



Coaches adapt to changes in area high school athletics

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

OBSERVER

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Canton smoking ban includes golf courses

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Golfers can still smoke their tee shots at Canton Township's Pheasant Run and Fellows Creek golf courses, but they will risk a fine if they smoke anything else.

The township's board of trustees recently approved revisions to the Canton Parks and Recreation Ordinance to prohibit smoking of tobacco and other substances, as well as the use of vaping products, on Canton Township's Leisure Services facility properties and parks.

There will be designated smoking areas on the two golf courses, but lighting up on the course will be prohibited.

"These amendments to the Canton Parks Ordinance are being put into effect in an effort to support public health and ensure more enjoyable experiences for all visitors to Canton's parks," said

Canton Leisure Services Director Greg Hohenberger. "Canton Township continues to respond to our residents' needs by taking positive steps to keep health and wellness a top community priority."

See **SMOKING BAN**, Page 4A



Mercy High students play a game in this undated photo from the school. Mercy, a private all-girls school in Farmington Hills, is getting ready to celebrate 75 years of education. COURTESY OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

Mercy High School preparing to turn 75

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Mercy High School in Farmington Hills will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year, and the more than 15,000 women who have passed through its doors.

"We interview our alums and they always talk about how empowering it was to come here," said Cheryl Kreger, school president. "So you think about every office, every club is headed by girls because there are no boys."

"That makes the experience unique."

Kreger, like all former presidents of the school, is an alumna who graduated in 1966.

She, too, remembers the all-female environment being something special.

"The all-women, all-girl experience makes Mercy special," she said. "The fact that the Sisters of Mercy, who have been educating women for over 200 years, and the spirit of how they do their work is very different."

Mercy's patron saint is Our Lady of Mercy, one of many names for the Virgin Mary. The school also looks up to the Venerable Catherine McAuley, who left

a life of luxury to support education.

"She decided that she was going to educate the women of Ireland," Kreger said. "At that time, women and Catholics had no status in Ireland. This is in the late 1700s and 1800s."

"She was an heiress and decided that she was going to use her inheritance to begin this work."

With that in mind, Kreger said the school tries to instill the values of mercy, justice, helping the poor, service and human dignity in its students.

See **MERCY**, Page 3A

Livonia man voice behind beloved '80s, '90s cartoons

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Rob Paulsen spent the first nine years of his life in a little house on Westfield Road, not far from the Middlebelt and Joy roads intersection in Livonia.

He attended the now-closed Mckinley Elementary and enjoyed watching the local TV stations.

"My biggest memories of living in Livonia are, of course, my earliest memories," he said.

Paulsen's family bounced around Livonia, Dearborn, Rochester and Grand Blanc until Paulsen, born in 1966, found himself in Los Angeles trying to make it as a singer and actor.

He eventually got opportunities to do some voice acting - work that transformed into a career.

"The cool thing was that nobody was limited by how they looked," Paulsen said. "As you can image, it's all about how you look when you first start out."

"You audition for things that you look like."

Over the years, Paulsen has been Yakko on "Animaniacs," Pinky on "Pinky and the Brain," Raphael on "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," Carl on "Jimmy Neutron," and characters on "G.I. Joe" and "Transformers," among many other roles.

A life of characters

Paulsen said his career really took off after he was cast to voice Raphael on "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." The show has spawned four other animated series and six movies over the years.

"That show holds a dear place in my heart," Paulsen said.

The quirky, pizza-loving Turtles allowed him to land some of the other roles he's had over the years.

"That show utterly changed the course of my career, because any time you work on something that becomes a monster hit, it puts you in a different category to audition for things," Paulsen said. "It doesn't necessarily give you a long career, but it does give you credibility."

But perhaps his most recognizable roles are those of Yakko and Pinky, on shows made by Steven Spielberg.

"Any time you get to work with Steven Spielberg, you get the best of the best," Paulsen said. "The best musicians, the best writers, the best animators, incredible press."

See **VOICE**, Page 4A



VR arcade closes months after opening

David Veselenak [Hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Sandbox Virtual Reality Arcade, 35645 Warren in Westland, closed this fall in the West Ridge shopping center after being open for just a few months.

A post by the business on Facebook in early November and placed on the arcade door notes the business shut down "partly" due to the death of its owner, David Hart. An obituary for Hart, a John Glenn graduate and Army veteran, states he died in April.

"He always had a dream of owning a business," his obituary reads. "In January 2019 his dreams came to fruition when he became the owner of The Sandbox Virtual Reality Arcade in Westland, Michigan."

The arcade has been cleared out, with all the individual booths gone from inside the space.

The Sandbox was one of the first in metro Detroit to offer visitors a chance to enter virtual reality. Using VR headsets, guests could play games or experience virtual reality as an escape from the real world. The arcade opened in March.

For those looking to experience The Sandbox's offerings, the original arcade, which is under different ownership, continues to operate just outside Flint in Genesee County. The arcade is located at 4290 Miller Road in Flint Township.

An email seeking more information on the Westland location's closure was sent to The Sandbox Virtual Reality Arcade but was not returned by press time.

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



Timothy Miket plays a virtual-reality shooting game at The Sandbox Virtual Reality Arcade in Westland. The arcade closed in November after being open just a few months. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE



Alexander Boyko, left, sits with his attorney, Vassal Johnson, on Dec. 27 in the 35th District courtroom of Judge Michael Gerou during his preliminary exam on three counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Tattoo artist charged with fondling female client will head to circuit court

Shelby Tankersley [Hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersley@hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A sexual assault case made against Alexander Boyko, a well-known metro Detroit tattoo artist, is headed to the circuit court following a preliminary hearing Dec. 27 at the 35th District Court in Plymouth.

Boyko, 26, of Livonia is charged with three counts of criminal sexual conduct fourth degree. Prosecutors have alleged he fondled a female client's breasts in spring 2015. If convicted on the high misdemeanors, each charge has a maximum sentence of 2 years in prison.

The complainant, a Redford Township woman, testified at the hearing. She stated that in 2015, she met Boyko for an after-hours consultation about a tattoo at Plymouth's Red Anchor, where he worked at the time.

Having gotten a tattoo from Boyko on a previous occasion, the complainant said she hadn't consid-

ered there would be problems with meeting Boyko after the business had closed for the evening.

"I asked him what he was doing and he said something like he was goofing off," she said of the alleged assault.

Hometown Life typically does not identify victims in sexual assault cases.

Vassal Johnson, Boyko's lawyer, brought forward an old Tweet from the woman stating that she had only had positive interactions with him. The Tweet, he argued, brought up a question of fact but was not admitted as evidence by Judge Michael Gerou.

Before binding over the charges, Gerou did not agree to remove the tether enforcement, opting to send that issue to pre-trial services. Boyko cannot work on female clients without being supervised.

Boyko will appear in court again Jan. 10 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

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

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Newsroom Contacts:

Phil Allmen, Content Strategist

Mobile: 248-396-3870

Email: pallmen@hometownlife.com

Follow us on Facebook: @DEHometown

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Police: Taco Bell bandits may be part of ring

Susan Vela [Hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Robbers have targeted at least five fast-food restaurants in the last few weeks, causing local police agencies to band together for their investigations.

Police say fast-food restaurants were struck in Livonia on Dec. 15 and in Independence Township about a week later.

Two bandits who claimed they had guns struck the Taco Bell in Milford the morning of Christmas Eve, and a

Burger King in Auburn Hills on Dec. 27.

They stole about \$200 from Milford's Taco Bell on General Motors Road.

In the last two incidents, cameras captured images of a suspect having a backpack with blue straps.

Other commonalities included masks, at least one suspect tied to both crimes, fast-food restaurants being struck around opening time and the bandits driving away in an older model, dark-colored sport utility vehicle.

Brumm said the investigation remains in the

early stages but said the fast-food bandits could very well be part of an organized ring reminiscent of the Felony Lane Gang.

That criminal association is well known for members traveling the country, breaking into people's cars and stealing checks, credit cards and identification for future bank withdrawals.

"They're very methodical," said Brumm, noting the bandits targeting fast-food joints are going straight for the safes and money drawers.

Milford police, along

with camera surveillance, indicate the male suspects are black. In the Milford incident, one man appeared to be heavier. The second suspect was in his early 20s, wearing a dark winter jacket, blue jeans and white tennis shoes.

Livonia police released information Dec. 30, saying a solitary male entered the Taco Bell on Merriman Road around 9:51 a.m. Dec. 15. Wearing a mask, he implied he had a gun while demanding money.

He fled the scene with "a small amount of cash," according to the Livonia police report. The suspect vehicle was an older model maroon Ford Explorer with gray bottom trim and running boards.

"This robbery is similar to other recently reported robberies of fast food restaurants in Oakland County," the report read.

According to media reports, Roseville police are investigating an armed robbery of the Tim Hortons on Gratiot Avenue that occurred at 8:45 p.m. Dec. 29. In that incident, one of two suspects brandished a gun.

Police aren't sure whether this latest robbery is tied to the others.

Police asked fast-food buyers to stay observant. Anyone with information can call Milford police at 248-684-1815 or Livonia police at 734-466-2330.

