT come to the Plymouth Housing Commission offices, we will NOT be distributing any applications. If you need access to a computer and the internet, you can go to your local library. For any updated information refer to our website. For any updated information you may call (734)455-3670, extension 246.

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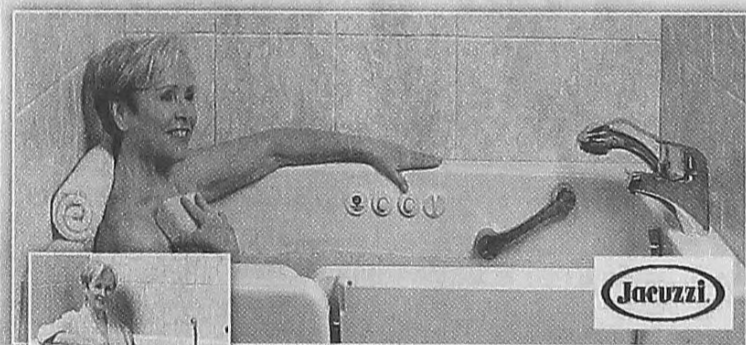
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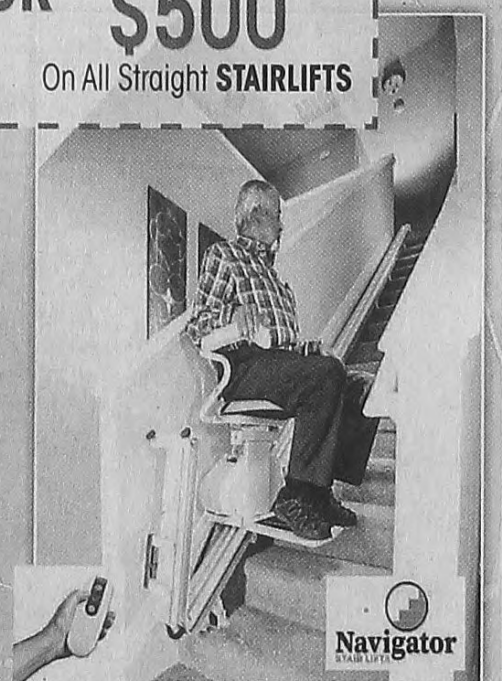
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Why 'follow your passion' is sometimes bad advice

Kate Lopaze
thejobnetwork.com

"Do what you love"... that's the dream, right? Everyone fantasizes at some point about quitting their day job and going full-time after something they already love to do, whether it's a hobby or a secret passion. Steve Jobs once famously said, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do." So what could possibly be the drawback of making your passion your career?

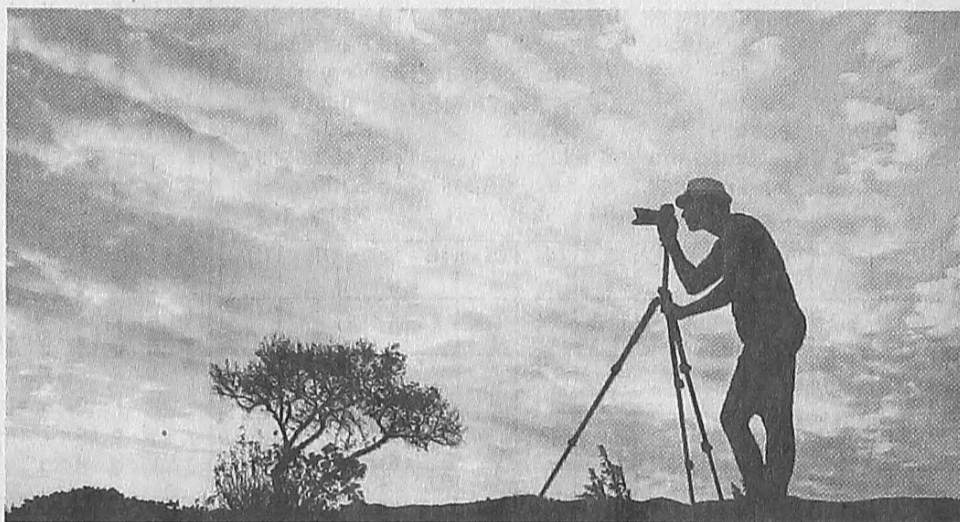
Not everyone has a passion

If you feel like you should be pursuing something you're passionate about in order to feel fulfilled, that presents an immediate question: what is your passion, anyway? For some, it's an easy answer. For others, not so much. If "do what you love" sounds more like a command and less like an opportunity, then that pressure may lead you to do something just for the sake of doing it—not because it's the right path.

