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## Four area Rite Aids join Amazon Counter

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Are you headed out to pick up a prescription, but expect to get that shipment of clothing you ordered from Amazon this afternoon?

The Seattle-based online retailer last week launched its Amazon Counter ser-

vice, which delivers packages to Rite Aid pharmacies across the country, including four in the Hometown Life area.

Customers can head to one of the stores and pick up their product after receiving an email that the item has been delivered. Customers show the emailed barcode sent to them by Amazon to pick up their package.

The company announced 100 stores would launch the program.

The following area Rite Aid stores are participating in Amazon Counter:

- 37399 Six Mile in Livonia
- 33330 W. 12 Mile in Farmington Hills
- 41820 10 Mile in Novi
- 5520 Drake in West Bloomfield

If your local Rite Aid isn't listed, don't fret. More than 1,500 stores across the country are expected to offer the service by the end of the year.

The company, which operates fulfillment centers in Livonia and Romulus, says customers can use the Counter

See **AMAZON**, Page 2A



The interior of the new Smoothie King in Livonia features a red-and-white motif. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Smoothie King opens storefront in Livonia

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's a new monarch in Livonia. And they sell smoothies.

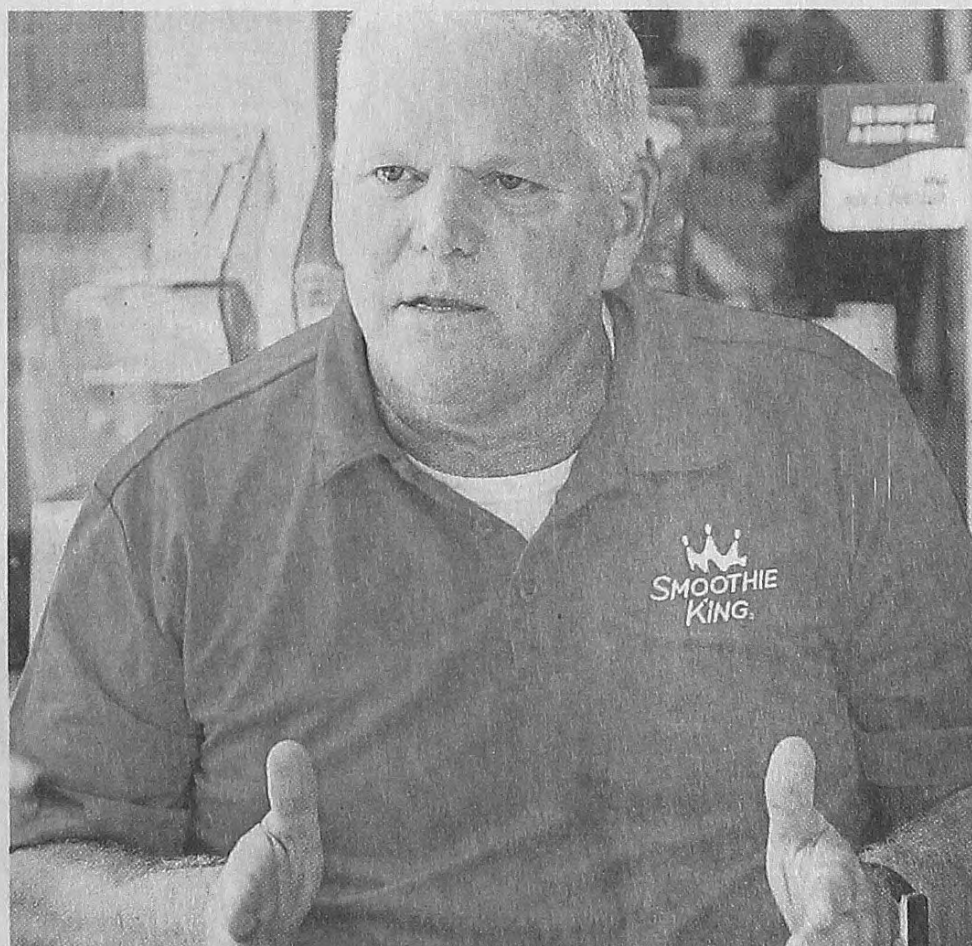
Livonia's newest place to grab some refreshment opened Monday in Wonderland Village at Plymouth and Middlebelt: Smoothie King, the Dallas-based retailer with more than 1,000 stores across the globe selling blends of fruit, vegetables and other goodness to those looking to quench their thirst.

The Livonia shop, located in the space previously occupied by Bigby Coffee, is just the third Smoothie King to open in Michigan. Another opened in St. Clair Shores earlier this spring, and the third has operated previously in Marquette.

Locating a restaurant in Livonia was a logical move, said Kevin Andrachek, chief operating officer for Northern Blends LLC, the company holding the franchise.

"We targeted Livonia because it's a good, blue collar town. It's got our kind of people," he said. "It's close to Westland, it's close to Garden City, where you've got the kind of people you want."

See **SMOOTHIE KING**, Page 2A



Smoothie King COO for Michigan Kevin Andrachek talks about the business.

## Drake Road bridge closes Monday for construction

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Through the summer and fall, traffic around the Drake Road bridge in Farmington Hills will move slower as the structure receives a partial replacement and other repairs. The bridge will close Monday and work is expected to continue through October.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is putting \$11.8 million into road and bridge work along 10 miles of M-5 between Eight Mile and 13 Mile roads. Along with the Drake bridge, near the intersection of Drake and Nine Mile roads, the bridge on Grand River Avenue, near Grand River and Halsted Road, has been closed since April for similar repairs.

The work, which will ultimately extend the life of the bridge, will include concrete repair and replacement, pavement conditioning, asphalt replacement, curb and gutter repair, concrete deck overlay, approach work, drainage structure repairs, sign replacement and replacing half of the bridge. The half needs replacement due to "high-load hits" that caused damage to the bottom of the structure.

"MDOT is increasing the under clearance of the Drake bridge, the height, due to the fact this bridge has had a number of high-load hits, (which is) vehicles too tall hitting the bridge. We expect this bridge repair will help with that," project manager Jeff Pitt wrote in an email.

As the Drake bridge will be closed through October, traffic will look different for a few months. Northbound drivers on Drake Road will be detoured to E. Nine Mile Road, N. Farmington Road and W. Freedom Road.

Southbound drivers will take a detour through E. Freedom Road, S. Farmington Road and W. Nine Mile Road.

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Commuters will have to find a way around the Drake Road bridge closure during construction.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM





## Amazon

Continued from Page 1A

program with same-day, one-day or two-day shipping. The company continues to offer lockers across the region that customers can send orders to, though those can fill up quickly.

The Counter program ships packages to stores, who hold them in available storage space.

"Creating a seamless, convenient customer experience is a key element of our strategy and digital transformation," said Jocelyn Konrad, executive vice president of Pharmacy and Retail Operations of Rite Aid, in a news release. "Being the first store partner for Counter in the U.S. is a differentiator for Rite Aid and we believe our partnership with Amazon, that includes Locker, creates a stronger in-store experience for existing customers and new customers that come in to pick up their packages."

Contact David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com).

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## Smoothie King

Continued from Page 1A

Work on the former coffee shop began earlier this spring and opened to customers at 7 a.m.

Andrachek, a White Lake resident, has worked for Bob Evans and Cracker Barrel, and cites the good ethics brought to the table by the Klebba family, who owns the Northern Blends franchise, as a reason he jumped aboard.

"It was the passion that the Klebbas had when I talked to them," he said. "In today's business world, you don't find people like this anymore. They believe in what they're doing."

After trying some smoothies at a friend's store, he was hooked. He's hoping area residents who enjoy a good smoothie will be just as hooked.

The shops do the best around neighborhoods and those "gym rats" who are looking for an energetic boost before or after pumping iron.

"We try to locate near gyms and schools," said Bob Bannatz, district leader for the franchise.

Some of the more popular smoothies include the Caribbean Way, which contains strawberries, bananas, a papaya juice blend and turbinado; and the Pineapple Surf with pineapple, strawberries, a kiwi apple juice blend, turbinado, a dairy whey blend and vanilla flavor.

In addition to the store at Plymouth and Middlebelt, Andrachek said they hope to open another near the newer LA Fitness on Seven Mile just west of Middlebelt in Livonia, as well as Allen Park, Royal Oak, Flint, Portage and Mount Pleasant.

"When you have the opportunity to build something, it's exciting," he said. "We're going to build 50 in the next five years."

While the store opened to the public July 1, it will hold its grand opening celebration July 20.

That day will see contests for customers to win free smoothies for a year, as well as a visit from Armani Williams, a NASCAR driver who has autism.

A portion of all smoothie sales that day will go to the Armani Williams



Smoothie King sits at 11003 Middlebelt. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

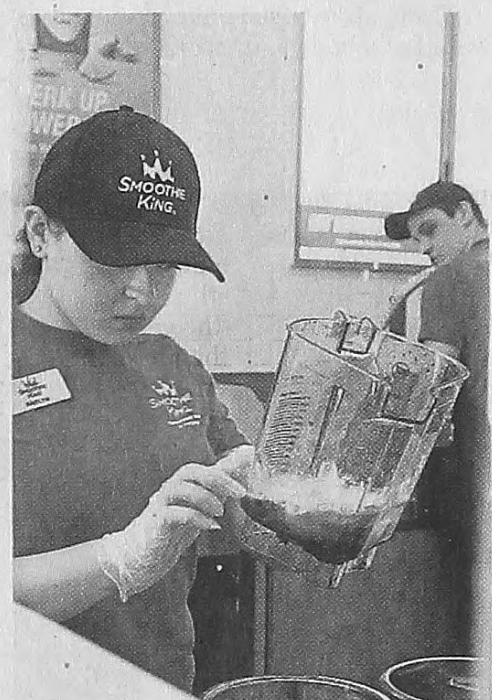
Race 4 Autism Foundation to support autism research and promote awareness.

The Livonia store continues to seek employees, including team members and team leaders. Those interested can apply by visiting the Northern Blends website at [northernblendslc.com](http://northernblendslc.com).

Andrachek said he's pleased to see the product of the work his team has put in come to fruition in Livonia. He's hoping he'll encourage people to try their product and perhaps lead a healthier lifestyle.

"Just look around. You've got people enjoying a smoothie instead of eating hamburgers. And they truly enjoy the smoothies," he said. "It sounds kind of hokey, but I think it's kind of cool because that's the way the world is going, a little more healthy."

Contact David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @david-veselenak.



Kaitlyn Rhon prepares a Smoothie King beverage for the blender.

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## Kirksey leisure pool to receive face lift

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The date is set for the extensive renovation of the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center's leisure pool.

Starting Monday, Livonia officials expect to close the pool with the goal of eight weeks of construction that will end around Labor Day. Throughout the project, the splash pad and lap pool will remain open.

When all is said and done, the pool will have new decking, gutters, drains, lining, and surfacing. There will also be a slew of new toys for kids to enjoy, like dumping buckets, small water slides and water cannons. The pool's water wheel will be removed and replaced with a "water table," which will allow young swimmers to get creative.

"Kids of all ages can come up to the water and stop it, make puddles or whatever they want," said Stephanie Manoogian, the aquatics coordinator for the city's parks and recreation department.

Though the facility's 250-foot water slide won't be replaced, it will receive "preventative maintenance."

"This is going to look like a completely new pool when it's all said and done," said Ted Davis, superintendent for Livonia parks and recreation. "This is original, and it certainly has been well-used. This is one of those things where we need to improve our offerings and grow and change as the community wants and needs change."

Davis said the cost of the project will round out to around \$500,000 and will be the first major update the leisure pool has received since it opened in 2003.

"This was great when it was put in, but we can do better now," he said.

Davis and Manoogian said they understand the summer is short in Michigan and more people head to the pool when it's warm. But the summer time frame was a strategic choice.

"We have three outdoor pools that are open, we still have a splash pad that will be accessible," Davis said. "We wanted to do this at a time frame where people would have other options to go and swim."

Davis noted that the center's lap pool and splash pad along with the three outdoor pools will be open all summer long when weather permits.

"Yes, more people do swim in the summer. But you have Clements Circle and Botsford and Shelden to go to," he said. "If we were to, say, wait until December to do this, well you can't swim outdoors in Michigan in the winter. That was the reasoning behind it."

Operation times for each outdoor pool can be found on the city's website. Admission is free for Kirksey Recreation members, \$4 for children and senior citizens and \$5 for adult residents.