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

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Mercy High students perform in a school presentation of "Mary Poppins." HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS



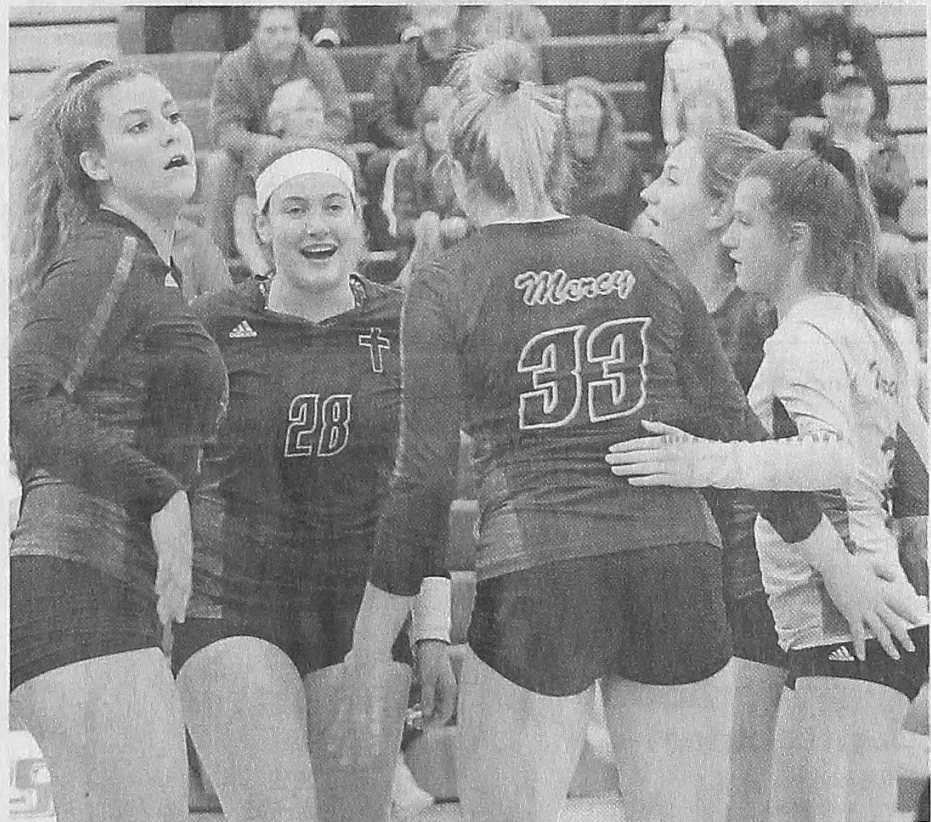
Mercy High School students learn to use typewriters years ago during class. COURTESY OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL



Students listen during a class at Mercy High School. COURTESY OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL



Mercy High School students study the day before their fall semester final exams.



Mercy celebrates a point in the 2018 Division 1 state quarterfinal victory over Sterling Heights Stevenson at St. Clair Shores South Lake High School.

Mercy

Continued from Page 1A

"We always say success in that worldly sense, but our women are expected to lead from wherever they are," Kreger said. "So, if you are a homemaker, a volunteer, a mother, wherever you serve, you are expected to be a leader. That's kind of how we approach things."

But, alumnae reach success in the "worldly" sense, too. Kreger said among the Mercy High alumnae are six judges, five hospital executives, and a Quicken Loans executive, among many others.

"I always laugh and say that we're everywhere," Kreger said. "And we are, with 15,000 alums. Many of them are successful women."

The school is also known to claim awards in performing arts, music, art, yearbook, journalism and athletics. All of that is led by what Kreger repeatedly called a stellar staff, also mostly female.

Most recently, the Mercy Marlins gained recognition when they won their first state title in volleyball.

Kreger said most of what makes the school special aren't things people can really see from the outside.

She noted one of the strengths in the classroom is diversity.

"We're very diverse, which means not only races, cultures, etc., but we're diverse as far as religion, socioeconomic background," Kreger said.

That vast alumnae network is always stepping up to bat for the current Mercy girls, too.

"They support the school with donations and by supporting events, networking, mentoring our students and more," Kreger said.

Many of those alums will come back to the school for events surrounding its 75th birthday.

Kreger said the school will host reunions, tours of the current facility and of the old one in Detroit, add to a time capsule, celebrate Mass and dedicate an athletic hall of fame.

But it won't all be about the past. In 2020, the school will add an indoor sports facility that can be adapted to any sport, a Catherine McAuley tea room for students to enjoy during free periods and a new spirit store.

"Everybody is always learning and moving forward," Kreger said.

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

"We always say success in that worldly sense, but our women are expected to lead from wherever they are. So, if you are a homemaker, a volunteer, a mother, wherever you serve, you are expected to be a leader."

Cheryl Kreger President, Mercy High School


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Smoking ban

Continued from Page 1A

Under the ordinance, smoking is defined as the use of tobacco, marijuana or any other of its derivatives, or the use of vapor products or nicotine alternatives.

Township parks affected by the new law are Barchester Park, Freedom Park, Flodin Park, Griffin Park, Heritage Park, Independence Park, Kopper Park, Patriot Park, Preservation Park, Victory Park, and the Canton dog park.

Canton Leisure Services facility properties affected are: the Summit on the Park; The Village Theater at Cherry Hill; The B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen Center; and the Canton Sports Center.

The outdoor smoking ban follows a nationwide trend. As of January 2020, more than 1,300 parks systems are smoke-free across the nation.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com.



A new smoking ban at Pheasant Run and Fellows Creek golf courses in Canton will prohibit smoking while on the course. The properties will have designated smoking areas to accommodate those who may need a smoke break after a game. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Voice

Continued from Page 1A

“But the other side of that point is that you’ve got to deliver, because the bar is set pretty high.”

Paulsen said he still routinely runs into fans of both shows.

He’ll return to “Animaniacs” on Hulu next year with other original cast members.

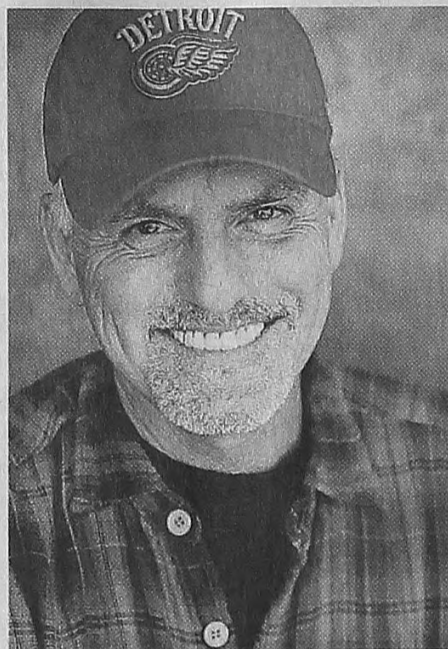
“Those shows have not had a new episode in 20 years, but the fan base is enormous. And it’s not just a bunch of 10-year-olds,” he said. “It’s a bunch of 40- and 50-year-olds and their children and grandchildren.”

Livonia roots

Growing up watching local TV and listening to Elvis Presley, Paulsen said he knew early on he wanted to be a performer. His first audience was his family, who would watch him play a little guitar and sing “Hound Dog.”

“I was hooked, man,” he said.

When Paulsen, a big Red Wings fan, was in town to play a charity hockey game at Joe Louis Arena a few years



Although he now lives in Los Angeles, voice actor Rob Paulsen is a native of Livonia. COURTESY OF ROB PAULSEN

back, he went back to the house on Westfield Road with his son.

“I actually remember going up and knocking on the door at the risk of really

freaking out the current owners and saying like, ‘I know this sounds stupid, but I just want to tell you I used to live here and I’m so glad it’s still here,’” he said. “I didn’t even know what the hell I was going to say.”

“Nobody was home at the time.”

But he doesn’t always have to go all the way to Michigan to meet neighbors.

“I travel a lot now and, I swear to God, I can go almost anywhere in the world and I’ll meet someone who says, ‘Oh you’re from Michigan, whereabouts?’ and I’ll say I was born in Livonia,” Paulsen said. “They’ll go ‘Livonia, oh, my God. I lived off of Middlebelt and Joy Road.’ It happens all the time.”

Back home

On Nov. 6, Paulsen came back to Detroit to speak at the city’s TEDx event. He talked about his career and new book, “Voice Lessons: How a Couple of Ninja Turtles, Pinky, and an Animaniac Saved My Life,” which details his recent battle with stage-three throat cancer.

“What a blast,” Paulsen said. “I hadn’t been that nervous in a long time. You know I’ve been doing live performing for 45 years ... but I’m always with another performer. ... But this was solo.”

Paulsen has met many kids with cancer over the years. He said he’s been able to put smiles on their faces by breaking into a character’s voice.

Those characters also helped him get him through a difficult cancer treatment.

“All the joy that these characters have brought to these people really, honest to God, helped me fight through this,” he said. “It was a pretty brutal treatment.”

He said he enjoyed giving the TED Talk as much as he liked encouraging the audience with his story.

“Who would have guessed the Rob Paulsen from Livonia, Michigan, would end up doing a TED Talk in Detroit after this wonderful career of being part of these characters? And it turns out the characters that inspired me when I was (a kid) helped me get through my time in the cancer cage,” he said.

Paulsen hopes to eventually retire in Michigan.

“This is where I’m from,” Paulsen said. “I tell people I’m ‘Pure Michigan,’ as they say. LA is my home, but my roots are here.”

