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Superintendent on leave for investigation

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After a flood of complaints from the community, the Wayne-Westland Board of Education voted 4-3 at a special meeting June 20 to investigate various claims made against Superintendent Shelley Holt. During that time, Holt will be put on paid administrative leave.

In Holt's absence Jennifer Curry, the

district's assistant superintendent of standards, learning and innovation, will serve as interim superintendent.

The allegations against Holt come from students and former employees. Many circle around abuse of power and an apparent lack of dedication to the district. Two of the examples people gave were Holt leaving the graduation ceremony of Wayne Memorial early and allegedly trying to find ways to fire em-



Holt

ployees she doesn't like.

The three dissenting votes came from Vice President Melandie Hines, trustee Carol Mid-del and trustee Shawna Walker.

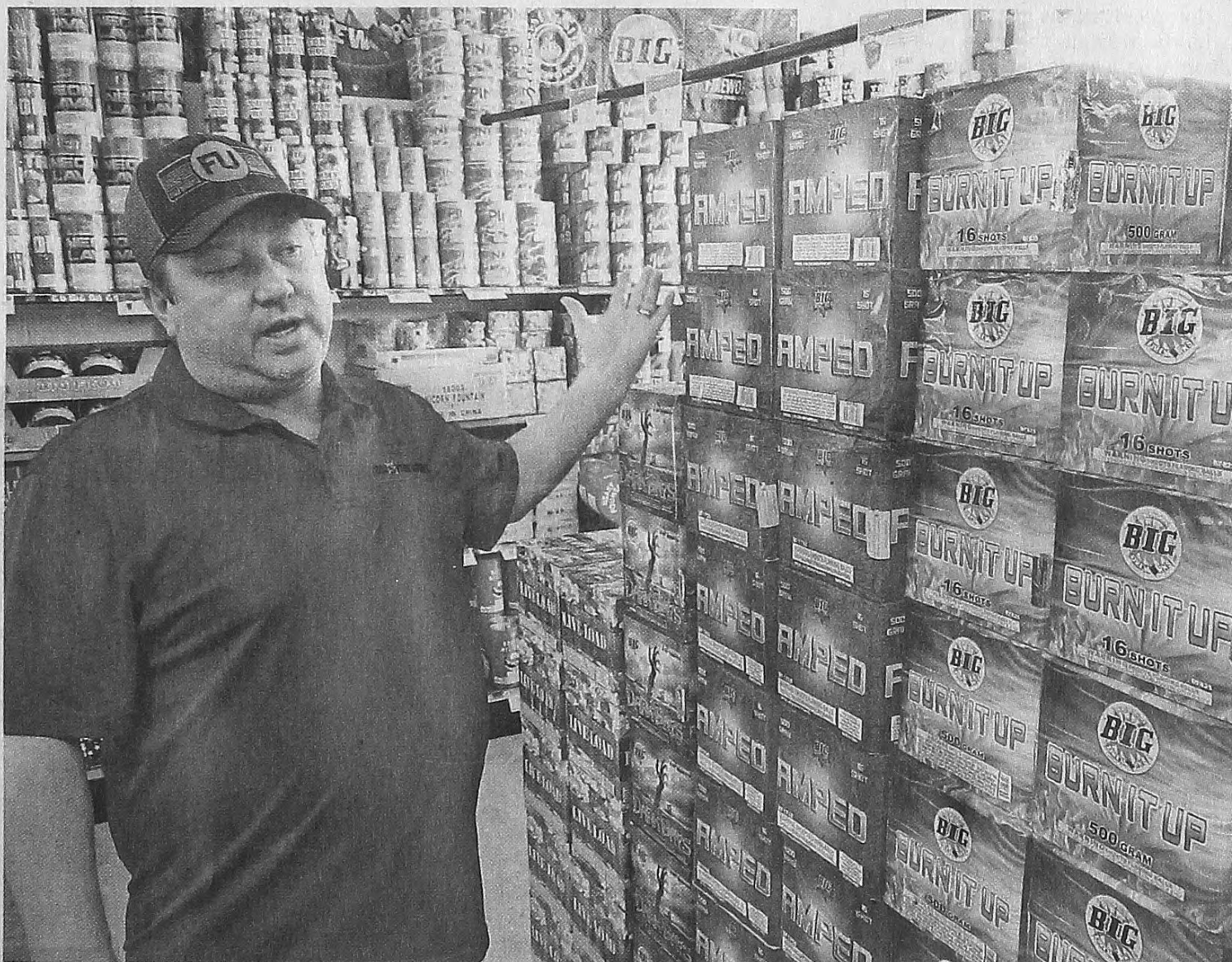
Holt immediately left the room following the vote and made no comments during the meeting. Hines said prior to the vote that, no matter the

outcome of the investigation, she wants to make sure Holt is respected.

"I do have some concerns," she said. "I want to make sure Dr. Holt is being treated fairly and the social media rumors will stop."

Board President David Cox said the administrative leave is meant to protect Holt.

See LEAVE, Page 9A



Westland Big Fireworks manager Sean Conn describes the aisles upon aisles of fireworks available for purchase in his store as those that "you place on the ground, light the fuse, they go and go 'boom.'" JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Business owners react to changes in fireworks laws

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If you're looking to put on a fireworks show around the Fourth of July, you've got a few more days to put on your show this year. And those changes are something several fireworks businesses are welcoming.

Adjustments made last year by the Michigan legislature and signed into law by former Gov. Rick Snyder decrease the number of protected days for shooting fireworks from 30 to 12. But despite that reduction, some fireworks companies say they hope the changes will actually mean an uptick in sales.

Sean Conn, vice president of legal for Lansing-based Big Fireworks, said the changes made late last year are good for



Jessica Konopka pulls a box of fireworks off the shelf as she fills an order at the Michigan Fireworks Company in Lyon Township. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Man who lay dead for 20 minutes shares story

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Michael Pruitt was working outside April 30 when he was electrocuted, resulting in the untimely death of the 20-year-old Taylor resident.

But after 20 minutes, doctors at Beaumont Hospital in Farmington Hills had him back.

Pruitt had been working outside on a job in Livonia with his father when a metal ladder he was carrying hit a live wire, electrocuting him.

"I remember being electrocuted while holding that ladder and shaking, and then nothing," Pruitt said in a news release.

Livonia Fire and Rescue was on the scene after four minutes, and paramedics performed what they hoped would be life-saving CPR and defibrillation. But, Pruitt died before he made it to the hospital.

That didn't deter anyone, though. Once at Beaumont, doctors continued to shock Pruitt with defibrillation until his heart started beating again. Because doctors increased the voltage they used with the defibrillators, Pruitt was revived after two minutes in the hospital.

Dr. Angel Chudler, who worked on Pruitt, remembers saying "You better come back" to the man's lifeless body.

Medical professionals on the scene said Pruitt woke up with full strength and it took a number of people to restrain and keep him from shaking himself out of his hospital bed.

Jillian Pruitt, Michael's mother, said she was happy to have her son back and is even happier that he's the same man he was before he died. Typically, brain cells start to die after just five minutes, and Registered Nurse Barbara Smith said it is "miraculous" that Pruitt still has all of his brain function, including his sense of humor.

The only scars Pruitt sustained were burns on his big toes where the electricity left his body. But he made a mark of his own to commemorate the experience. He now has a tattoo sitting over his heart of "the sacred all-seeing eye of God inside a triangle surrounded by a Native American dream catcher" to remember that fateful day.



Pruitt





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Man injured in fight outside Secretary of State office

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A dispute over some apparent gas money led to a smashed window in a Livonia shopping center and one person going to the hospital with injuries.

Police were called June 19 to the Secretary of State office at 17176 Farmington in the Burton Hollow Plaza. There, a fight had occurred outside the office that resulted in a broken window at the nearby Baskin Robbins ice cream shop.

Police saw the suspect get into a ve-

hicle that began to drive away, though they pulled it over at nearby Curtis and Fairfield. The suspect, a 56-year-old Detroit man, was then detained. Police spoke to both him and the victim, a 30-year-old Van Buren Township man.

The victim said he agreed to sell a vehicle to the suspect, since the suspect's mother was in need of a vehicle. They drove to the Secretary of State office in Livonia to complete the paperwork and exchange payment.

After the transaction was completed, the victim said the suspect asked for

\$40 in gas money, which led to the dispute between them. The victim tried to run away to the Walgreen's across the street and get an Uber ride home, though the suspect followed him. Police say the suspect threw a punch at the victim in front of the ice cream shop, and pushed him toward the window, which shattered it.

The suspect told police they agreed before going to the Secretary of State's office the victim would cover the \$40 for gas money. When he asked for it, he said the victim threw a punch at him and ran,

losing his balance and falling into the window at Baskin Robbins.

Two witnesses' testimony matched that of the victim, who was taken to the hospital for treatment on some lacerations on his forearm, hands and right shoulder.

The suspect was arrested and charged with assault and battery. Lt. Charles Lister of the Livonia Police Department said the suspect had not been arraigned as of Friday morning.

Contact David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

Commerce Township woman missing since Friday

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Oakland County deputies are seeking help finding Alice Phillips, 41, of Commerce Township.

They said in a news release they were dispatched Saturday morning to the 2800 block of Pinto Drive near Union Lake and Commerce Roads because Phillips left for a walk Friday evening and hadn't returned.

Phillips' husband said she had been holding his gun and a single bullet before she left their home. He told deputies he managed to retrieve the weapon. Then she went for a walk.



Phillips

He wasn't alarmed because she frequently walks during the evening.

When she failed to return home, he told deputies he called 9-1-1. His wife had left their home without her cell phone, house keys, personal identification cards, money or credit cards.

She apparently has depression and refuses to take the recommended medication. Police said there were other signs she may have been suicidal.

The husband stated he had already searched her usual walking routes. Dep-

uties searched foot trails using a township auxiliary vehicle. They also checked local stores and restaurants. Searches continued through Sunday.

Her husband told deputies he last saw Alice Phillips wearing a blue and gray sweatshirt and blue jeans. She stands at 5 feet 3 inches tall, weighs 120 pounds and has shoulder-length auburn hair.

She also has a large tattoo of a rose with a top hat on an upper arm.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Oakland County Sheriff's Office at 248-858-4911.

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

Teen pleads guilty to shooting by Hype Athletics

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Devin Woods died of multiple gunshot wounds at age 19, and his shooter, Antoine Perry, now 17, faces years in prison because of it.

Perry pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and a felony weapons charge on June 18 in Wayne County's 3rd Circuit Court. Sentencing is scheduled for July 10.

The shooting occurred Nov. 26 when a marijuana purchase derailed outside the Hype Athletics facility on Howe Road in the City of Wayne.

Woods, of Ypsilanti, was in a vehicle outside Hype when he was shot repeatedly by someone who tried to take marijuana from him without paying, according to Wayne County prosecutors.

Steering wheel lock thrown at vehicle in Livonia parking lot

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A road rage incident in a Livonia shopping center parking lot led to a steering wheel lock being thrown at a vehicle.

Police were called the afternoon of June 15 to the parking lot at the Home Depot, 13500 Middlebelt, on the report of a road rage incident and possible felonious assault that had taken place.

The victim, a 39-year-old Livonia man, told police he was traveling north in the parking lot when the suspect, a

60-year-old Detroit woman, passed him and slammed on her brakes while in front of him, which caused some damage to the front of his vehicle when the two collided.

He said the woman then exited her vehicle and took a photo of him. When he took out his phone to capture an image of her, he said she became agitated and attempted to grab the phone from his hand. They then got back into their vehicles and went to parking spaces.

The suspect then grabbed a steering wheel lock bar from her vehicle and threw the bar at his vehicle, causing

damage to the rear driver-side door.

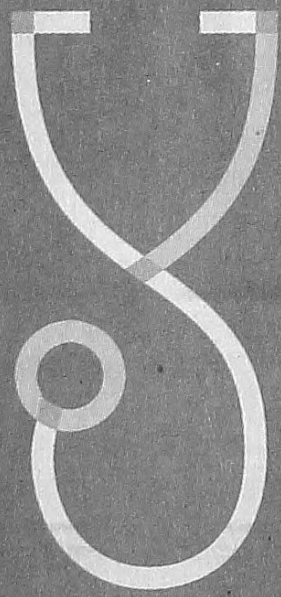
The woman told police the man was driving slowly and she passed him in the parking lot, with him striking her vehicle afterward. She said the man grabbed her outside the vehicle, which is what prompted her to grab the steering wheel lock for fear he was going to rape her. She said they both returned to their vehicles and she then threw the bar at his car.

Police confiscated the steering wheel lock. The Livonia man told police he wished to prosecute for the damage to his vehicle.

A camera outside the athletic center captured the incident.

Woods ran into Hype, which manages the city's recreation services. He was rushed to Beaumont Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Wayne police officers arrested Perry a few days later. Charged as an adult, the local teen originally faced single counts of felony murder and armed robbery, along with two counts of using a gun during a felony.