Contact Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter at @shelby\_tankk.

## Planet Fitness marks end of major renovation project

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's not uncommon to walk into the Planet Fitness in Farmington Hills one night a month and smell pizza. After all, hosting a pizza night is a common event for the "judgment-free" gym chain. But users saw one more dish they don't typically see June 26: cupcakes.

The cupcakes bearing the Planet Fitness logo were for a special occasion: the completed renovations done to the gym, located at 27640 Middlebelt.

"We spare no expense for the celebration today," said Eric Boyd, regional manager for the franchise, who runs several dozen Planet Fitness gyms across the region, at the grand reopening event.

The gym, which has been located in the shopping center on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and 12 Mile for 11 years, saw a major renovation that began last year and wrapped up earlier this summer.

In addition to work in the locker rooms, the lounge for Black Card members was completely gutted and renovated, and new flooring was placed across the entire gym floor.

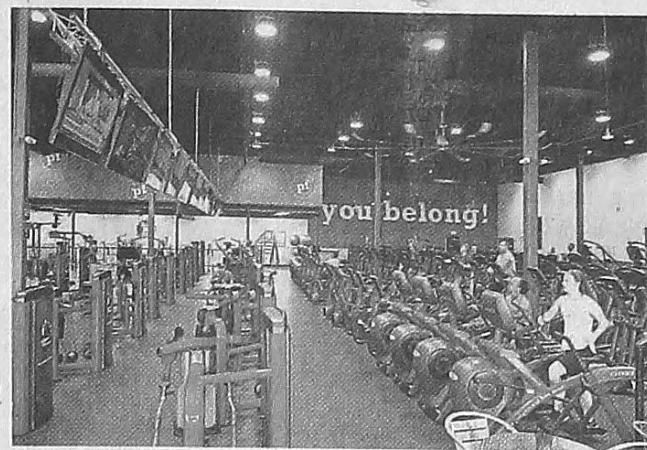
"They redid the whole thing," said Mary Scott, the franchise's marketing manager, of the Black Card lounge. "They've got a nice little separated room for the hydro-massage. This was a pretty big project, redoing this whole area."

The work left the gym closed for a month from mid-May to mid-June, Boyd said.

He said there's a time table from Planet Fitness's corporate offices for keeping clubs updated, and his group tried to keep up more than what's required.

"We usually will meet and/or exceed corporate standards for upgrades," he said.

The amenities all Planet Fitness customers are used to still remain. The Black Card lounge, which is for people who spend a little more on their monthly membership than the base plan, contains massage



Planet Fitness' main room has cardio and muscle toning machines. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

chairs, tanning stations and more. In addition to having lockers in both the men's and women's locker rooms, a few lockers can be accessed from the main gym floor outside of the locker rooms.


The renovated gym joins others owned by the company, located in Garden City, Wayne, Milford, both locations in Livonia and Royal Oak, to name a few. The company will also open a gym at the new Adell Center currently under construction in Novi.

The Planet Fitness at 34634 Warren in Westland, also owned by the franchise, is undergoing renovations and should reopen later this summer, Scott said.

The gym in Farmington Hills is crucial to the franchise, Scott said, as it was the second one owned by the Northville-based group. Having such a longstanding customer base is crucial to their success.

"When you've got members who have been coming here for 10-plus years, it's well-known," Scott said.

Contact David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728.



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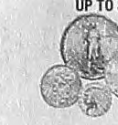
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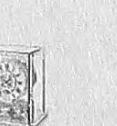
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# Five things to know before Mud Day

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

There's only one day a year that kids can get as messy as they want without having to worry about what mom and dad will say: Wayne County Mud Day.

This year's annual free event is taking place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 9 at Nankin Mills Park in Westland.

Before letting your kids get their filth on, here's everything you need to know about the event.

## What to wear

Kids will, quite literally, be covered from head to toe in mud. Because there's so much filth going around, the county recommends putting on shoes and older clothing that you don't expect to keep after the event.

Swimsuits are also welcome attire, but are still recommended to be old ones that owners don't expect to hold on to afterward.

## Who can join in

The event is for kids 12 years old and younger.

However, parents are seen every year getting in on the action and getting muddy along with their kids to make sure they stay safe.

While parents might be welcome, this isn't an event meant for teens or adults. It's all about the kids having some good, unclean fun during their summer break.

## More than mud

While frolicking in the mud is the best part of Mud Day, there's more to it than that.

Kids can do their own thing and/or participate in the relay races, limbo competition and wheelbarrow races taking place throughout the afternoon.

## Getting clean

The county doesn't expect anyone to let their kids get all dirty and then hop into the new family SUV for the trip home. After everyone has had their fill



Erika and Brody came from Beverly Hills to enjoy a wallow in the mud. KELLY DOBSON/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

of the fun, the Westland Fire Department will help everyone cool off and get clean with a hose down.

## Nankin Mills Park

The park is a Westland staple and

there's plenty to do while you're there.

Located at 33275 Edward Hines Drive, families can make a day trip of the event by checking out the historic Nankin Mills mill and hike some of the county's nature trails while they're in the area.

For more information on Wayne County Mud Day, visit the website or call 734-261-1990.

Contact Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter at @shelby\_tankk.

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# Churchill alum becomes Merchant Marine

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Lifelong Livonia resident Andrew Lang recently said goodbye to his long-time home, near Six Mile Road and Meriman Road, to move to Philadelphia. There, he's looking forward to serving as an electrical engineer with the Naval Sea Service Command, a support branch of the United States Navy. He'll also serve in the Navy reserves as part of its strategic sealift officer program.

This Independence Day, he'll be getting to know the historic Philadelphia before starting a career in service.

Lang, a Livonia Churchill High School graduate, is entering his specific form of maritime service following graduation from the rigorous program at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) in Kings Point, N.Y., on June 15. The school, one of the five federal service academies, is known for being academically and physically challenging for its students throughout the four years they study there. One of those four years is spent working at sea.

"A lot of it is trying to keep your sanity," Lang said. "It's a four-year program but for one year of it you spend out at sea like actually working on a ship. That's physically and mentally tough in and of itself."

Throughout that year, Lang got a taste of what it means to serve his country.

"I was on a military sealift command ship during my cadet time and we would refuel Navy ships at sea, and that was a very cool experience just to be a part of that and to be a part of that ship and its mission," he said. "It was really neat, they do a lot of cool work each and every day and a lot of work that goes unnoticed, but it has to happen."

Lang said, before going to the USMMA, he felt support from his family to pursue a military-focused career. He has an aunt who spent 19 years in the Navy and a brother who serves in the U.S. Air Force. His aunt suggested the USMMA to him, which he hadn't heard of.

"We went on a little college tour trip and hit a bunch of colleges on the east coast," Lang said. "We hit Annapolis and my aunt was saying something about



Andrew Lang, second from right, celebrates with family after his graduation from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. PROVIDED

(the USMMA) and we visited it. It was just kind of love at first sight. I loved everything about it."

Unlike some other federal academies, the USMMA operates under the U.S. Department of Transportation. Though the academy tends to send graduates to the naval reserves, students can opt to serve in a branch of their choosing.

"I love that you can come out of this school and do literally anything you want with your life," Lang said.

Though students can go anywhere following graduation, the school trains them to be licensed merchant marines, meaning they can have a license working aboard a U.S. flag merchant vessel.

Students complete that training in three years because they have to spend

a year at sea. Because of that, Lang, who graduated cum laude with a degree in marine engineering systems, said the expectations the academy sets are high.

"We don't really get a whole lot of breaks and everything is go, go, go," he said. "One of the paths that they offer is a classic engineering program, and it's a lot. Every part is expecting a piece of your time. You go to class for six, seven hours a day and you have two, three hours of homework a day. You're expected to play for one of the sports teams or one of the extra curricular activities, so that's another two hours a night."

Even though its hard, Lang said his peers were a big part of helping him through the program. With a small graduating class of about 200 students this year, the culture at the USMMA is a

tight-knit one.

"You don't get through it by yourself, it's definitely with the people," he said. "You really form a bond that you don't get too many other places."

Because of that, graduation was especially bittersweet.

"A lot of people are really happy to graduate, but it was kind of sad for me just because I knew I wouldn't see most of my buddies for a while," Lang said. "It's a small school and you're friends with just about everybody."

One thing that hangs over the students is the academy's storied history.

"During WWII, when they had that massive sealift of beans, bullets and blankets over to Europe and Asia, it was all done on merchant vessels," Lang said. "That's when my academy was created, and we sent cadets, people at our school, out to these ships to serve and 142 of them died. We have all these great stories of these cadets doing great things out at sea and it's just one of those things where to serve is doing your job."

While tragedy can strike at any moment, Lang said students are taught to "get the job done" no matter the cost. He feels he's been well equipped to do just that. He also thinks his time at Churchill prepared him to make it through the academy in one piece.

"I was in the math, science and computers program at Churchill and I wouldn't be here without those teachers in that program," Lang said. "They did a heck of a job and, basically, I walked into the academic extremely well prepared."

In his work now, Lang will travel to do specific repairs on ships around the country that a Navy crew may not be equipped to handle.

"We're there in the back pocket in case, like, another Desert Storm happens and we need to mobilize a lot of ships," he explained.

And if duty ever calls, he's confident he'll jump in to defend the red, white and blue.

"I'd be happy to do it if war time were to break out. I think I would feel obligated to."

Contact Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter at @shelby\_tank.

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## PCCS superintendent accepts safety award

Monica Merritt, superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton Community School District, was awarded the 2019 Chief Nicholas C. Derzis Safe Schools Leadership Award from the National Association of School Resource Officers at NASRO's 29th Annual School Safety Conference in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

The Safe School Leadership Award is presented to individuals who are willing to support and further develop their school resource officer partnership, exemplify leadership, innovation, dedication and proactive measures to enhance the safety of their school community.

Merritt was hired as the district's superintendent on July 1, 2016, and quickly assumed a proactive leadership role toward improving upon the district's partnership with law enforcement.

"Superintendent Merritt's comprehensive approach to school safety provides the district with the foundation and building blocks necessary to enhance and sustain a safe and positive learning environment," said Canton Public Safety Director Joshua Meier. "Our public safety department is grateful for her leadership, knowledge and expertise when addressing the safety and well-being of the students and staff of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools."



Monica Merritt, center, accepted an award from the National Association of School Resource Officers. SUBMITTED

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An artist works on a project during a previous year's Art In The Park festival. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

## Here's what to look for at Plymouth's Art In The Park

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth's 40th annual Art In The Park is expected to draw more than 300,000 people to the space locals refer to as DTP.

Billed as the second-largest art festival in Michigan, the event in downtown Plymouth will feature more than 400 artists from across the country and Canada.

This year's hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 12; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 13; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 14.

Shuttles will run continuously all weekend from the south lot at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. The shuttle fee is \$3. Kids 12 and younger ride free.

### The Living Mural

Former Canton resident Kristen Dillenbeck Zipp will create a living art mural at booth No. 500. Zipp has combined body painting with her love for live murals to create a three-dimensional mural.

### George Tait's Stand Still Theater

George Tait's unique brand of entertainment will

be hard to miss all three days of the festival from 1-5 p.m.

Dressed as a gray statue while standing on a stone platform with an umbrella cane in hand, Tait transforms every 15 minutes from a motionless figure to a statue coming to life. The statue, er, Tait, manages to read minds, challenge perceptions and stop time.

### Chalk Mural

Near the corner of Main Street and Penniman Avenue, local artist Erin Dillenbeck and D&M Art Studio will be back creating a chalk art masterpiece. The street-art demonstration will be a work in progress all weekend.

Several D&M Studios artists will be on hand to assist with the chalk mural.

### Meet Princess Caroline

Join Princess Caroline as she inspires and encourages boys and girls to be good, kind and giving. Princess Caroline will share stories, songs and more.

Art In The Park attendees are encouraged to bring their cameras to pose with the princess, who has a gift of enchanting and delighting little ones.

For schedules and updates on all things Art In The Park, visit [www.artinthepark.com](http://www.artinthepark.com).