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



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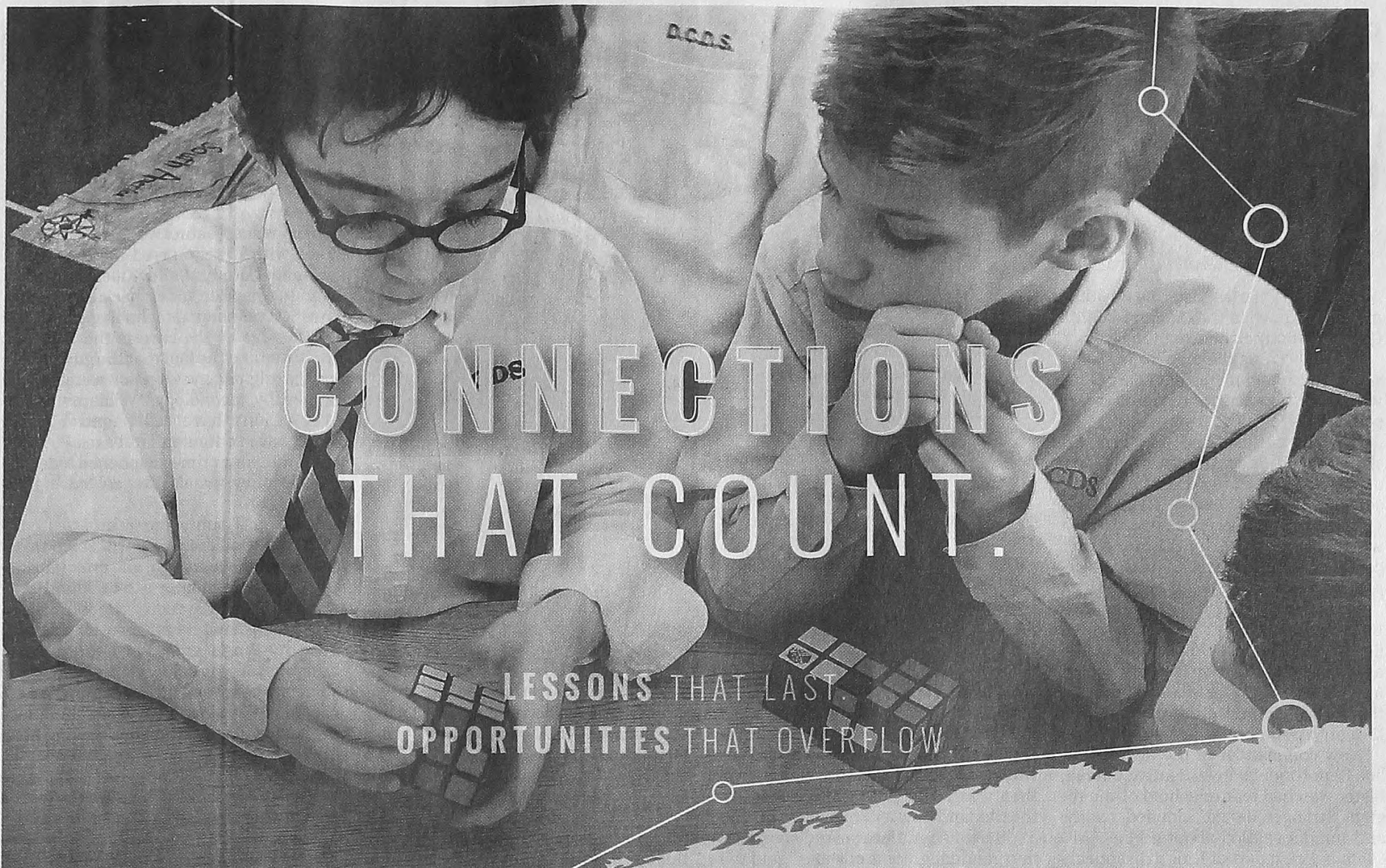
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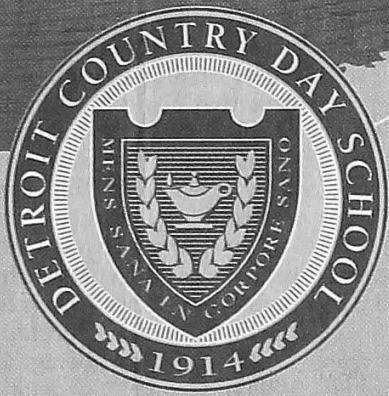
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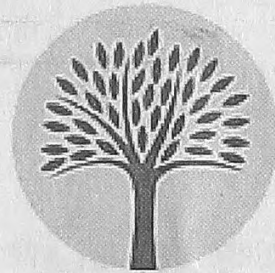
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COLD CASES

Police talk about being kids when Oakland County Child Killer struck

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Police Lt. Charles Lister has distinct memories of when the Oakland County Child Killer struck one last time.

It was 1977. As the teen prepared for school, Birmingham resident Barry King was on TV, pleading for the return of his son, Timothy.

The 11-year-old had grabbed his skateboard the evening of March 16 and departed for a nearby drugstore to buy some candy.

Barry King wouldn't know of his son's whereabouts again until the child's corpse was found March 22 on Gill Road, just south of Eight Mile in Livonia.

Lister's stepfather, Sgt. Frederick Benson, already serving the Livonia Police Department, would become part of a Michigan State Police task force delving into the disappearances of King and three other metro Detroit children in a 13-month period.

Now commander of the Livonia Police Department's investigative bureau, Lister watched fear take hold of the region. Stranger danger clouded reality, and rumors swirled about a blue AMC Gremlin being part of King's disappearance.

"It just became part of our daily life," Lister said. "It was the biggest thing in town when it came to criminal justice."

"It's still a huge story and a huge event. It's always been a part of our life. It would be bittersweet to see if there's some resolution that's brought to the case because my dad is not alive to see it."

Timothy King was the fourth and the last confirmed victim of the Oakland County Child Killer.

The metro Detroit nightmare began Feb. 15, 1976, when Mark Stebbins, 12, disappeared from Ferndale. His corpse was found in Southfield nearly a week later.

Jill Robinson, 12, was reported missing in Royal Oak on Dec. 22. Her body was found a few days later in Troy.

About this series

This is suburban Detroit, and area police agencies have a few cold cases to investigate.

Cases get colder and tougher to solve as time passes without significant clues. And there's the turmoil from bodies missing, evidence lacking and crime scenes still to be found.

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.

This is part of a series of stories looking at some of the cold cases in metro Detroit.

Kristine Mihelich, 10, was reported missing on Jan. 2, 1977, in Berkley. Her body was found about three weeks later in Franklin Village.

The girl's grandfather had been a best friend of Cory Williams' father, who then was investigating the killings for the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

"He called our house and said, 'Hey, my granddaughter is missing,'" said Williams, a retired Livonia police detective who continues to investigate the killings as a consultant for the Michigan State Police. "I never would have guessed, when I was 15 and my dad answered that phone, that I would be sitting here today having worked the case for 15 years."

Williams said he's grateful Livonia Police chiefs Bob Stevenson and then Curtis Caid threw support behind the investigation. But, he said, he would love to have his father around to sound out some ideas.

Lister noted Benson probably was obsessed with the case until he died. Benson once gave Williams a lead that the younger law enforcement officer chased for more than a year.

"All the detectives are like that," Lister said. "There are a lot of still-living re-



The four victims of the Oakland County Child Killer were Mark Stebbins, Jill Robinson, Kristine Mihelich and Timmy King.

COURTESY OF BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

tired detectives that want closure for this case. It's one of those cases that has been complicated throughout the years. At this point, I think, we're all in a position where everybody has their egos checked at the door.

"We just want a win and (to) bring some closure for the families."

At one time, approximately 300 people, from law enforcement personnel to volunteers, were trying to solve the case. Over time, there was talk that the children were taken for a suspected pedophile ring.

Five people have since floated to the top of the suspect pool: Christopher Busch, Gregory Greene, Vince Gunnels, Ted Lamborgine and Arch Sloan, who were all tied to pedophile rings that operated throughout southeast Michigan in the 1970s.

"Children of the Snow," a documentary exploring the investigation and its

consequences, stars Williams, who, along with Lister, agreed the unsolved Oakland County Child Killer mystery wouldn't happen today because of the latest crime-solving technologies.

"The age of the case is the biggest challenge and the fact that the guys during the original investigation were really limited by technology," Williams said. "They didn't have cell phones. They didn't have computer databases."

"If the same crimes happened today, I believe they would be solved right away."

Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper has said science will solve this case. Several years ago, she announced DNA findings linking a hair found on King with a hair found on Stebbins.

Williams said a hair recovered from Timothy King's autopsy is one of the best bits of physical evidence at this stage of the investigation. It matched a hair found in Sloan's car. The hair does not match Sloan, 78, who is serving life in prison for first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

The hair from Sloan's car was collected between the autopsies of the two boys.

"They all appear to come from the same source," Williams said. "We have identified, located and swabbed associates of Sloan, family members, victims that could have been in that car, people that used to own the car. ... So far, we have not found the owner of that hair. If we had, this case would be closed."

Liking what he hears about research into nuclear DNA profiles from hair fragments, Williams said he's hopeful about the investigation's future.

"It's actively being investigated," Williams said. "It's not cold. We're working on leads right now. We're hopeful. DNA needs to be collected from some possible suspects so it's active."

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

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Esports gaming lounge opens in Livonia

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A joking suggestion at a family dinner led to the creation of one of Livonia's newest businesses.

Matt Pawelski, owner of Respawn Game Lounge, was eating dinner with his parents in their Rosedale Gardens home when discussion turned to the now-closed Rosedale Cleaners, which shut down in 2018.