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SUMMER CONCERT LINEUP

Summer's finally here. Enjoy a night out, catch some live tunes and have a grand time.

From oldies to rock to country to children's music, here's all of the concert series taking place this summer. And with the Fourth of July next week, there's a slew of patriotic-themed programs on tap, as well.

Music From the Heart, Livonia

Livonia City Hall

Shows start at 7 p.m.

July 11, Motor City Soul

July 18, Trilogy

July 25, Rock and Roll Never Forgets

Aug. 1, Devin Scillian & Arizona Son Band

Aug. 8, Sinjon Smith

Aug. 15, Cruizin' Jupiter

Aug. 22, Mainstreet Soul

Aug. 29, Steve King & The Dittilies

Music in the Air, Plymouth

Kellogg Park

Shows start at 7 p.m.

June 28, Larry Lee & the Back in the Day Band

July 5, Steve Acho

July 19, Steve King & The Dittilies

July 26, Randy Brock Group

Aug. 2, Dale Hicks Band

Aug. 9, Motor City Soul

Aug. 16, Theo Gridiron

Aug. 23, Rick K. & The Allnighters

Aug. 30, Magic Bus

Milford Concerts In The Park, Milford

Central Park

Shows start at 7 p.m.

June 27, Kari Lynch

July 11, Trilogy

July 18, Fifty Amp Fuse

July 25, Rockstar

Aug. 1, Mainstreet Soul

Aug. 15, Magic Bus

Aug. 22, Phoenix Theory

Aug. 29, Persuasion

Concerts in the Park, South Lyon

McHattie Park

Shows start at 7 p.m.

June 28, Gemily

July 12, Bill Bynum & Co.

July 19, Aral Sea Divers

July 26, Fast Eddie

Aug. 2, Annie & Rod Capps

Aug. 9, Randy Brock Group

Aug. 16, Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies



Emily Reach joins the Jon Fett Quartet at the Milford Concert in the Park series.

COURTESY OF CURTIS DROGMILLER

Aug. 23, Invasion

Sounds like Summer, Highland

Veterans Park

Concerts start at 7 p.m.

July 9: Itchycoo Park Band

July 16: II V I

July 23: Toppermost

July 30: Nick Palise

Aug. 6: In Flight

Aug. 13: Gypsy & the Rockers

In the Park Summer Concert Series, Birmingham

Shain Park

Shows start at 7 p.m. except for two listed at noon

July 3, The Blue Cat

July 7, US Jazz Ambassadors

July 10, 12 p.m. Siloam Pool

July 10, Steve Acho

July 17, Audrey Ray

July 24, Skye Island Band

July 31, Thornetta Davis

Aug. 7, Magic Bus
Aug. 14, 12 p.m. SurfZurp
Aug. 14, Nobody's Business

Sizzling Summer Art Series, Novi

Shows start at 10:30 a.m.

Pavilion Shore

July 10, The Music Lady Beverly Meyer

July 17, Polynesian Dancers of Michigan

July 24, Musician Guy Louis

July 31, Animal Magic

Fuerst Park

Aug. 7, Musical Duo Gemini

Aug. 14, Rock N Roll K9s

Sounds of Summer, Walled Lake

Hiram Simms Park

Shows start at 7 p.m.

July 10, All Directions

July 17, Laughing Madmen

July 24, Groove Suns

July 31, The Patrick Fitzgibbon Band

Aug. 7, Detroit Social Club

Lunch Beats In Riley Park, Farmington

Riley Park

Shows start at noon

July 3, Mark Reitenga

July 10, Maggie McCabe

July 17, Al Carmichael

July 24, John Latini

July 31, Carly Bins

Aug. 7, Billy Brandt

Aug. 14, Sheila Landis & Rick Matle

Aug. 21, Emmanuelle Jacob

Rhythms In Riley Park, Farmington

Riley Park

Shows start at 7 p.m.

June 28, Dig A Phony

July 5, Major Dudes

July 12, Motown Eagles

July 19, Skye Island Band

July 26, Billy Mack & The Juke Joint

Johnnies

Aug. 2, Randy Brock Group

Aug. 9, Wayback Machine

Aug. 16, The Shy

Aug. 23, Chirp

Stars In The Park, Farmington Hills

Heritage Park

Shows start at 7 p.m.

June 27, Indian Musical Extravaganza

By Jai Ho

July 11, Grizzly Goat

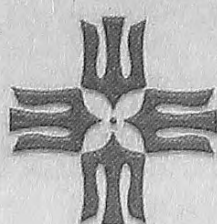
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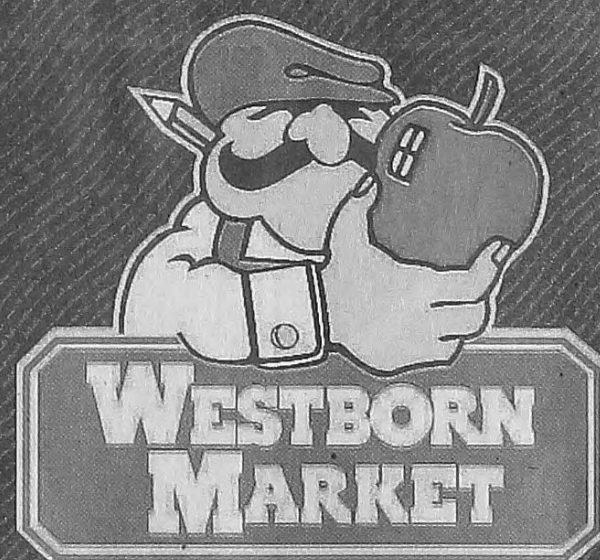
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Audience members of Crazy Craig's concert do a small version of the Wave as he performs in 2018 at Fuerst Park. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Concerts

Continued from Page 4A

July 18, High School Music Night
 July 25, FCB Big Band
 Aug. 1, Farmington Community Chorus
 Aug. 8, TBD A Capella
 Aug. 15, Stan Barnes & Friends

Summer Concert Series, Canton

Heritage Park

Tuesdays Are Terrific

Shows start at 11:30 a.m.

July 16, Ralph's World
 July 23, Genot Picor Storyteller
 July 30, Music Man Dave
 Aug. 6, Melissa Behring
 Aug. 13, Story Rhythms

Thursday Night Live Concert Series

Shows start at 7 p.m.

June 27, Serious Jack
 July 11, The Groove Party
 July 18, Killer Flamings
 July 25, Shiny Penny
 Aug. 1, Dueling Pianos
 Aug. 8, Alexandria N' Transit
 Aug. 15, Trilogy

Summer Concerts, Northville

Friday Night Concerts

Town Square (downtown Northville)
 Shows start at 7 p.m.

June 28, Bobby Murray Band
 July 12, Detroit Social Club
 July 19, Theo Gridiron
 July 26, Sound Station
 Aug. 2, 3rd Degree Byrnes
 Aug. 9, Gia Warner
 Aug. 16, Shawn Riley Band
 Aug. 23, Steve King and the Dittilies
 Aug. 30, Social Bones

Wednesday Night Concerts - Northville Unplugged!

July 10, Jill Jack
 July 17, The Johnnies
 July 24, Alex Mendenall
 July 31, Matt Gabriel
 Aug. 7, Sam Van Wagoner
 Aug. 14, Kris Kurzawa Duo

Aug. 21, Shawn Riley Duo
 Aug. 28, Steve Taylor
Tunes on Tuesday, Northville
 Town Square
 Shows start at 10:30 a.m.
 July 9, Paula Doak
 July 16, Kevin Devine
 July 23, Paula Messner
 July 30, Earth Angels
 Aug. 6, Rick Kelley
 Aug. 13, Eugene Clark
 Aug. 20, Guy Lewis
 Aug. 27, Stephanie J

Concerts in Goudy Park, Wayne

Goudy Park

Shows start at 7:30 p.m.

July 17, Major Woody
 July 24, Theo Gridiron
 July 31, Live Bullet Detroit
 Aug. 7, Rock Star
 Aug. 14, Steve King & The Dittilies
 Aug. 21, Power Play
 Aug. 28, Fifty Amp Fuse

Concerts In The Park, Redford

Handy Park

Shows start at 7 p.m.

July 2, Byron & Michelle Trio
 July 9, Surf Zup
 July 16, Detroit Social Club Blues Band
 July 23, Fast Eddie Band
 July 30, The Sympathy Orchestra
 Aug. 6, Taylor Tucky
 Aug. 13, The KEG Band
 Aug. 20, Sound Proof
 Aug. 27, Sinjon Smith

Summer Concert Series, Wixom

Sibley Square Park

Shows start at 7 p.m.; June 27 at 6 p.m.

June 27, Steve Taylor Three and Steve Acho
 July 11, Magic Bus
 July 18, Theo Gridiron
 July 25, 2XL
 Aug. 1, Kris Kurzawa Group
 Aug. 8, Steve King & The Dittilies
 Aug. 15, Chris Canas Band
 Aug. 22, Rick K and The Allnighters



The Novi Concert Band performs earlier this month in Walled Lake.

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Detroit Zoo to close penguin center, fix faulty waterproofing

Elissa Robinson Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Detroit Zoo's acclaimed Polk Penguin Conservation Center will close in September for at least nine months to allow for waterproofing repairs, according to a news release from the zoo.

The repairs are needed because of faulty waterproofing by the construction contractor of the \$32-million facility, which debuted in April 2016.

Approximately 9 gallons of groundwater has been seeping into the building and is being pumped out each day, the zoo reported.

"Unfortunately, the contractor failed to properly waterproof the foundation, was aware that groundwater water was seeping into the building throughout construction, didn't fix the problem and failed to inform us," said Ron Kagan, Detroit Zoological Society executive director and CEO.

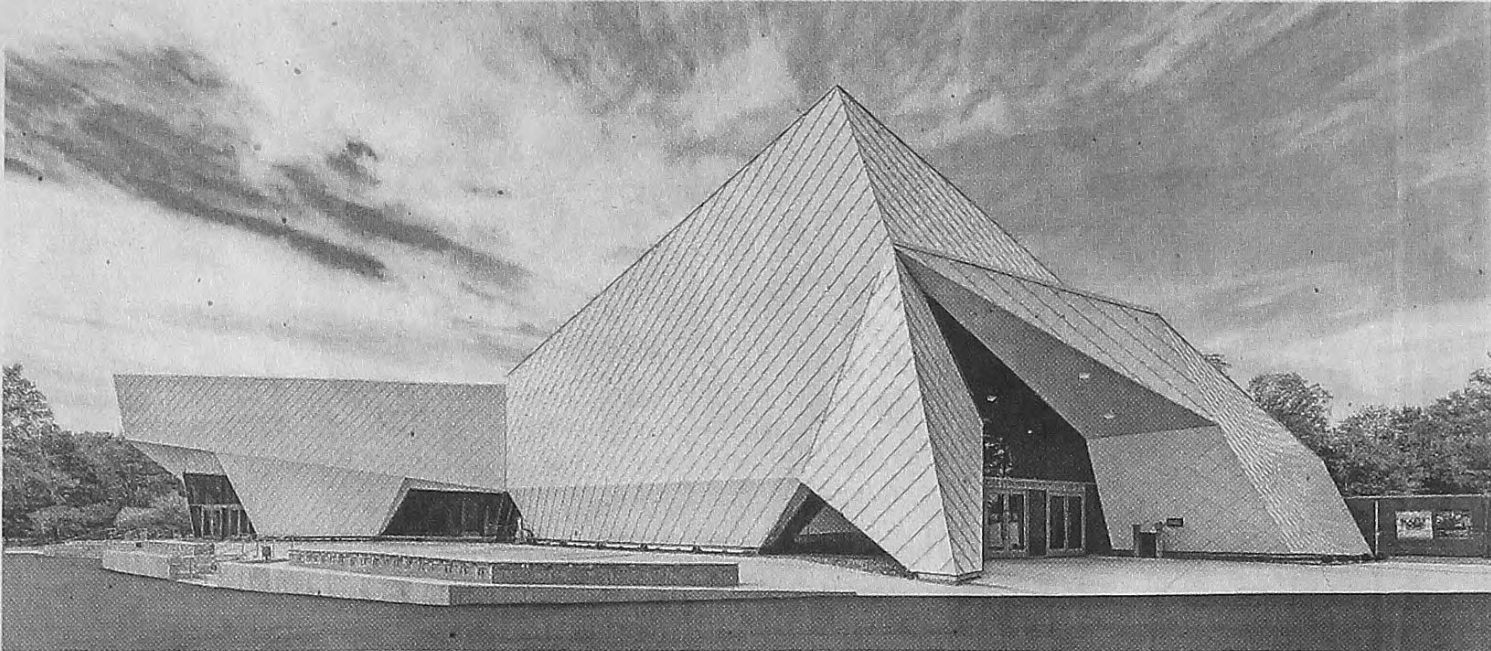
The zoo won arbitration against DeMaria Wharton Smith, the contractor responsible for the problem. DeMaria is required to make the repairs at its own expense, the zoo reported.