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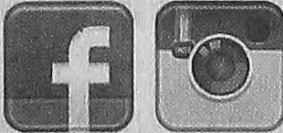
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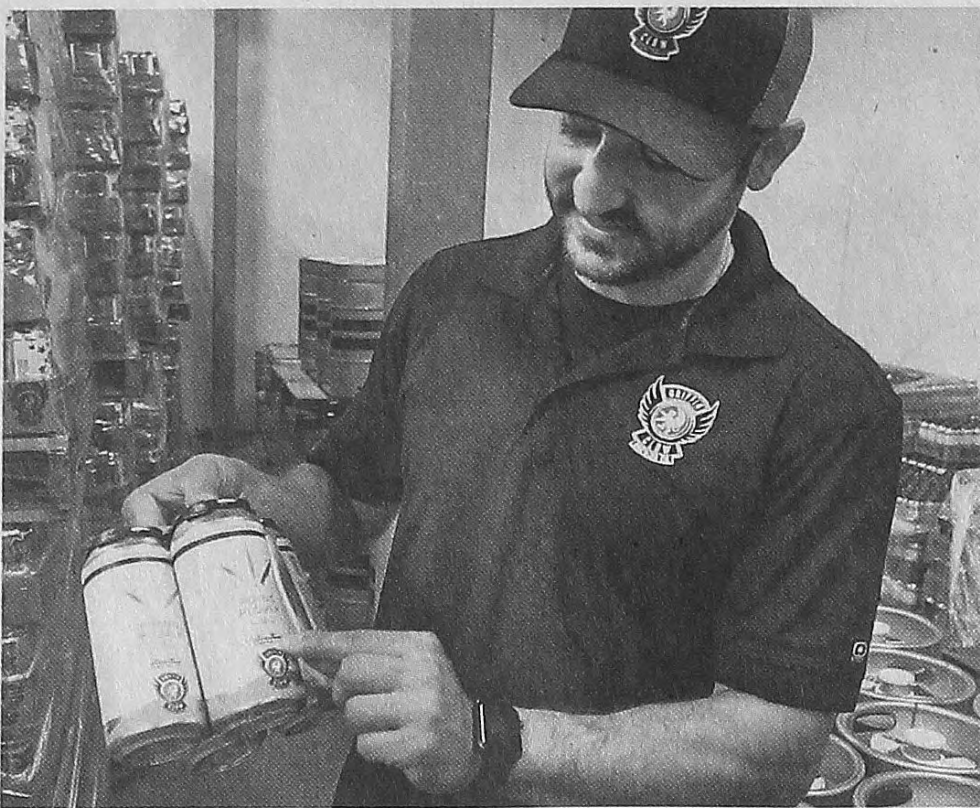
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Griffin Claw Brewing Company marketing director Christopher Lasher holds a four-pack of their Piping Plover Pilsner that will be sold to help the Detroit Zoo raise funds for the endangered bird species. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Griffin Claw partners with Detroit Zoo on beer

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Griffin Claw Brewing Company is taking the phrase “zoo brew” to a whole new level this summer.

The Birmingham-based beer maker has teamed up with the Detroit Zoo to create a series of beers, entitled the “Survival Series,” highlighting the institution’s work on conservation across the globe. Four beers are planned for the rest of the year inspired by the zoo’s work in conservation.

“They came up with it because they wanted to raise awareness,” said Christopher Lasher, the brewery’s marketing manager. “They came to us and said, ‘We have a big project in mind.’”

“The more we got into it, the more (we realized) this could be a big help.”

The first, Piping Plover Pilsner, is now for sale in the brewpub at 575 S. Eton in Birmingham, and is expected to hit store shelves soon. Described as a crisp, refreshing beer, Lasher said the brewery thought a pilsner would make a great kickoff beer for the series in the middle of summer.

Plus, it’s just fun to say with the alliteration.

Three other creatures will be featured later on this year with their own brews: Grauer’s gorillas, Panamanian golden frogs and Partula snails.

Creating such a partnership with Griffin Claw, said Detroit Zoo CEO Ron Kagan, made the most sense given the brewery’s involvement in the annual Zoo Brew and other events at the zoo in Royal Oak. Creating such a program, he said, brings awareness to a younger generation that might not be as knowledgeable about the zoo’s conservation efforts.

And beginning with the piping plover, a bird native to Michigan, is a deliberate move to make people realize there’s plenty of threatened animals here at home.

“But the first one that we’re celebrating is one of the animals in Michigan we’re saving,” Kagan said. “Most people, when they think about endangered species, they think about something in Af-

“(The Detroit Zoo) came to us and said, ‘We have a big project in mind.’ The more we got into it, the more (we realized) this could be a big help.”

**Christopher Lasher**  
Marketing director, Griffin Claw Brewing Company, on the brewery’s partnership with the Detroit Zoo

rica or somewhere else. But we have some in Michigan, too, and the piping plover is one of them.”

The four animals selected for the series are ones that have seen success from the zoo’s efforts in recent years, and aren’t necessarily animals many people think of when they think of threatened species, Kagan said.

“We think sometimes, an animal might be a bit obscure, like a piping plover. People know about polar bears,” Kagan said. “We think it’s important people understand that conservation is not a beauty contest.”

The zoo has sent zoo workers from across the country each year up to the Michigan’s Biological Station in Pellston to work on the captive-rearing effort for the piping plover. Through its efforts, the piping plover has gone from 20 known pairs in 1986 to 63 pairs in 2018, which is close to half the goal of having 150 pairs in the wild.

The beer will be sold in four-packs across stores in southeast Michigan, and the hope is to carry it at the zoo for special events. It can also be purchased in four-packs of cans at the Birmingham brewery on Eton between 14 Mile and Maple.

Other brews in the series are still being determined, though they could include a stout and a ginger pale ale. The brewery also plans to donate money to the zoo at the end of the run to help the conservation efforts.

“All (the customers) have to do is drink beer,” he said. “But now, they can feel good about it.”

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# Obituaries

## Laura Marie Boucher

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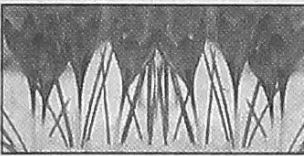
Laura Marie (Streiff) Boucher passed away on June 25, 2019 at the age of 57, after a year-long battle with brain cancer. She led a life of beauty, courage, and love. As a girl in Birmingham, Michigan, she was a champion swimmer and skier; as a young woman, a stunning auto show model. The world beckoned, however, and in her twenties Laura took wing to explore it. She became a flight attendant with Continental Airlines and made Denver, and then Honolulu, the base from which she traveled the globe. But her biggest adventure began when she started a family. Laura met the man who became her husband, Ed, and his young twin sons, Lewis and Casey, in Ann Arbor. They became her world, and she theirs. Laura and Ed soon added their son Alex to the mix, and then their twin sons, Nicky and Noah. Thus Laura raised five boys and was proud of the young men they have grown to be. In addition to nurturing boys, however, Laura also nurtured beauty. She loved flowers. She took this passion, channeled it, and became a certified floral designer. She worked hard to hone her skills, and many a bride began their own adventures carrying her bouquets. Her warmth and zest led to lifelong friendships she cherished beyond measure. And throughout her life, she turned obstacles into opportunities by meeting them with courage and humor. Other family members who will miss her include her mother, Patricia Streiff; her sisters, Elaine Streiff and Karen Eberhart; two grandchildren; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Her father, Thomas Streiff, predeceased her. Services have already taken place. Laura's family suggests the Rogel Cancer Center at the University of Michigan for those who wish to make a gift in her honor (1500 E. Medical Center Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48109).



Lois Margaret Gjernes

LIVONIA - Lois Margaret Gjernes "Marge" born April 4th, 1937, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on June 29th, 2019 at the age of 82. Beloved wife of John. Loving mother of Larry (Polly), Daniel (Carol), Terese (Brenton) and John. Proud grandmother of 13 and dear sister of Rod Guest. Visitation will be held on Friday July 5th from 2-8pm at Harry J. Will Funeral home in Livonia. A funeral service will be held at St. Aidan's Church in Livonia 9am in state until mass at 9:30am.

Harry J Will Funeral Homes



## Susan Deaner

NORTHVILLE TWP. - Susan Marguerite Worden Ryan Deaner passed away early Saturday morning, June 29, 2019 in her home following a three-month illness. Susan was born to Carolyn Lyon Worden and Frank Leroy Worden Jr. in Detroit in 1946, attended Dearborn Public Schools and graduated from Dearborn High School. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Michigan State University and an Educational Specialist Degree in Gifted Education from Wayne State University. Susan began her career as a teacher in Livonia Public Schools. She was instrumental in the creation of the district's Academically Talented Program K-12 and served as the program's coordinator for many years. After her retirement in 2004, she became a consultant at Charyl Stockwell Academy District in Howell where she oversaw the development of that district's Academically Gifted K-HS program. She was passionate about the importance and necessity of gifted education. Over her nearly 50-year career, she had a profound and lasting impact on the lives of thousands of children and their families, and the careers of the dozens of teachers she mentored. Susan was a woman of grace, humor, style, joy, insight, love and high expectations. She believed that coloring outside the lines was the only way to live and seemed incapable of understanding the word "no." People and relationships were central to her life. Her circle of friends was huge and she embraced people of all ages. She had a way of engaging people in conversation that made them feel welcomed and valued. She loved to read, travel, eat at fine restaurants, participate in political action groups, walk, bike, garden, and spend time with friends and family, especially her beloved brother, nephew, niece and grandniece. She was generous with her time and resources, and believed that the best investments she could ever make were in people. Susan was predeceased by her parents and husband Milton Deaner. She is survived by her brother Jim (Ann) Worden and her nephew Jeff Worden, niece Emily (Zac) Sitzberger and grandniece Saila Sitzberger. She will be sorely missed by scores of friends and generations of students and colleagues who each have their own story to tell about her. In lieu of flowers, Susan's family requests that donations be made in her name to the Charyl Stockwell Academy District Education Foundation (csafund.org), a cause that she passionately championed. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com



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## Gerald C. "Jerry" Johnson

GENEVA/FORMERLY PLYMOUTH, - Gerald C. "Jerry" Johnson, age 82, of Geneva, formerly of Plymouth, Michigan passed away Thursday, June 27, 2019, at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield.

He was born June 17, 1937, in Detroit, Michigan, the son of Evald and Ruby (Charbonneau) Johnson.

Jerry graduated from the University of Detroit and worked in public accounting as a CPA. He enjoyed traveling, bowling, tennis, and playing cards. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather who will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 58 years Kathleen "Kathy" (McBrady); children Suzanne (Tony) Cowden of Germany, David (Laura) of West Chicago, and Stephen (Amanda) of Cincinnati; grandchildren Thomas (Krista) Cowden, Robert Cowden, Sydney, Ashton, Anabelle, Alexandria, Thorin, and Mackinnon Johnson; siblings Evald "John" (Esther) of Las Vegas and Eileen of Geneva; and many other dear relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Vernon, and his son Daniel.

Funeral prayers for Jerry will be held Monday, July 29, 2019, at 9:30 at Malone Funeral Home, 324 E. State Street (Route 38), Geneva proceeding to St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 2900 E. Main Street, St. Charles for Celebration of Funeral Mass at 10:30 am.

Burial will be held at a later date at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan.

Visitation will be held Sunday, July 28 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm at the Malone Funeral Home with a liturgical wake service at 6:45 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 1 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, Illinois 60602 or Salvation Army Tri-City Corps, Joe K. Anderson Community Center, 1710 S. 7th Avenue, St. Charles, Illinois 60174 would be appreciated.

For information 630-232-8233 or [www.malonefh.com](http://www.malonefh.com).

## Verna Kozara

CANTON - Verna Kozara, age 95, passed away June 30, 2019. She was the beloved wife of the late Charles. Loving mother of Marv (Barb), Lorraine (Tom Voltatorni) Laible, Dennis (Jackie), Gary (Barb) and Diane (John) Jarosh. Proud grandmother of Julianna, Erika (Rick) Bierd, Charlie Laible, John (Grace) Laible, Sarah (Chris) Hopkins, Robert Laible, Tricia (Kris) Peters, Shannon (Leo) Banks, Sean, Shane (Tiffany), Shelby and Nick (Kelly) Matijega. Great-grandmother of 22 and great-great-grandmother of 5. She was predeceased by her brothers Donald "Doc" Kopka, Frank Kopka Jr., Joseph Kopka, John Kopka, Leo Kopka and her sisters Beatrice Wavra, Blanche McQuarter, Hilda Dunham, Irene Hodak and Reta Benton. Visitation for Verna will be held on Tuesday, July 2, from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at McCabe Funeral Home, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton. She will lie in state on Wednesday, July 3, at 10:30 a.m. until the time of her funeral mass at 11:00 a.m. at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton. Burial will take place in St. Agnes Cemetery, Pinconning. Memorial donations are appreciated to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601. [www.mccabefuneralhome.com](http://www.mccabefuneralhome.com)



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A black and white photograph of two young women walking towards the camera. They are both smiling and looking down at several large, light-colored paper shopping bags they are carrying. The woman on the left has long, wavy blonde hair and is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. The woman on the right has long, wavy brown hair with bangs and is wearing a dark-colored V-neck top. The background is a blurred outdoor setting, possibly a shopping mall or street.