After Pawelski mentioned a gaming lounge concept, his father, who isn't into video games, began researching the idea and thought it was great. After investigating the property, buying the building and completing a full interior renovation, the Respawn Game Lounge was born.

The idea behind it? Create a gathering space for those whose hobby is playing video games.

"When we came back in college, or now that I live here, we always were wanting something to do," said Pawelski, a Franklin High graduate. "We're a part of that younger generation and that's what we've been seeing. It's a new place for them to hang out."

The lounge - which opened right after Thanksgiving at 31619 Plymouth in Livonia - provides a more public space for gamers to share their hobby. Patrons can visit and rent time on consoles or computers by themselves or with friends.

The stars of the lounge are the seven gaming computers, all equipped with Xbox Game Pass, allowing computer players access to dozens of games such as Metro Exodus, Gears 5 and Forza Horizon 4.

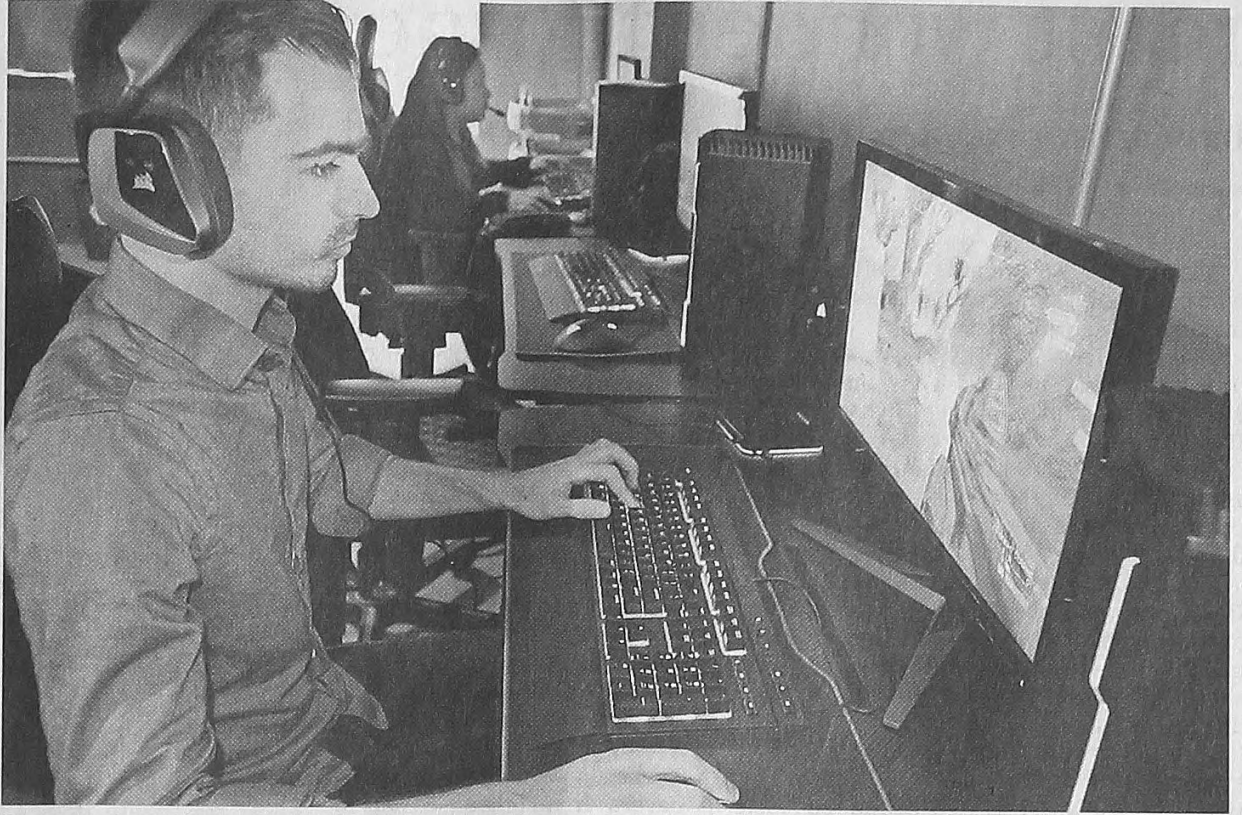
The 1080 Ti computers, made by Corsair, complete with 1080p monitors, are some of the fastest gaming machines out there, Pawelski said.

"This is not something you typically see at someone's home," he said. "If you look on TV and see the million-dollar players, theirs is going to be a little bit above ours, but it's not far."

The average PC user in the lounge plays for three to four hours, Pawelski said. Prices range from \$5 for a half-hour on the computers to \$30 for four hours, while consoles may be rented for \$8 for a half-hour up to \$45 for four hours.

Those who stream video games on as Twitch, YouTube or Mixer can find a home at Respawn as well. A dedicated station is set up for streamers, including a microphone, and Pawelski can even add a green screen for those needing a specific background.

For console gamers, Pawelski has one of each of the three main consoles on the market today: the Nintendo Switch, the PS4 Pro and the Xbox One X, all of which display games on one of three big-screen televisions set up in the lounge. Several games are preloaded on the consoles, though visitors can also sign into their personal gaming accounts and play games they own.



Respawn Game Lounge manager Matt Pawelski plays Halo at the new facility for online gaming in Livonia.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

"When we came back in college, or now that I live here, we always were wanting something to do. We're a part of that younger generation and that's what we've been seeing. It's a new place for them to hang out."

Matt Pawelski Manager, Respawn Game Lounge

Seeing people come in to rent time on a console, ones that many gamers may already own, surprised Pawelski. He said gamers are looking for an experience and to build a community, rather than just interacting with others using a game's voice chat system.

"What we're seeing is, there's a big difference from playing at your house over the voice chat and actually becoming part of the community we're trying to build here," Pawelski said. "That's what we're trying to build."

While the lounge is new, Pawelski said he hopes to make connections in the community, especially reaching out to a few local schools where gaming has grown

to a big deal. He's hoping to start a gaming league this summer.

"It's intramural gaming, because they don't have that," he said. "I want to push that as local teams, local kids can come out and play of all ages and we'll have different age groups."

"As we grow, I hope to do a lot of community things." The lounge is open from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. Wednesday through Friday, noon to 2 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays. More information can be found at respawnlounge.com.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728.



DNR parcels 129240, 376720 and 1040033 make up the 5.5 acres for sale on Lower Scott Lake in Allegan County, one of 147 parcels of public land now up for sale. COURTESY OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DNR to auction off parcels of public land

Bisma Parvez [Detroit Free Press](http://DetroitFreePress.com)
USA TODAY NETWORK

Looking for lake view properties? Maybe river access and winding trails in beautiful Michigan?

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The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is auctioning off prime locations of surplus public land throughout Michigan. The winter land auction is underway, and bids will be accepted until Jan. 8, according to the DNR.

There will be 147 individual parcels available, ranging in size from less than an acre to 160 acres.

"The auction is part of the DNR's strategy to efficiently manage public land while maximizing outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors," the DNR said in a statement.

Most of the land is located in central/northern Lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

"Several of the parcels are forested and have riverside or lake frontage and are better suited for private ownership," said Michael Michalek, DNR real estate resource specialist.

Sealed bids will have to be submitted by mail.

"Much of the land offered at this auction is isolated from other DNR-managed property, which creates

For more information

Interested buyers can visit Michigan.gov/LandForSale for auction information including minimum bid prices, property descriptions and conditions of sale.

They can also request printed information from:

DNR Real Estate Services Section
P.O. Box 30448
Lansing, MI 48909-7948

some management challenges. Other parcels are included because they offer limited public recreation benefits," Michalek said.

Land auction proceeds will be used in accordance with the DNR's mission to conserve, protect and manage the state's natural and cultural resources. They will help provide outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations.

The parcels up for a sale are in Allegan, Alpena, Bay, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Houghton, Iosco, Jackson, Kalkaska, Lake, Mackinac, Midland, Missaukee, Muskegon, Newaygo, Otsego, St. Clair and Van Buren counties.

The largest parcels are in Alpena, Dickinson and Newaygo counties.

Obituaries

Terrance Wendt

LIVONIA - Terrance Wendt, Age 69 of Livonia. Loving father of Holly Wendt-Barry and Joe (Kristy). Dear grandfather of Dylan, Colin, and Tyler. Proud brother of Ron. He is survived by many friends and family. A memorial gathering will take place on January 8, 2020 from 2-8PM with a 6:30PM service. Friends may visit the guest book at fredwoodfuneralhome.com



Suzanne Crankshaw

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA - Suzanne Rhodes Crankshaw of St. Simons Island, Georgia, 82 years of age, departed this life Friday the 6th of December 2019 at the Hospice of the Golden Isles in Brunswick, Georgia. Suzanne was born in Akron, Ohio on the 30th of June 1937. She studied Dietetics at Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio. As a Registered Dietician, her long and successful career culminated in serving as Director of Dietetics at Beaumont Health (William Beaumont Hospital) in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Suzanne, along with her husband of 60 years, James, and her sons, Brooks and Scott, were longtime residents of the Birmingham / Bloomfield area. In lieu of flowers or donations, your thoughts can be shared with the family at suzanne@crankshaw.me.

Fred Wood FUNERAL HOME
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'This has been the most wonderful ride'

Birmingham graduate's film on shortlist for Oscar nod

Susan Bromley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Three years ago, Stefanie Abel Horowitz considered giving up her dream of making it big as an artist.