The zoo's reference to "DeMaria Wharton Smith" named a joint venture of two companies that built the penguin habitat: Detroit-based DeMaria Building Co., a family-owned firm ranked 12th largest among general contractors in Michigan by a trade publication; and Florida-based Wharton-Smith Inc., another major general contractor, known for building schools, government buildings, sports arenas and "themed attractions," according to its website.

After completing the unusual project, both builders received numerous industry awards that they continue to celebrate on their websites. On Thursday afternoon, in response to Free Press inquiries, the companies issued a combined statement:

"DeMaria is proud of the quality work we have completed for the Detroit Zoological Society over the past two decades.

"The joint venture of DeMaria/Whar-



Penguins from the Polk Penguin Conservation Center will live in the zoo's former penguinarium while repairs are made.
COURTESY OF CURT CLAYTON

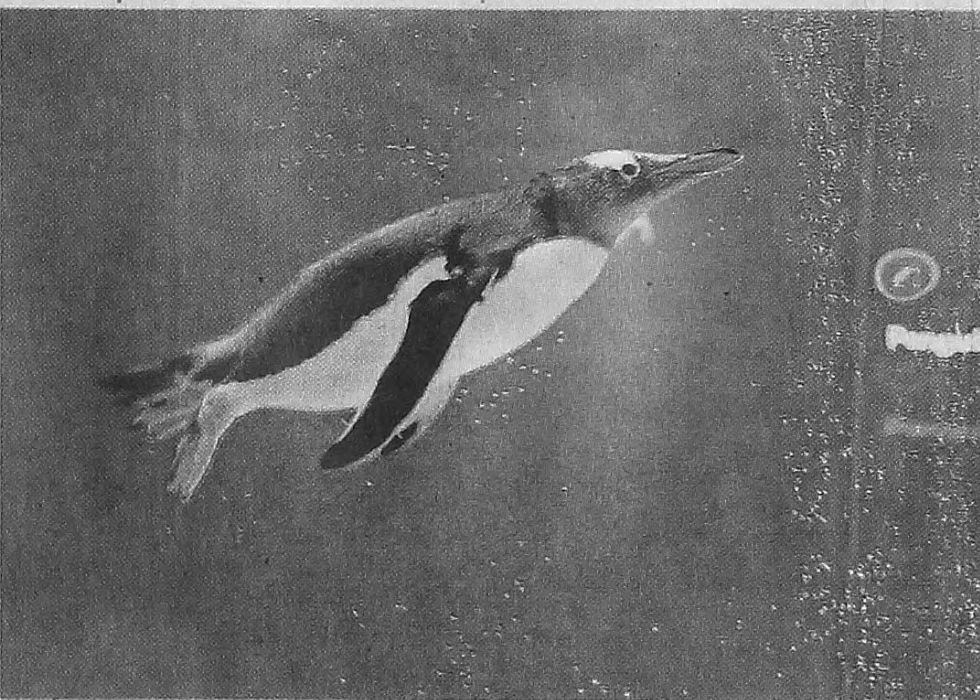
ton-Smith has received numerous accolades from industry trade media on the work performed on the Polk Penguin Conservation Center. Regrettably, work completed by subcontractors on the Center resulted in leakage requiring repairs.

"The Detroit Zoological Society and the Joint Venture of DeMaria/Wharton-Smith agreed through mediation to make repairs to correct the issue of water infiltration. The repairs will be performed by the Joint Venture, mutually agreed upon with the Zoo."

The Polk Penguin Conservation Center will remain open through the summer and close Sept. 9. It will reopen in mid-June of next year after repairs are complete.

The penguins will live in the zoo's former penguinarium while the new facility is being repaired. The penguins will not be available for visitor viewing during that time.

The Polk Penguin Conservation Center is home to 75 king, rockhopper, macaroni and gentoo penguins.



A penguin swims in the new 33,000-square-foot, \$32 million Polk Penguin Conservation Center at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak in April 2016. The center will close for nine months to repair faulty waterproofing.

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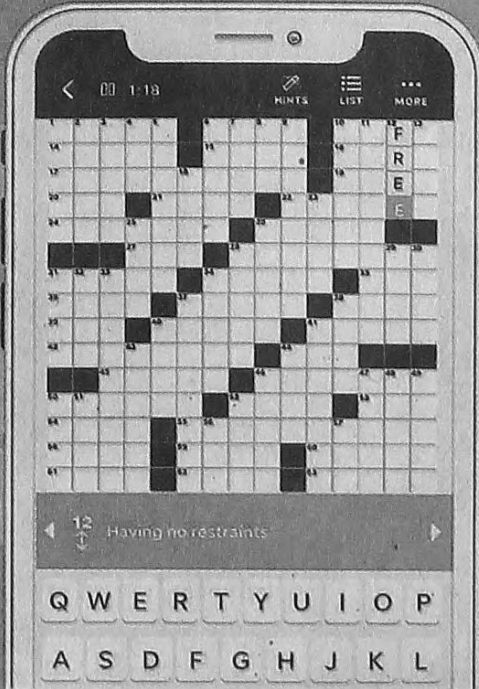
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**USA
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Fourth of July events planned across area

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Summer's taken a little longer to reach its peak, but here's hoping the most American of holidays will bring out the best the season has to offer.

As is the case every year, there are plenty of activities this Independence Day happening across the Hometown Life communities. Here's what you can do to celebrate the Fourth of July.

Parade in downtown Milford

Head to downtown Milford for the annual Fourth of July celebrations Thursday.

The annual parade will take place beginning at 11 a.m. and begins on Commerce Street before heading down Main Street and wrapping up at Central Park.

Come out and see plenty of community groups and others as they celebrate Independence Day in Milford.

Northville parade

Downtown Northville's Independence Day parade will begin at 10 a.m. at Griswold and Main before heading west on Main. The parade will then turn onto Rogers and east on Cady before heading down Wing Street. It will wrap up at Fairbrook and Center Street. Head out to see all the classic cars, bands and other groups as they march through downtown Northville.

Good Morning USA Parade, music concert in Plymouth

One of the largest parades in the region returns this year to downtown Plymouth.

The annual Good Morning USA Parade will take to Main Street beginning at 9 a.m. at Theodore, ending at Hartsough.

For those looking for something to do the weekend before, the Michigan Philharmonic will perform 7 p.m. Saturday at Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

Red, White and Blues festival in Highland

If you've got a hankering for some fun this weekend, head up to Highland for the annual festival celebrating America.

The celebration will see plenty of music, activities and food before the fireworks take place at the festival, which begins at 6 p.m. Saturday in Highland at John and Ruggles streets.

Fourth of July celebration in Clawson

While Birmingham no longer has a fireworks display to celebrate the Fourth of July, a nearby community still hosts one of the biggest celebrations in Oakland County.

In addition to the parade at 9 a.m. July 4 along 14 Mile toward Clawson City Park, the annual arts-and-crafts fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the park, and a carnival with rides from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The annual fireworks show takes place around dusk.



Just a single aisle at Wesland's Big Fireworks offers a myriad of choices for customers who enter the store. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Fireworks

Continued from Page 1A

everyone involved.

"Everybody had to give up a little bit of what they wanted. Not every body got what they wanted. In my opinion, that's a good compromise," said Conn, whose company sells fireworks wholesale and operates a retail store at Middlebelt and Warren in Westland. "It wasn't just the industry that was happy. Everybody was."

Customers can expect to get reminders from area fireworks stores regarding the changes this year. Instead of the typical "day before, day of and day after" rules for when aerial fireworks can be shot, the changes expand usage around Independence Day and limit them on other federal holidays.

The shift in protected days from the state include:

- Dec. 31 until 1 a.m. on Jan. 1
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.

The changes in the law allow for aerial fireworks to be shot off at any time of the year, though allows local municipalities to restrict their usage except on the aforementioned days and times. Most communities have changed their local ordinances to tighten aerial firework usage to just those days, including Livonia, Milford, South Lyon and Novi, to name a few.

Fireworks can also be banned depending on weather conditions, though that's done on a county-by-county basis or by fire officials in a local community.

Eric Konopka, who co-owns Michigan Fireworks Company at 20752 Pontiac Trail in Lyon Township with his wife Jessica, said he's hoping getting the word out about what days are not restricted under state law will drive more business in coming years. This past Memorial Day weekend was a difficult one, because so many people knew they couldn't shoot fireworks on Memorial Day itself, but didn't know they could shoot



Lucas Konopka pulls a firework off the shelf at the Michigan Fireworks Company, which his parents own. DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

them on Saturday and Sunday.

"The lack of clear instruction is the biggest problem with the law," he said. "But no one knew they could do Saturday and Sunday the weekend before. So that Saturday, sales were kind of meh, because even though they gave them that day, no one knew."

Sales not expected to be affected

While most communities have limited the number of days allowed to shoot aerial fireworks off, Conn said he's not expecting to see a major change in sales at Big Fireworks. Most people buy fireworks in late June for Independence Day anyway, and not for other federal holidays such as Columbus Day or Christmas.

If anything, it might be an increase in sales in the coming years, though probably not this year since so many consumers are still learning the new law changes.

"I don't know if it's going to increase them this year, because people still believe it's the day before, the day of the day after," Conn said. "Everyone of them said I didn't know there was a law change."

Konopka said he expects sales to stay about the same if not a little better at his store north of Eight Mile and at the tents he opens every year in Canton and off Territorial near Plymouth. He does hope it grows as the

number of days allowed to shoot fireworks around Independence Day has increased.

His concern will come after Aug. 1, when another aspect of the law takes effect that allows local communities of more than 100,000 or counties with a population of more than 750,000 to additionally regulate temporary structures.

It's his belief that clause could be used to affect smaller firework sales operations in the future, or worst to drive bigger retailers to try and put businesses like his out of business.

"It didn't specifically say what those regulations were, so it's vague," he said. "They gave ideas such as maybe only five permits per city or location or so many square miles away. But it's open for discussion."

After several years of seeing how the law worked, Conn said he believes these new changes are ones that allow for everyone to be happier with the situation and allows for better oversight.

Despite the changes, there are always those who decide to shoot fireworks outside of the legal times set by their community. Those are people, Conn said, the industry does not support.

"Most people, especially in these suburban areas around Detroit, they are definitely observing the law," he said. "It's those 1% of jerks that are lighting them off. The industry does not like those people."

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

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Polluted groundwater still an issue in Livonia neighborhood

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Marie Gilreath has had enough of the testing in her Alden Village home.

The Livonia woman is one of many residents receiving testing by Ford to track pollution from the groundwater under the neighborhood, pollution that has sifted over from below the nearby Ford Transmission Plant at 36200 Plymouth Road.

The company has drilled plenty of wells in the neighborhood for testing and is in the process of installing vapor mitigation systems throughout the area. Gilreath has had workers in her home and is frustrated by the consistent testing that she says is a pain to deal with.

"They came out in March and then they came out again in April because they said there was an error in the lab, and then they were out at the house last week because they found some outside chemical in my house," she said. "I'm sick of it."

Dozens of neighbors came out June 20 to a news conference in the subdivision to hear an update the status of the groundwater issue in the neighborhood. It's been several years since Ford Motor Company revealed it had found vinyl chloride and trichloroethylene in the groundwater underneath the plant, which came from a parts degreaser used several decades ago. After further testing, it was determined the chemicals had drifted east into the groundwater underneath the neighborhood's homes.

The conference invited residents to share the stories they've experienced in recent months, including the installation of the mitigation systems and how its affected their lives.

Robert McCall said he's had some work done around his house, but knows more is coming that's going to disrupt his home life completely.

"Now they're telling us in July that we're going to have to move out of our house for 4-6 weeks, could be longer, and they're going to take our furnace



Dozens of neighbors came out June 20 to a new conference in Alden Village to hear an update the status of the groundwater. It's been several years since Ford Motor Co. revealed it had found vinyl chloride and trichloroethylene in the groundwater under its nearby transmission plant, which it said came from a parts degreaser used several decades ago.
DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

out, hot water heater out, our electrical panel off the wall, take the stairs out, take all the drywall out of the basement and put this retrocoat all over the walls and floor," he said. "And then they're going to come back and reinstall everything."

A request for comment from Ford regarding the press conference was not returned by press time.

It resulted in a lawsuit being filed by residents after the state of Michigan settled with Ford in federal court for the cleanup process. That left the residents to file a lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court for damages to their property val-

ues and for their inconveniences. That civil trial is scheduled to begin Sept. 16.

The point of the press conference, said attorney Sean Collins, was to keep the issue in the forefront and continue to request Ford improve how it's handling the remediation issue. The residents also hope to get the attention of the state's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (formerly the Department of Environmental Quality), something that's gotten a bit easier since Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel were elected in November, Collins said.

The state held a public meeting last

summer to take comment for a Response Activity Plan that would require the automotive company to handle the issue.

