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SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Sale of Hines Park mills approved

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Private development will occupy two historic mills once operated by Henry Ford in Hines Park after a vote by the Wayne County Commission.

Commissioners voted, 11-3, during its meeting Dec. 5 to sell the Wilcox Mill,

230 Wilcox in Plymouth, and the Newburgh Mill, 37401 Hines Drive in Livonia. The sale of the mills — Wilcox to Tony Roko for the use of the Plymouth-based Art Foundation and the Newburgh Mill to developer Richard Cox — now move toward closing the sale of the properties so the property developers can build their projects.

The plans will allow work to commence on the mills, which have sat unused by the county for several decades since Ford closed the plants in the middle of the 20th century. Several commissioners said they were happy to see something happen with the mills, since nothing has been done for years.

"We owned it for 70 years, we didn't

do (anything)," said Commissioner Al Haidous, D-Wayne. "What we've been doing for the last 70 years didn't work."

But several commissioners, as well as residents who are a part of the citizens group Save Hines Park, spoke against the sale. Commissioner Glenn

See SALE, Page 3A



A student works in Maggie's STEM lab at Farrand Elementary following its grand opening. Maggie's STEM Lab, named for Maggie Furlong, 15, who died in 2010, opened thanks in large part to funding from the Educational Excellence Foundation, which embraced donations from Furlong's memorial fund. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS

STEM lab named for late Plymouth student

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Maggie Furlong died suddenly at age 15 in 2010, but the Plymouth resident's legacy will stretch over decades thanks to a memorial created in her name.

Last month, Maggie's STEM Lab opened in Plymouth's Farrand Elementary School, thanks in large part to funding from the Educational Excellence Foundation, which embraced donations from Furlong's memorial fund.

The lab, which was assembled in a former computer room at Farrand, is stocked with equipment (including robots) for students who love science, technology, engineering and mathematics — just like its namesake.

"The (Furlong) family is grateful for the community's support of the Maggie Kathleen Furlong Memorial held at the Educational Excellence Foundation," Maggie's family shared in a statement.

See STEM LAB, Page 5A



Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Monica Merritt, second from right, attends the grand opening of Maggie's STEM lab in November.

Westland council to vote on recycling millage

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Recycling might be coming back to Westland.

The Westland City Council is expected to vote Dec. 16 on language for a millage that, if approved by council, would put a tax for sanitation services on the March 2020 ballot.

Mayor William Wild said the city dropped its recycling program in February after the city's cost per ton increased from \$18 to \$80. He said that kind of money isn't in the city's sanitation millage.

"At the end of the day we know that our residents want us to bring the program back," he said. "Currently, the sanitation fund doesn't have the money to fund it.

See RECYCLING, Page 3A

COLD CASES

Canton police, family brought together by case from 1981

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Kim Larrow was known for running away when she vanished the evening of June 8, 1981.

Then 15, she had a spunky, rebellious spirit that curled around township investigators hoping to find her safe.

However, one investigator blended into the next as leads ran cold over the nearly 40 years that have passed since she was last seen at an ice cream parlor in Canton Township.

The dynamics created by her mysterious disappearance have created a different relationship between police officers and those family members

See LARROW, Page 4A



Livonia Lights moves to Northville

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

After taking a year hiatus, the Howse family's beloved Christmas light show is back and bigger than it was before. Formerly known as Livonia Lights, the Northville Symphony of Lights allowed the Howses to expand their already popular show.

"It just became so big and so successful and we had so many people coming that for the first time in 12 years our neighbors started to complain," Connie Howse said. "They couldn't get into their driveways. We were out every single night during the month of December doing traffic control."

The show, now held at Northville Christian School, 41355 Six Mile Road, doesn't look anything like it did in its Livonia heyday. The larger venue allowed for more lights and for people to step out of their cars to enjoy the show.

"We kind of wanted to turn Livonia Lights into a community event where people could get hot chocolate, be in an environment where they can take family photos or videos and have it really be something that was really a community event rather than just driving up and watching a couple of songs," said Timothy Howse.

The 20-minute light show, hot chocolate and heating stations are all free to attendees.

"We really look at this light show as our gift to the community," Timothy said. "It's something that we don't charge for and we do it because we really want to give back to the community. We really want to love people because we've been given so much."

Two of the biggest changes are the

two 45-foot by 25-foot walls covered in lights. Those massive displays are programmed to accompany music; each song takes between 20 and 25 hours to sequence.

"It's like a TV screen, but it would be low resolution because it's 9,000 lights creating the pictures," said Brooks McElhenny, the lead pastor of the Northville Christian Assembly.

The show also features new music and upgraded technology. Having to start from scratch, the Howse family and the nearly 100 volunteers from Northville Christian Assembly who've joined the production started work back in August.

"It's the whole church's display, it's not our display," said Franklin Howse. "It's a different event now."

The family hopes the event and its new feel will better help remind people of the true meaning of the holiday season.

"It's a Christmas lights show that's really dedicated to the real meaning of Christmas: the birth of Christ," Timothy said. "We live in a culture where the holiday has become so commercialized and a lot of times people forget what Christmas is really supposed to be."

The Northville Symphony of Lights runs every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Dec. 22. The first six of the 20-minute shows starts at 6 p.m. and the last starts at 8:30 p.m.

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

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Consumer Experience Director
Mobile: 248-396-3870
Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com
Follow us on Facebook: @OEHometown

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Ken Howse, left, with Livonia Lights, and Lead Pastor Brooks McElhenny of Northville Christian Assembly talk about moving the show to Northville Township at Northville Christian School on Six Mile Road. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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Recycling

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"So, what we asked council for was to consider putting a millage question on the ballot in March that would give residents a chance to vote if they would like to bring back this recycling program."

If approved by council, the millage

would go before voters in March 2020. If voters approve it, the city would be able to levy up to one mill, or \$1 per every \$1,000 of taxable value, for the next 10 years.

If approved, money from the new tax would be used for related services like trash pickup, yard waste pickup and composting.

Wild said the March election, during which Michigan voters will also vote on

the Democratic presidential hopefuls and a tax renewal request for the Detroit Institute of Arts, could get the program up and running sooner.

"If they approve it in March, the tax bills are printed in June and they're mailed out in July," he said. "If we waited until the August primary next year, or the November general, we would miss the summer taxes."

Wild said, for the average resident, he

thinks the bill would be pretty small.

"With the millage we're proposing, the average cost for a homeowner with a \$100,000 taxable value would be \$50 annually," he said.

Council's Dec. 16 meeting, like all regular meetings, will include opportunities for public comment.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448. Twitter: @shelby_tankk.

Sale

Continued from Page 1A

Anderson, D-Westland, said opting for more lease options would have been a better move.

"I believe there's other ways to handle this," he said. "I believe we have a responsibility to protect park lands for Wayne County citizens."

Anderson was one of the three "no" votes, along with commissioners Diane Webb, D-Livonia, and Tim Killeen, D-Detroit. Commissioner Joseph Palamara, D-Grosse Ile Township, was absent from the meeting as he was attending the funeral of Trenton Mayor Kyle Stack, who died Nov. 29 that took place during the commission meeting.

The vote came more than a week after the issue was discussed at length during a committee on public services meeting by the commission.

The two mills will join the Phoenix Mill in Plymouth Township as being sold in the past year by the county. County leadership has said there is no money for the renovation of the mills in the county's budget and selling the property will allow the mills to be restored to their former glory. Part of the requirements in the sale will include pursuit of historic status for the buildings and allows the county first right-of-refusal to purchase them back if the land comes up for sale in the future.

As a part of the deal to sell the Newburgh Mill, Cox will be required to purchase land and deed it to the county after he builds a new structure for the county sheriff's mounted division. That land will be located in the 8000 block of Farmington in Westland, not far from Nankin Mills, the administrative offices for the Wayne County parks.

The plans for the Wilcox Mill include an art center and sculpture garden ran by Roko's art foundation, and the Newburgh Mill will become a distillery and hold another entity, such as a coffee shop, next door on the property. A small park will also be installed next to the Newburgh Mill.

'Its future is in your hands'

Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman, D-Detroit, said she's received plenty of response from residents both in support and against the project. She said in ad-

dition to taking those all into account, she looks at the support from the surrounding cities' leadership, who have supported it.

Letters from leaders of municipalities such as Livonia, Plymouth, Canton Township and Westland were submitted to the commission in support of the sale of the mills.