She left New York City and moved back into her parents' Michigan home at 30, teaching pilates at the Townsend Hotel.

Now, the 2004 Birmingham Groves graduate is in contention for an Oscar nomination with her live-action short film, "Sometimes, I Think About Dying."

The film, the second short film Abel Horowitz has directed, has already far exceeded any of her expectations by making it on the Oscar shortlist, which she learned Dec. 16 from an Instagram direct message.

"My old theater partner said, 'Holy s**t, congrats on the shortlist,'" Abel Horowitz said. "I screamed in the car and I called everybody. I called my Mom and I couldn't get the words out, and I called the producer and had to act all cool. And then I switched over to Katy (Wright-Mead, who plays the lead in the film) and she was crying, and I said, 'I know.'"

Wright-Mead co-wrote the adapted screenplay with Abel Horowitz, and plays Fran, a severely depressed woman, in the 12-minute movie that packs an emotional wallop.

Starring opposite Wright-Mead is Jim Sarbh, who plays Robert, Fran's co-worker and romantic interest.

"Sometimes, I Think About Dying" was originally written as a play by Kevin Armento. Abel Horowitz directed the 2013 stage production in New York City.

Abel Horowitz graduated in 2008 from Emory University in Atlanta, where she studied theater and spent the next eight years in New York City doing off-off Broadway work, but came to a crossroads.

"I was feeling this is a very hard life. Living in the most expensive city in America doing experimental theater is not a way to make money," she said.



Abel Horowitz

Although she loved her company and the work they did, she wondered if she loved theater enough to always need to work a second job, and decided to move back to Michigan. But the desire to create wouldn't die.

Instead, she shot her first short film, "Up North," in Oscoda, and a short time later, moved to Los Angeles, where in 2017 she began to consider "Sometimes, I Think About Dying" for her second short film.

Abel Horowitz and crew shot the film over five days in May 2018 in Maine, on a total budget of \$17,000, with every location free except for a diner.

While there were many difficult small moments, they are mostly forgotten, except a scene in which Sarbh, who doesn't have a driver's license, had to drive an old vehicle with an engine so loud he couldn't press the gas pedal and speak at the same time.

Abel Horowitz said the sound was frustrating as she and crew members were lying in the back of the truck to film the scene.

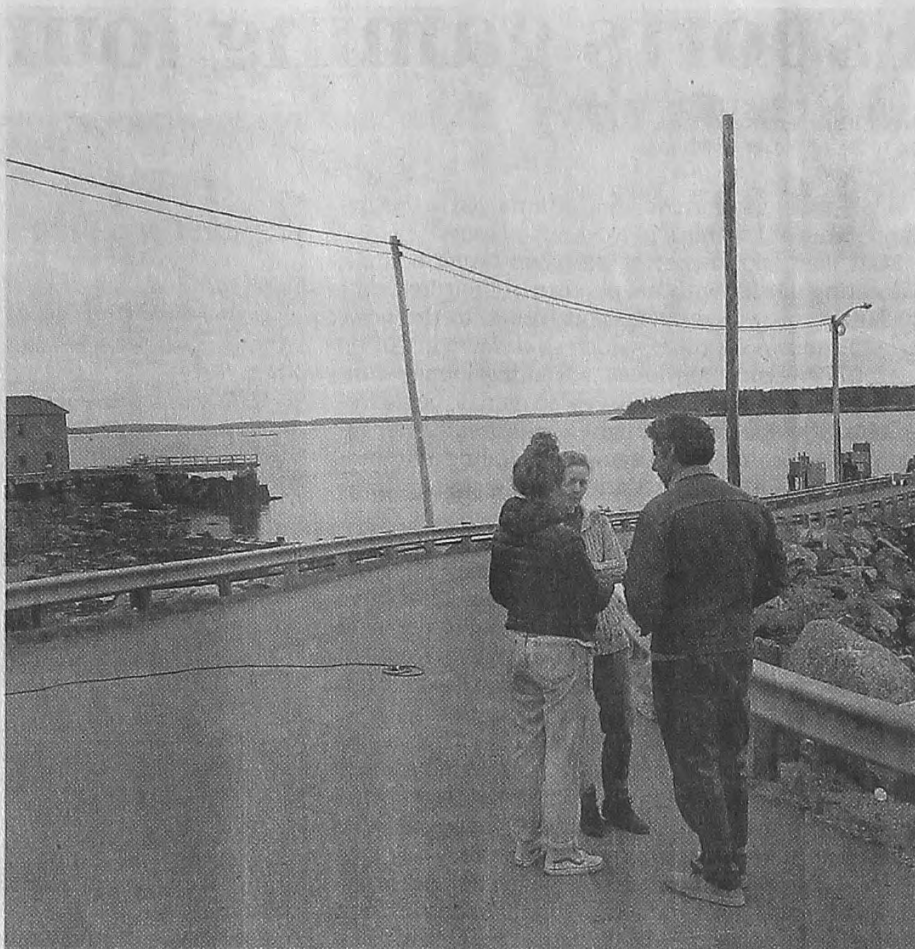
In general, she said, directing is all decision-making, and the most important decision was just to make the film, which just over a year ago was accepted into the Sundance Film Festival, an Oscar-qualifying festival.

Out of 191 live-action short films that qualified for Oscar consideration, "Sometimes I Think About Dying" was one of only 10 to be shortlisted.

From Jan. 2-7, voters in the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences will vote on films that will make the final five, with nominees announced Jan. 13.

Another round of voting then takes place, with the winner announced during a broadcast of the 92nd Academy Awards on Feb. 9 from Los Angeles.

Abel Horowitz is hoping "Sometimes, I Think About Dying," the shortest of the films nominated in the live-action short category, is among the final five nomi-



Stefanie Abel Horowitz, left, a Birmingham Groves graduate and director of "Sometimes, I Think About Dying," works on set in Maine with Katy Wright-Mead and Jim Sarbh, the lead actors in the short film. COURTESY OF STEFANIE ABEL HOROWITZ

nees, helped by buzz from those who have viewed it and its resonance with Academy voters.

Abel Horowitz said she chose to direct the film because she is interested in how people connect, what intimacy is and feels like, and how we share with people.

This film, she said, is about vulnerability and empathy, and being there for each other.

"The universal message about this movie is we are all sad or scared someone won't love us or something about us makes us wrong or bad," Abel Horowitz said. "I see from comments that people respond to sharing the feelings that (Fran) has, they want more closeness and more intimacy, more shared experiences and more feeling like you're not alone ..."

"That is part of the discussion. Whatever scale of darkness and

sadness you have, someone creating a space for you is a solution to so much of our emotional pain."

Abel Horowitz said she does not have depression, but she is feeling a bit anxious about the Jan. 13 announcement.

She will be in Vancouver that day, shadowing a director for a TV show, and is looking forward to continuing her creative endeavors and chasing her dream as she encourages others to do the same.

"Don't give up," she said. "Do the craziest, dumbest things you can think of, they might just work. ..."

"It will be very cool if we are nominated and I will be thrilled out of my mind, but if not, this has been the most wonderful ride we could not expect."

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

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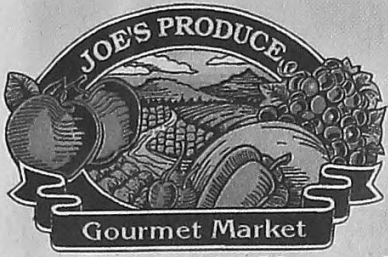
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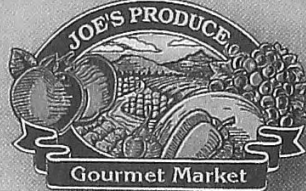
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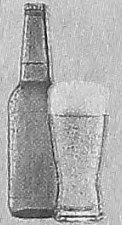
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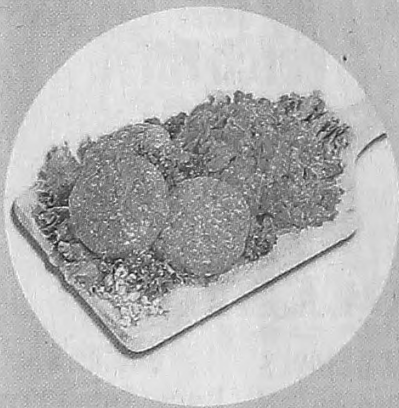
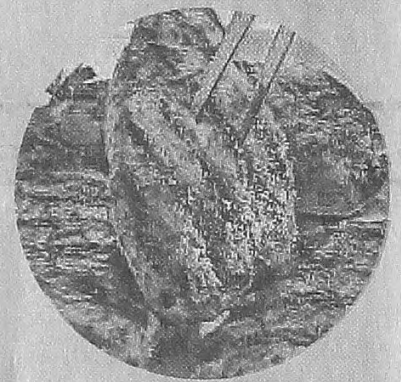
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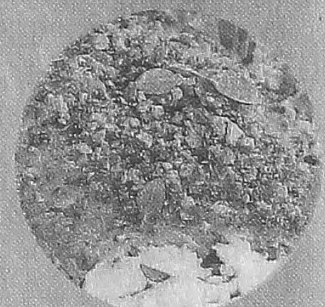
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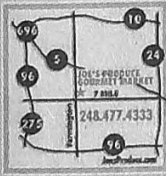
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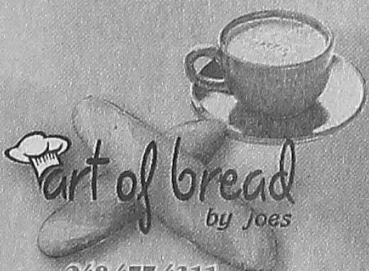
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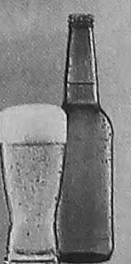
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Sports

Shifting schematics



Harrison High head coach John Herrington waits for a referee's call with the scoreboard reading 20-0 during the Hawks' final Homecoming game in September 2018. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS

Coaches adapt to changes in local high school sports

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Chris Kelbert needed to change something.