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# Sports

PREP ATHLETICS

## Local athletes star in state playoffs

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The 2019 spring sports season is complete and saw many local high school athletes enjoy incredible success on the field. A number of area teams won state championships, while several more made the state finals and made deep postseason runs.

As we head into July, let's take a look back at some of those athletes that were critical to the success of their teams.

Brother Rice baseball

The Warriors advanced all the way to the state semifinals, knocking off one of the state's best team's, Birmingham Seaholm, in the process. They also escaped a difficult regional, which saw them beat Romeo in 12 innings.

Two of the players most important in the run were pitcher Tyler Sarkisian and infielder/outfielder Tito Flores, who is headed to Michigan.

See **PLAYOFFS**, Page 2B



Brother Rice senior Tyler Sarkisian was one of two key players in the Warriors' successful season.

MATT VAILLIENCOURT/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



New York Yankees second baseman DJ LeMahieu rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run June 25 against the Toronto Blue Jays during the first inning at Yankee Stadium. BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS

## Brother Rice grad voted MLB All-Star Game starter

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

There will be a local name to watch during Tuesday night's Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

Brother Rice graduate DJ LeMahieu is in the midst of a career year with the

New York Yankees and was voted by fans to start the All-Star Game at second base for the American League.

The 30-year old starred at Brother Rice before winning a college national championship at LSU in 2009. He was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the second round of the 2009 draft.

This season, his first with the Yan-

kees after spending seven seasons with the Colorado Rockies, he's on pace to have the best season of his career. Through July 2, he's played in 77 games and has a batting average of .341, which leads the league, 12 home runs, 61 RBIs, 19 doubles and four

See **MLB**, Page 3B

PREP ATHLETICS

## Braisted named national golf coach of the year

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

It's been a big year for Brother Rice boys and Marian girls golf coach Leon Braisted III.

The area coach has been named the National Golf Coach of the Year by both the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) and by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

The awards carry tremendous weight in the golf community and are awarded based on longevity, service to high school athletics, honors, championship years and winning percentage. The nominees and eight finalists are evaluated by experts in the field of coaching using a sport-specific rubrics to assign points in each category.

Marian finished fourth in the state this past season and Brother Rice finished seventh.

Prior to joining the two Catholic League schools three years ago, Braisted won five state championships with the girls team at Birmingham Seaholm in addition to finishing runner-up five times during his 18-year run with the Maples.

The announcement of the NHSACA award came during the National Coach of the Year Awards Banquet at the NHSACA's national convention at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Braisted flew out for the convention and was shocked when he heard his name called as the winner.

"I was just stunned," Braisted said. "The other seven finalists were all very deserving of it. ... I was emotional. When I was flying home I got a lot of texts saying how deserving of it I was, I'm still in awe. I'm still stunned. It hasn't sunk in. It's breathtaking and rewards all the hard work I do."

He gave plenty of credit to those around him, including his players, saying he's only as good as the players make him look.

His career record is 2499-333 and

See **BRAISTED**, Page 3B

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# Playoffs

Continued from Page 1B

Sarkisian was phenomenal on the mound, pitching 17 and 2/3 innings with a 0.50 ERA. He allowed just one earned run, which came in the state semifinal against state champion Portage Northern. He had nine strikeouts, allowed 12 hits and five walks, compiling a 2-1 record. Sarkisian pitched 7 and 2/3 innings in relief during the team's nail-biter versus Romeo, allowing his team to come back for the win in the 12th.

That game-winning run against Romeo was scored by Flores, who had a dynamite postseason as well. He went 14-for-24 (.583), with five RBIs, one walk, three doubles, a triple, four steals and 11 runs scored.

## Novi soccer

Arguably the most impressive team in the entire region regardless of sport, the No. 1 nationally ranked Wildcats won their second straight state championship, beating Plymouth 5-0 in the state final.

There are a number of players who are worth mentioning, but two stand out above the rest: Avery Fenchel and Jessie Bandyk.

Fenchel had nine goals and two assists in seven playoff games. For the second year in a row, she scored the winning goal in the state championship game. She was voted to both the Division 1 All-State 1st Team as well as the Dream Team (the top 11 players in the state, regardless of Division). Whenever Novi needed a goal, it looked to Fenchel.

Bandyk was just as important. She had five goals and four assists in seven playoff games. She had two goals in the state championship game. She too, was voted to both the Division 1 All-State 1st Team as well as the Dream Team and she was voted "Ms. Soccer," which is awarded to the top player in the state.

## Brother Rice lacrosse

Brother Rice dominated the state lacrosse scene this season, going undefeated and winning the state championship. That state title didn't come easily, however, as Catholic Central controlled much of the game.

In order to pull out the win, it needed some late-game heroics, and got them from Justin Glod, who scored with one second left to give Brother Rice the one-goal lead.

In six playoff games, Glod scored 22 goals and had eight assists.

## Catholic Central lacrosse

The Shamrocks were unable to upset Brother Rice in the state final, but they still had a successful season of their own, going 20-4 and getting past several tough teams to make the final.

The scoring attack relied heavily on Joey Kamish, who scored six goals in the state championship game alone. On the season, he tallied 85 goals and 42 assists in 24 games. He had 25 goals and eight assists in the playoffs.

Following the season, Kamish was named Michigan's Mr. Lacrosse award, given to the best player in the state.

## Plymouth soccer

The KLAA flexed its soccer strength this postseason, sending two teams from the West Division to the state championship game. Plymouth had multiple comebacks in order to make that possible and leaned on the scoring prowess of two key players throughout its run.

Kennedy White led the team in scoring with 11 goals and four assists in seven playoff games. She was the team's scoring leader during the regular season as well, scoring 32 goals and tallying 17 assists. She was named to the Dream Team.

Brianna McNab helped with the scoring punch of the Wildcats, with seven goals and two assists in the seven postseason games. She had 11 more goals and seven assists on top of that in the regular season.

Brianna's reg season is 11 goals & 7 asst and her playoff stats are for the 7 games played was 7 goals & 2 asst. here's the breakdown:

## Marian soccer

Marian continued its division two soccer dominance, winning its third consecutive state title against Forest Hills Northern.

Leading the charge throughout both the regular season and playoffs was Jansen Eichenlaub, who was named to the Dream Team. She scored five goals and added an assist in the playoffs.

Just as important was Maria Askounis, who scored two goals and had one assist in the playoffs. Those goals were



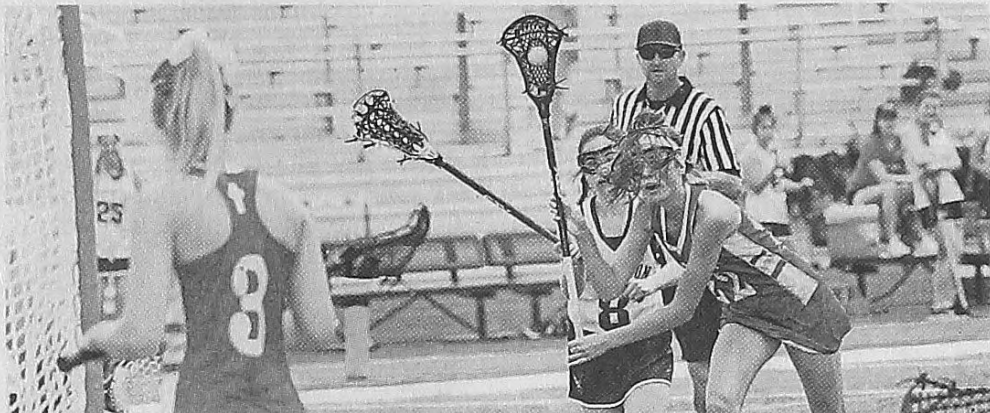
Detroit Catholic Central's Joseph Kamish, right, had 25 goals and eight assists in the playoffs. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



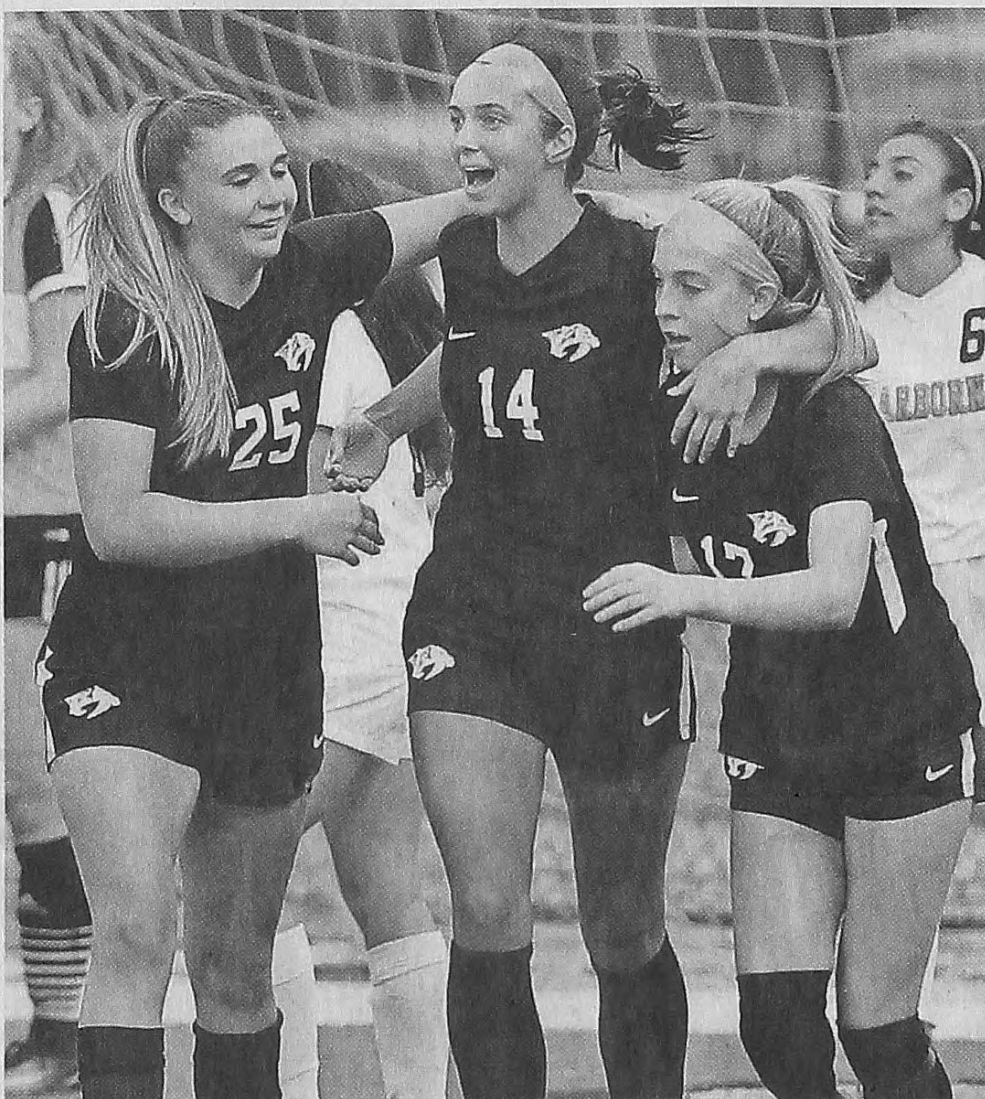
Brother Rice's Justin Glod scored 22 goals and had eight assists in six playoff games. DAVID DONOHER/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



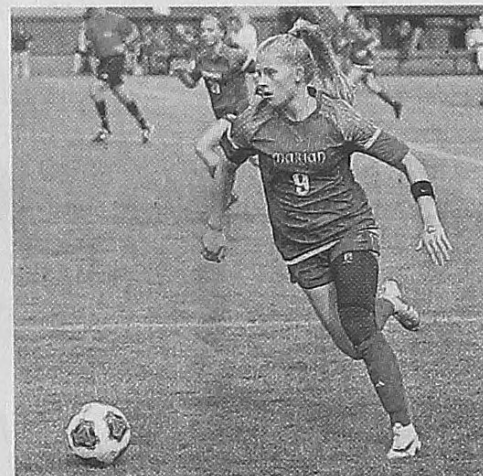
Novi co-captain Jessica Bandyk, left, had two goals in the state final against Plymouth.