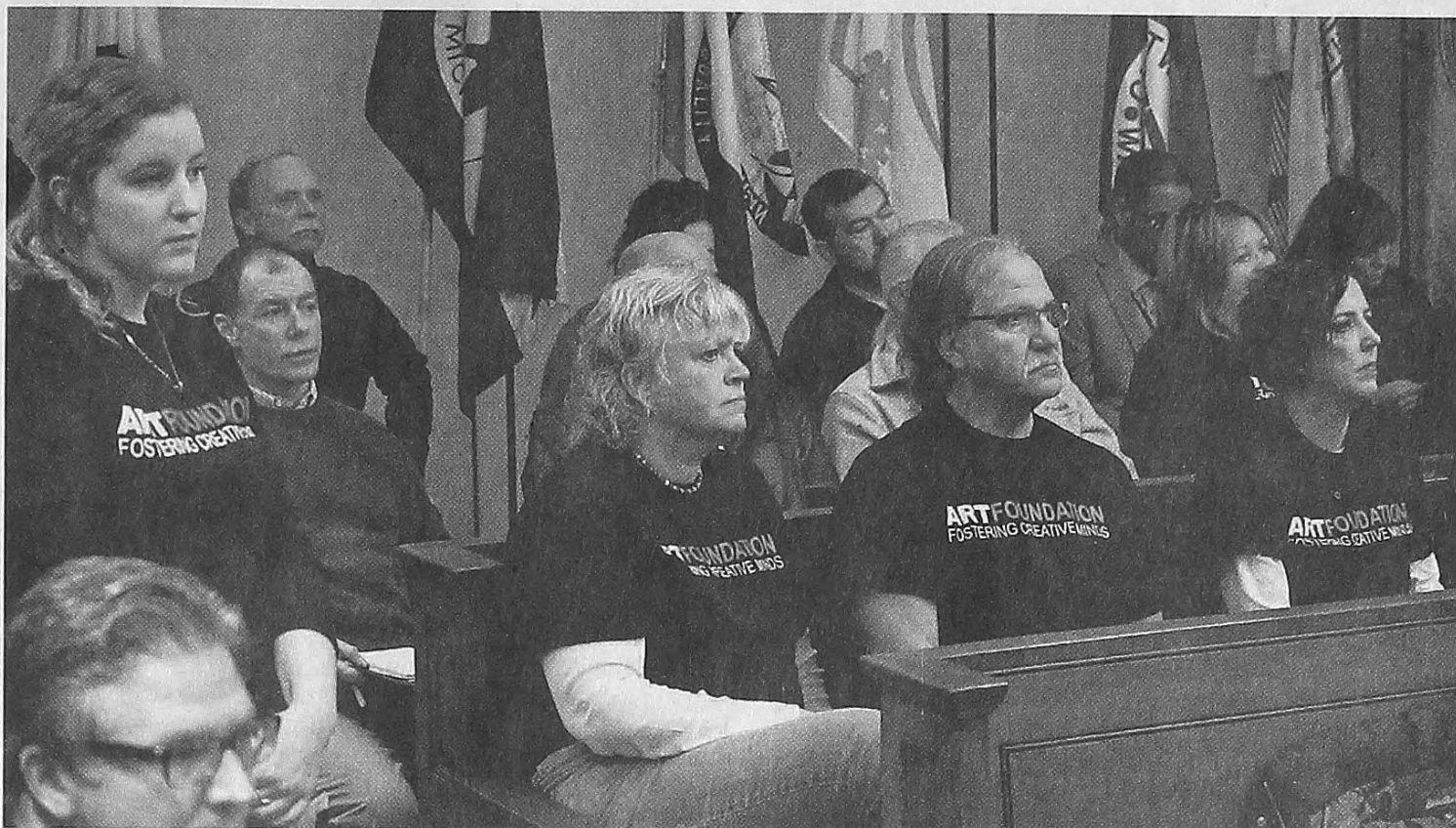
Nancy Darga, a Northville resident, a member of Save Hines Park and the former chief of design for the Wayne County parks, told the commission they had gathered more than 17,000 signatures asking the commission to not sell the

mills and instead enter into a private-public partnership utilizing grants to restore them.

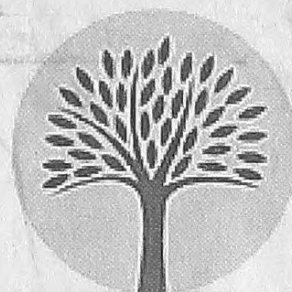
"Its future is in your hands," she said before the vote. "I am asking you to keep this park system intact."

Wayne County Assistant Executive Khalil Rahal said the arrangement is for Cox to construct the mounted division structure first and deed it to the county before he can have access to the Newburgh Mill.

With the county commission's vote, it commences a 120-day period where due diligence occurs.



Groups in support of Tony Roko's Art Foundation and preserving two mills in Wayne County's Hines Park listen to a speaker during the Wayne County Commissioners meeting Nov. 26 at Detroit's Guardian Building. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE



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Larrow

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bereft of parting properly with a teenage girl with an infectious laugh.

Detective Joe Keimig said he has numbers for several of Larrow's relatives programmed into his phone.

"Everyone's worst nightmare is your family member disappears and you have no idea what happened to them. You just want answers," he said. "I'd like to get these folks the answers that they deserve, the closure that they deserve, the peace they deserve. Let's do the right thing."

"There's no doubt in my mind there's at least one person still alive that knows something that's a missing piece of the puzzle. It might be small. But I want to hear their story and what they have to say. I can figure out whether it's credible or not."

Was she a run away or was she taken?

Larrow has been described as a bit of a wild child who loved to laugh.

"I kind of think she just raised herself a little bit. (She was) very loving, very caring, ... always wanted to have fun. (She was) always laughing," said Lisa Schmidt, a stepsister whose mother married Larrow's father Arnold.

They lived at their parents' Dundee home together, sharing a room and bed for about a year.

"I think inside she had a lot of pain," Schmidt said. "She didn't want to dwell on the sadness of life. She just wanted to be happy."

"There were a lot of people that loved that child. Her father loved her dearly. Her mother did, too."

Larrow loved being on the go and was known as a runaway. She and a friend once hitchhiked unannounced to Florida.

She ran away from her mother's home twice in 1979 and once in 1980.

Her school grades were suffering when she left her father in Dundee to be with her mother on Beaufort Drive in Canton Township.

Larrow called Schmidt, older by a few years, and asked her to place her clothes in the yard on Tuesday, June 2, 1981. The older stepsister knew Larrow was never entirely happy in Dundee.

About this series

Crime statisticians warn of a cold case crisis. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the nation has about 250,000 unsolved murders, and the number rises by several thousand each year.

Hometown Life is talking with some of the investigators who are involved in various cold cases in metro Detroit and highlighting some of those files.

"I sat out there that night waiting for her and she never came," Schmidt said. "That's the last I heard from her."

"We just all thought in the beginning that she ran away and she'll come home when she's good and ready. Then the months turned into years."

"She loved her family. It wasn't like Kim to be gone and stay gone and not talk or call."

"She was never out of mind. We always spoke of her. We just shook our heads."

Schmidt wishes cell phones had been around back then. They could have meant a world of difference in the investigation that started as a runaway report.

Larrow did not have a driver's license or Social Security number when she walked away from an ice cream parlor near Sheldon and Ann Arbor roads.

A friend worked there, and the two girls made plans to meet at Hines Park. Larrow never showed up, according to online reports.

A heartbroken Arnold Larrow once hired a private investigator to find his daughter.

"You could see it in his face," Schmidt said of the now deceased father. "We'd talk about Kim, and he'd just shake his head. He was like the rest of us. He was just bewildered."

She has confidence in the law enforcers working together to find her stepsister.

Investigators alerted her before a Macomb Township dig last summer. Convicted killer Arthur Ream is rumored to have used the location to bury girls who vanished between 1970 and 1982.

"I just pray to God we can bring Kim home," Schmidt said. "Do I think she's still alive? No. She would have gotten a hold of somebody by now. She loved too many people."



Kim Larrow was 15 when she disappeared in 1981 in Canton.
COURTESY OF NAMUS

Active investigation

Over the years, Canton police officers have interviewed relatives, plumbed several working theories, and continued to look at the Art Ream possibility.

"At least a couple of times a week, I'm dealing with phone calls, interviews, scheduling and logistics for the continued investigation," said Keimig, who incorporates the case into his daily duties. "In that regard, it's very much active despite the fact that it's a 38-year-old case."

He reopened the case about three years ago because of a tip that Larrow was alive and well, living in another state.

The lead proved to be erroneous but made him familiar with the case.

Technology has changed over the years, but Canton detectives can't use one of the most powerful advancements — DNA technology — without a body or crime scene.

"A rollercoaster is probably the best way to describe it," said Keimig of his experience with the Larrow case. "At the end of the day, any level of heartache or frustration that I feel about it, when something doesn't pan out, is nothing compared to the 38 years that that Kim

Larrow's family has been looking for answers.

"It's hard to feel bad about the effort that went into something that didn't pan out when this family has been dealing with this for a long time. This case is important to me so it's worth the extra effort."

A connection

Robert Cooper, tied to Arnold Larrow's family, likens Keimig to a "god-send."

"This guy has worked very, very, very, hard on Kim's case," he said. "He really, really, really put a lot of heart and soul in this."

"If there's one particular thing that gives me solace, it's definitely that they're looking for Kim."

"Prosecution isn't my priority. As far as me personally and a lot of my family members, we just want to bring Kim home and bring the closure of finding her to the end."

The southeast Michigan resident remembers a young Kim Larrow being in frequent conflicts with her parents. She ran with a "tougher crowd" that liked to hang out at Hines Park.

Cooper has been suspicious of an older firefighter that was part of the group, as well as Larrow's mother.

Lucy Larrow could not be found for this story. She once was known to be living in Arizona.

"I'm not sure where she is living but I have reached out on several occasions to speak with her," Keimig said in an email. "I've not spoken to her directly but I hope to have that opportunity when she is ready."

The case quickly grabbed the attention of Sgt. Adam Shulman, who recently returned to detective duties.

"It's close to the heart," he said of the Larrow investigation, "because we all have families. We can't fathom or understand what the Larrow family is going through for the past decades that they have had to go through this."

"So we're just doing our due diligence and our best to hopefully get them some closure and just do the best that we can to do right by them."

For those who may be able to help find Larrow, Canton detectives ask that you call 734-394-5400.

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

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The Living and Learning Center in Northville is hoping to acquire the nearby Massey estate. The deadline to secure funding for the property is approaching, and the nonprofit still needs \$650,000. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Autism nonprofit nears deadline for fundraising

Ed Wright hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Only one obstacle remains in the way of a match-made-in-heaven marriage between a nonprofit looking for more operating space and a sprawling 14-acre property that has been on the market for over three years: Cash.

The Living and Learning Enrichment Center, a Northville-based nonprofit that assists young adults who have autism, needs to raise approximately \$650,000 – it has already secured \$50,000 of the \$700,000 needed – to complete the purchase of Northville's Don Massey property at 801 Griswold.

Coming up short during a marathon fundraising journey would be heart-breaking for everyone involved, but especially so for Rachelle Vartanian, its founder, director and the parent of an autistic son.

"Everyone has been amazing in their support of us," Vartanian said. "But we're not quite where we have to be financially, so we're asking the public for support. Not only could donors get potential naming rights at the property – for instance, we could put a donor's name on the front porch – but any contribution to us is a tax write-off."

"Once we get in, we're not worried (about finances). We have a sound structure. But we need to come up with the money for the purchase, and we're running out of time."

Vartanian said the property would be ideal for her growing organization, which helps young adults with autism transition to independent living after their schooling is completed.

"The campaign goal is independent living," Vartanian said. "Up to 90% of this population of teens and adults with autism and other special needs are unemployed, with many living in their parents' basement."