"The state has seen things more now from the residents' point of view since the political change resulting from the election," he said. "We couldn't get the time of day from the attorney general or the MDEQ since before the election. They, honestly, didn't give a damn. Now they're at least take our phone call. They'll listen to us."

Ford has a website for information it shares on the issue. It can be found at fordlivoniabostonbeaconproject.com.

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Wayne-Westland school board talks divisiveness

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Throughout the Wayne-Westland Board of Education meeting June 20 at which trustees decided to investigate allegations of abuse of power and lack of interest in the district against Superintendent Dr. Shelley Holt, there was over three hours of public comment.

Holt will be on paid administrative leave throughout the investigation, which will be performed by the Lusk Albertson law firm.

Jennifer Curry, an assistant superintendent with the district, will serve as interim superintendent throughout the investigation.

The issue had people in support of and against the board's decision rising from their seats to voice opinions. Throughout public comment, strong words were hurled toward Holt, the district and the school board. Wayne police officers were called upon by President David Cox twice to quell passionate speakers.

During their final comments at the night, after much of the large crowd that nearly filled the Stockmeyer Auditorium next to Wayne Memorial High School had left, almost every trustee addressed their concern with the apparent division in the community over the issue.

The vote

In the end, the board voted 4-3 to place Holt on paid leave and conduct the investigation.

Every board member said they were in favor of the investigation, but some were not in favor of paid leave, which was included in the resolution, or other details included in the resolution. Cox said if such large changes were made to the resolution, the board would have to draft a new one, taking up even more time.

The three dissenting votes came from Vice President Melandie Hines, trustee Carol Middel and trustee Shawna Walker.

"I truly support the investigation, I just didn't support everything that was written as the resolution was written," said Walker. "So that's why I couldn't support the resolution, I just didn't agree with everything."

Middel specifically said she was not in support of paid leave, as that has not been procedure in the past.

But after the vocal reactions from every side of the issue, everyone agreed an investigation needed to be done.

"With this investigation I hope things



Wayne-Westland Schools Superintendent Shelley Holt has been placed on paid administrative leave following allegations of abuse of power and lack of interest in the district. She will be on leave throughout the investigation. FILE

don't take too much time or we're not going to have things in order in August," Hines said. "But I do believe an investigation should be done because she does need her name cleared."

"When allegations are made against our superintendent, it would be absolutely wrong of us not to look at those allegations," Treasurer Tom Buckalew later added.

Racial tensions

Whether in support of Holt or not, many resident talked race in their comments to the elected officials, leading the school board to ponder that larger issue, something they feel Westland and Wayne are both facing.

"We can not sit back in the community and act like we don't have race or class issues in this community," Walker said, which drew applause from the audience. "We can not continue to sit back in this community and act like that is not an issue. I am not saying that is what's going on here, but we do have those problems and if we're ever going to come together as a community or what we call the great American city, we need to respect each other."

Other trustees added that they were concerned with the way some commu-

nity members acted while speaking to each other, Holt and the board itself.

"All this nastiness, it definitely has to end," Hines said. "Just in the future, you know, just watch how you treat people. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect."

Buckalew said race is not a consideration one way or the other from the school board's perspective.

"We've seen many things that she's done that have been of a positive nature and I applaud those things and know my colleagues do as well," he said. "It troubled me that some people have seemed to try and make this issue a race issue. That couldn't be further from the truth."

District division

Not all of the division was driven by race, some simply voiced issues with the overall state of the district.

"I've never seen our community more divided than it is right now, and that includes the school closings," Middel said. "That was horrendous. But we need to start healing this very minute and move forward together or we're not going to survive."

"We will not always agree, but we have to treat each other with respect and that is not what we have done in this process," Walker added. "We have been nasty when someone gives their opinion, we shut them down, we call them names."

Several board members added that they were saddened by the many statements that were made directly to Holt that night.

"To have a bunch of people come up here and say nasty things about her was very hurtful for me and was not appropriate," Cox said.

Social media

Prior to the June 20 meeting, rumors, photos and claims in regard to Holt's leadership and some board trustees were circulated online. Consequently, the board warned the audience to not

take everything they see online as gospel.

"I know a lot of people have said that this is not about race or it is not about whatever," Walker said. "Let me just say, I am heartbroken over where our community is right now. Social media can be a powerful tool, and some of the things that were written on there and said — as a community, we can not sit back."

Cox later added that times like this are why he stays off social media altogether.

"Nothing positive comes from it," he said. "It's just a constant barrage of whatever negative thing someone can think to say... When there's an issue like this, it's just so destructive for your soul."

Moving forward

With all of the anger and division displayed at the meeting, many of the trustees ended their statements by saying the community needs to find a way to "heal."

"Hopefully at the end of this we'll find a way to get past it, we'll find a way," Secretary Mark Neal said. "I know some people will never let go of whatever their feelings are one way or the other. But if Dr. Holt is found to have done nothing unusual or wrong, then I hope we can restore our relationships after that is done."

Buckalew said he wants everyone to keep their mind on the purpose of the district: the student body.

"I hope that the two sides that have been represented here tonight can come together and that we can move forward with the business of educating our young people," he said.

Cox, near the end of his statement, captured the mood of many of his colleagues and the community regarding the investigation, which has no set time line at this point: "I want it fair, professional and over."

Contact Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter at @shelby_tankk.

Obituaries

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Leave

Continued from Page 1A

"It's absolutely essential to remove that person from those responsibilities while the investigation is being conducted," he said.

Prior to the vote, trustee Frederick Weaver made a motion to suspend board roles, bypassing what Cox estimated to be 50 more minutes of public comment to go straight to a vote. The motion was voted down 4-3, and public comment continued.

Raucous meeting

The auditorium was nearly filled with community members, many of whom students and district employees.

The meeting was rowdy and contentious from the beginning. It began by Anthony Adams, Holt's lawyer, being escorted away by Wayne police after attempting to speak ahead of representatives from the student body. Police were called upon once more because of a woman making racially charged comments.

Preceding the vote, the same group of Wayne Memorial High School students who spoke again at the request of school board President David Cox expressed further discontent with Holt's and the board's leadership. Leading up to the vote, 18 people spoke in favor of an investigation.

"The community believed in Dr. Holt and she failed us," outgoing senior Khushi Patel said. "There are two kinds of interest: self-interest and community interest... We don't request, we demand that Dr. Holt is placed on administrative leave while an independent investigation is conducted."

Three others said, simply, that district leadership overall needs to "do better."

"If you want us to believe in our district, do better," outgoing senior Shanel Baxter said.

Eighteen others spoke in favor of

Holt, saying she is being treated unfairly.

"It is unrealistic to entertain and certainly to state that our superintendent is unfit to serve the Wayne-Westland school district," said Inkster resident Connie Mitchell. "This is what I see: a well-equipped, well-to do woman, who also happens to be black, being bombarded by a patriarchal system... I urge us all to pause and determine the positions we are in today."

Holt's lawyer spoke twice and wrote a letter to Cox prior to the meeting saying a letter written by former Wayne Memorial Athletic Director Gregory Ambrose, which prompted much of the community discussion, was not fair grounds for an investigation.

"To my knowledge there has been no formal complaint filed against Dr. Holt in her two years at the district and this letter should not arise to the level of formal complaint without additional support for the allegations contained therein," the letter reads in part.

The comments on both sides, in support of and in dissent of Holt, left Cox calling for civility on more than one occasion.

"I do not feel comfortable as a man just sitting here watching a lady just be torn up by person after person after person," he said.

Public comment ultimately ran for about two and a half hours and saw nearly 50 people speak.

Though it is unclear how long the investigation, which will be conducted by the Lusk Albertson law firm, will take, Cox hopes the education community will find a way to come back together when it is over.

"I want this thing to be done and over and I want everyone who has concerns to lay it down and we can all go to the football game in September," he said.

The Wayne-Westland Board of Education is scheduled to meet again 7 p.m., July 29.

Contact Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter at @shelby_tankk.

Hulda (Veach) Piercecchi

DETROIT - Hulda (Veach) Piercecchi, June 20, 2019. She was born April 11, 1929 in Detroit, MI.

On September 3, 1941. She married the late Dan Piercecchi. Dear mother of Janet Piercecchi-Kidd (Frank) and Mark (Elizabeth) Piercecchi. Dear Grandmotehr of Matt (Jennifer) Kidd, Nathan (Emily Nixon) ,Adam Piercecchi and the late Mark Kidd CPL Marine Corp.. Great grandmother of Rebekah Kidd and sister of Jerry Veach.

Hulda had a strong Christian faith and an advocate for pro life, family first and SRW (Suburban Republican Women).

Funeral Service Thursday at 11:00 AM (Instate at 10:00 AM) at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd, Livonia.

Memorial Contribution may be directed to Military Families United www.militaryfamilies-united.org

Please share a memory of Hulda at www.rg-grharris.com



Irene Knight

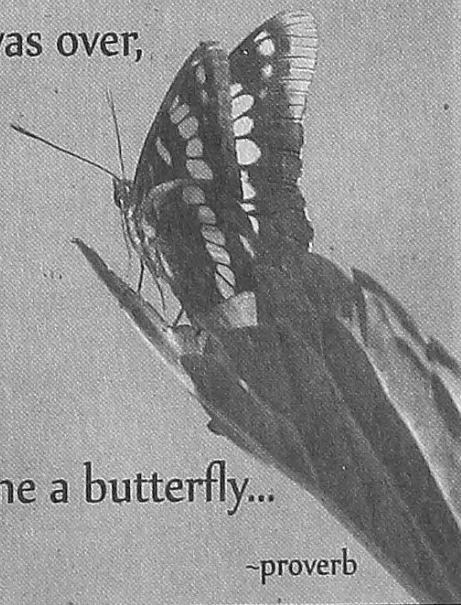
CANTON - Knight, Irene age 79 of Canton. Cherished mother of David, Kelli Knight (Robert Bargiel) and Becky (Craig) Duffy. Best Grammy to Mirian Reanie. Loving mom to her fur baby Charlie. Beloved daughter of Marvin and Anna Cousineau of Detroit MI. Dearest sister of Catherine Cousineau, Fred (Lena) Cousineau, Patricia (Fred) Chlubinski, Michael (Betsi) Cousineau, and Richard (Linda) Cousineau, and the late James Cousineau. Also survived by many other loving family and friends. Smart, sassy and sincere, Irene always opened her home for family. Outside she landscaped her lawn, trees and flowers; inside she created laughter, food and light. Funeral Services were June 25th. Please visit online guestbook Fredwoodfuneralhome.com



Just when the caterpillar
thought the
world was over,

it became a butterfly...

-proverb



War rations books found in South Lyon park

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Found: War ration books filled with stamps for food, sugar and other commodities meted out to the nation's Greatest Generation during World War II.

Someone found the bits of history at South Lyon's McHattie Park weeks ago and turned them in to police.

Individual books are made out to different people, such as Pat Palmer in Hastings and Owen Mulvey in Grand Rapids.

Police are trying to solve the mystery of the ration books' owner, so they can be properly returned.

"This is a unique item," Lt. Doug Baaki said. "We can probably track it down... I'm hoping."

Police are more accustomed to finding keys, wallets and cellphones in their lost-and-found collections.

Baaki would never consider cutting up the ration books, which is what police frequently do with credit cards left in bank machines.

A bit of a history buff, the lieutenant studied the other items found with the ration books – for example, a 1947 ration check for exactly 270 pounds of sugar made out to an appears-to-be-closed Mulvey's Lunch & Restaurant in Toledo, Ohio.

He also spent a solid hour Googling ration books when they were turned into police. Every American was issued the books with stamps for rationed items like sugar, meat, cooking oil and canned goods.

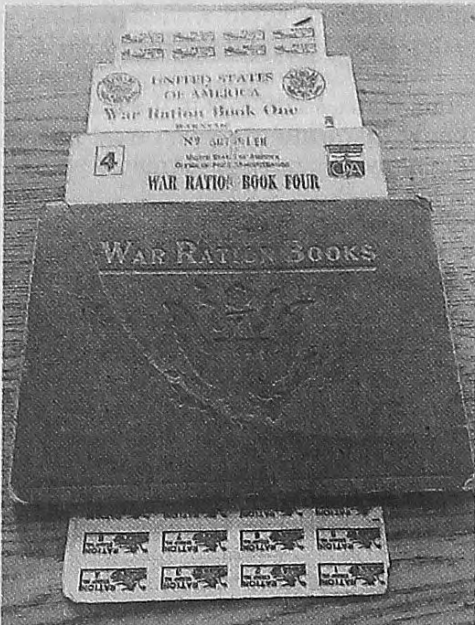
People had to give grocers the right ration stamp to buy rationed items. Once their stamps were gone for the month, they couldn't buy that item.

The World War II Museum in New Orleans said on its website rationing "meant planning meals carefully, being creative with menus, and not wasting food."

Rationing is part of the World War II history Baaki admires.

"People had to sacrifice at home," he said. "Everybody put everything they could into the war effort. This is part of that. I thought it was neat."