Marian's Coco Chinonis had 86 goals, 13 assists, 42 draw controls, 44 ground balls and nine caused turnovers. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO THE HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Plymouth's Brianna McNab, right, had seven goals and two assists in the seven postseason games, plus 11 goals and seven assists in the regular season.



Marian's Jansen Eichenlaub scored five goals in the playoffs. MATT VAILLIENCOURT/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Novi's Avery Fenchel scored the winning goal in the state championship game.



The Canton Chiefs won a regional title this year to advance to the state quarterfinals. COURTESY OF ROBERT MITCHELL

the game-winners in both the state semifinal and state championship game.

## Marian lacrosse

The Marian lacrosse team got over the hump and reached the state finals before falling to East Grand Rapids. The Mustangs finished 18-2 overall.

Crucial to the team's success was Coco Chinonis and Mia Hannawa.

Chinonis finished the season with 86 goals, 13 assists, 42 draw controls, 44 ground balls and nine caused turnovers. She scored the game-winning goal against previously unbeaten Farmington in the regional finals in double overtime. She was named All-Catholic and All-State Honorable Mention.

Hannawa finished the season with 60 goals, 14 assists, 62 draw controls, 42 ground balls and 13 caused turnovers. She was named first-team All State, All-Catholic and the MVP of Marian Lacrosse.

## Canton softball

The Canton Chiefs won a regional title this year to advance to the state quarterfinals, where they lost to Howell.

Key to Canton's big playoff run was shortstop and pitcher Shae Scott. At the plate, she went 11-for-17 (.647), with a triple, RBI and six runs scored.

Her pitching may have been even more impressive. She threw a no-hitter against Salem, going all seven innings with seven strikeouts and three walks.

She also pitched a complete-game shutout in the regional final against Allen Park, giving up just three hits.

Her total playoff pitching stats were 24 and 2/3 innings pitched, nine total runs allowed, 19 strikeouts, three wins, one save and two shutouts.

## Northville tennis

The state power was unable to win their third straight state title as a team, but still had an impressive year, finishing fourth in the state. One doubles pair did win an individual championship though — the No. 3 doubles partnership of Connie Gao and Michelle Tong. It's Gao's third individual state title.

Contact Andrew Vaillencourt at [avaiilienc@hometownlife.com](mailto:avaiilienc@hometownlife.com).



# Kensington to host pro disc golf tournament

**Andrew Vaillencourt**  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Professional disc golf is coming to southeast Michigan this weekend.

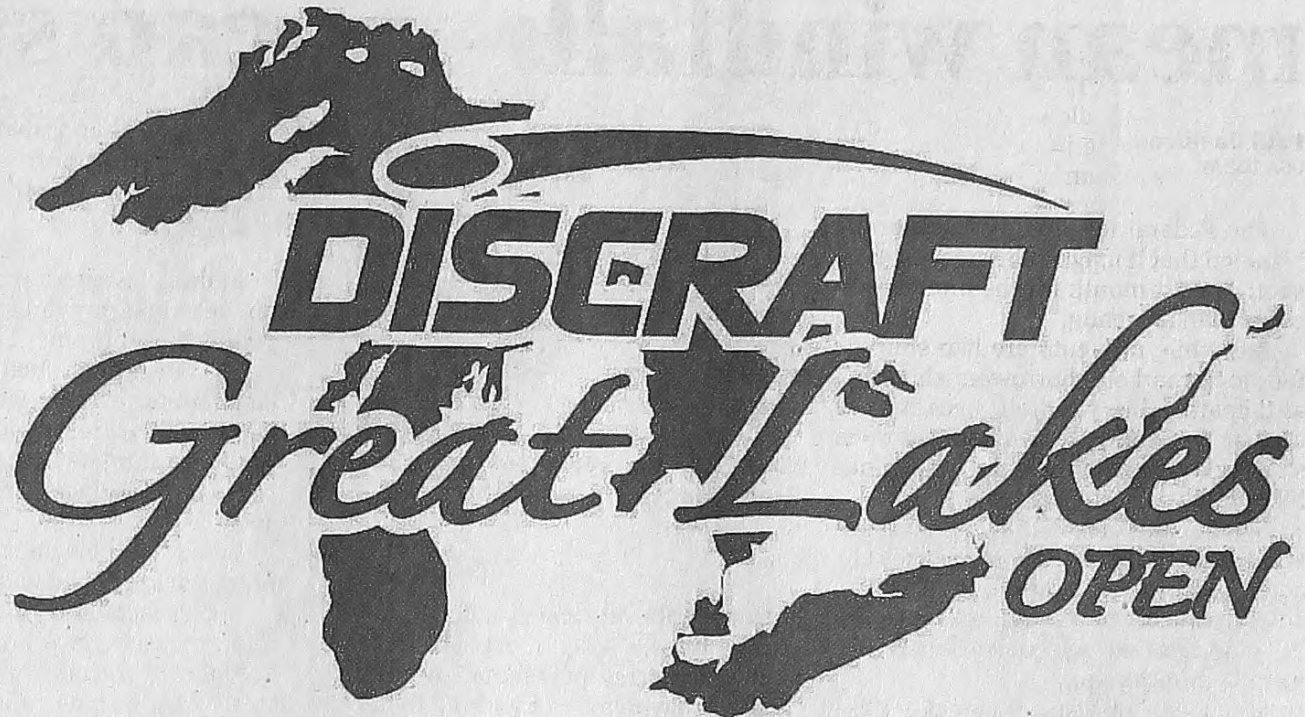
Kensington Metropark will host the Discraft Great Lakes Open July 5-7 — one leg of the 2019 Disc Golf Pro Tour (DGPT). The tournament is in its 39th year and is one of 10 DGPT events that take place around the country. This is the second time that Kensington is hosting the competition.

The contest will take place at the famed 18-hole Toboggan Course — a temporary course at Kensington that opens annually for significant tournaments and events. In fact, the Toboggan course was originally created for the Discraft PDGA Pro/Am World's in 2000. This is the fourth time the course has hosted the tournament.

"The tournament brings a unique energy to the park with pros and fans competing, interacting and enjoying the Toboggan course," Director at the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Amy McMillan said. "It's an honor to work alongside partners like Discraft that want to create unique outdoor opportunities for residents of southeast Michigan."

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks has worked with Discraft since the installation of its first disc golf course at Hudson Mills nearly 20 years ago when Discraft donated the park's original disc golf baskets.

"The metroparks team has always supported our vision to grow the sport and show people the opportunities it creates to get outside, compete, and enjoy time with friends," Discraft Team Manager Bob Julio said. "This year's tournament will offer visitors a look into the competitive side of the game, including some of the world's best disc golfers."



Professional disc golf will be at Kensington Metropark this weekend. COURTESY OF DGPT

Each tournament participant is scheduled to play one round each day over the weekend. Among the pros competing is American professional disc golfer and member of Team Discraft Paul McBeth, who won the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) World Championship four times in a row (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015). McBeth has also received the PDGA Male Player of the year three times (2013, 2014, 2015).

"After Paul's win last year, including Toboggan's first ever perfect round of -18, we couldn't be more ex-

cited for this year's competition," Discraft COO Mike Wagner said. "This is the most disc golf pros we have in one area all year, all playing on one of the most famous courses in the country. Spectators are bound to see some great golf throughout the weekend."

Kensington Metropark is located at 4570 Huron River Parkway, Milford. The park requires a \$10 per day vehicle permit fee (passes available for purchase).

Contact Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659.



Brother Rice graduate DJ LeMahieu won three Gold Gloves in Colorado. JAY BIGGERSTAFF/USA TODAY SPORTS

## MLB

Continued from Page 1B

steals. He also has scored 62 runs.

"It's very cool," LeMahieu told MLB.com. "I was able to watch the (All-Star selection) show a little bit last (week). It's a good feeling, for sure. It definitely wasn't the first thing on my mind. I just wanted to establish myself and be a contributor."

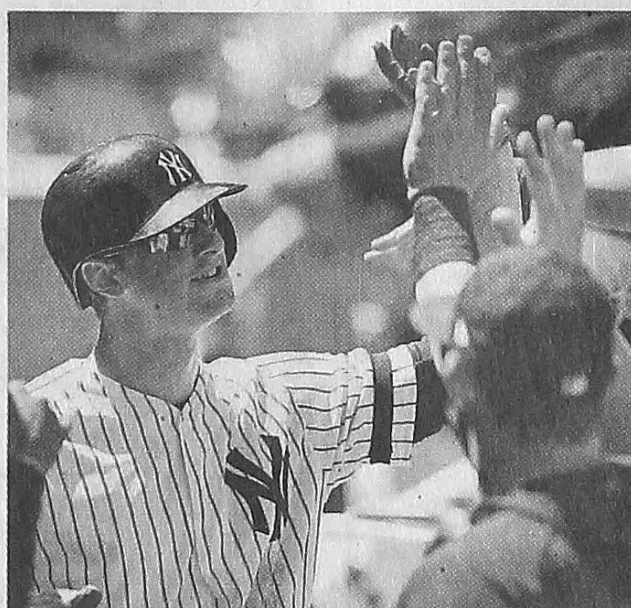
"I feel like I've had a pretty good first half so far, and I'm helping the team out."

It's the third time he's been selected to the All-Star team, the other two times were in 2015 and 2017.

"I've always had confidence that I would be a pretty good hitter, no matter where," LeMahieu said. "It's nothing new for me. It's been a good first half, for sure. (Coors Field is) a good place to hit, but I don't think you can totally dismiss the offensive players there. It's not even the halfway point yet, we've got a ways to go yet, but it's been a good start for sure."

LeMahieu has hit lead-off for the Yankees high-powered offense. He's continued to get better as the season progresses too, which should be a scary sight for opposing teams. He's hit nearly .400 over the last month and .524 in the last two weeks.

"Now I just need to keep it going," LeMahieu said. "I'm just trying to stay within myself, not trying to do too much. There's a lot of baseball. If I was struggling, I'd tell myself there's a lot of baseball. So I've just got to keep going. I feel like I've been on a pretty good roll

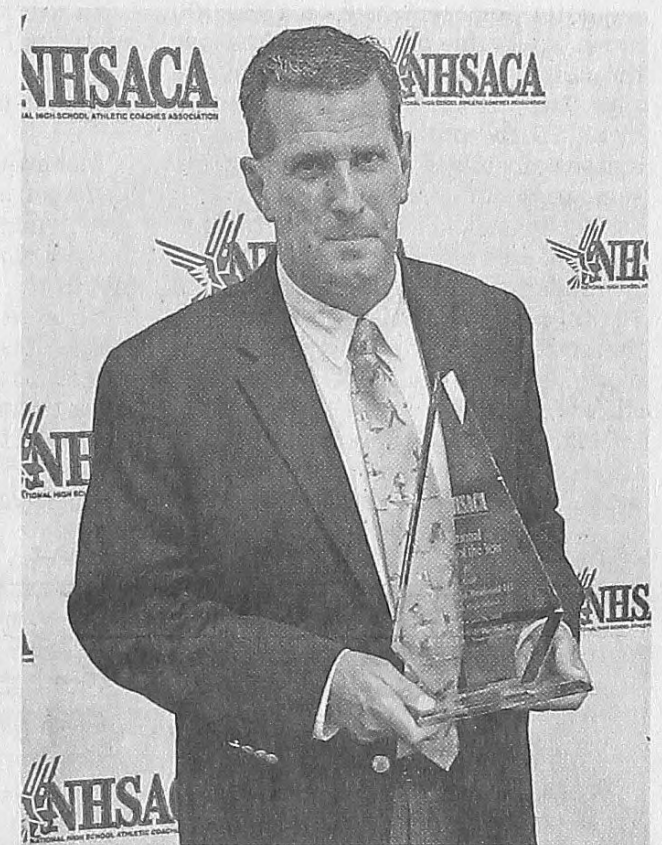


LeMahieu signed a \$24 million contract with the Yankees in January. NOAH K. MURRAY/USA TODAY SPORTS

here for a while now."