"Our plan is to create large numbers of jobs to provide work experience and income, along with life-skills training



Living and Learning Center Director Rachelle Vartanian talks about her vision for the Northville nonprofit.

for independent living so these individuals can live their best lives.

"We are out of room at our current facility (in Northville) and bursting at the seams. When I walked the grounds of this property for the first time, I was blown away. It has the outbuildings and acreage to create new businesses and jobs for our clients, and offer new programs and services to meet demand."

In addition to the purchase of the property, the \$700,000 would cover start-up costs for the nonprofit, which plans to include, among other assets, a lavender farm, alpaca farm, doggie day care with dog walking, a bee farm, manufacturing IT training, and job skills classes.

The 6,253-square-foot Massey estate has four bedrooms and six bathrooms and was built in the 1920s.

Don Massey was a world-renowned Cadillac dealer. He died in 2011 at age 83.

The Living and Learning Center is seeking individual and corporate support. For more information, visit the organization's website or call 248-308-3592.

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

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STEM lab

Continued from Page 1A

"In the years since the fund was developed, the Furlong family had been looking for a project to support within a school Maggie attended that would have a lasting, sustainable impact on students and reflect Maggie's love of math. They found such a project in the creation of a STEM Lab at Farrand Elementary."

An open house for the lab was held Nov. 11 with all of the donors who contributed to the project on the invitation list.

"Everyone who attended was thrilled by what they saw," said EEF Executive Director Gretchen Ward. "The lab was in development for a year-and-a-half, so it was an exciting night."

"Part of the process in designing what we wanted to make a 'cool' STEM lab included inviting Farrand students to give us their ideas. These students attended the open house and, like the other attendees, were thrilled by the activities the lab offers."

Melissa Overfield, a third-grade teacher and co-STEM coordinator at Farrand, said the student advisory board did a great job of generating ideas for the labs.

"They recommended everything from comfortable furniture to hands-on activities ... activities that provided a break from the daily classroom routine," Overfield said. "The lab gives them an outlet for program robots and watch

"The (Furlong) family is grateful for the community's support of the Maggie Kathleen Furlong Memorial held at the Educational Excellence Foundation."

Maggie Furlong's family
In a statement about the new STEM lab

them roll, and it provides materials for coding, which is a huge thing with kids these days."

The lab is available for all students at Farrand, "from young 5s through fifth-grade students as well as ASD (autistic spectrum disorder) students," Overfield added.

Bosch, which has a technical center in Plymouth Township, "got the ball rolling with funding," Overfield said.

"Watching the engagement the students had with the materials in the lab was outstanding," Overfield concluded. "It's a great project to keep Maggie's legacy alive."

Maggie was an active member of the community, her family added. She loved basketball and golf, and played golf at Plymouth High School.

The fund will remain open to provide continued support for the STEM lab.

Questions regarding the fund can be answered by Ward at 734-416-2718.

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

Guernsey Farms Dairy to get \$1M makeover

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Novi business is celebrating its 80th anniversary next year with a \$1 million makeover.

Guernsey Farms Dairy is planning a facelift to both the interior and exterior of their 28,000-square-foot facility that houses a restaurant, ice cream shop and milk processing plant located on three acres at 21300 Novi Road.

“Changes are coming,” Joe Kinville, one of five co-owners of the family business, said. “Next year is our 80th year in business, and as a toast to our generation and to our community and what we have built in the area, we wanted to re-vamp the experience here at Guernsey’s.”

The first steps toward those renovation plans came Nov. 25 when the Novi City Council unanimously approved a special land use and liquor license for the business.

“Thanks to the McGuire family and Guernsey for their continued investment,” Councilman Andrew Mutch said, calling the business with origins dating back to before Novi was a city a landmark. “It’s great to see this kind of business with a history in Novi reinvest.”

Kinville’s grandfather, John McGuire, established Guernsey Farms Dairy in 1940 in downtown Northville. In 1966, the business moved to the current Novi location. It’s expanded over the years, including a 100-seat restaurant and store in 1985 to serve construction workers building homes in the area.

The renovations, for which local approvals are still needed, will include façade and parking lot improvements to improve curb appeal and access. Kinville said there are still lifelong residents in the area who still don’t know there is a restaurant at the Guernsey location.

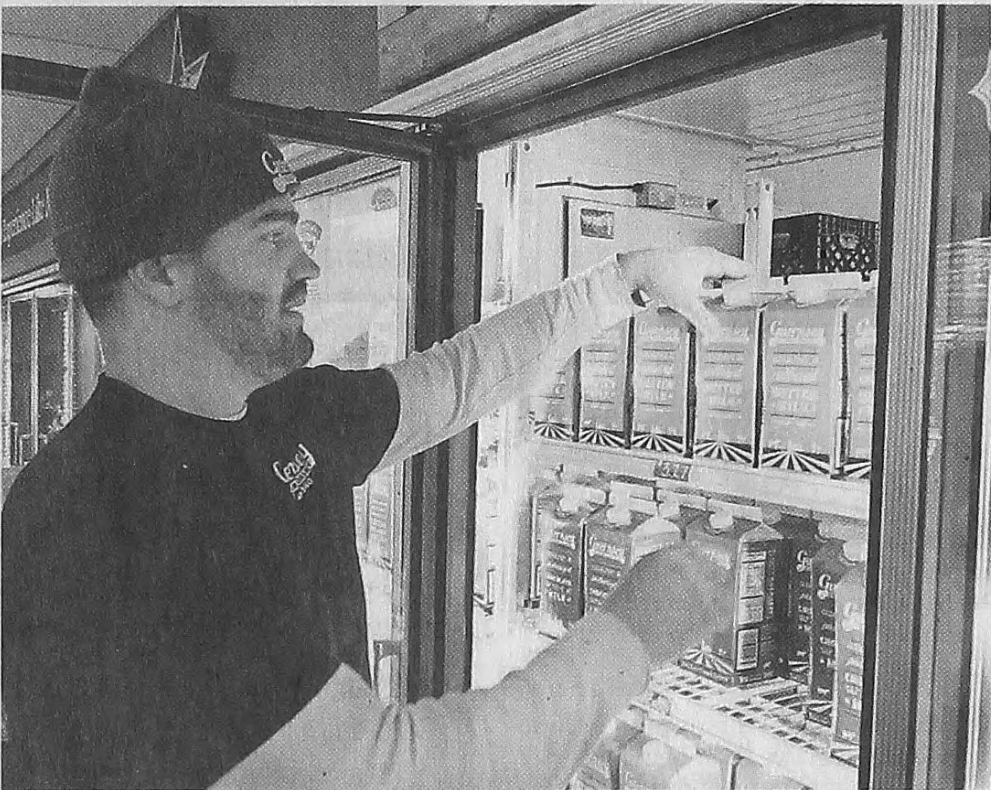
The restaurant’s interior will also change to offer tables and chairs instead of booth seating, which he said can be a problem with larger groups.

Kinville hopes the addition of liquor will enhance the dining experience and attract customers who want an alcoholic beverage with their meals, but he stressed that Guernsey will remain a family-oriented business.

“By no means will this be a sports bar



A rendering shows what the exterior of Guernsey Farms Dairy in Novi will look like upon completion its renovation project.
COURTESY OF JOE KINVILLE



Dairy co-owner Joe Kinville checks the store’s buttermilk supply Nov. 26.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

atmosphere,” Kinville said. “We are still family friendly and family focused.”
He does expect to have Michigan

craft beer and wine offerings, as well as “boozy milkshakes.”
A new menu will have a dairy theme

in the food as well to focus on what Guernsey does best.

That change will include going from broasted chicken to homestyle buttermilk fried chicken, something Kinville noted was scary to change, but was part of their commitment to being dairy specific. The restaurant wants to execute a few things very well instead of being OK at multiple things, he added.

“We have the best buttermilk in the world, shipped to 20 different states,” he said.

Guernsey gets all of its milk from Walnut Dale Farms in Wayland and that single source partnership will continue.

Ice cream offerings will increase with the renovations, as more freezer space is added. Kinville said service will also improve in the scoop shop and store area as customers will pay after they get their ice cream instead of before, hopefully reducing lines in the summer.

Guernsey is requesting site plan approval from the Novi Planning Commission this month and Kinville hopes for construction to begin early next year, with renovations completed in the spring for an April opening.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.



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LO-GC0324837-02

Livonia council to vote on pay raises for council, mayor

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At its next regular meeting on Dec. 16, Livonia City Council will vote on pay raises for all of the city's elected officials, including itself.

The raises, proposed by the Local Officers Compensation Commission, would give all elected officials a 4.5 percent raise over two years starting in 2020. The commission meets once every two years and recommends the pay of every elected official.

For Mayor-elect Maureen Miller Brosnan, the proposed pay bump would give the soon-to-be mayor \$127,500 in 2020 and about \$130,688 in 2021.

On the council end, the 4.5 percent raise for Council President-elect Kathleen McIntyre would give her about \$18,889 in 2020 and 19,362 in 2021.

As for the rest of council, which will

be made up of Toy, Scott Bahr, Jim Jolly, Cathy White, Brandon McCullough and Rob Donovic for the next two years, raises would give about \$17,615 in 2020 and \$18,055 in 2021.

The raises would also give Clerk Susan Nash and Treasurer Lynda Scheel about \$87,450 in 2020 and \$89,943 in 2021.

Council, which passed raises for every elected official aside from themselves in 2017, seem poised to approve the proposals.

"I'm proud of the fact that Livonia pays on the low side," McIntyre said. "We don't look at the salaries of the neighboring communities and say we ought to be at the top of that, we say we should be in the middle or a little bit below the middle."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com or 248-305-0448.

Canton police arrest man suspected in car break-ins

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Thanks in part to the awareness of a resident, Canton Township police arrested a 20-year-old male suspected of breaking in to parked vehicles.

The sequence unfolded Dec. 5 when a resident observed suspicious behavior on their exterior home-security cameras in the area of Geddes and Beck roads, which had been a recent increase in thefts from vehicles, police said.

Officers searched the area, with the assistance of a K-9 team from the Washenaw County Sheriff's Office, which led

to the arrest of one male subject.

During the investigation, police officers also located a stolen vehicle parked in the area.