The South Lyon Police Department has put a lost-and-found notice on



Someone recently found war rations books in South Lyon's McHattie Park and turned them over to local police.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN VELA/USA TODAY NETWORK

Facebook asking people to call the department if they are missing the ration books.

Baaki also has reached out to the South Lyon Area Historical Society. Members host meetings at the Freight House on McHattie Park grounds.

They also store historic documents there and keep the society's World War memorabilia under locked glass.

They're checking their donors' names and other resources. So far, they're not sure who might have dropped the ration books in the park.

"I'm as stumped as he is," society President Linda Ross said of Baaki and their conversations. "I don't know if someone was going to bring them to us and lost them ... I don't know."

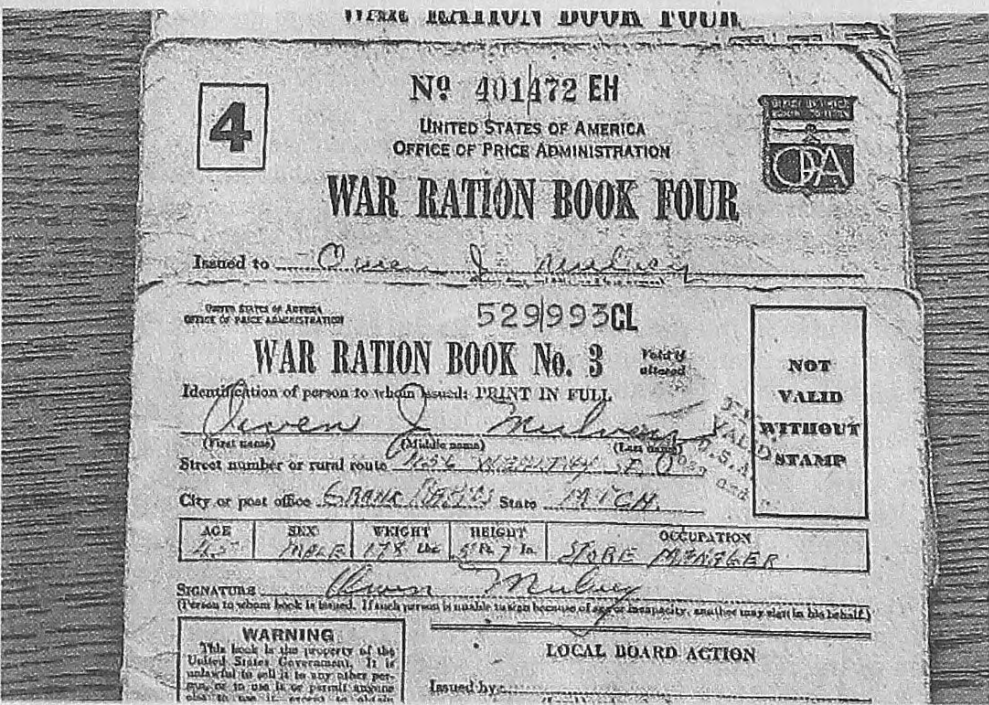
"You don't find too many of the ration books. Not too many people kept them. I would be upset if it was my dad's or my grandfathers ... (if) it belonged to my family and it was something that was important back then."

If you're missing some ration books, call South Lyon police at 248-437-1773.

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



The South Lyon Area Historical Society keeps its World War memorabilia locked up. Members are helping police with identifying the owner of the found objects.



Police would like the war rations books returned to their rightful owner.

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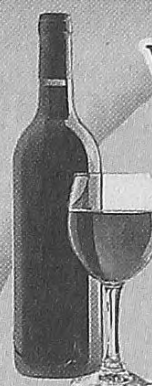


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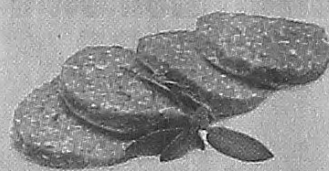


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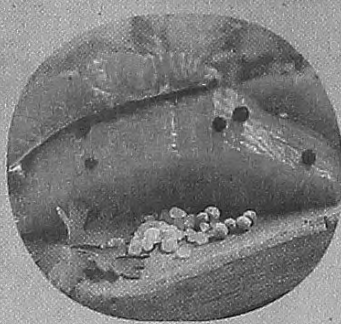
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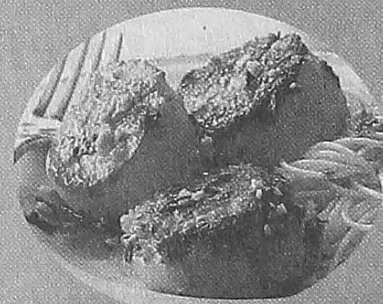
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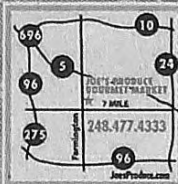
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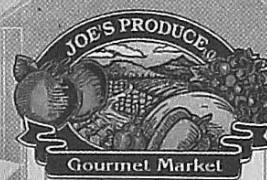
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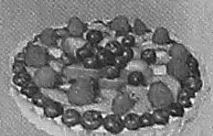
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PREP GIRLS TENNIS

Northville tennis coach Linda Jones retires

Andrew Vaillencourt

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Northville tennis coach Linda Jones has a lot more sun in her future.

The three-time state champion and 2019 Michigan tennis coach of the year has decided to retire from coaching at Northville, along with her husband Dan, who was an assistant coach, and will move to Florida.

She enjoyed an illustrious 11-year career with the Mustangs and first started coaching the JV team before taking the varsity job in 2014. Grosse Pointe South girls tennis coach and Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame member Mark Sobieralski, who has won eight different coach of the year awards and four state titles of his own (including this year), said Jones put Northville girls tennis on the map, turn-

ing the Mustangs into one of the best programs in the entire state.

Since becoming the team's head coach, Jones led the team to a top five finish in the state every year. The Mustangs came in fifth in 2014, won the state championship in 2015, 2017 and 2018, was runner up in 2016 and finished fourth this season.

In addition to being the 2019 state coach of the year, Jones was also named regional coach of the year four times, including in both 2018 and 2019.

She felt that this was the right time to retire and move on after her grandchildren graduated this year from the Plymouth-Canton school district. She and her husband have a place in the Villages in Florida where they will spend time relaxing, volunteering and maybe even do some assistant coaching. She said they have friends down there and that it's like recess for them.

"It was the perfect breaking time for us," Jones said. "We can run and play again."

Jones retired from Ford in 2007 but decided to stay near her grandchildren and help raise them.

She gave a lot of credit to her husband Dan for being a great assistant and helping her throughout their coaching career.

"He always helped me with all the coaching responsibilities," Jones said. "He was terrific to work with. He's my best friend."

She said that they would travel up to Midland to watch the state championships and picked up things they wanted to implement over the years. When she started as the varsity coach, that first year was spent encouraging the girls to believe in her vision and after that, the

See TENNIS, Page 4B



Northville tennis coach Linda Jones won three state titles and placed in the top five in the state in every year she coached the Mustangs.

COURTESY OF LINDA JONES

Plymouth's Miller named lax Coach of the Year

Andrew Vaillencourt

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth boys lacrosse coach Ray Miller has been named the 2019 US Lacrosse Michigan Coach of the Year after he led the Wildcats to the state quarterfinals.

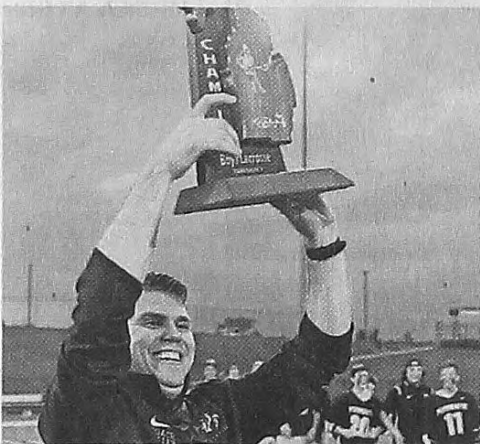
Miller's team won its division in the KLAA, won a regional championship and set a school record for wins in a season.

"I am very humbled and honored to have earned this prestigious award this season," Miller said. "To me, this honor means that my fellow coaches and the lacrosse community have recognized and appreciated the great strides our program has taken these past three years."

It was the first time in school history that Plymouth won the KLAA East Division. The Wildcats finished with a record of 17-5.

"Even though this award highlights only myself, I feel our hard-working,

See LACROSSE, Page 1B



Plymouth coach Ray Miller lifts up the regional championship trophy after his team beat Saline 19-12. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PREP BASEBALL



Quite a few Hometown stars made the lineup for the MHSAA All-Star Game at Detroit's Comerica Park on June 20, including players from Westland John Glenn, Detroit Country Day, Birmingham Brother Rice and Salem High.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Local players shine at All-Star game in Detroit

Andrew Vaillencourt

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It will be a night to remember for the 50 Michigan High School baseball all-stars, who were awarded the opportunity to close out the season at Comerica Park in Detroit Thursday night.

The players were split into two teams, East and West, and played a nine inning ballgame at the stadium the Detroit Tigers call home. The East All-Stars came out victorious, defeating the West 11-3.

The West team got the scoring

started, getting two runs in the second inning, but the East took over after that, scoring three in the third and never looking back. A five-run seventh inning blew the game open.

Almost a dozen players from the Hometown Life coverage area participated in the game, nine on the East and two on the West. Two of the game's biggest contributors hailed from the Plymouth-Canton school district.

To add even more local flavor, Novi's Sophie Psiakis sang the National Anthem and God Bless America.

The East squad also featured two area coaches. Leading the East was

Livonia Franklin's Matt Fournier, who was joined by John Glenn coach Lawrence Scheffer as an assistant.

Fournier said that it was an honor to be selected as the East coach and that it was even more special he got to attend with his son, Cal. He placed an emphasis on making sure the kids enjoyed the experience and had fun, and ran the game just like the MLB managers do during the MLB All-Star game. Everyone on both rosters played a good portion of the game.

Here's a rundown of all 11 players with a recap on their performance:

See BASEBALL, Page 2B

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Baseball

Continued from Page 1B

Nate Blain, Canton, East

Blain was one of the game's most productive players. He played the back half of the game and went 2-for-2 at the plate with a double, RBI single, two steals and two runs. His speed and power were both on display. Blain will play baseball at Madonna.

"It was awesome, it was my first time playing at Comerica Park," Blain said. "It's been a while since a Canton Chief was selected for the all-star game, so that was pretty awesome to hear. It felt awesome, I was playing with a lot of good players and I felt like I stood out tonight and that made me feel good."

Bobby Cavin, Livonia Stevenson, East

The Spartans catcher played the second half of the game and had three at-bats out of the cleanup spot. He went 1-for-2 with a walk, single and a steal — his first of the year. He will play baseball at Oakland University.

"It's very humbling," Cavin said. "It's a great last hurrah in high school baseball to play with and against a bunch of my friends. It's mind-blowing to play on a field where MLB guys that I looked up to my entire life play."

Aaron Dolney, Detroit Country Day, East

Dolney, who is Nebraska bound, started the game at catcher. He went 1-for-2 in his two at-bats, collecting a single.

"It means a lot to me because I'm coming out here and competing with the best of the best in the state of Michigan and seeing who the other competition is," Dolney said. "In any old high school game there's one or two really good kids on each team, but here, up and down each lineup, calling pitches, it's hard to pitch around kids — there's no easy guys to get out."

Alex Finney, Cranbrook, East

Finney entered in the second half of the game and had two at-bats. He went 1-for-1 with a single and a walk, and scored a run. He is headed to Ohio University.

"It's an amazing feeling, a lot of guys my size get overlooked and it just feels great to be out here with all the big guys," Finney said. "It feels great, it's an amazing experience."

Tito Flores, Brother Rice, East

Flores started the game in center field and hit third for the East team. He went 0-for-2 with a pair of flyouts and had an error in the field. He was the leader and star player for the Warriors this season, who reached the state semifinals, and will play baseball at Michigan, which is currently in the College World Series.

"It's a great honor to be out here playing with the guys you've played against or played with some or most of your life," Flores said. "Coming out here, you feel like a kid in a candy store, you get the clubhouse treatment, you come out here for pregame and you're stretching and you're just like wow. It's a blessing to be out here and I'm super thankful to be selected."

Cal Fournier, Livonia Franklin, East

Fournier, who made the game with his dad, played in the outfield during the second half of the game and went 0-for-2 in his two plate appearances. He will attend Madonna.

"It's a huge honor to be considered one of the best seniors in the state of Michigan," Fournier said. "To be able to come out here was truly awesome, I felt like a big leaguer on the field, it was great. ... (My dad) is the reason why I fell in love with baseball and playing for him these past few years for high school and getting to play here for my last game with him, it's awesome."