The All-Star Game will take place 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 9, in Cleveland. It will be televised on FOX. Shane Greene is the lone Detroit Tigers representative.

Contact Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.



Marian girls and Brother Rice boys golf coach Leon Braisted III was named national coach of the year. COURTESY OF LEON BRAISTED III

## Braisted

Continued from Page 1B

has won 16 regional championships in addition to his state titles, the most recent coming in 2015.

"I don't do it for the accolades, I do it for the kids," Braisted said. "Someone told me, 'you make the state of Michigan look good' ... I never expected to be the No. 1 coach. It's a great feeling to be recognized for what you do."

Outside of coaching, Braisted has been the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coach Association (MICGA) Executive Director since 2013 and served in a variety of other roles before that. He was inducted into the MIGCA Hall of Fame in 2015. He also runs numerous golf tournaments in Michigan every year.

Looking forward, Braisted has his sights set on winning another state championship and hopes to continue keeping kids involved with the sport of golf.

"I always like to see progress being made," Braisted said. "I like to see my participation numbers go up every year. For example, I have 34 boys on my golf team, I keep everybody, I don't cut anybody because you never know when you're going to make an impact on one of those kids in society where they look back and say thanks coach for letting me play. I believe in keeping everyone because they can take it somewhere. Golf is a lifelong sport."

Contact Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt.



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# Fed rate cut won't mean windfall

Paul Davidson  
USA TODAY

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday signaled that it may cut interest rates as soon as next month for the first time in more than a decade.

But while rate cuts are like steroids for stock markets, borrowers shouldn't anticipate a big windfall, because the central bank already has boosted rates sharply the past 3½ years, including four hikes last year, experts say.

"For consumers, all that will do is unwind a fraction of the nine rate hikes enacted since 2015," says Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.com. "All it does is take you back to where you were 12 months ago."

About half of Fed policymakers expect to lower the central bank's key short-term rate by as much as half a percentage point this year. Economists believe the move could happen at a late July meeting if talks next week between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping don't head off Trump's threats to slap a 25% tariff on \$300 billion in Chinese imports. The new levies would more than double existing ones on China's shipments and could tip the U.S. into recession, economists say.

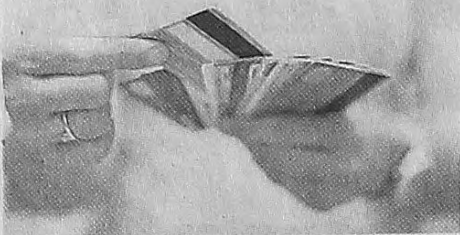
### Limited help

But let's put a rate cut in perspective. A quarter-point reduction on a \$30,000 home equity line of credit would shave the monthly payment by \$6.25, McBride says. Two such cuts would trim the bill by \$12.50. By contrast, the nine rate increases since late 2015 have lifted the same payment by \$56.

"To households on a tight budget, this is of limited help," McBride says.

Similarly, a quarter-point cut on a \$5,000 credit card balance would lower the minimum payment by just \$1 a month, a fraction of the \$9 in increases already enacted.

Holden Lewis, a home finance expert at NerdWallet, says any cut would still be money in consumers' pockets. Those



Your minimum credit card payment likely won't decrease much.

GETTY IMAGES

with variable-rate loans, such as home equity lines, "should expect to see smaller monthly payments," he says. "For those who may be looking to borrow money to fund home renovations, this could be a time to do so cheaply."

Meanwhile, bank customers who finally have started to benefit from higher savings rates could see some of those gains curtailed going forward. Rates on one-year and longer-term certificates of deposits already have edged down this year in anticipation of lower Fed rates, says Ken Tumin, founder of DepositAccounts.com. That's likely to accelerate after the Fed on Wednesday more explicitly raised the prospect of rate cuts, he says.

Banks move quickly on such longer-term accounts because they don't want to get stuck paying higher returns for extended periods when rates are falling, McBride says.

### Banks to move quickly

Meanwhile, online banks, which have been paying much higher rates on money market and savings accounts, likely would lower their rates within a month or two of any Fed rate cut as their profit margins narrow. A study Tumin conducted during Fed rate decreases in 2007 found banks initially lower savings rates by about half the size of the Fed's cut and then catch up to match the central bank's move within several months.

# Seasonal proverbs can stunt a 401(k)



Ken Fisher  
Columnist  
USA TODAY

Short-term timing your 401(k) puts your savings at risk, especially if you invest based on calendar trivia.

Making investment decisions based on seasonal proverbs could squash your 401(k) retirement savings.

U.S. stocks dropped more than 6% last month – their worst May since 2010 and second-worst since 1962. That sour four-week stretch seemed to prove the old adage, "Sell in May and go away."

But don't let coincidence fool you. Markets don't heed calendars.

Such seasonal myths as "Sell in May and go away" have lingered for eons. Bedfellows include "The January effect," which argues January's returns (or its first few days) predict the year. Then comes the "Santa Claus rally," which 2018 disproved, and "financial hurricane season" – which supposedly means awful September and/or October returns. All of these proverbs work occasionally. None work often enough to help you.

Sell in May at least started with logic. Its original name – sell in May and go away until St. Leger Day – came from U.K. stockbrokers traditionally taking summers off until a famous September horse race (the St. Leger Stakes). The reduced liquidity supposedly brought sharper swings and weaker returns. Avoiding the summer months dodged this problem.

But decades of stock returns destroyed this logic. Modern sell-in-May thinking argues that avoiding the six months from April 30 to Halloween spells success. Yes, stocks' average returns over that period – 4.2% since 1925 – trails returns from Halloween through April 30, which are 7.4%. But 4.2% isn't negative. If you want the stock market's 9.9% annualized return, you need those spring and summer months along with autumn and winter. Otherwise, your return will be lower and reaching your retirement goal harder.

Seasonal adages "work" just often

enough to sustain their myths. January predicted full-year returns in 65 of 92 years – a 70.6% success rate. April 30-Oct. 31 was negative 28.3% of the time. September stunk 47.8% of the time, while October sank 39.1% of years. The Santa Claus rally paid off an amazingly high 78.3% of years.

Calendars didn't drive any of these past returns. Consider January. Stocks are positive on a yearly and monthly basis more often than not, making it logical that good Januarys would happen in "up" years. And the bad? It's normal for a "down" January to occur during a bear market. That's a coincidence.

And what happens when seasonal myths overlap? While the six-month "sell in May" stretch is lackluster, July is the calendar's best month. So if you sell in June, you've sold too soon! Do you sell in August to avoid "financial hurricane season" in September and October, then buy in November? September's average – a negative 0.6% return – might seem to support that. But that is dragged down by a handful of awful Septembers in the 1930s and 2008. Is it wise to stake your retirement on a few outliers? Or is it better to remember September and October are positive more often than not?

Short-term timing your 401(k) generally puts your retirement savings at risk, especially if you invest based on calendar trivia. What happens if you sell after a down May, like in 2019, but the rest of the year is fine? That happened in 2010, when U.S. stocks fell 8% in May, then went on to climb 16.8% from May's end through Dec. 31.

So ignore seasonality. Always think long term. Your 401(k) needs to provide for your lifetime.

Ken Fisher is founder and executive chairman of Fisher Investments. Follow him on Twitter: @KennethLFisher. The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of USA TODAY.

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# Work out without leaving your hotel room

Adrienne Jordan  
USA TODAY

If you like working out but don't want to make the trek down to the hotel fitness center, you can take advantage of the growing trend of in-room fitness amenities.

You can stick to your workout routine when traveling by using interactive home gym systems such as Mirror; burning calories with stationary Peloton bikes in your room; or get flowing on yoga mats, exercise balls and other workout equipment that allow you to break a sweat privately.

"The intrinsic need for wellness offerings is showing up in markets you may not expect," says Guy Langford, vice chairman and U.S. leader of the Transportation, Hospitality & Services industry at Deloitte, which collects statistics on the travel industry. "Las Vegas for example, is seeing an increase in properties focusing on health and wellness, designating specific rooms and floors to cater to wellness-minded guests. This not only provides the experiences travelers are looking for but also provides the hotel with an opportunity to drive a higher room rate and overall revenue."

"Having workout gear in the room provides for me fewer excuses for not staying active while on vacation," says Los Angeles-based frequent traveler, Jynarra Brinson. "The convenience of rolling out of bed and not needing to leave the comfort of your room to exercise is something I think hoteliers should consider more often."

EVEN Hotels, an IHG hotel brand, equips every guest room with a yoga mat and block, resistance bands and an exercise ball in addition to workout-friendly flooring and on-demand fitness videos ranging from 5 to 30 minutes.

In May 2017, Hilton incorporated in-room fitness to a portion of their portfolio.

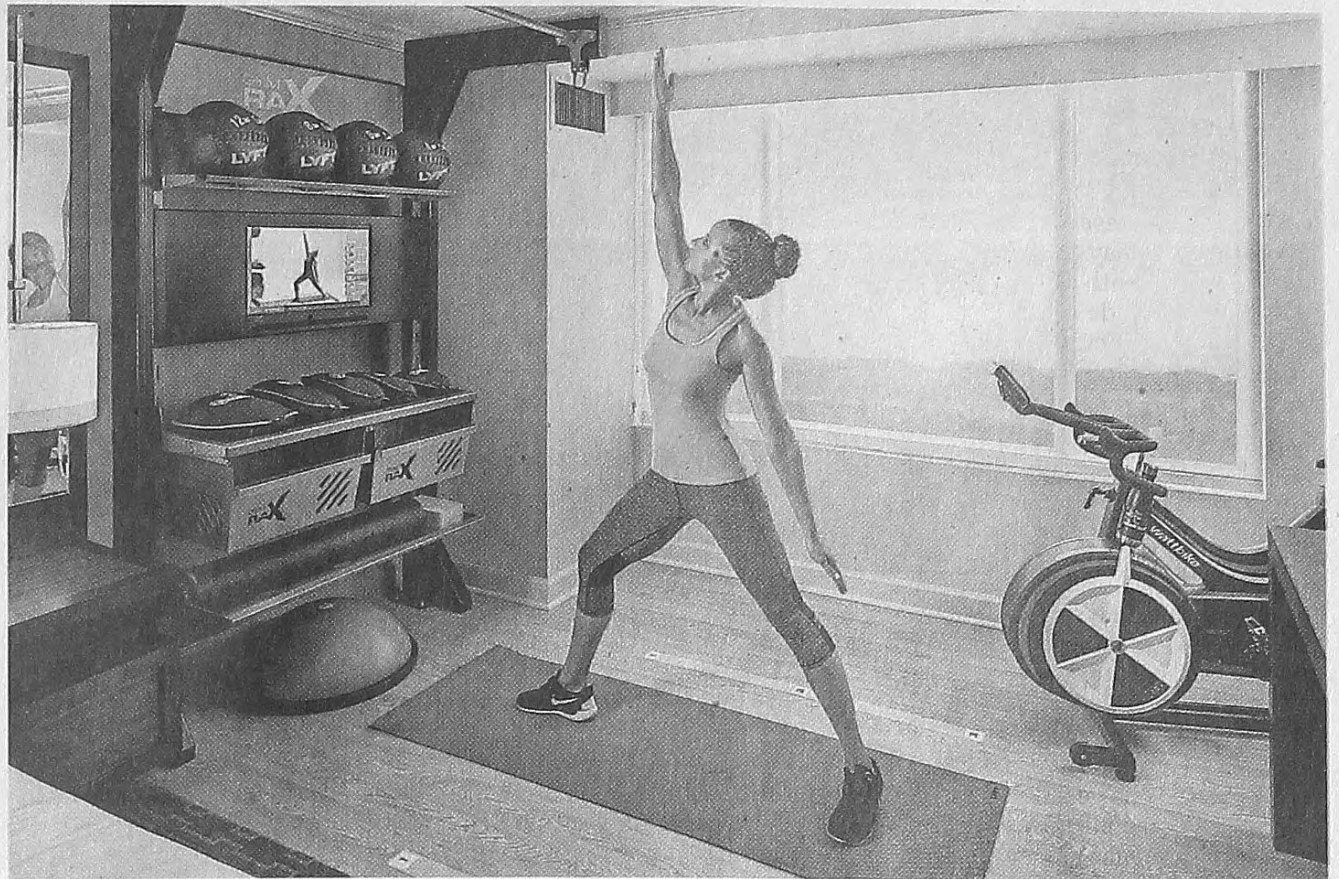
Melissa Walker, Hilton's senior director of Global Brand Wellness, launched Hilton's Five Feet to Fitness concept, in which guest rooms include guided workout routines on a fitness kiosk, an indoor spin bike, suspension accessories, resistance bands, exercise balls, yoga mats and sports performance flooring.