As of Friday afternoon, the subject was being held in police custody pending case review by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

The Canton Police Department thanked the resident for being alert and calling in the suspicious tip, and encourages anyone who observes suspicious activity on their home security systems to do the same.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com.

Police say contract worker caused damaging house fire

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An Ingham County man was arrested Tuesday on two arson charges related to a Canton Township house fire on Crestmont Drive.

Bond for Jason Michael Wilkinson, 38, of Leslie was set at \$500,000. He faces charges of second-degree arson and arson after police said he prepared to burn a building on Feb. 10.

Together, the felony charges mean up to 30 years in prison if he is convicted, township police said in a report.



Wilkinson

They said Wilkinson had been contracted to perform work at the residence.

"The police and fire department conducted a lengthy investigation into the suspicious fire," the report stated. "The homeowners were not home at the time of the fire, but suffered significant loss of property and damage inside the residence."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

Off-duty Detroit police officer accidentally shoots girlfriend

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An unnamed off-duty Detroit police officer accidentally shot his girlfriend in Lyon Township last week, according to Oakland County Sheriff's deputies.

They said in a report they responded to a Petoskey Street shooting report around 6:23 p.m. Nov. 27.

Deputies apparently forced their way into the home and found the victim, 28, in a rear bedroom.

The off-duty Detroit police officer, later identified as the shooter, was administering lifesaving measures to his girlfriend. She had been shot in the chest.

Lyon Township firefighters arrived and began treating the woman. The man, 21, was transported to the county's Lyon Township substation to talk to detectives.

He shared that his girlfriend had recently purchased a firearm and he was showing her how to safely handle the weapon.

According to the sheriff's press release, "He indicated that he had previously unloaded his department-issued firearm, believed it to still be unloaded and was demonstrating building search

techniques. He stated that while doing so he accidentally discharged the weapon, striking his girlfriend in the chest."

The girlfriend confirmed the accidental shooting, deputies said.

"The victim explained to detectives her boyfriend was showing her how to safely handle a firearm when her boyfriend accidentally shot her," the sheriff's report stated. "The victim indicated she watched her boyfriend unload his firearm and she also believed the weapon to be unloaded."

An investigation continues. Detroit Police Department detectives were notified and visited Petoskey Street for its own internal investigation.

Deputies secured firearms and transported them to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office property room. The victim was hospitalized in "temporary serious condition." She was expected to recover.

Both she and the shooter live in Lyon Township.

Hometown Life has submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to review the incident report.

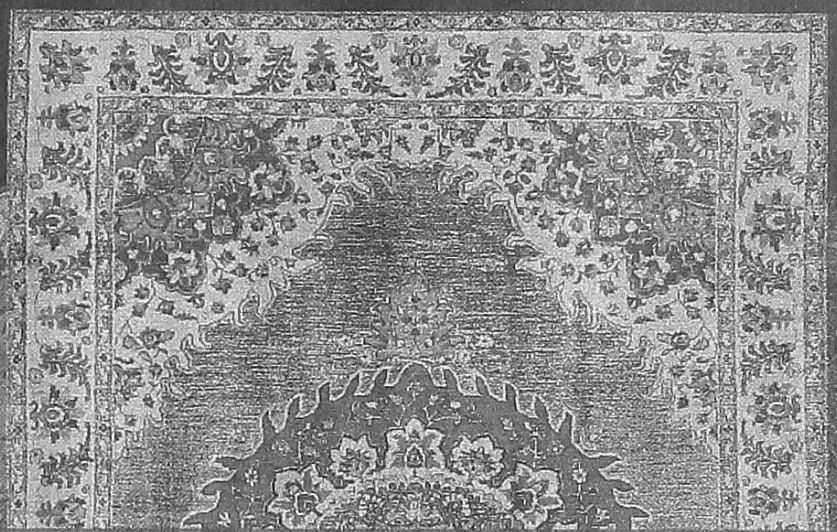
Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

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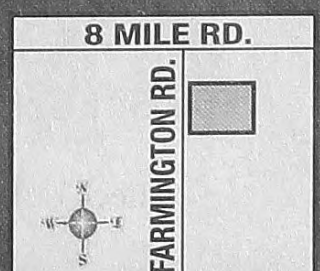
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WWCS program gets gifts to underprivileged teens

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Most Christmas gift programs for underprivileged youth don't include teens. One of the most popular programs in the country, Toys For Tots, traditionally only gives gifts to kids age 12 or younger.

But, the warmth one feels when getting a gift doesn't really have an age. At least that's what Bridget Jarvis, a family resource center specialist for the Wayne-Westland Community School district, says.

"I have two high schoolers," she said. "I have two girls at Wayne (Memorial) and I have a son in college. I know they'd be devastated if they didn't get anything for Christmas."

Last year, Jarvis started a program called Shh!, or Santa Helps High Schoolers, to see that some of the district's homeless teens got something for Christmas. The program allowed 17 kids to have something to open on Dec. 25.

"We really just try to get them two to three things that are very nice things off their Christmas list. If all they want is clothes, we get them clothes. ... But some kids do ask for a new controller because theirs is broken, or the newest game."

Bridget Jarvis
Family resource center specialist,
Wayne-Westland Community School district

This year, she's expecting to give gifts to between 75 and 80 high school students in the district who are homeless, in the foster care system or come from

low income households.

"We really just try to get them two to three things that are very nice things off their Christmas list," Jarvis said. "If all they want is clothes, we get them clothes. Like, that's all my girls want for Christmas. But some kids do ask for a new controller because theirs is broken, or the newest game."

The students, selected by teachers and counselors as Jarvis doesn't take parent referrals, are matched with an anonymous sponsor who buys the gifts. The students don't know who their sponsor is, and the sponsors don't know the names of the teens.

Jarvis said she likes to keep the whole thing low key so the teens don't get embarrassed. But, she said the first students to benefit from Shh! last year were nothing but grateful.

"Last year, we had nothing but positive comments and all of the kids were extremely grateful," she said. "They were just shocked, I would say."

Jarvis also noted that she doesn't just help people around Christmas. At the resource center she works in at John Glenn High School and the other two centers at Franklin Middle School and Adams Upper Elementary School, students and parents can get help with a variety of issues.

"We service all students and families in the Wayne-Westland Community School District," Jarvis said. "Anybody who is in need of help can call us. If they're in need of emergency toiletries we have those on a year round basis, socks and underwear, school supplies."

This year, the program doesn't need anymore sponsors. But, Jarvis said people can pitch in through donation by emailing her at jarvisb@wwcsd.net. If donors put Shh! in the check memo, any funds that can't be used this year will go toward next year's efforts. People can also request to be matched with a student next year.

stankersle@hometownlife.com

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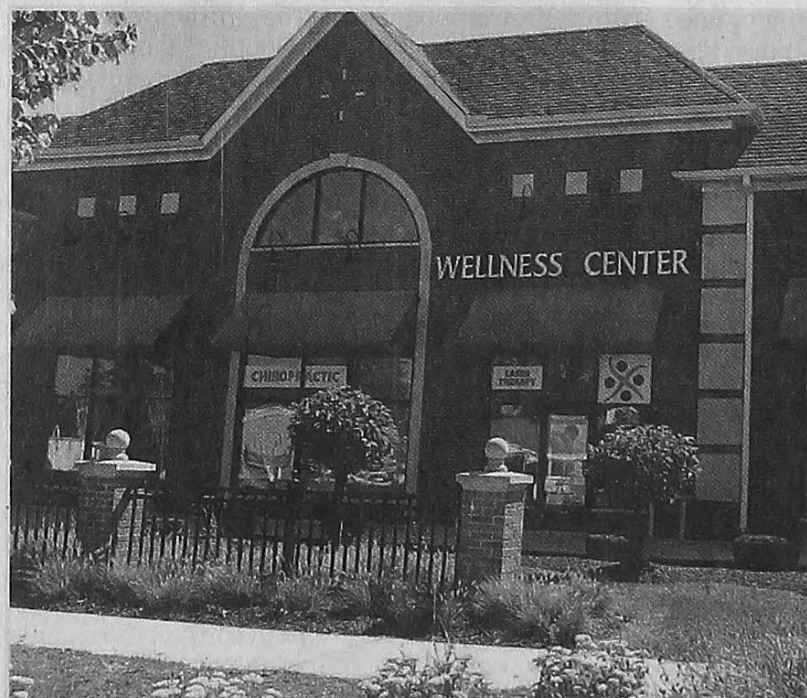
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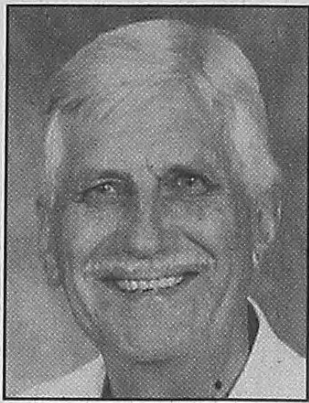
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Obituaries

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Lawrence Joseph Dropiewski

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP - Lawrence Joseph Dropiewski, of Bloomfield Township, passed away on December 1, 2019 at the age of 88. Larry was the much loved father of Lisa (Michael) Vetowich, Marianne (Doug) Sacksteder, and Larry D. (Judy) Dropiewski; the caring grandfather of Piper Vetowich, Katherine Dropiewski, Steven Dropiewski, and Jonathan Dropiewski; and dear brother of Vivian (Raymond) Guitar. Lawrence is preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Blanche Dropiewski and sister Estelle Murray. The family will receive friends on Thursday December 12, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm, with sharing of memories at 7:00 pm at the Pixley Funeral Home, 3530 Auburn Rd, Auburn Hills. Burial at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Memorials are appreciated to the Royal Oak Symphony, Michigan State College of Business, or Wayne State College of Law. Please share a memory at www.pixleyfhauburnhills.com



May you find peace in this time of sorrow.