Nasir Frederick, Wayne Memorial, East

The speedy outfielder played center field during the second half of the game. He made a couple nice running catches and had two at-bats out of the lead-off spot. He went 0-for-1, but reached twice, once on a walk and once after he made it safely to first on a dropped third strike. He also scored two runs. He'll play baseball at Coastal Carolina University.

"It's an honor to be out here with all my friends that I've met through the game of baseball," Frederick said. "It felt great. I felt really loose out here, I gotta put on a show for my family because they're all here. It's a big league field, so I have to make it look good."

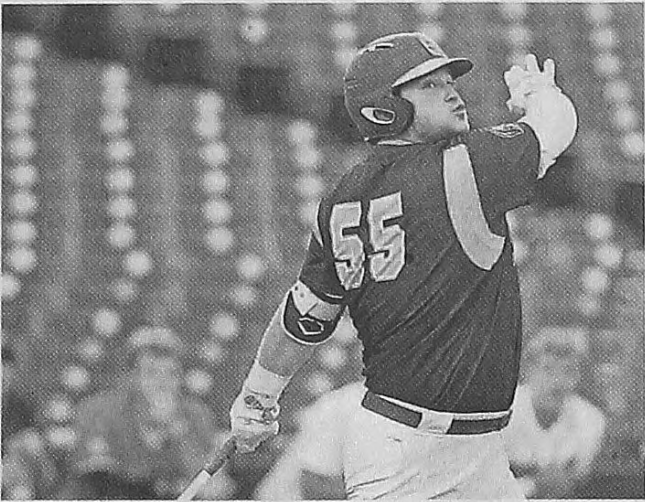
Carlton Harper, Salem, East

Harper had arguably the game's biggest hit. He started at third base for the East and hit second. He went 1-for-2 with a 2-run triple that gave the East a 3-2 lead in the third inning. Harper is headed to Long Island University Brooklyn.

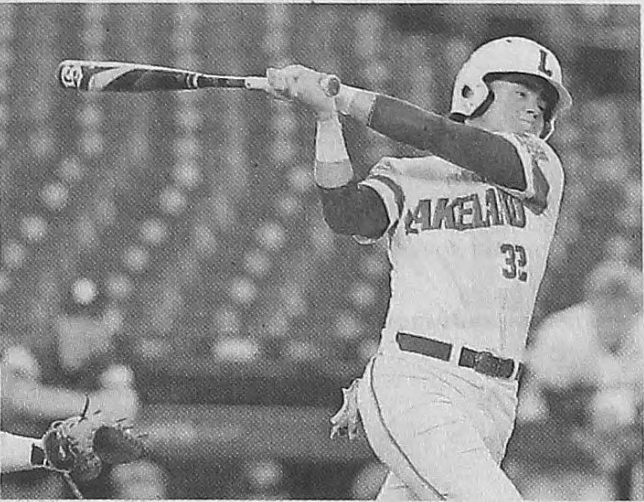
"It feels amazing, last year I came here and it was just a dream of mine to make it. Once I found out I was in it, I was extremely excited and couldn't wait to play," Harper said. "It felt great (to get the triple), I was behind in the count and I got back even and I knew he was going to throw me a fastball and he left it up and I hit it out front and drove it to the right center gap. My speed allowed me to get a triple."

With both Harper and Blain standing out, Harper says it shows that the Plymouth Canton schools are a great place to be for baseball.

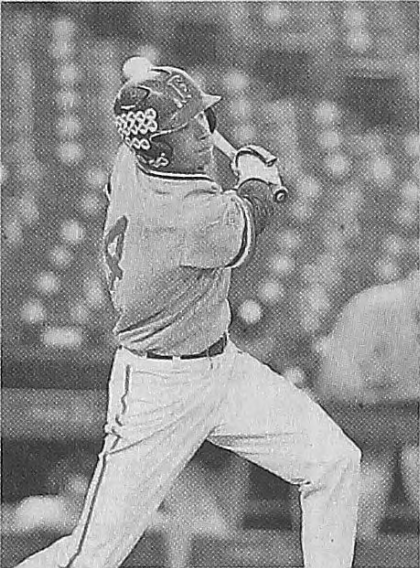
"It says P-CEP is a really good district for baseball, a lot of good players come out of here and the KLAA too," Harper said. "I'm excited to represent my school."



Stevenson Spartan Bobby Cavan watches a foul ball exit the playing field at Comerica.



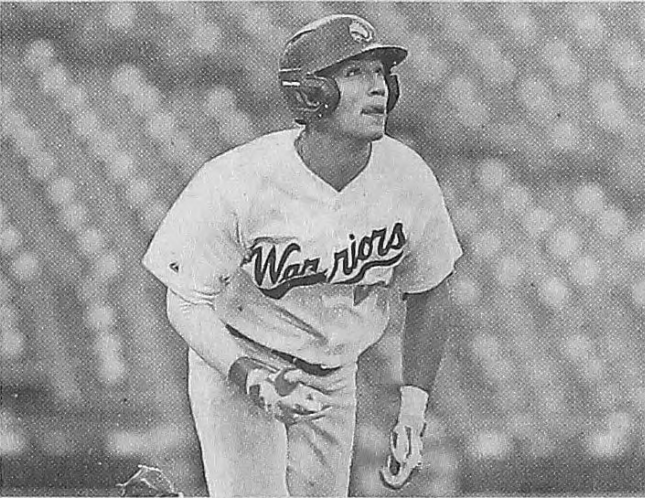
Lakeland High player Trent Farquhar takes a cut at a pitch. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



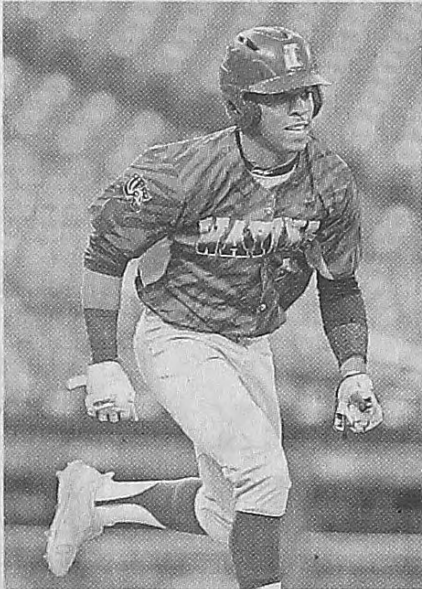
Livonia Franklin player Cal Fournier takes a swing.



Nate Blain celebrates just as he crosses the plate, scoring a run.



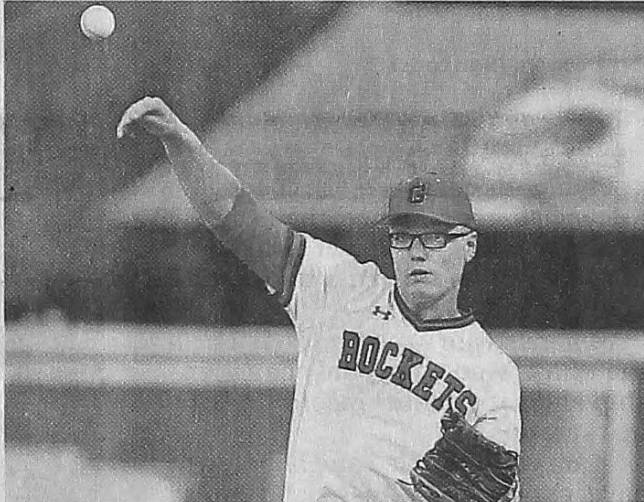
Dirt flies from his cleats as Brother Rice player Tito Flores follows the arc of his hit and heads for first base during the MHSAA All Star Game at Comerica Park.



After swinging and missing a third strike, that the catcher missed, Wayne Memorial's Nasir Fredrick takes off for first base — and is safe on a throwing error.



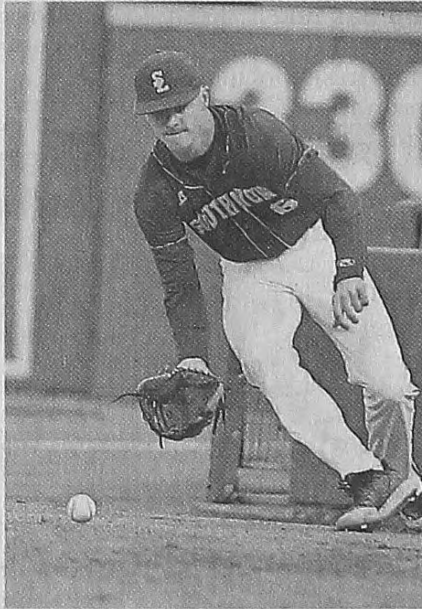
Detroit Country Day's Aaron Dolney was behind the plate for a few innings at Comerica.



Westland John Glenn Chad Stevens pitched, played in the outfield and batted at the All Star Game. Here he warms up in right field.



Salem High player Carlton Harper takes a swing on June 20 at Comerica Park.



South Lyon right fielder Nate Logan scoops up a basehit that reaches him in foul territory during the MHSAA All Star Game.

Chad Stevens, John Glenn, East

The Rockets ace did it all for the East team. He started at DH, batting in the five-spot, pitched an inning and played right field. He walked twice at the plate. On the mound, he pitched one inning and allowed two runs on two hits while striking out one. He is going to Hillsdale College.

"I'm honored to be selected to play in this game, not many people get to be selected for this game and I just had a blast," Stevens said. "Being out here is probably one of the best experiences of my life. The guys I'm around are great ballplayers, I actually learned a lot from them, they're great players. This is definitely an opportunity of a lifetime. You dream of playing in the bigs as a kid and now I'm playing in a big league stadium, so I feel like a little kid again, it's like a dream come true."

Trent Farquhar, Lakeland, West

Farquhar played the second half of the game and had two plate appearances. He went 1-for-2 with a single. He will play baseball at Bowling Green Uni-

versity.

"It was awesome," Farquhar said. "Being selected to the game is a great honor that I didn't take lightly. My motto is you deserve everything you earn. ... Playing with all these legit guys and great competition was awesome. They're all great guys, great teammates, I love playing with them."

Nate Logan, South Lyon, West

Logan started in right field for the West and hit ninth. He made some nice catches in the field and went 0-for-1 with a flyout in his only at-bat. He is headed to Grand Valley State University.

"It was a tremendous honor being named to such an elite team with such great talent," Logan said. "It was an amazing experience playing in front of my friends and family and playing alongside some of the most talented guys in the state at such an incredible venue was an experience I'll never forget."

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avaiilienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Novi's Pheiffer named soccer coach of the year

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After leading Novi to its second straight state championship, Novi girls soccer coach Todd Pheiffer has been named Large School Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association (MIHSSCA).

It's the second year in a row Pheiffer has taken home the award.

"I am extremely honored to be selected as the Large School Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association for the second year in a row," Pheiffer said. "To be selected by my fellow coaches for this award is very humbling because there are so many great high school coaches that give up so much of their time to help students not only be better athletes, but be better people as well. Even though I am the one receiving this award, this award represents all of the hard work, commitment and dedication that the girls have put into this program. I have been so lucky to have been able to work with such amazing student-athletes at Novi High School and if it were not for them, I would not have had all the successes I have had as their coach."

Novi finished off an undefeated season by beating KLAA foe Plymouth in the state title game 5-0. To reach the title game, Novi also had to beat Forest Hills Central, Grand Blanc, Livonia Stevenson, Brighton and Hartland.

The Wildcats also finished as the No. 1 team in the entire country according to Top Drawer Soccer.

In addition to state coach of the year, Pheiffer was named district and regional coach of the year.

Novi senior Jessie Bandyk was recently named Michigan's Miss Soccer, and was joined by teammate Avery Fenchel on the Dream Team.

"I would also like to personally thank my two assistant coaches, Mike Stratton and Luke McDonald who were both instrumental to all of the successes Novi girls soccer had this



Novi soccer coach Todd Pheiffer accepts the regional championship trophy. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

year and our extraordinary Athletic Director Brian Gordon, who not only understands the importance of educational athletics in kids lives, but

works tirelessly to promote and provide opportunities and experiences for all high school student athletes," Pheiffer said.

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HOCKEY

Plymouth's USA Hockey has eight first-round choices in NHL Draft

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The United States Hockey National Team Development Program, which is based in Plymouth, had an absolutely loaded roster this past season and was full of future NHL stars.

Those players took the first step towards becoming NHL players Friday night, when eight from the program were drafted in the first round of the NHL Draft.

"Very excited for our players, they work so hard. Coaching staff, everyone around works hard," USA Hockey executive director Pat Kelleher said in an interview on NBC Sports Network during the draft. "The players, their families, it's a big night for them and a big night for USA hockey."

Here they are, in order:

No. 1 overall - C Jack Hughes, New Jersey Devils

Hughes was viewed as the obvious top selection for months. He is loaded with star potential and should start in the NHL right away. Last season he scored 34 goals and had 78 assists in 50 games.

No. 5 overall - C Alex Turcotte, Los Angeles Kings

Like Hughes, Turcotte lit up the scoreboard last season in 37 games. He scored 27 goals and totaled 35 assists.