After making the playoffs each season from 2007-10, advancing as far as the regional final, the Livonia Franklin head coach struggled offensively to find success. Kelbert's offense did not eclipse more than 200 points in the next three seasons, failing to make the playoffs each time.

In 2014, it started off as more of the same. In the midst of a self-described offensive slump, Kelbert had seen enough.

"We were tired of banging our heads against the wall and trying to run the football into loaded boxes," he said.

Kelbert merged his old, run-first offense with ones becoming more and more popular: option-based, spread offenses with reads on every play from the

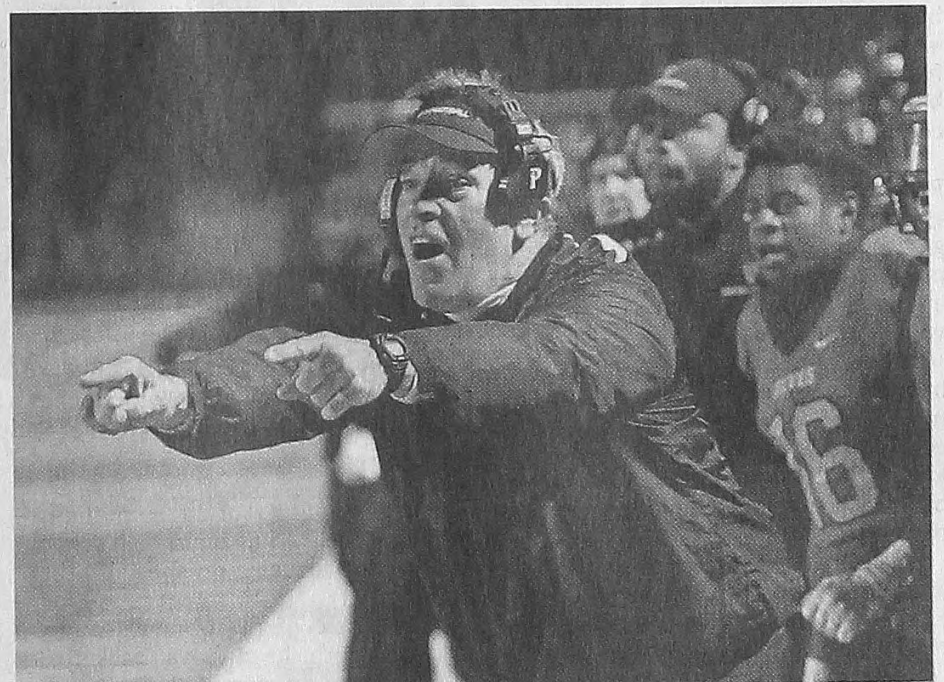
line of scrimmage.

With the change, Franklin jumped from 23.3 points per game in 2014 to 38.2 in 2015, the program's best offensive showing in school history. With the schematic shift, Franklin has made the playoffs five straight seasons, advancing as far as the state title game in 2017.

High school athletics are fluid, with coaches and players in the various sports using the latest trends and approaches, on and off the field, in an attempt to get a leg up on other opponents in the area, to get new generations of athletes better equipped for potential success at the next level.

Many of the longest-tenured coaches in the area agree these are trends they have had to adapt to, not for the benefit of their personal glory or the wins or losses, but for the betterment of the student-athletes they coach.

See COACHES, Page 2B



Groves coach Brendan Flaherty points to where the football landed after a field goal attempt. He said safety is among the game's biggest changes over time.

Salem girls track and field coach to lead football team

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Salem High School announced the hiring of Patrick Ignagni as its new head football coach.

Ignagni currently works as the Salem girls track and field coach and is a social

studies teacher at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

He has also worked as an assistant football coach at Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central and at Salem for 21 years.

Salem interim athletic director Tim Baechler called Ignagni "an extremely


hard worker" and an excellent teacher.

Ignagni played football at Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central High and Hillsdale College.

Baechler fired Salem head football coach Justin Reed after two seasons, posting a 2-16 record during his tenure with the Rocks.


Salem made the playoffs in 2017 with a 5-5 record, its only playoff berth since the 1991 football season.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.



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Franklin coach Chris Kelbert talks to his team after losing to King in the 2019 playoffs. The team's recent success is tied in part to updating its offensive schemes.

HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS

Coaches

Continued from Page 1B

Coaching maturity

"It was a dream come true when they hired me as a head coach."

Todd Sander graduated from Northville High School in 1999 and did not want to leave. He lived and breathed Mustang boys basketball, taking the head coaching job when he was 28.

At the start of his coaching tenure, he said his focus was on the Xs and Os, doing everything he could to bring sustaining success to the single-high school town.

Sander said each coach in his position comes in thinking they know everything, but realize they know nothing at all.

"It's really about forming great relationships with your players. You want to be completely honest with them," Sander said. "We are old school: we are demanding, we push our guys to be the best they can be and we hold them accountable."

Livonia Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman calls it coaching maturity, combining the desire of winning games and putting out a successful product, while making the experience enjoyable for the student-athletes involved.

When he played high school basketball, it was something Mike Soukup did not see. After growing up with a head coach whose sole focus was on wins and losses, the Plymouth head boys basketball coach saw how he did not want to run his program.

Different coaches approach this in different ways.

For Sander, it's reminding his players of the rich tradition in the Northville community, to emphasize to the players that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

For North Farmington assistant coach and former Harrison head coach John Herrington, it's taking an interest in the players on and off the field.

He said that has been an approach he has kept since he started in 1962, as a 21-year-old coaching 17-year-olds.

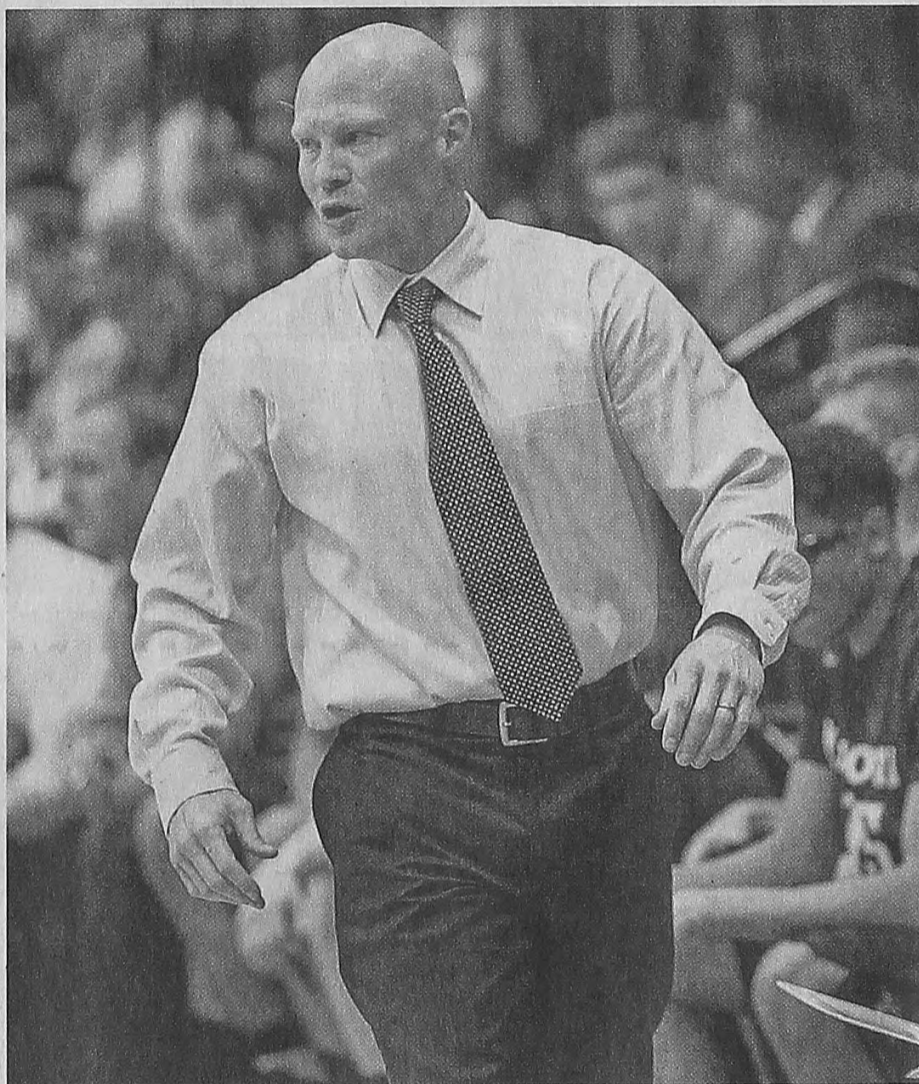
"I was able to relate to them, not be their buddies," Herrington said. "That's one thing: right now I'm 79, so I don't need a 17-year-old friend. But I want them to know that I am behind them and I will support them."