Helen Jean Erdody

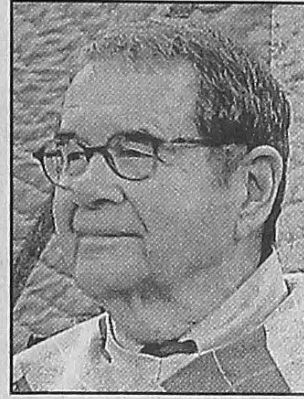
LIVONIA - A loving, compassionate & kind-hearted wife, mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law passed away Dec 8th, 2019 at the age of 98. Beloved wife of her late husband David, for 61 years. Loving mother of Elizabeth (Kevin) Martin. Proud Grandma of Danny, Christopher, and Jonathan Martin. A homemaker who loved cooking, gardening, flowers and above all her family. A Memorial service will be held on Sat, Dec 14, 2019 at 4:00pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile, Livonia, MI 48152. The gathering will begin at 3pm. For more info, please visit: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

Harry J Will Funeral Homes

Kempf ("Kem") Hogan

- - passed away November 27, 2019. At 80 years old, he was predeceased by his parents R.G. and Helen M. Hogan of Birmingham, Michigan. Kem is survived by a brother, James Patrick Hogan, who resides in Richmond, Virginia, and ten cousins. Kem was a lifelong member of the Birmingham community. A graduate of Seaholm High School, he was valedictorian of his class. He then attended the University of Michigan and received a B.A., M.B.A. and J.D. all with high honors. He joined the law firm of Butzel Long of Detroit and retired a distinguished partner. Kem's passion, which filled the years until his death, was collecting and selling art and he believed that inspiration could be found anywhere. Kem often remarked that "the cream rises to the top" and his collections of both high art and folk art reflected this. After cremation, his remains will be placed at White Chapel in Troy, Michigan. Service and burial will be private. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500.

View obituary and share memories at AJDesmond.com



Margaret L. Thoma

FARMINGTON HILLS - Age 95, passed away Saturday, December 7, 2019. Surviving is her brother, Gerald (Carol) Crossmyer; niece, Barbra (Brian) Reis; nephew, Fr. Robert T. Crossmyer; numerous other nieces and nephews. Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Willard, sister, Clara J. Crossmyer and brother, Elmer A. Crossmyer. A funeral mass was celebrated Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at St. Gerald Catholic Church, Farmington. Private burial Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorial tributes Fr. Solanus Guild. heeneysundquist.com



James "Jamie" Lent

PLYMOUTH - James "Jamie" Lent 71, passed away November 30 due to a fall with head injury. Son of men's clothier, Wendell Lent and wife, Dorothy. PHS class of '66. Survived by sisters Linda Oldford and Julie Hall, several nieces and nephews and significant other Cynthia Toman.



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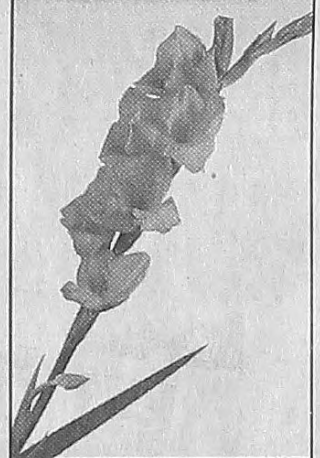
Jeanette Olesnavage

LEXINGTON - Jeanette Olesnavage, age 95, of Lexington, formerly Birmingham, died December 5, 2019. She is survived by her 5 sons, John (Margaret), Joseph (Sue), Mark (Judy), Paul, Jim (Terri); and 2 daughters, Margery (Tom) Vogel, and Mary Ann (John) Cary. Funeral Services 11 AM Monday, December 9 at St. Denis Catholic Church, Lexington. Read full obituary at www.pomeroyfuneralhomes.com.



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Sports

Salem fires football coach after 2 seasons

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The Salem Rocks have made a coaching change in their football program. Last week, interim Athletic Director Tim Baechler fired coach Justin Reed after two seasons with the team. Reed took over in 2018, finishing with

a 2-7 record in his first season before going 0-9 this fall. Injuries took a major toll on the 2019 season. Baechler, a former Canton football coach, took over as AD after Brian Samulski left to take the same position at Northville High.



Reed

He declined to comment on why Reed was let go. He added that he has some coaching candidates in mind, but did not say how quickly a hire would be made. Reed was not immediately available for comment. Salem doesn't have a history of football success. The program made the playoffs in 2017 after a 5-4 regular season, but lost in the opening round to fin-

ish 5-5. According to Michigan-Football.com, it's the only time the Rocks have made the playoffs since 1991. Salem has only one winning season since 1998, going 5-4 in 2012. It last went 0-9 in 2006. Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



North Farmington's Justus Clark attempts a shot against Farmington during a game last season. COURTESY OF CHRIS FLECK

Laughter, tears: SL East remembers Trevon Tyler

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A heartbreaking week ended Dec. 6 with laughter and tears shared on the football field at South Lyon East High School. Hundreds gathered near the middle of the Cougars field to honor Trevon Tyler, a student and football player who died Nov. 29 from complications following knee surgery. His parents, classmates, teammates, friends and coaches all shared memories of the funny, kind, and deeply loved and missed 16-year-old. His was a life that ended much too soon, as noted by East football coach Joe Pesci, who expressed gratitude to Trevon's parents for "sending your son to us." Pesci remembered Trevon as a jokester, athlete and respectful student. The crowd laughed as Pesci recalled playing country songs and asking Trevon to sing along, at which point the football player with the big eyes gazed at him and said, "Coach, you must be crazy." "I will never forget him, and I'm sure he is looking down on us with a smile that would light up a stadium," Pesci said. The coach's speech was followed by friends including Darnell Davis, who recalled that Trevon would walk into a party like a celebrity, with an attitude of "Love me," drawing laughs. "You will be forever loved, my brother," he said. "You are a legend in our hearts." Alyssa Hollo said Trevon was dedicated to all who knew him and got along with everyone. "He acted like everyone's hero," she said, calling him her lunch buddy and laughing as she recalled he was always asking for food. She noted his family drove him an hour every day from their home in Detroit so he could be in South Lyon with his friends. "I'm beyond thankful I got to be his friend," she said. "He is the sunshine through the clouds." Ella Robinson agreed, saying, "Trevon was an inspiration to all of us. ... Although he won't walk across the stage with the class of 2021, his legacy will carry on." She paused before also thanking his parents for putting Trevon into the lives of everyone at South Lyon East, who would walk with them in sorrow. The students then released white balloons marked with Trevon's jersey number, "#54," which floated in a cold wind up to the moonlit sky.

See TYLER, Page 2B

What to expect from OAA boys basketball

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The high school basketball season is underway. Hometown Life-area teams will play with the goal to get to the Breslin Center in East Lansing for the state finals on March 28.

Here is a preview of how five area teams in the Oakland Activities Association look ahead of the season opener.

North Farmington

Head coach: Todd Negoshian, ninth season


Last year's overall record: 14-7, third

place in OAA Red, lost to Northville in the district semifinal

Players to watch: G Justus Clark, G Marshall Miller, G Jamal Hayes, G Basheer Jihad

Negoshian's season outlook: "We lost 93 percent of our scoring from last

See BASKETBALL, Page 2B




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South Lyon East High students prepare to release balloons with student Trevon Tyler's football jersey number printed on them during a memorial service at South Lyon East's football field Dec. 6. Tyler, 16, died Nov. 29 from complications following knee surgery. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Tyler

Continued from Page 1B

As students wiped away tears, Trevon's parents, Yolanda Lewis and Victor Tyler Sr., sought to comfort the students and expressed their own thankfulness.

"He loved this school," Lewis said, adding that the hour-long drives to South Lyon with her son were filled with joy and silliness. "We love and will miss him, but this community. ... He loved you guys."

Victor Tyler Sr. recounted that his son always wanted to tell him what happened on the football field before doing his homework.

"He never said anything bad," he

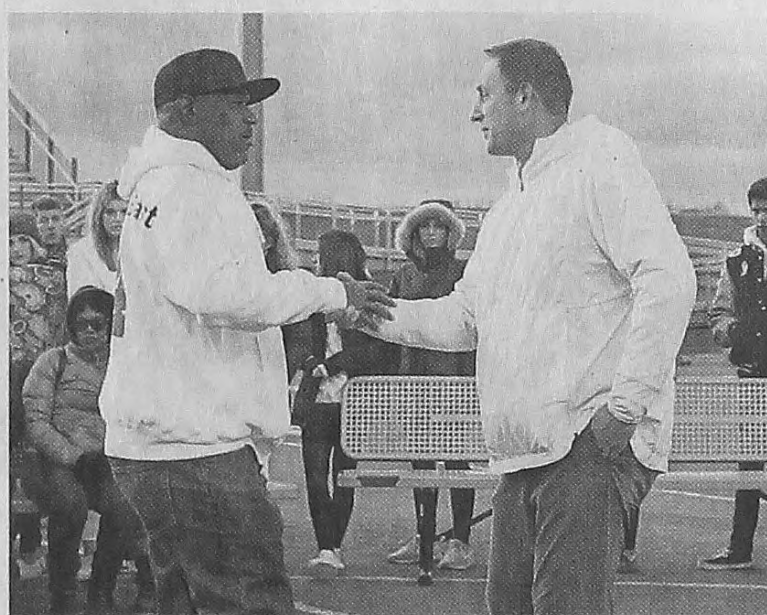
said. "All the joy and love he brought home came from each and every one of you."

Students raised candles or lit up their phones in a moment of silence before Athletic Director Greg Michaels closed the ceremony, asking all present to consider the concept of time, and finding time in a world that often doesn't seem to have enough.

"The next time you think you don't have time, think of Tre and be happy," he said. "Take time to smile, to work harder, to laugh. Tre would want you to laugh more."

A gofundme page has been set up to help Trevon's family, with more than \$33,000 of a \$50,000 goal met.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.



South Lyon East High football coach Joe Pesci, right, greets Tyler's father, Victor Tyler Sr. "All the joy and love he brought home came from each and every one of you," Victor said to the assembly.

Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

year. We are very young and inexperienced, but with the talent we have, we have a chance to be pretty good by the end of the year if our young guys can develop. Need to learn to play hard and smart.

Bloomfield Hills

Head coach: Phil Kurajian, third season

Last year's overall record: 9-13, T-4th in OAA Red, lost to Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the district final

Players to watch: G Collin Hecker, G Mason Canfield

Kurajian's season outlook: "I am excited about the make up of our roster this year, with a mix of five returners from our varsity team last year, including two All OAA honorees as well as several young players with tons of potential."