"Five Feet to Fitness allows our guests to pursue wellness on their own terms and pursue a wide variety of fitness modalities to include strength, cardio, functional and mind/body training," Walker tells USA TODAY.

Hilton plans to offer Five Feet to Fitness in more than 560 DoubleTree by Hilton properties globally by 2020. The in-room amenities currently are available at hotels in New York, Texas, Illinois and Florida.

Many properties now offer stationary bikes in-room, according to Peloton, which has its exercise bikes in rooms at more than 70 U.S. hotels.

"Since we debuted our first bikes in 2014, we've heard from our community that they want to continue



Hilton offers in-room fitness amenities at hotels in New York, Texas, Illinois and Florida. HILTON

working out with Peloton while they travel," Ryan Crabbe, the company's senior director of commercial experience, tells USA TODAY.

To that end, Westin has designated WestinWORKOUT guest rooms in more than 50 locations across the country, where travelers can work out on Peloton bikes.

And some hotels across the country are incorporating another tech-based wellness tool in the rooms: Mirror, a digital personal trainer that instructs on different fitness routines, from yoga and Pilates to boxing and cardio.

To coincide with Global Wellness Day on June 8, the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group unveiled Mirror specialty suites across all properties in the U.S., including New York, Boston, Washington D.C., and Miami. On June 1, Estancia La Jolla Hotel & Spa launched its new Wellness Suites to include Mirror.

Another fitness amenity popping up in U.S. hotel rooms is complimentary workout and wellness kits that fit in bags, boxes and carts. For example, the Hilton New Orleans Riverside offers "Bootcamp in a Box," which includes free weights, ab rollers, push-up bars, jump rope, cushioned knee pad and a workout guide.

Boutique hotels also are jumping on the in-room fitness trend. The LINQ Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas has

complimentary in-room fitness carts that include yoga mats, stability balls, fitness discs and foam rollers, while LUMA Hotel Times Square has a "GYMbag" that features a yoga mat and block, bionic bar, ergonomic push-up bar, resistance bands, ab wheel and muscle relaxation balls.

Brinson says hotel in-room workout options ultimately were the deciding factor when she booked her upcoming trip.

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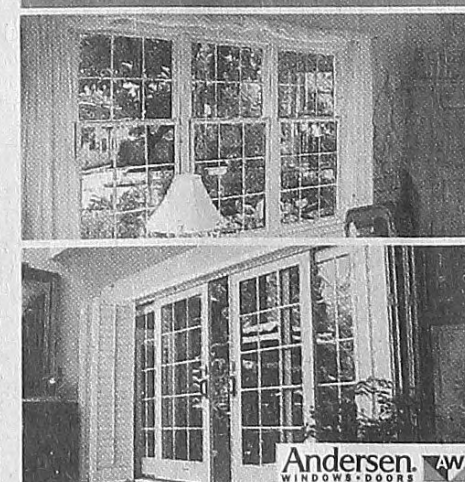
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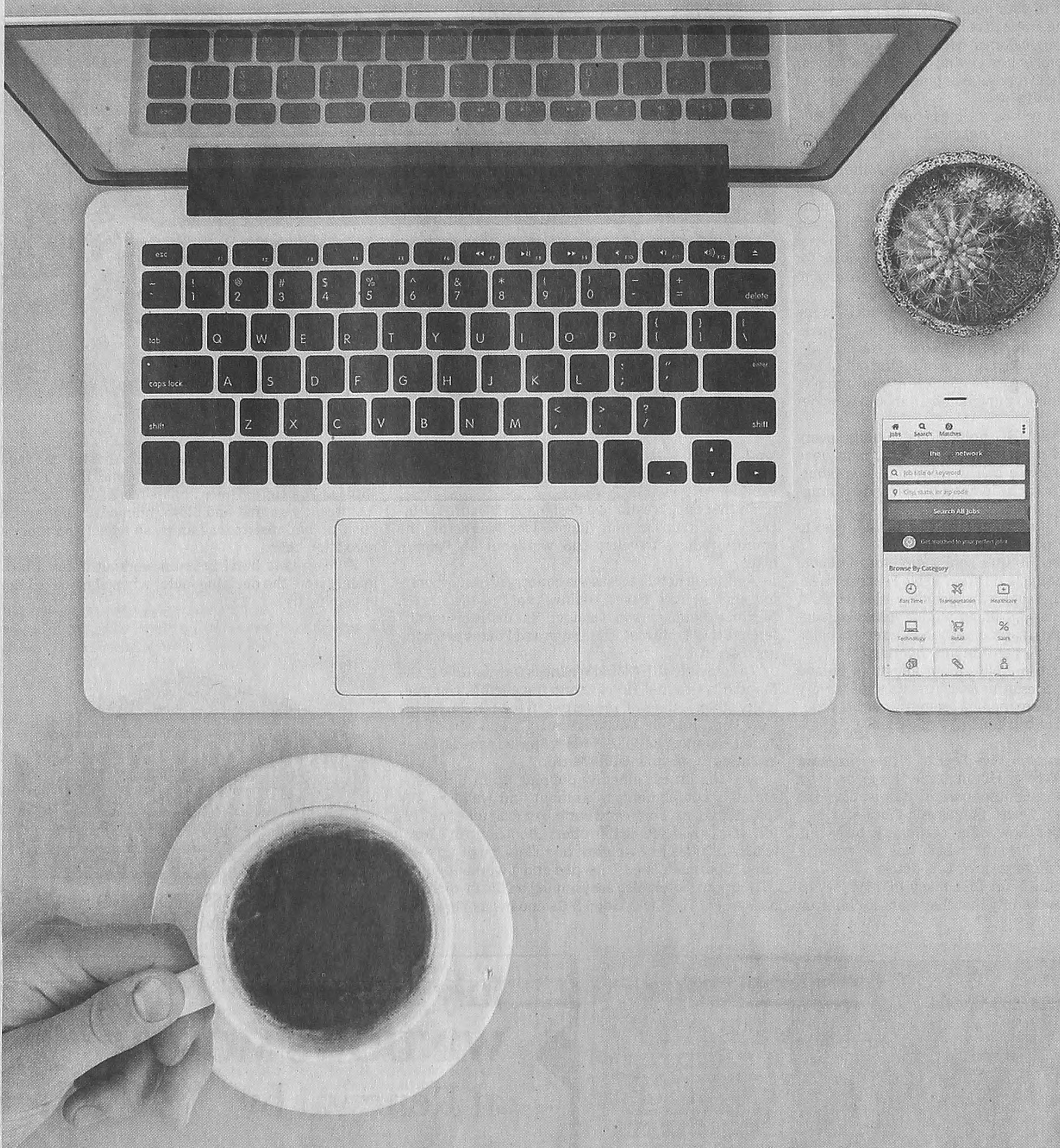
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### The issues that older workers face in the job hunt

 Kate Lopaze  
[thejobnetwork.com](http://thejobnetwork.com)

With age comes wisdom. That old proverb may very well be true, but with age and wisdom also come challenges during the job hunt process. The further along you get in your career, the more challenging it can be to find and chase the right opportunities. If you find yourself looking for the next step or a fresh start as an older job seeker, here are some of the challenges you may face.

#### 'You're overqualified.'

Accumulating a career's worth of skills and experience is a great thing. However, many companies are trying to save money or resources by hiring more junior employees, with more junior salaries. When you're looking for a new job, be prepared to make a case for why you think the job is the right opportunity for you, even if it seems like you're overqualified on paper.

#### 'We need someone tech savvy in this role.'

Fighting the stereotype that older employees are not as tech-savvy as younger ones is tough. Having entered the workforce before everyone had a phone surgically attached to their hands, there may be an assumption that you're not as tech-friendly as other candidates. But this is a skill set you can absolutely build, and one you should emphasize on your resume and any application materials.

#### 'We're looking for someone to grow into this role.'

This can be code for "we're hiring



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younger because it's cheaper." Discriminating a potential employee based on age is illegal. However, there are many ways that age discrimination can still sneak into the process. Dates on a resume can be a giveaway, and in-person interviews can make it very clear that you're not an intern fresh out of school. It's ugly, but unfortunately, it will likely continue to be a source of bias (con-

scious or not).

If it seems to be a case of the company not wanting to support a more experienced employee's salary, you don't need to take entry-level dollars to get the job.

Rather, show how an investment in you is an investment in the right skills for the job.

#### 'We're looking for a specialist.'

One of the selling points of your career is that you've likely built a number of strong skill sets and a solid base of experience. When pitching yourself for a particular job, make sure you're specific about the most important skill or quality that makes you perfect for this role. Your resume (and interview) should be targeted for the most important skills, not just the most skills, period.

#### 'We just don't have any senior-level openings.'

The further you go, the tougher it will be to find job openings on your experience level. It's a fact of hiring life that most jobs will likely be for entry-level or junior positions that have a naturally higher turnover. This means you may need to be more proactive in your job search. Traditional job sites may not have a satisfactory number of openings, try other avenues. Build your network and work it for word-of-mouth opportunities. Whatever edge you can get in an increasingly narrow field will help make your job search less frustrating.

If you're a mid- or later-career job seeker, it can feel like there are many factors working against you as you look for your new career opportunities. But it's important not to feel stuck, and make sure that you're creating a lean, focused approach to branding yourself. Being ready for these challenges can help you navigate them more easily when they come your way.

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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# SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

1 Theater districts  
8 Friendly  
15 See  
44-Down  
20 Based on logic, not fact  
21 Retirement payment  
22 Blossom part  
23 Time when those people are most available?  
25 Perk  
26 Sweetie  
27 Boggy area  
28 Yoo- (drink brand)  
29 Detergent brand  
31 Fighter of Frazier  
32 Cain's eldest son  
35 Film parts  
38 Boston fish  
39 Got the title  
40 Class that's become stylish again?  
43 Carpenter's intent gaze?  
46 Gobbling bird  
47 Martini liquor  
48 Old Pontiac  
49 Idling sort  
52 "Old man"

53 Big show featuring female horses?  
59 Part of the conspiracy  
61 Court hearings  
63 Flub it up  
64 Child of the '60s or '70s  
65 Ancient Greek physician  
66 Flubs it up  
67 Singing syllable  
68 Jai- (court sport)  
69 Planetary center's top and bottom?  
74 Fillies' feed  
75 Where you live: Abbr.  
76 Sioux City citizen  
77 Central church areas  
78 Golf club VIP  
79 Certain sib  
80 Kebab stick  
82 Not moving  
83 Reserve tire produced in Andalusia's capital?  
86 Gp. once led by Arafat  
87 Rd. with a number