It's totally okay to keep your passion as a free-time activity. It's also okay to have a lot of different interests instead of one driving passion. Not everyone feels a calling to do one particular thing, forever and ever.

Passion might not pay the bills

Your career is about the life you want to create for yourself—it's a comprehensive picture. For most people, that includes long-term stability for themselves and/or their families. Pursuing your lifelong love of being a performing accordionist may sound appealing now, but what's your strategy for the long haul? If you can't plan how your passion path will be sustainable as a career and



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not just a temporary choice, then it's probably not the best option.

Pursuing your passion may not solve your problems

Following your passion may seem extra appealing for a lot of reasons: stress at work, boredom, and general life malaise are a few. But even if you march into your boss's office and hand in your resignation tomorrow, that doesn't mean your life will be magically happier or more fulfilling. Before you consider making any big life change, it's important to think about why you're making the choice, and what (realistically) you will achieve by doing it.

Making a career out of a passion can blur boundaries

If you love to do, say, stand-up comedy on nights and weekends, but keep it entirely separate from your day job as a

nursing assistant, that might not be a bad thing. If you make your passion your career, that means you're going to be spending a lot of time on and off the clock thinking about it, doing it, and engaging with it. There's definitely something to be said about setting work-life boundaries and keeping a balance.

And it could be that comedy is a great release for your work stress or daily routine, but wouldn't be as fun when you're not only doing it all the time, but also need to focus on making it pay the bills.

What we love may not be what we're strongest at doing

Fact of life: sometimes our passions don't line up with our skills. For example: I love to bake. I'm decent at it, but definitely don't have the skills or infrastructure to do it professionally. And although sometimes I think about what it would be like to quit my office job and bake cookies full-time, I've made peace

with the fact that my most marketable professional skills are geared toward jobs outside the kitchen. What we love to do and what we're trained/educated/great at doing may not be the same thing at all. So when someone tells you to follow your passion as a career, there's a significant risk that what we love to do on an amateur level just may not be a strong choice for going pro.

Even passion projects require a plan

"Follow your passion" is very vague. The logistics of your new passion career are probably not. For example, would your new business require you to get additional education or certification if you were to go pro? What kind of connections would you need to dig up employment opportunities in your passion field? There's a very good chance that elevating a passion to a career would involve starting over in many different ways, so be prepared to plan it out beyond "I really like doing this, therefore I should do it full-time."

Making a personal passion into a career sounds like great, life-affirming advice—and it can be. But in many cases, it's just not feasible or sustainable. So before you follow your bliss, consider all aspects of your hot new career path. And remember: there's no shame in doing a job that may not inspire an all-consuming passion. If you're doing work that challenges you and helps you fulfill your goals, you're already doing pretty well!