"We will rely on our strong leadership from our four seniors with the goal of competing in one of the toughest leagues in the state of Michigan: the OAA Red, which will prepare us to play for a district title."

"The growth of our program in the last few years has been exciting to be a part of. I am looking forward to watching us take the next step in the 2019-20 season."

Farmington

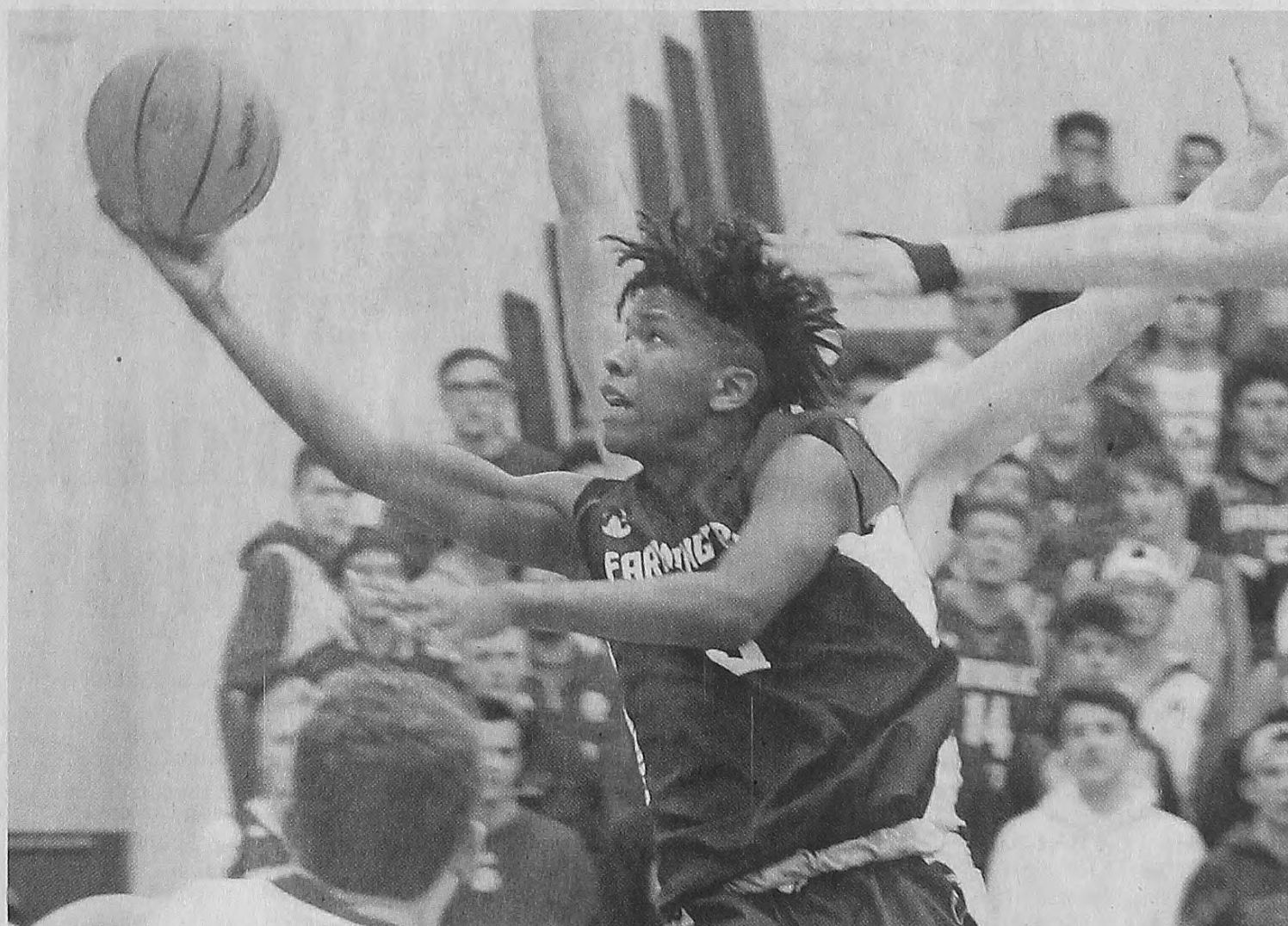
Head coach: Terrance Porter, 10th season

Last year's overall record: 15-6, second place in OAA White, lost to Detroit Catholic Central in district semifinal

Season opener: 7 p.m., Dec. 10 at Wayne Memorial

Players to watch: G Jaden Akins, G Tariq Humes, G Robert Davis Jr.

Porter's season outlook: "The goal



Farmington's Jaden Akins slices through the Detroit CC defense to put up a shot last season. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

is always to be competitive and win our league and advance in the state playoffs. I like our roster, with a mix of experienced returners and newcomers. Our hope will be to stay healthy and look to improve every day on the practice floor and game by game.

"Our non-league schedule is extremely tough to help prepare us for what I think will be a tough and balanced OAA White Division and the state playoffs."

Birmingham Seaholm

Head coach: Mike DeGeeter, sixth season

Last year's overall record: 7-13, fourth place in OAA Blue, lost to Brother Rice in district semifinal

Players to watch: C Alex Lonze, G Dominic Cullen

DeGeeter's season outlook: "This year's Seaholm basketball team is filled with experienced & focused returning players. We will be able to play big or small and inside or outside. Great lead-

ership and team oriented players will make us a tough out."

Birmingham Groves

Head coach: Benny White

Last year's overall record: 12-9, lost to Brother Rice in the district first round

White's season outlook: White could not be reached for comment.

Contact reporter Coin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

Farmington hands Wayne Memorial boys basketball second loss of season

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Without the size that Wayne Memorial has from players such as guard/wing Dante Foreman and center Riccardo Covin, the Farmington boys basketball team had to be smart heading into its first game of the season.

Combining the dominant play of junior Jaden Akins and consistent success from the free-throw line, Farmington (1-0) handed Wayne Memorial (0-2) its second loss in two days, beating the Zebras, 61-56, Tuesday night.

Here are three takeaways from the Falcons' first win of the season.

Akins shines in season opener

As soon as he touched the court, Akins seemed excited to be playing basketball again.

In the first half alone, he scored 20 of Farmington's 27 total points, connecting on all nine opportunities from the free-throw line.

As time expired in the first half, the junior was on the back end of a ferocious alley-oop, showing the dominance Farmington head coach Terrance Porter was expecting.

"He took the challenge," Porter said. "He knows it's going to be a challenge every night with teams trying to stop him. He was ready to play tonight."

Akins ended the game with a team-leading 29 points, despite being limited in production in the second half.

The junior knew the double-teams were coming, though. It's something the Falcons prepare for in practice, with Akins trying to find open teammates when he is unable to contribute on the court.

But with his first-half performance, Akins feels it sets the tone moving forward.

"I just have to focus on taking good shots and not forcing anything even when they are doubling me," Akins said.

Connecting at the line

Holding onto a slim one-point lead at the start of the second quarter, Far-

mington's Tariq Humer watched as Akins used his body in the paint to get to the line three straight times, connecting on all six free-throw attempts.

After he hit his first two near the end of the quarter, Humer knew that was going to be the key to the Falcons' first victory of the season.

"I realized they could not stay in front of me, so I would get to the paint, draw the contact because I knew I was slapping them down and my teammates needed it," Humer said.

Wayne Memorial forced 28 fouls against Farmington, giving the Falcons 38 attempts at the free-throw line. Farmington connected on 28 of the attempts from the charity stripe.

After only one trip to the free-throw line in the first half, Humer made it his home in the second, going to the line nine times and connecting on 15 free throws. He finished the game with 21 points, 17 of which came from the free-throw line.

"Free throws win and lose games," Porter said. "It's something we work on daily in practice, guys coming in and getting extra work in. We know we have to knock down a high percentage of our free throws."

Getting the first road win

For Porter, he feels like Farmington played two different halves of basketball.

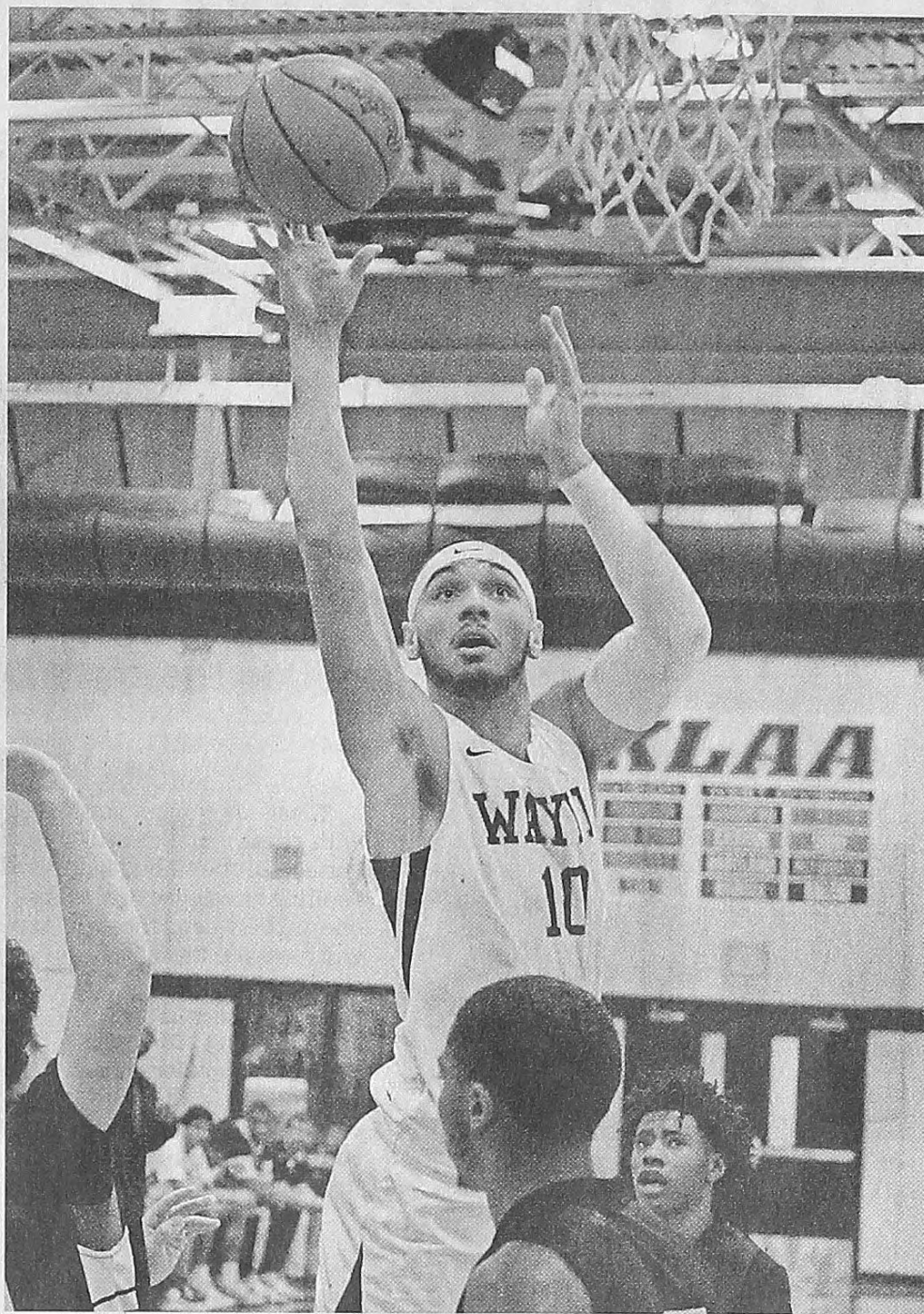
In the first, he said the Falcons were physical, fighting hard each possession. In the second, it was inconsistency that led to a Wayne Memorial comeback, beginning the third quarter with a 15-6 run.