"Very excited for our players, they work so hard. Coaching staff, everyone around works hard."

Pat Kelleher
USA Hockey executive director

No. 9 overall - C Trevor Zegras, Anaheim Ducks

Zegras, who many thought would be a target of the Red Wings at No. 6, scored 26 goals and tallied 61 assists in 60 games last season.

No. 12 overall - LW Matthew Boldy, Minnesota Wild

In 64 games last year, Boldy scored 33 goals and had 48 assists.

No. 13 overall - G Spencer Knight, Florida Panthers

It's rare to see a goalie go this high, but that tells you how good Knight is. He went 32-4 last season with a .913 save percentage and 2.36 goals against average.

No. 14 overall - D Cam York, Philadelphia Flyers

In 63 games, the defenseman scored 14 goals and had 51 assists. The Flyers traded back with the Coyotes to take York, who is signed to play at Michigan this fall.

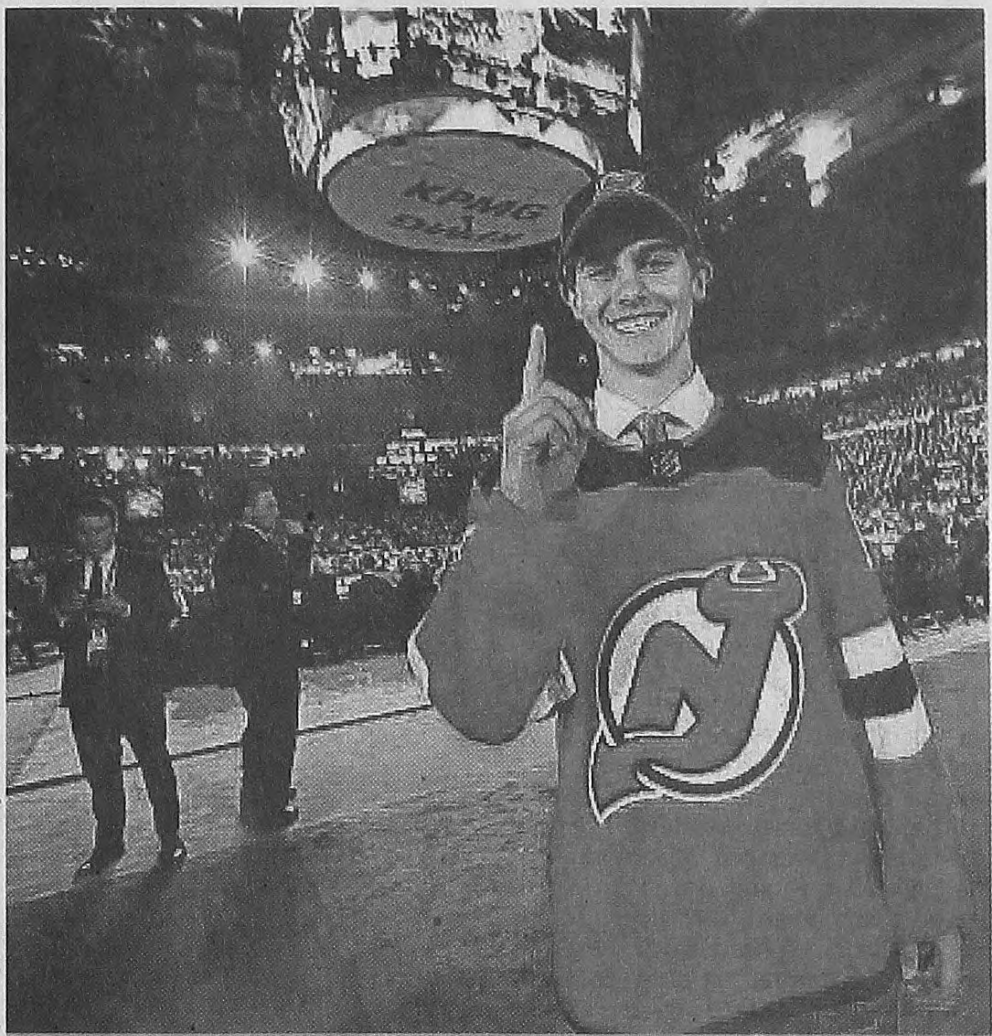
No. 15 overall - RW Cole Caufield, Montreal Canadiens

An electric goal-scorer, the undersized forward tallied 72 goals and 28 assists in 64 games.

No. 30 overall - C John Beecher, Boston Bruins

In 63 games, he scored 15 goals and had 28 assists. His stats aren't as impressive as the other forwards on this list, but he was stuck playing behind Hughes, Turcotte and Zegras. Beecher is committed to Michigan.

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avai-lienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.



Jack Hughes, who played in Plymouth for the US National Development Team Program, was drafted No. 1 overall in the NHL Draft. NEW JERSEY DEVILS



John Beecher played two seasons for the USA National Team Development Program. RENA LAVERTY/ PROVIDED PHOTO



Tracking the puck into his USA crest during a 2017-18 game is goalie Spencer Knight. RENA LAVERTY/USA HOCKEY

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Tennis

Continued from Page 1B

sky was the limit.

"You really had to focus on doubles," Jones said. "If you could win four state championships in doubles and possibly have one state champ at singles, you could win a state championship, and that's exactly what we did."

Northville's doubles teams became feared across the state and were the strength of Jones' teams.

Jones will take plenty of great memories with her into retirement, but one in particular stands out. In the final match of the season against Midland Dow in 2017, then sophomore Connie Gao dislocated her shoulder and was forced to change her entire approach to the game. In 2018, she came back and couldn't serve overhand.

Jones worked and worked with her and finally told her she wanted her to serve underhand. Gao resisted, but after a while, got better and better. The junior finally believed, and despite all odds, became a state champion, winning the No. 4 doubles flight with her freshman partner.

"That was the best victory I think I've

"It was the perfect breaking time for us, we can run and play again."

Linda Jones
Northville tennis coach

ever witnessed," Jones said.

Gao would follow that up with another state title this year.

Northville will forever have a special place in Jones' heart. Her father graduated from the school in 1940 and she graduated a Mustang in 1970. Her coaching has left a winning culture within the tennis program.

"I'll miss the girls and my relationship with them," Jones said. "Most of them when they move on will text me later and tell me what they're doing or connect with me on Facebook. ... I'll miss being a part of Northville high school. I'll miss being a part of the Northville tradition."

Reach Andrew Vaillencourt at avai-lienc@hometownlife.com, 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.



The Northville girls tennis team poses after winning the 2018 state championship. Coaches Linda and Dan Jones stand at either side. COURTESY OF LINDA JONES

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**City of Plymouth
Zoning Board of Appeals Notice
Thursday, July 11, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
City Hall Commission Chambers**

201 S. Main Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170
Website: www.plymouthmi.gov Phone: (734) 453-1234 ext. 232

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

1. Z19-08 Non-Use Variance Request for 717 McKinley
Front Yard Setback
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential District
Applicant: David Latawiec
2. Z19-09 Non-Use Variance Request for 500 S. Harvey
Fence Height exceeding 30 inches in front yard on Wing Street side
Zoned: O-1, Office Service District
Applicant: Bill Leon

All interested persons are invited to attend.

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

writing or calling the following:
Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
201 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 234

Published June 27, 2019

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THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 City in Orange County, California
11 Extended animal shelter initiative
21 Regular guy
22 Well-practiced pieces
23 Good snorkeling sites
24 Within a single school
25 Have a brawl
26 — liver (dish rich in iron)
28 Secret agent
29 — -mell (confused)
30 Frozen water
31 Narrow sea routes
33 Title girl in a J.D. Salinger story
35 Swift feline
39 "Have a Heart" singer
41 Total up again
45 People giving accounts
49 Many Bosnians
51 Socratic "T"

DOWN

- 52 Homer Simpson voicer Dan
56 Opiate, e.g.
58 Johnson of old comedy
59 Some rupee spenders
60 Most tranquil
61 Ring around the collar?
62 Cellars
64 "Mercy me!"
65 Ring around the collar?
67 Diet for a boxer
69 Get a move on
72 Discussion venue
74 Ponchos' kin
76 — Fernando Valley
77 Major U.S. field yield
80 Soft, knit fabrics
81 Herr von Bismarck
82 She admired the Man of Steel
83 Perfume ingredient
85 Suffix with meth-
86 Soothing additives
88 Like needles with fibers through them

DOWN

- 89 Resembling a homet, say
91 "Republic" philosopher
93 Largest parts of brains
97 Memo start
99 "Dream on!"
103 Bk. after Exodus
104 Send cyberjunk to
107 Kind
109 Took illegally
110 Electric resistance measure
113 Long-life-cycle plants
116 Cabal boss
118 "Way to go, hero!"
119 Field of a retail boss
120 Gazpacho, basically
121 Warnings about shady deals

DOWN

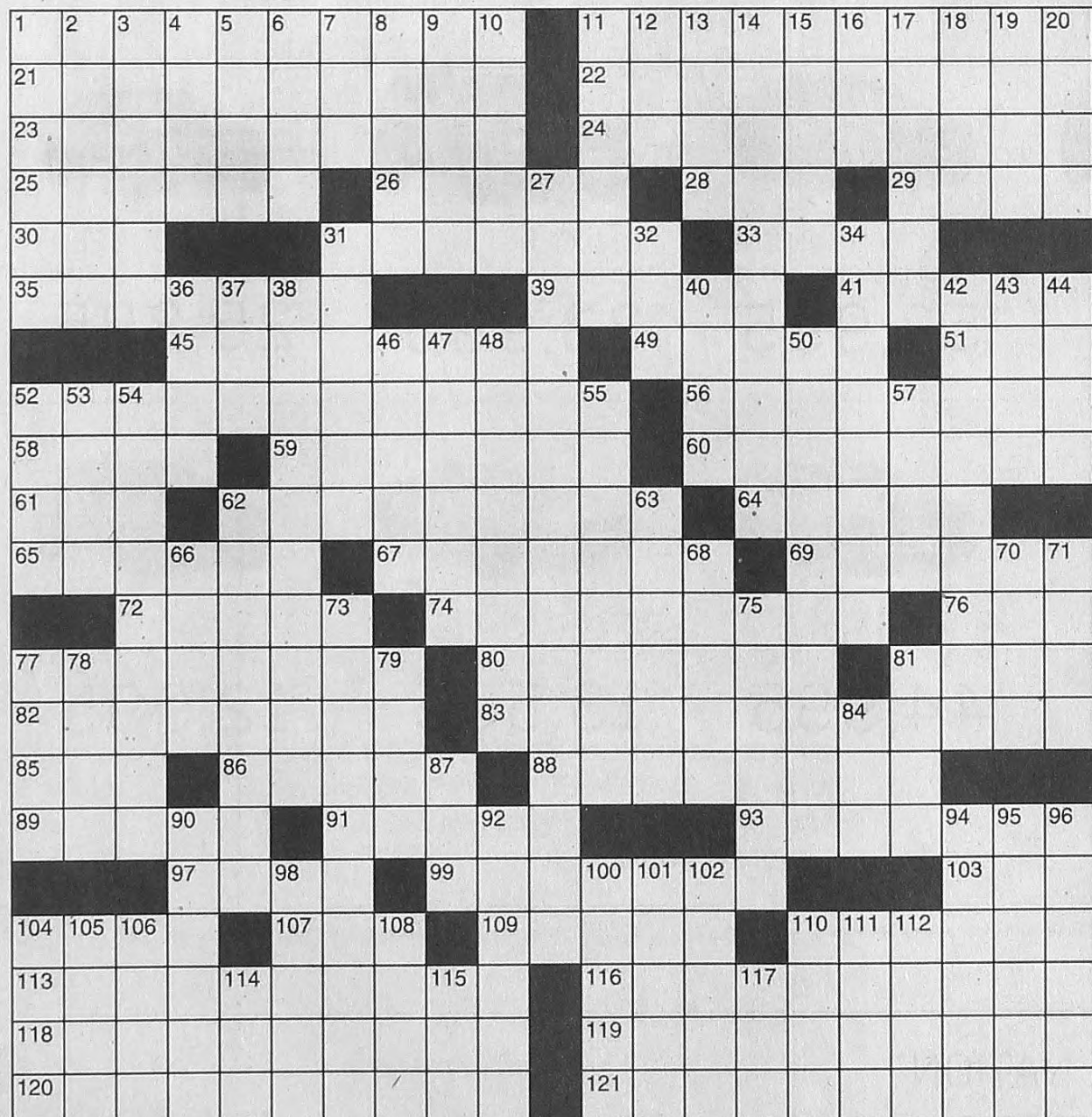
- 8 Thrust out
9 As of now
10 Model 3 car
11 Former Sony record label
12 Where lions lie
13 Makes a selection
14 Be guilty of
15 Waiters' loads
16 24-hr. cash cache
17 Certain wig
18 Put to work
19 Verbal
20 Tony-winning Carter
27 Method of valuing inventories
31 Sedimentary rocks
32 She's part of the fam
34 North Pole wife
36 One-named Art Deco artist
37 Summer top
38 Free of artificial ingredients
40 XXX, maybe
42 Affirms as true
43 Oration station

DOWN

- 44 With 46-Down, held together with a plumbing adhesive
46 See 44-Down
47 Fill with love
48 Consign to an inferior rank
50 "Glass half full" outlook
52 Announce
53 Sector
54 Uses a wok
55 Bowl over
57 Alero's make
62 — Center (Brooklyn arena)
63 World Cup sport
66 Electrojet particles
68 Loma of literature
70 Sol followers
71 Hydroxyl compound
73 Corners on the market
75 Hook up (to)
77 Hawk's nail
78 "Game of Thrones" actress
79 Lime discard
81 Bygone, quaintly

DOWN

- 84 — Lingus (carrier to Dublin)
87 Announce
90 One of the Ewings on "Dallas"
92 Even choice
94 One on in-line skates
95 Acting king
96 Heads off
98 Rio — (mining company)
100 Fishing bait
101 Of a pelvis bone
102 Three-time Grand Prix champion
104 Roast rod
105 Colombian cash
106 William Saroyan's "My Name Is —"
108 Deck in a boxing ring
110 Korbut on a balance beam
111 Loaf end
112 Musical "Auntie"
114 Rabid fan
115 Hitter Gehrig
117 Whale pod



SUDOKU

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

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!