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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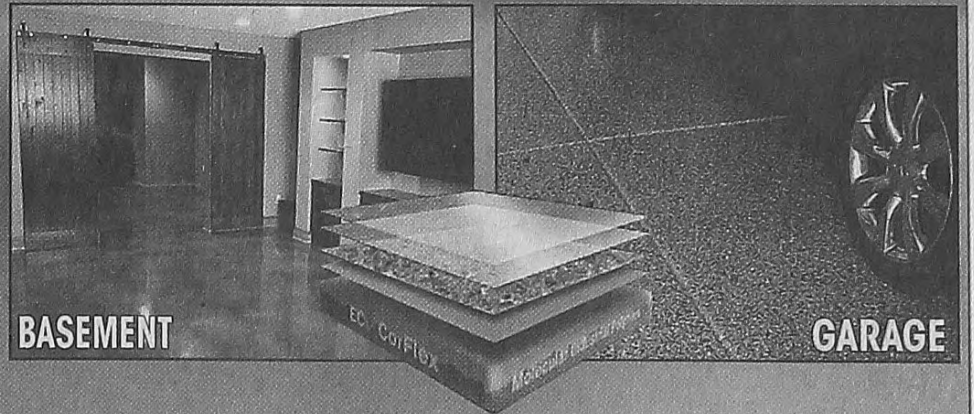
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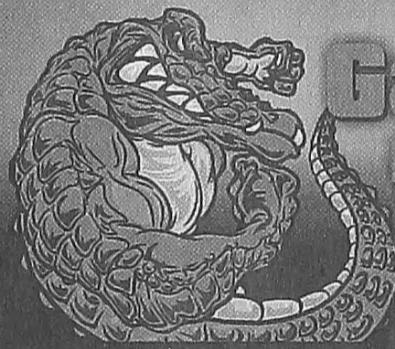
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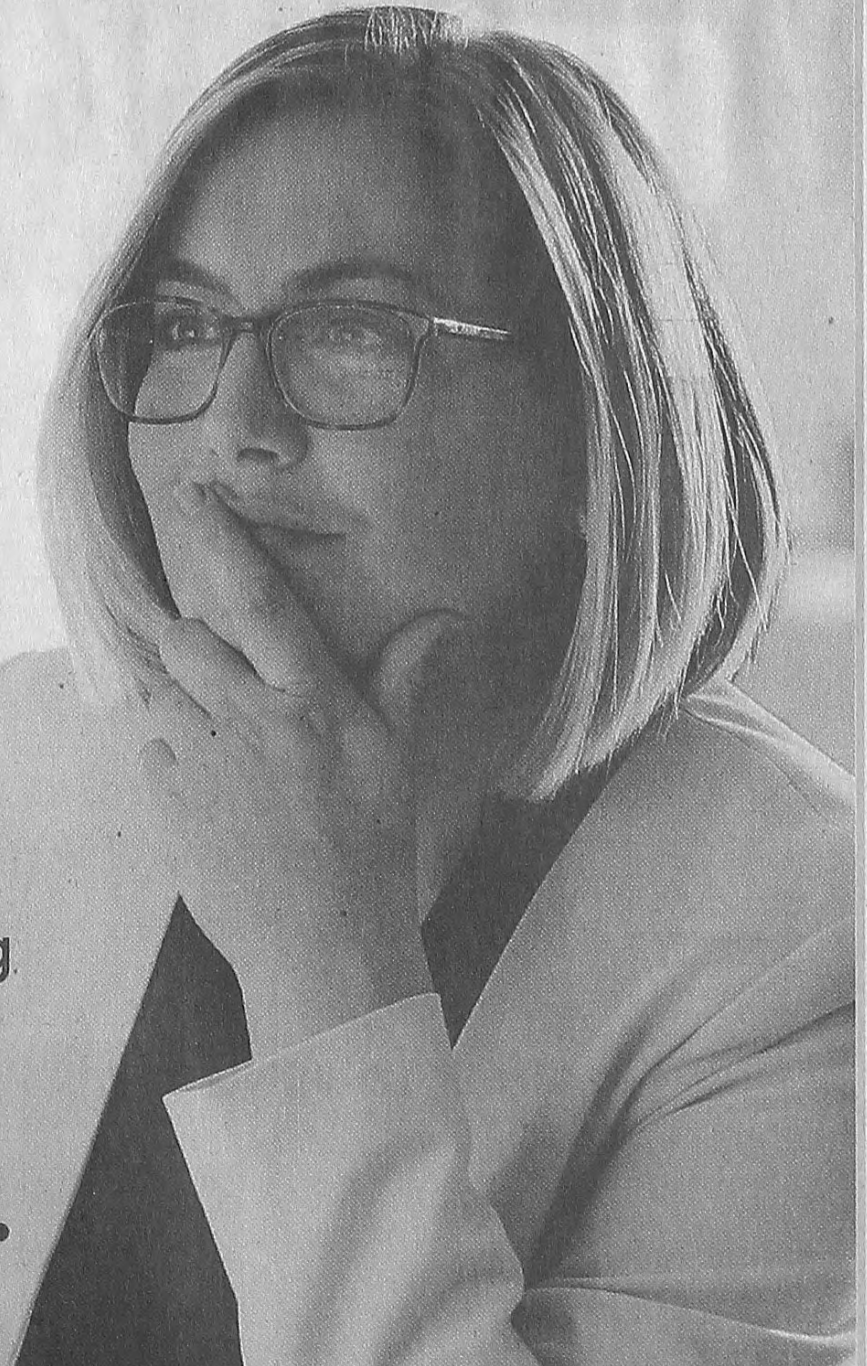


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