"We have to learn how to put two halves together, and, once we do that, I feel like we have the chance to be pretty good," Porter said.

However, with the opportunity to neutralize the Zebras' size due to fouls and having a consistent performance at the free-throw line, Porter was pleased with his team's performance.

Foreman was the leading scorer for Wayne Memorial, finishing with 23 of the team's 56 points. Covin recorded seven points.

With a road win against a team that finished its season in the regional semifinal last season, Farmington is confi-



Wayne Memorial player Riccardo Covin puts up a shot against Farmington.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

dent moving forward.

"It means a lot to come out here and get the dub on the road," Humer said. "We are going to carry that to the home game coming up."

Wayne Memorial will try for its first

win of the season on the road against Ann Arbor Skyline on Dec. 28.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to LivSports@hometownlife.com.

Canton tops Ann Arbor Pioneer in season opener

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It was a difficult road test for Canton to start the 2019-20 basketball season, but that didn't faze the Chiefs.

Facing Ann Arbor Pioneer, Canton fought their way to a 75-69 victory at Pioneer High School to begin the year 1-0.

It was the first game of the season for both teams.

Canton pounded the ball inside during the first half before its guards heated up in the second half. It held off a feisty Pioneer team that took the lead at the very beginning of the fourth quarter.

"First games are hard no matter what," Canton coach Jimmy Reddy said. "We had a lot of uncertainties this year, I like the way our guys compete. We had a lot of guys put a lot in to get ready for this season. We've competed hard in practice, I just wasn't sure about execution. For the most part, we did a pretty good job. We could've made more free throws, with the way the game was officiated there were a lot of free throws on both ends, but for the most part we competed hard and executed pretty well."

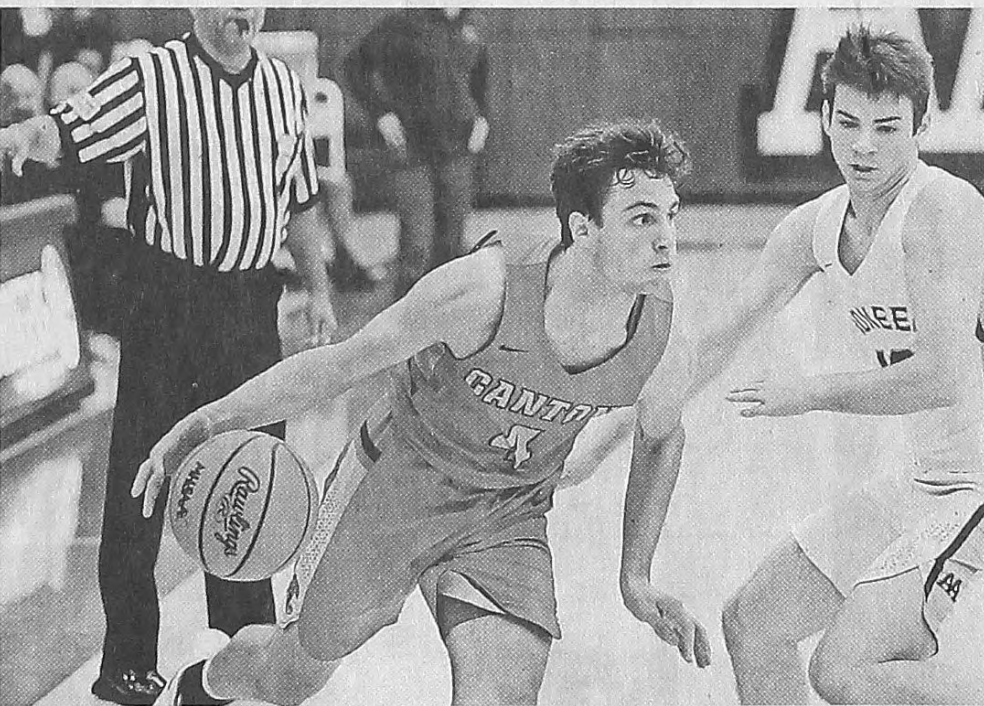
Here are three takeaways from the game:

Vickers dominates first-half

Lacking high-level play-makers B. Artis White and Vinson Sigmon from last season, Canton turned to its best returning player, senior forward Jake Vickers, to lead the offense.

Vickers has good size at 6-foot-3, but its his strength that he uses to create separation and power past defenders near the basket. He torched the Pioneer defense for 18 points, including 14 of his team's 26 first-half points.

"He's a great competitor," Reddy said. "He's hard to guard down there. He's got wide shoulders and a good touch, he can step out and play a little on the perimeter and the high post. He's a tough cover for anybody and he had his way in the first half. Pioneer had to double him. We've been practicing that because we



Canton's Ben Stesiak drives toward the hoop against Pioneer.

TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

think that's what teams might do."

The Chiefs offense flowed through him the entire night, although Pioneer was able to adjust and keep him more in check during the second half, limiting him to just four free throws.

"I feel like a play a lot taller than I really am because I'm able to use my strength," Vickers said. "That helps me score over people and through people. I try to play smart down there with my footwork."

Canton's success this season will largely depend on Vickers' ability to be an impact player in the post while staying out of foul trouble. He picked up his fourth foul with six minutes left in the game and reentered with 4:39 to go. He later fouled out with 49.5 seconds left in the contest.

"It's definitely different (having the offense go through him)," Vickers said. "I had to adjust through summer ball. I've done it before, but last year was obviously a special case with the ridiculous talent we had with B and Vins. Coming into this year, Coach Reddy told me I had to step up and he wanted us to play inside out, and I'm just trying to do

that to the best of my ability."

Down to the wire

Neck-and-neck the whole game, both teams were highly competitive and were unable to get much separation. Canton took a 26-21 lead at halftime after a 9-9 first quarter.

The Pioneers came back to tie the game during the third quarter, before the Chiefs came back to hold a 47-43 lead after three quarters. A big three by Pioneer junior Aidan Lee at the buzzer brought it back to a four-point game.

The fourth quarter started with a bang.

Pioneer hit a three and a layup to take a one-point lead, firing up the home crowd.

From there it was once again back-and-forth, which each squad trading leads.

Canton began to pull away, just as it did in each of the two previous quarters and held a 68-62 lead with a minute left when the Chiefs defense forced a Pioneer travel. A Pioneers three kept it interesting, but the Chiefs made their free

throws to seal the victory.

"We got down a couple there in the fourth quarter and we dug in and got some stops and scores on the other end," Reddy said.

Stepping up

With the Pioneer defense largely shutting Vickers down in the second half, the Chiefs needed someone else to step up on offense.

Senior guard Ben Stesiak was just the man for the job.

He was on fire from the floor in the second half, ending the game with a game-high 20 points. He was the team's go-to guy in the fourth quarter and had a number of key plays before hitting a series of free throws the ice the game late.

Stesiak is also the quarterback on the football team and plays centerfield for the baseball team.

"His voice carries a lot of clout," Reddy said. "He's a great competitor, he's a winner. He's won a ton here in all the different sports. He came up big in the second half."

Vickers knew he could count on Stesiak to lead the team to victory in the final minutes.

"Ben's my best friend, he's a great guy and a great scorer," Vickers said. "First half he was letting me do my thing since it was working, second half, they started doubling me and had confidence in him all the way and knew he was going to knock down shots."