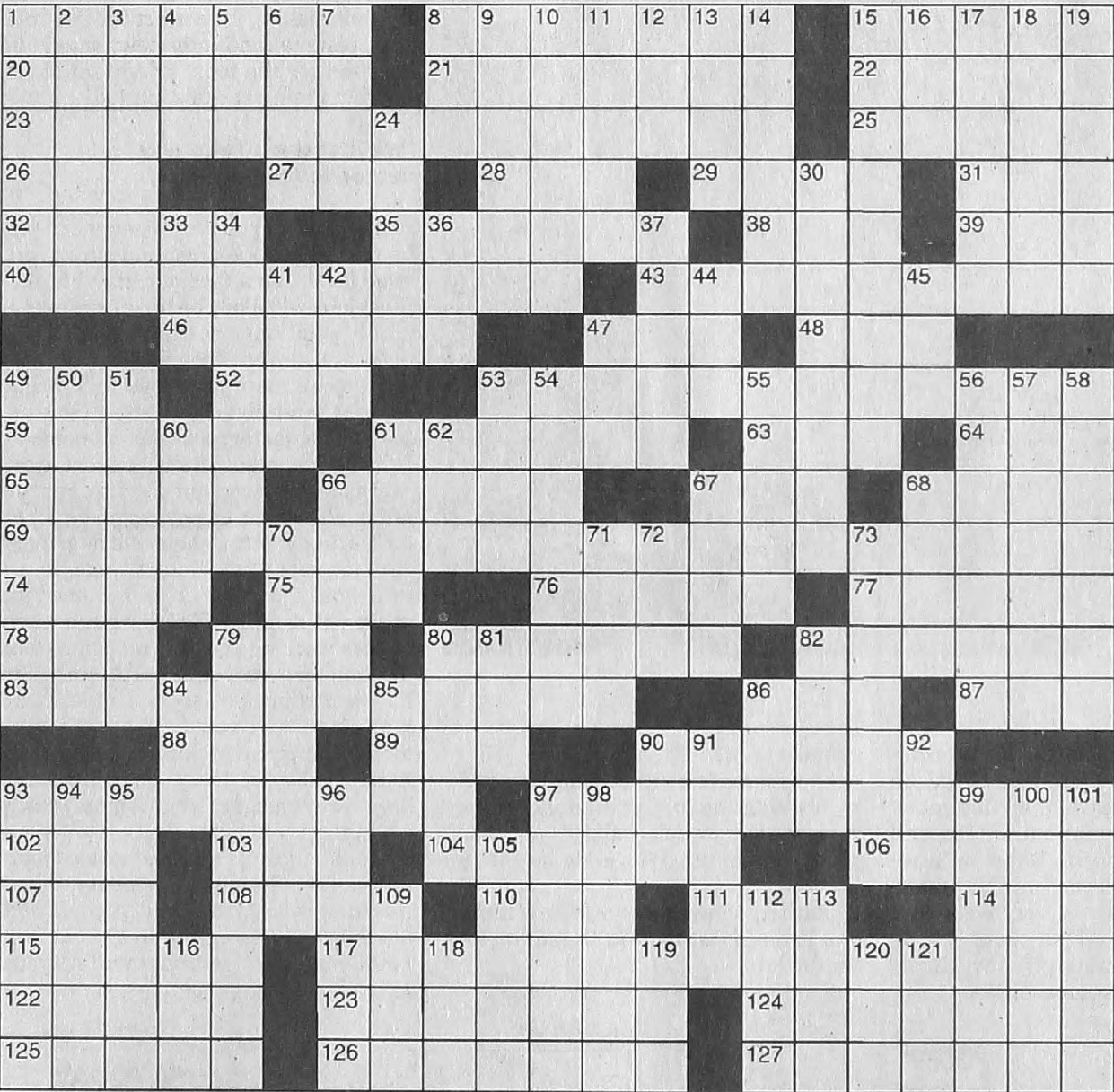
88 — Wayne (rapper)  
89 Fillies' feed  
90 Disentangle again, as hair  
93 Lay the blame on Mr. Flintstone?  
97 What happens when a low-value playing card is micro-waved?  
102 French Dada artist Jean  
103 Weed whacker  
104 Home of Italy  
106 Make a goal  
107 — Moines  
108 QED part  
110 PC-game "City" dweller  
111 Early 1960s atty. gen.  
114 China's Sun —sen  
115 Old numbing compound  
117 Very unusual breeds of house pets?  
122 Lyons' river  
123 Scrutinize  
124 Be quite revealing  
125 Having eaten enough  
126 Malady  
127 Pizzeria herb

### DOWN

1 Kind of  
2 Galaxy rival  
3 "Am too!" retort  
4 Twice XXVI  
5 Craggy peak  
6 "Carmina Burana" composer  
7 Filly's father  
8 Chimp, e.g.  
9 Net fabrics  
10 Chant  
11 "... old woman who lived in —"  
12 Life, in brief  
13 Uncouth sort  
14 Fermi of physics  
15 Leadfoot  
16 — Luthor  
17 Metropolis in Ontario  
18 Pizzeria, e.g.  
19 Stritch of "30 Rock"  
24 Occur next  
30 Full-size pickup model  
33 Old PC part  
34 Famed escape artist  
36 Shout  
37 Dips in pools  
41 Suffix with bureau  
42 Endorsed

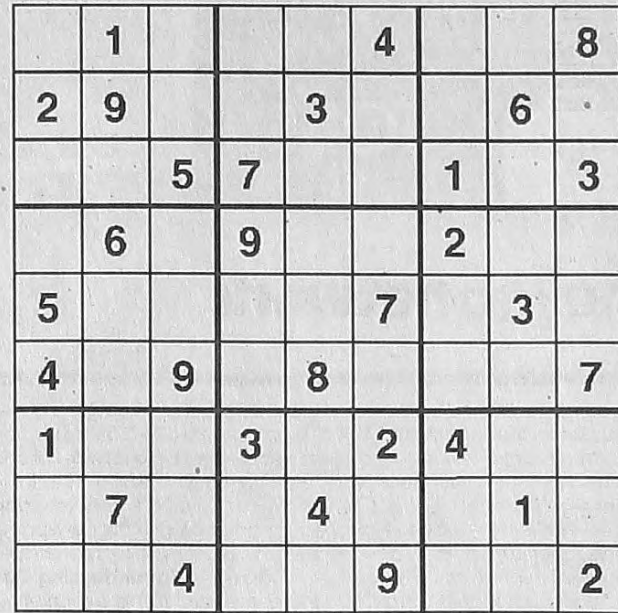
44 With 15-Across, inclined  
45 "Mazel —!"  
47 Hair fixative  
49 Settings for circus acts  
50 Clueless  
51 Associate of Stalin  
53 Slight quarrel  
54 More rash  
55 Aired anew  
56 Old flame  
57 Most imminent  
58 Port of eastern Italy  
60 Suffix with 50-Down or 84-Down  
61 Throw lightly  
62 Aussie critter  
66 "Silly" birds  
67 Simeon I of Bulgaria, e.g.  
68 Rent-  
70 Extract via a borehole, as oil  
71 Hockey great Gordie  
72 Ovine female  
73 Burial  
79 Moved like a snake  
80 Garden shovel  
81 Big jewelry brand  
82 Felipe of baseball

84 Not in good health  
85 Doe or sow  
86 Highly toxic pollutant, for short  
90 Sales agt.  
91 Observers  
92 U.K. TV network  
93 Soundboard controls  
94 Soul great Franklin  
95 End result  
96 Brought up  
97 Daughter of Richard Nixon  
98 Natives of Italy's capital  
99 Common Jesuit school name  
100 2006 action-fantasy film  
101 Begins, as a task  
105 "I'm at your disposal"  
109 Hailed ride  
112 Burkina —  
113 Tree knot  
116 Tijuana-to-Phoenix dir.  
118 Univ. dorm supervisors  
119 Golfing peg  
120 Anil or henna  
121 First name among U.N. leaders



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

## SUDOKU



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

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

### ANSWER KEY



### WORDS

BRIGHT  
CANCER  
CHEMICAL  
DEFLECT  
FILTER  
LAYER  
LOTION  
MELANOMA  
MINERAL  
NANOPARTICLES  
PHOTOSTABLE  
PIGMENT  
PORES  
PROTECTION  
RAYS  
REAPPLY  
RESEARCH  
SENSITIVE  
SHADE  
SPECTRUM  
SPOTS  
SUNBURN  
SUNSCREEN  
ULTRAVIOLET

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

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Farmington Hls., 27334 Skye Dr.  
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7/07 to Sat 7/13 10-6. Large Contrac-  
tors Garage Sale! No HH goods. Too  
Much To List!

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items, Dir: In Holiday Park  
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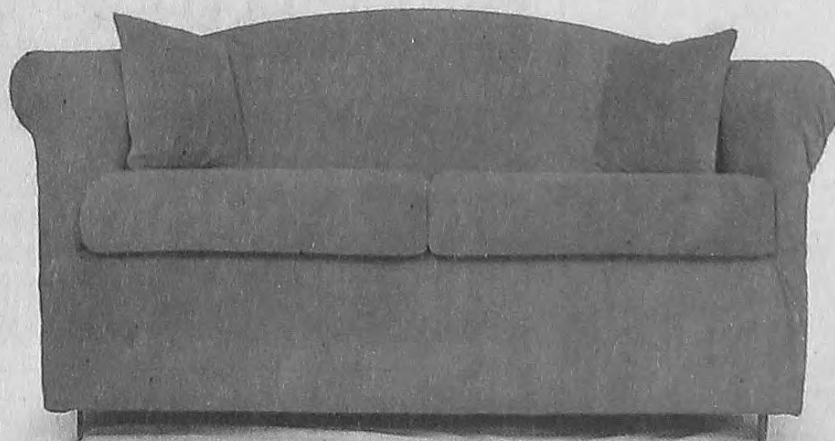
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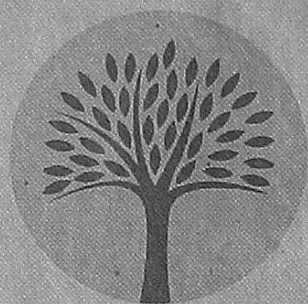
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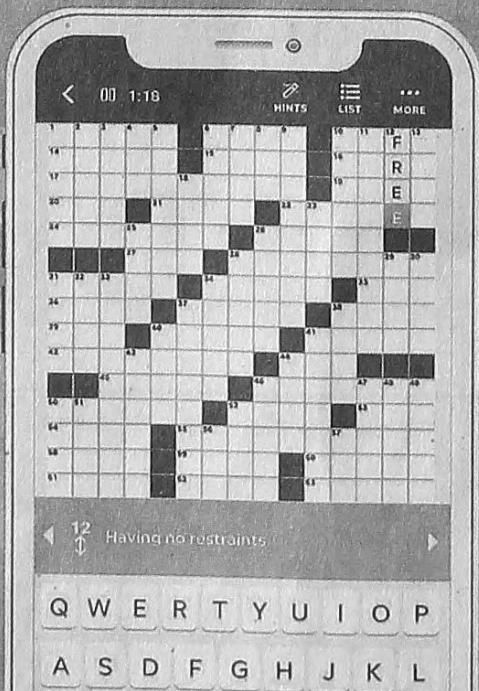
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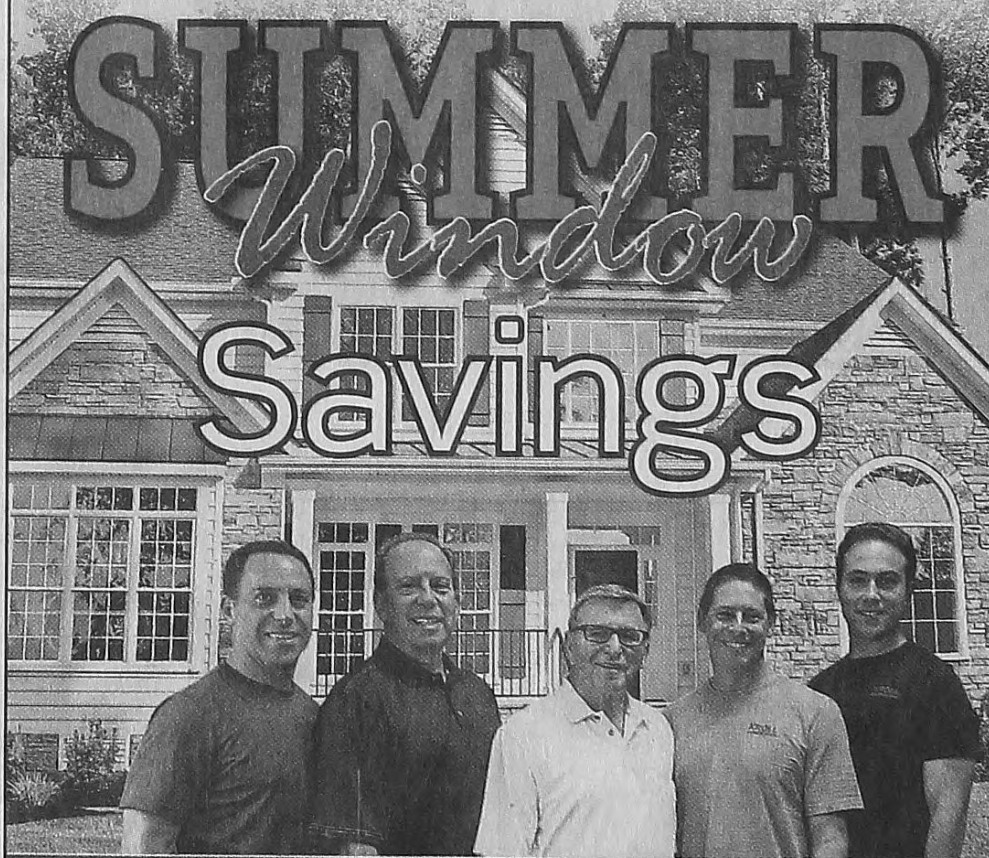


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