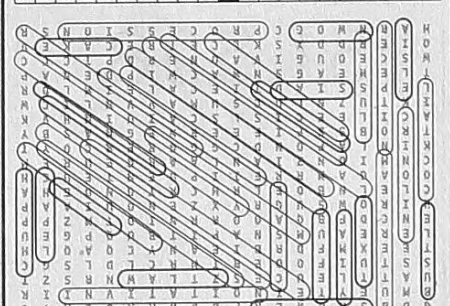
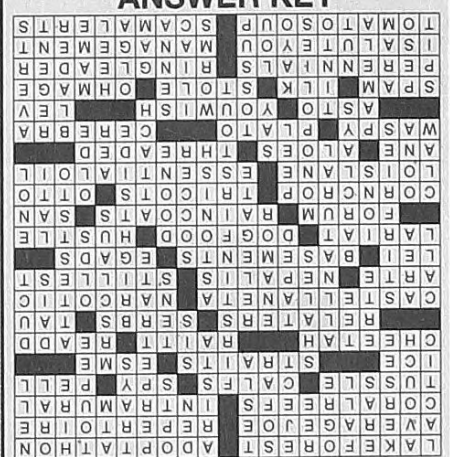
WEDDING WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

ATISLE
ASCOT
BLUSHER
BOUQUET
BOUTONNIERE
BRIDESMAID
BUFFET
BUSTLE
BUTTERCREAM
CAKE
CALLIGRAPHY
CANDLES
CENTERPIECE
CHAPEL
CHARGER
CHUPPAH
COCKTAIL
CORSAGE
CRINOLINE
DAIS
DINNER
ENGRAVED
FAMILY
GOWN
INVITATION
MARRIAGE
OFFICIANT
PLACE CARDS
PROCESSION
RECEIVING
RECEPTION
RECESSIONAL
SHOWER
STATIONERY
TIE
TUXEDO
WALTZ

ANSWER KEY



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

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

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Canton, Sub-Wide Garage Sale, 46573 Brookridge Dr. Michigan, 48187 Fri: 10-4, Sat: 10-4, Sun: 10-4. Garage sale items, collectibles, clothing, children's toys. Dir: South off of Saltz, 1/4 mile east of Beck

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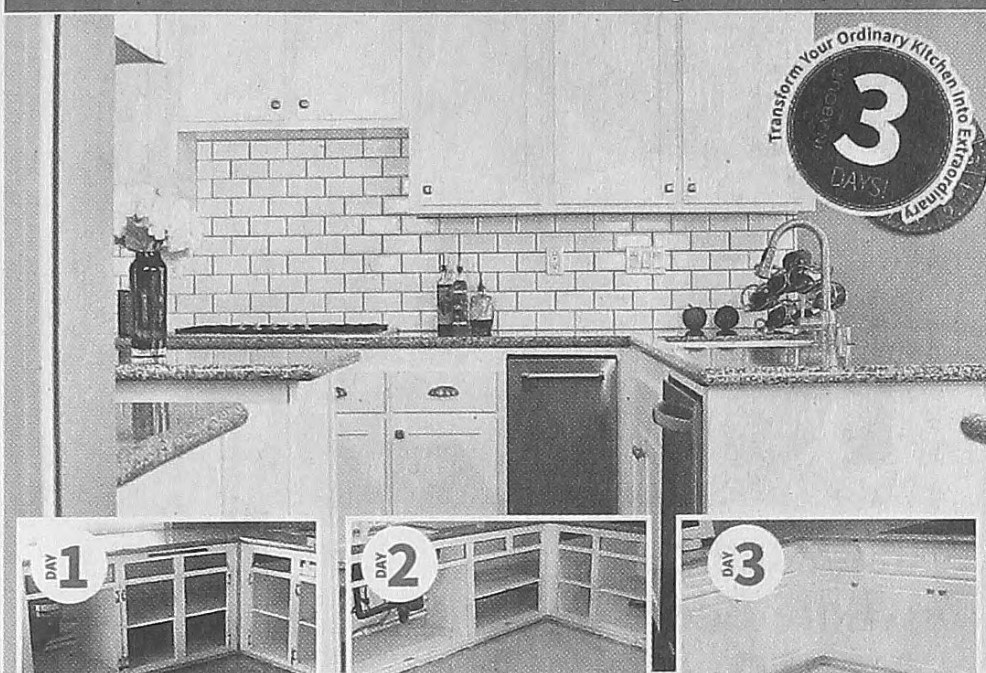
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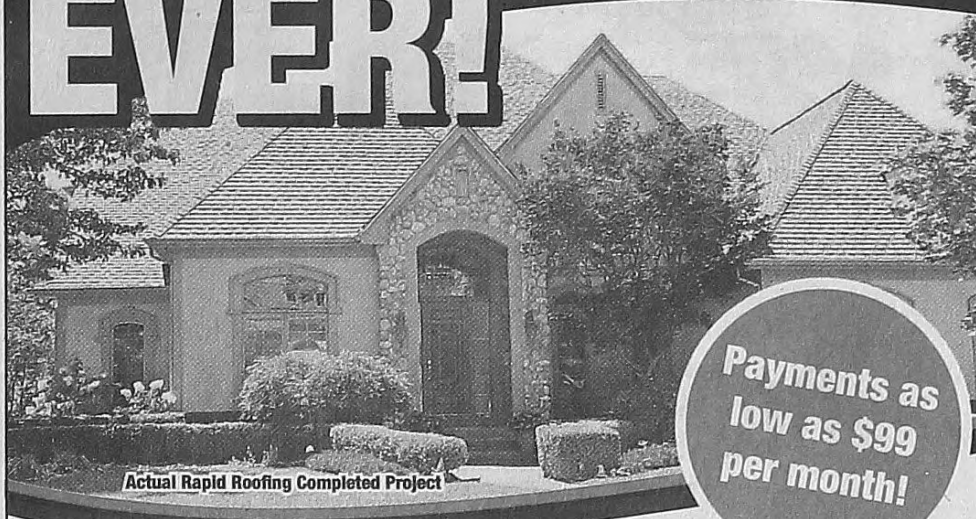
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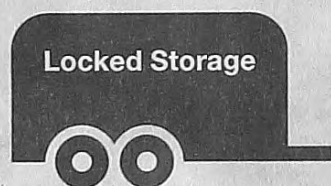
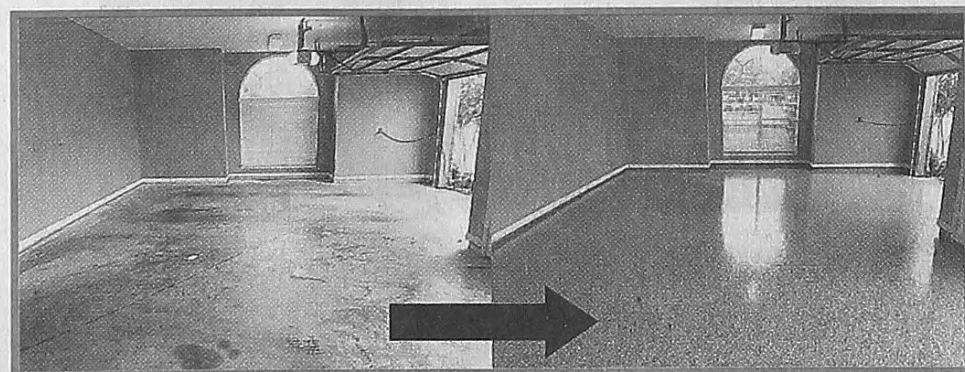
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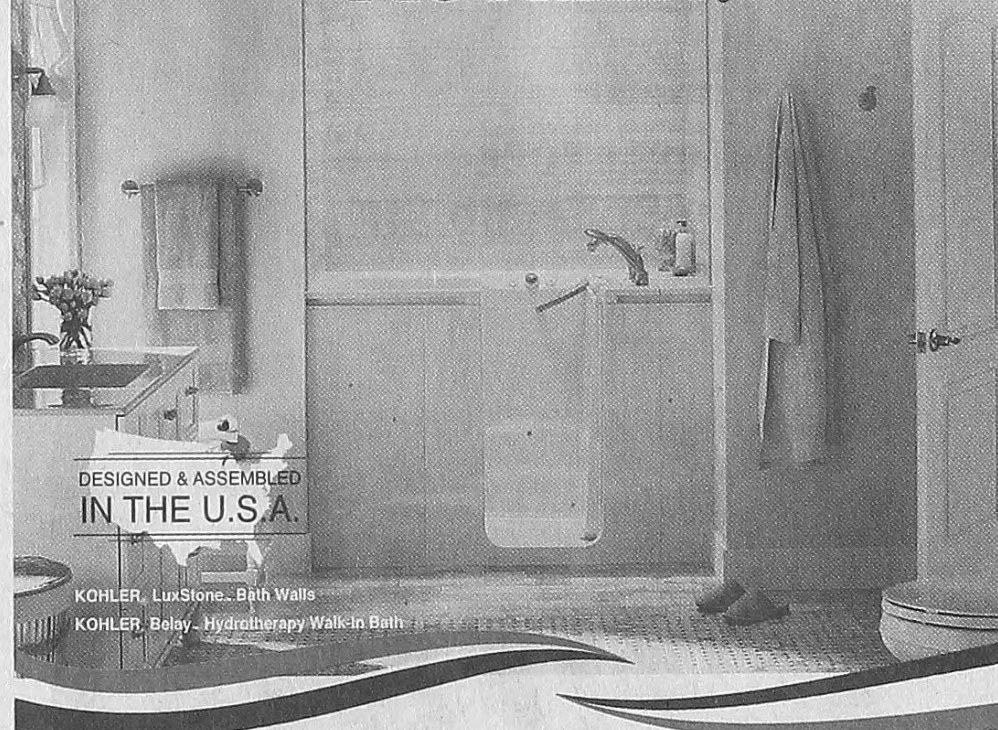
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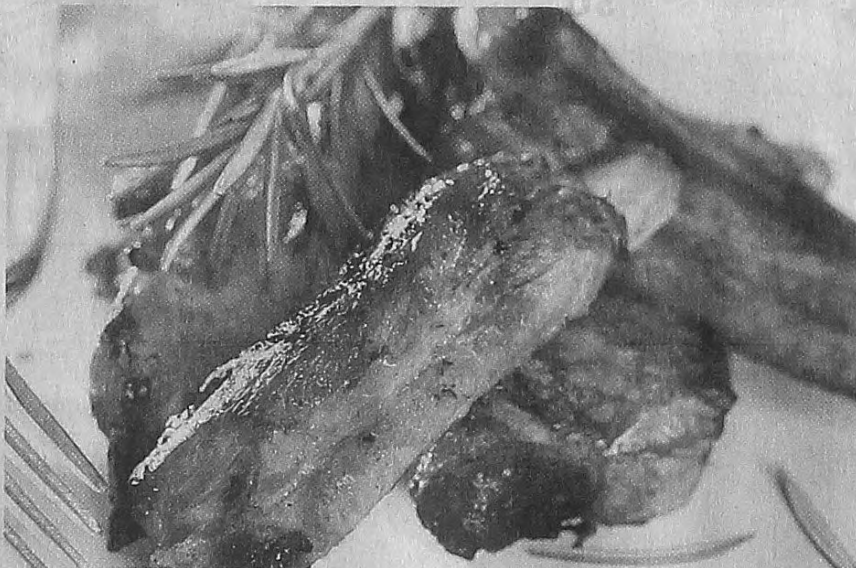
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