The 10,000-hour rule

The general approach of a high school head coach has not changed much. However, the approach of the high school athlete has changed dramatically.

No matter the sport, more and more athletes choose to specialize in the sport they are best at, putting in the time and effort to get noticed and hone the skills on one sport year round.

Birmingham Groves head football coach Brendan Flaherty referenced the Malcolm Gladwell book "Outliers: The Story of Success" and the 10,000-hour rule saying that practicing a certain skill for 10,000 hours leads to expertise.



When Plymouth's Mike Soukup coaches a basketball game, he is active and vocal — traits he picked up while on former Redford Union coach Brett Steele's staff.

The trend of two- or three-sport athletes has declined as more high school athletes are focusing on specialization in one sport.

"I was one of those guys," Walled Lake Western head boys basketball coach Denny Butcher said. "I gave up being a three-sport athlete to follow basketball because I knew basketball was my route."

Butcher knows that specialization has elevated the skill level of players across the board. But, like many area coaches, prefers those players who are multi-sport athletes.

"You get guys that are multi-sport athletes, in this case football guys, they bring a different mentality, a different level of toughness," Butcher said. "But more importantly, a different level of camaraderie and teamness, unity."

The general consensus among coaches is despite preferring those players who participate in multiple sports, each team has its own set of demands, making it hard for the players to keep up.

Whether it's 7-on-7 or spring conditioning for football or getting into the gym to shoot baskets, every sport is constant even if it's not in season.

"There's so many demands on all sports. Football, you know, it's a year-round thing. All these camps, all these personal trainers, it's really changed how high school athletics is," Herrington said. "I don't necessarily think it's for the better, but I am old school."

When he started coaching at Plymouth in 2008, Soukup said all but two of his players were multi-sport athletes.

Heading into the 2019-20 season, he said only half play multiple sports.

To Soukup, collegiate programs want to see high school players play the sport that "may not be your 'sport'."

"How do you compete when you are not the best one in the room?" Soukup said. "When you go to college, you are not going to be the best one in the room. They recruited five other guys who are as big, as fast, as strong as you."

"Really, what is going to separate you is your ability to fail and retry. Your ability to compete. Your ability to find a way despite lack of size, lack of skill, lack of experience."

Keeping players safe

Ever since Flaherty started coaching at Groves, player safety has always been a topic of conversation.

"When I first started, everybody was like 'We're talking safety,'" Flaherty said. "But you were still emphasizing and pumped up by big hits and people getting after it."

Now, he said everything is designed for keeping the players safe, from the drills run at practice — limiting the amount of contact made on the practice field — to concussion protocol to teaching new tackling techniques.

"It's as safe as we can make the sport," Herrington said.

But while there is contact every play in football, Stevenson hockey coach David Mitchell pointed out that hockey is the only sport where "you are on a sheet of ice with blades and you are going really fast."

Mitchell simply said the goal is for one team to keep the puck away from the other, emphasizing the shift in priority toward speed and puck movement instead of hard hits against the glass, allowing players to be involved in every aspect of the game.

"I think we are heading in the direction of, not necessarily positionless hockey, but kind of that way, right, where the defensemen are interchangeable and the defensemen are not just big, bruising guys that are responsible for just defending," Mitchell said.

Community remains

To Mitchell, Michigan has always been a hockey state, from the Red Wings to the Wolverines and the Spartans.

For the high school level, he said programs across the area are finding significant success, creating this level of buzz the sport has not seen before.

"High school hockey is, without a doubt, growing," Mitchell said. "Better players are choosing to play high school hockey."

While basketball is likely to remain relatively consistent in the short-term future, Herrington has seen a drop in participation in football with players and families worried about the future of the sport and the long-term effects it could have on a participant.

He said he has had meetings with the coaching staff about how North Farmington has had trouble fielding full junior varsity and freshman teams.

"I'd like to be more optimistic, but I am concerned," Herrington said.

While more trends such as "school of choice" and transfer rules have affected how players approach high school athletics, the reality remains the same for many student-athletes. For most, high school is the only opportunity they get.

"For most of the players that we get, it's going to be the last time they play competitively," Sander said. "Such a small percentage go on to play college or at the next level."

It's about the memories made that will last.

It's the people you meet, the teams you are a part of, something Herrington will not forget.

No matter the future of individual high school sports, the goal of high school athletics as a whole likely will remain the same: to give students an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than themselves, to represent the community and make memories that last a lifetime.

It's what brought Sander back. It's what encouraged Soukup to correct the mistakes made by his high school basketball coach. It's the community Herrington wants to recreate with his own players.

"I still go back and talk to my friends from 1958 about our 1-8 record that we recorded," Herrington said.

No matter what changes, on or off the court, the community of high school athletics is not likely changing anytime soon. These coaches will not let it.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Stevenson, Churchill hold free softball clinic

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Churchill Softball programs held a free softball clinic in December at Total Sports in Farmington for two Livonia Fastpitch teams — Wild and Storm.

Stevenson coach Kevin Hannigan said it was to show their appreciation for all the support that they receive from the players, coaches and families in Livonia.

Over 60 players attended the event ranging from 9-12 years old. They worked on fundamentals and showcasing their skills.

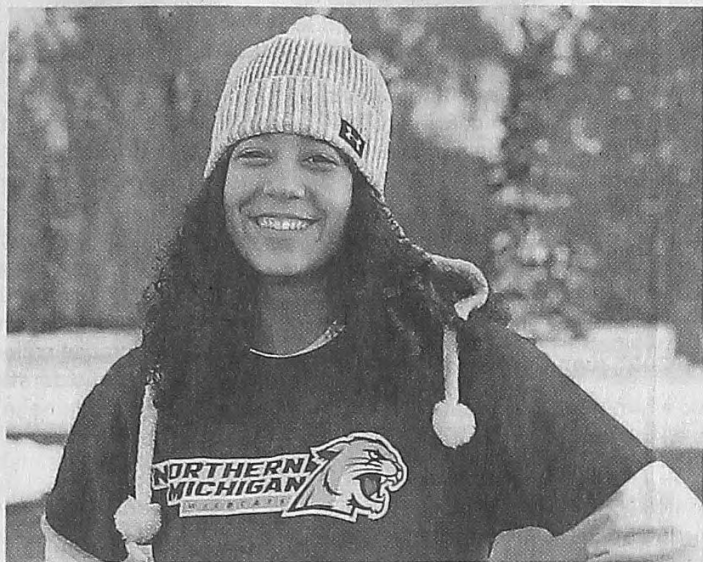
The clinic ran for two hours with an hour coaching session for the younger coaches. The high school coaches shared drills and techniques on all aspects of the game.

Given the positive reaction from parents and players, it's possible the event will continue to be held in the future.

availlenc@hometownlife.com

Stevenson's Koryn Parmenter has verbally committed to continuing her volleyball career at Northern Michigan University, a Division II school.

COURTESY OF REEDER SINGLER III



Stevenson volleyball player commits to Northern Michigan

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A member of the Livonia Stevenson volleyball team has committed to play the sport at the next level.

Koryn Parmenter has verbally committed to continuing her volleyball career at Northern Michigan University,

which is in Division 2.

Parmenter is a senior at Stevenson and was a three-year starter on varsity for the Spartans. She earned All-Academic, All-Conference, All-Region and MVP her senior season. She's been a standout at Michigan Elite, playing at the national level for four years.

Stevenson won the KLAA East Division this year.



Detroit Catholic Central graduate Nick Parros, right, placed second at the world wakesurfing championships in September in Huntsville, Utah. SUBMITTED

CC grad places 2nd at world wakesurfing championships

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Detroit Catholic Central graduate Nick Parros continued his rise in the professional wakesurfing landscape, placing second at the world championships in Huntsville, Utah.

The event was held in September. Parros scored a 100.5 in the Pro

Male Skim category, finishing behind only Camron Swanson, who scored a 113.5.

Parros has been a force in the sport since going undefeated as an amateur in 2017.

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at availlenc@hometownlife.com or 810-923-0659. Twitter: @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Use your smarts to smarten up your home



Talking Tech
Jefferson Graham
USA TODAY

If the idea of asking Alexa or Google to turn on and off your lights appeals to you, and you're not doing it already, the holidays could be a great time to finally get to it.

"Competition is growing and prices are dropping which makes now the best time to make your home," smart, says YouTube Steve Siems, who has a channel called "Steve Does," devoted to smart home reviews and installation.

He suggests starting small, with a connected speaker, then adding smart switches and bulbs before venturing further with doorbells and other products.

"See what you like and what you need more of," he says. "No need to buy 10 smart plugs then realize you only need three for what you want to do. By the time you use the other seven plugs, something newer, better, and cheaper will be out."

Should I get Google Assistant or Alexa?

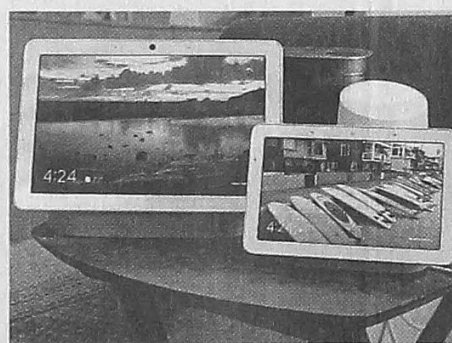
First, decide who you want in your home, the Google Assistant or Amazon's Alexa. Alexa is available on more devices, while Google tends to be a little smarter and more versatile in answering questions about arcane subjects. Both will do the basics — turn and off your smart lights, tell you who's at the door and open your garage door.