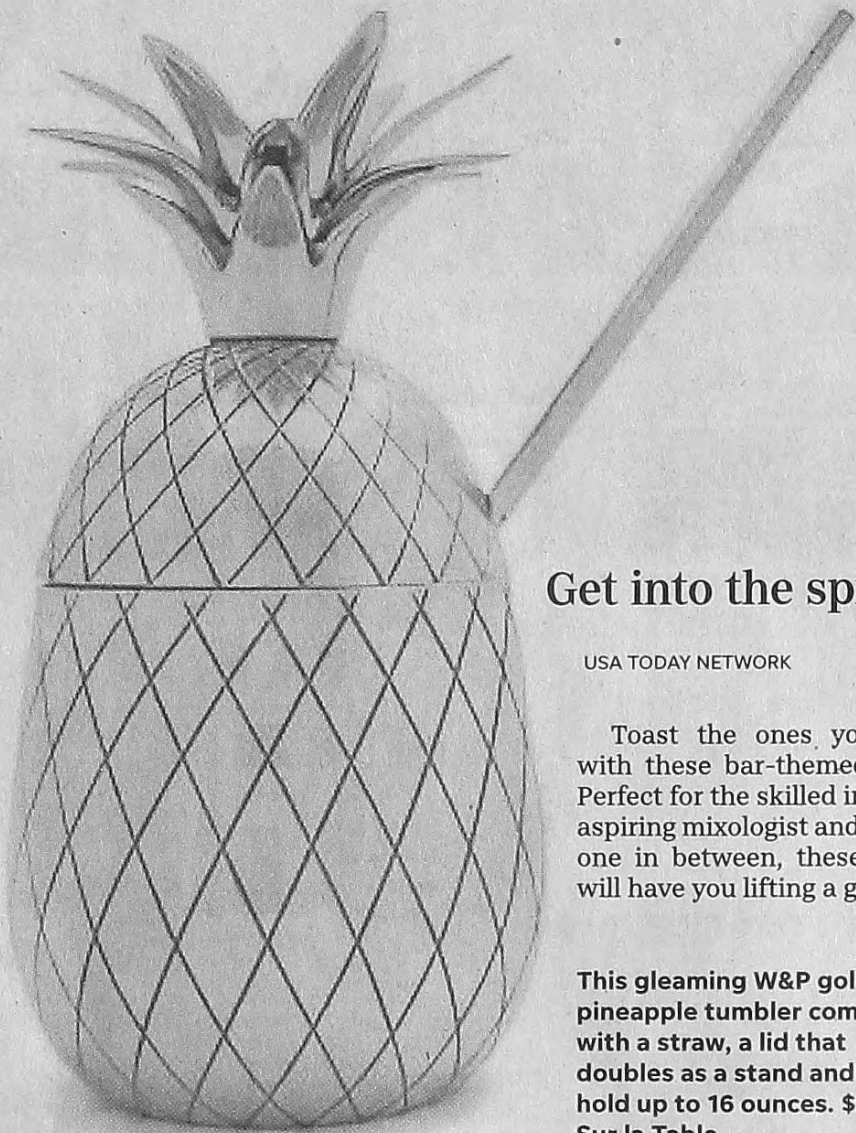
Sophomore Cole Vickers, Jake's younger brother, also played a key role in the Chiefs win. In his first varsity game, he scored 13 points and hit a pair of triples to become the team's third player in double-figures.

Pioneer's Aidan Lee led his team with 20 points, while Koebe Moore added 11 and Rasheed Sampson tallied 13.

"Ben is really good when he attacks the rim," Reddy said. "Cole can score around the rim and he's got a great touch. Those guys are going to have to score for us to be successful this year for sure."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659.

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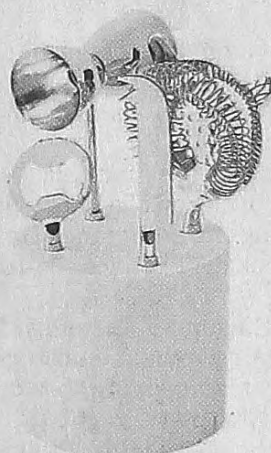


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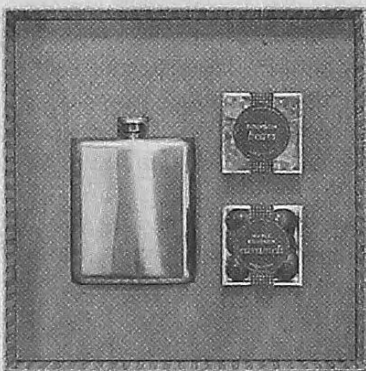


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College no longer the only path to a successful career

Erik Titner
thejobnetwork.com

There's no doubt about it, the world is changing fast — and at a pace that most of us have never experienced before. Everything from rapid advances in technology to seismic cultural, political, social, and economic shifts are altering the way we live on a deep and lasting level, forcing us to reevaluate many of the previously "tried and true" ways of doing things.

Like it or not, there's a term for all of this — it's called progress — and the world is divided between those who choose to keep up and those who fall behind.

Chief among these transformations is higher education. Decades ago, college was an ideal way to prepare young adults for success in the working world, and a degree was practically mandatory in order to climb your way to the top of the professional ladder and into one of the big corner offices. These days, that old way of thinking — and those corner offices—are evaporating, and it's forcing folks to reevaluate the value of college in this brave new world of rapidly evolving professional opportunities.

The cost is prohibitive for most

A big factor that's upsetting the old college apple cart is cost. Simply put, the cost of earning a degree has skyrocketed in recent years and finding the funds to finance higher education has become infinitely more challenging for most of us. On top of this, the notion of borrowing your way through college has become increasingly less desirable as the stigma against getting buried in student loan debt continues to grow and get attention.



GETTY IMAGES

A degree no longer signifies that you're more qualified for a job

That said, there's an even more elemental concern regarding the value of college that's got folks talking and thinking long and hard before making the decision to commit to earning a degree: Does college even effectively give you a leg up in the work world?

It's long been a cliché that college kids, equipped with their expensive diplomas, are ill-prepared for the pressures and demands of a job in the real world. And now, with rising education costs and an increasing focus on alternate paths to professional success (like embracing entrepreneurship and starting your own business), the very notion of whether or not that expensive diploma is worth going after anymore is being questioned by an increasing number

of people.

Sure, the argument can still be made that having that degree on your resume is a crucial step in order to get your foot in the door at most jobs. Still, it's also hard to argue against the notion that the value of a college degree becomes increasingly diluted when everyone else has one too, and those who find other and more unique ways to stand out from the job-hunting crowd just may have the upper hand.

College doesn't teach the skills you need for success

It's also important to question why so many employers are lamenting the ever-widening "skills gap" that's making it harder for them to source qualified candidates for their open positions. Some argue that it's the direct result of

an outdated higher education system that bogs students down with coursework that's not relevant to their chosen career paths ... and instead keeps them on an extended academic treadmill to ramp-up costs and eat up valuable time that would be better spent gaining practical, work-focused experience and training.

Moreover, the higher education system, with its exorbitant costs and sometimes questionable admissions selection processes, contains barriers to entry that many progressively-minded individuals are eager to leave behind and move past. Many of today's forward-thinking business leaders today are recognizing a new truth: a driven, hard-working, curious, and naturally talented individual who demonstrates a little grit and a lot of hustle during the interview process can be just as effective as a candidate with a college education and perhaps little else (and maybe even more effective).

So, as this debate rages on, where does this leave those who want to make the right decision about whether to invest in college? Like most things in life, the answer isn't a simple one. The truth is, not all colleges — or job candidates — are created equal, and some programs in some schools are more effective at preparing students for the work world than others.

Therefore, it's up to individuals to research their options, learn about their chosen fields and requirements to entry, explore their universe of options, and make an informed decision that's right for them.

Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics. He currently lives in New York City.

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66 Gene stuff
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73 French artist Dufy
74 Healing balm
75 Fancy shooting marble
76 Slips a cog
77 Outfielder Ty
78 Author Sarah — Jewett
80 Key on a PC
81 Honor essayist Charles with jesting insults?

- 84 Singer Fiona behaving very badly?
88 Pilfer from
89 Fruit such as a pear
90 Enthusiastic French assent
91 Long, thin cigar
95 Even trades
97 Blast noise
99 Airer of "Conan"
100 Newswoman Ann being a coward?
102 Special Arctic light
104 One-named "Smooth Operator" singer
105 Met highlight
106 "It's —!" ("That's evil!")
107 Take on the role of
111 Thick-skinned fruits
114 Baseballer Mike with chicken pox?
117 Turned-up facial feature
118 United, with "up"
119 South Dakota city

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9 Moby Dick's hunter
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11 Japanese chiefs of old
12 Longtime cleanser brand
13 Actress Marisa
14 Hex ender?
15 Ran into
16 "Arrow of God" novelist Chinua —
17 Yeast, e.g.
18 Set of nine
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77 Hack's auto
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80 Prefix with dermis

- 82 Small band
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	2				8		1	
		1		9				6
6			7	3		4		

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!

CHARITY WORD SEARCH

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

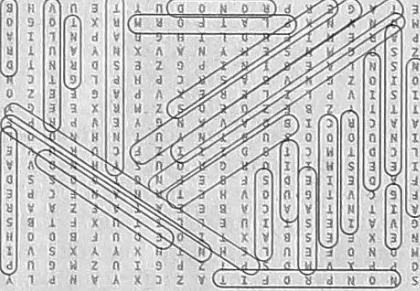
Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- AFFILIATION
ASSISTANCE
AUDIT
BOARD
BUDGET
COMMITTEE
DEDUCTION
DONATE
DONOR
EXPENSES
FOUNDATION
FUNDRAISING
GIVE
GRANT
INVESTOR
INVOLVEMENT
LEADERSHIP
MESSAGE
NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PHILANTHROPY
PLATFORM
SOCIAL
TRANSPARENCY
VOLUNTEER

ANSWER KEY

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



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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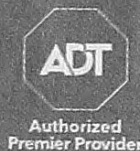
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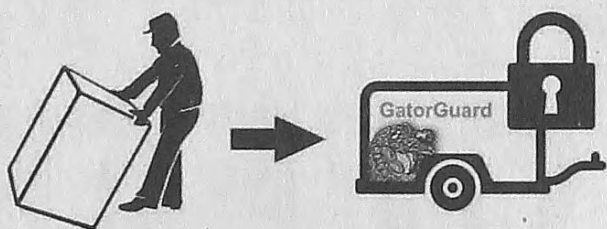
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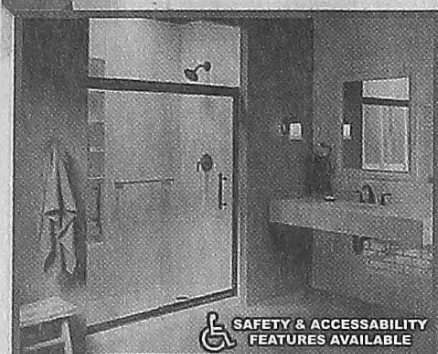
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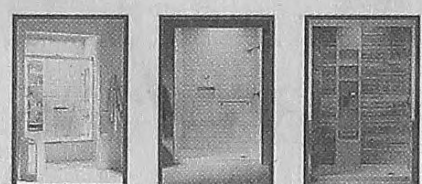
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