If you use an Android phone, you're already living in Googleland and you may be more comfortable with the Assistant. Amazon doesn't have a smartphone and will be sending you back and forth to the smartphone app, on Apple and Android devices, to set up skills.

But not all products work with Google or Amazon, or vice versa. Facebook's Portal video chat device for TVs works only with Alexa, as does Sony's line of smart noise-canceling headphones, while the Nest doorbell answers only to Google.

And while the Sonos Move speaker works with both, it's one or the other. At setup, you have to decide on Alexa or Google.

Many of the smart products also work with Apple's "HomeKit," which means



The new Google Nest Hub Max, with a 10-inch screen, left, and the old Nest Hub, with a 7-inch screen.

JEFFERSON GRAHAM

the Siri personal assistant. While Apple has a home speaker, the HomePod, it has sold very poorly and hasn't been updated, while Google and Amazon aggressively discount and market their wares.

What smart devices do I need?

Amazon's Echo Dot and Google's Nest Mini are the entry-level models, tiny speakers with tinny sound that will do the job. The Dot sells for \$25 and the Mini for \$35, but both could see their prices slashed after the holidays.

The top-of-the-line Echo is the Echo Studio, a high-end speaker selling for \$199, while Google's top is the \$249 Max. Both companies also offer video display units, which are great as digital photo frames and video viewers, such as the Echo Show and Google's Nest Hub and Hub Max. They're a nice addition for smart home products including doorbells and security cameras, to see who's at the door or prowling around outside.

What you need to know on smart plugs

The easiest smart home accessory should be your first purchase. With the smart plug, available for around \$25, from a variety of companies, including WEMO and Amazon's house brand, you plug it into your regular outlet and then add ordinary "dumb" legacy products such as coffee pots, lamps and the like into the smart plug. Now, you can use an app (or voice commands) to turn them on. A new addition this year on many shelves multiplies

smart plugs to a bigger, more functional accessory in a smart strip.

The Kasa by TP-Link sells for \$59.99 and has six outlets to run fans, Christmas lights, lamps and the like from one central location. Plus, you get a surge protector and outlets to charge three USB devices. Like the smart plug, you can use voice command to turn on and off the products.

The pros and cons of smart lights

Asking Alexa or Google to change the color of a lamp from white to red is about as cool as it comes. And how hard is it to go smart when you can buy a smart bulb from your local hardware store, plug it in, connect to the app and let your voice do what your fingers used to do on the light switch?

In theory, yes. The Hue line, from Philips, is the most popular, but they come with a catch: You need to plug a hub into a router, which you may not have room for.

The benefit of a hub is that it can do more elaborate setups, such as mood lighting on movie night in the living room. The downside is that it's yet another product asking to take up valuable real estate on your electrical strips. The plug on the Philips hub the company sent for review is so big it took up two spots on a six plug strip, and had to be connected physically to the router. Do you have an open slot in your router to add the hub?

The Lixf bulb sells for just more than \$20 and is advertised as "no hub required." It can be turned on and off and dimmed, with just white light. A comparable light that changes colors will cost you an extra \$60, at \$79.99

Smart TVs and Streaming

Many smart TVs now support voice commands from Google (Android TV) and Alexa (the Fire TV Edition from Toshiba and Insignia), and there are products that can bring voice to the "dumb" TV. Amazon's new Fire TV Blaster (\$35) does just that, by plugging directly into the TV, and Amazon's Fire TV streaming sticks (starting at around \$25) offer voice commands via the remote control.

What you need in a smart doorbell

Ring, which is owned by Amazon, is

the most visible maker of doorbells, whose appeal is showing you who's at the door without you having to open it. You can check on an app, or on a video display device such as Amazon's Echo Show or Google's Nest Hub Max. Rivals have pushed through copycats, including the \$99 Remobell from Remo, which offers free cloud storage of the generated video from the doorbell. Ring charges \$30 yearly for the same service.

Ring has come under fire from privacy groups for having a product that's easy to hack. Recently, a family in Mississippi claimed a hacker gained access to a Ring camera placed in their 8-year-old daughter's room and started talking to her. Ring says customers need to be more vigilant about having strong passwords for both the device and the home network.

Smart doorbell alternatives

And what if you like the idea of a doorbell that can answer from anywhere, but don't need the video? Arlo, a brand from router company Netgear, offers the Audio Doorbell for \$56, which is \$43 cheaper than the entry-level Ring product. However, it doesn't work unless you pair it with a Base station from Arlo that will set you back another \$70.

But if you're looking to buy some security cameras from the company, the Base station will run all of them.

Some of the more elaborate doorbells require wiring knowledge. If that's beyond you, tech support sites such as Best Buy's Geek Squad and HelloTech will come to you and do the job.

Options for security cameras

These are simple to set up. Plug in and connect to Wi-Fi, unless you buy a battery-powered version, which won't require an outlet.

An outdoor setup from Blink, the XT2, sells for \$184 for three cameras, while an indoor camera from Wyze for watching the pets, kids or whatever else is happening inside, is \$24.49. Wyze will record your video for free and store it for 14 days. Ring's indoor cam charges \$3 monthly to record the action, and unlike Wyze, works only with Alexa, not the Google Assistant.

Hot survey lacks traditional classics

Nathan Bomey USA TODAY

Are Hondas and Acuras really classic cars? ■ Yes, according to the annual Bull Market List from classic-car insurer Hagerty, which includes the previously scorned front-wheel-drive vehicles that are surging in popularity. ■ The annual Bull Market List contains aging SUVs and sports cars, such as the Honda CRX Si and the Acura Integra Type R. It shows that a new generation of classic car buyers is emerging, and they aren't exclusively interested in such stalwarts as the Corvette and Mustang, says Larry Webster, Hagerty's editor-in-chief. ■ The 2020 list is "looking less like traditional classics and more like the wish list of the high school Class of 1999," Hagerty reports. ■ "Automotive enthusiasm is alive and well and being passed along to the next generation," Webster says. ■ Hagerty compiled its Bull Market List based on projected value, insurance quote trends, digital buzz and dealer insights. ■ "It's a complete 360-degree view of the market, not just based on sales," Webster said.

Hagerty's current value projections of the hottest affordable classic cars in 2020:

1996-2002 Dodge Viper GTS

Price when new \$66,000
Current value \$47,800-\$55,900

This 10-cylinder-engine vehicle's "outlandish design" is one reason why it's particularly popular among Generation X and millennials, according to Hagerty. "The Viper is an automotive roller coaster," Webster says. "It's an experience like no other."

1990-95 Volkswagen Corrado

Price when new \$17,900
Current value \$5,700-\$8,000

The Corrado was the first car you could buy with an electrically operated rear spoiler, Webster said. It also had a supercharged 4-cylinder engine at an affordable price. And it's still affordable today. Interest in the Corrado is surging. In 2019, collectors requested 25% more Hagerty insurance quotes on the vehicle than they did in 2018.

1999-2005 Ferrari 360

Price when new \$170,779
Current value \$82,200-\$89,600

This car is making a transition from "used exotic" to "enthusiast or collectible car," according to Hagerty. A used exotic is still depreciating. The latter category has bottomed out or is appreciating. "The design has aged well and looks elegant in a way a lot of cars from that era don't," Hagerty reports.

1971-80 International Harvester Scout

Price when new \$7,212
Current value \$25,500-\$32,500

This vintage SUV is booming in value. It rose 23% from 2018 to 2019, according to Hagerty. One reason: Many of them were left to rot as collectors focused on vehicles such as the Ford Bronco and Chevrolet Blazer. "They rusted out like crazy," Webster says. Now there's a rush to restore the Scout. "If you can buy it in original paint, I would buy it," Webster says.

1988-91 Honda CRX Si

Price when new \$10,195
Current value \$11,200-\$15,300

This front-wheel-drive sports car is "symbolic of the golden age of Honda," according to Hagerty, with its "quick and go-kart-like" feel. This car had its heyday when many Millennials were babies, but that's the generation that's driving the interest in it. They make up 60% of Hagerty insurance quotes for the vehicle, compared with 21% of all models. "It's about the smoothest 4-cylinder that's ever been made," says Webster, who previously owned one.



The 1996-2002 Dodge Viper GTS is among the hottest classic cars of 2020, according to the Hagerty Bull Market List. DEAN SMITH

1997-2001 Acura Integra Type R

Price when new \$24,830
Current value \$40,700-\$51,200

This vehicle is "super rare and hard to find in good shape," according to Hagerty. Coupled with the fact that its "widely considered the best-handling front-driver of all time," the Integra Type R is soaring in value. In 2019, its value rose 21% over 2018. Over the last three years, the value is up 47%.

1984-2001 Jeep Cherokee

Price when new \$21,665
Current value \$7,600-\$10,400

This vehicle has had a long shelf life. Its "classically rugged good looks" and affordability have attracted a big audience, Hagerty says. It's smaller than the modern Cherokee, and that enables agile off-roading.

1998-2002 BMW M Roadster

Price when new \$42,770
Current value \$21,000-\$27,200

The most valuable versions of this model are skewing the average higher. The reality is the median price is \$13,000. It's cheaper than its cousin, the M coupe, but its finally getting its due after being "overlooked for a long time," according to Hagerty. "There is so much entertainment for the dollar in this car," Webster says.

1970-76 Porsche 914

Price when new \$42,770
Current value \$21,000-\$27,200

This is only the third model ever made by Porsche designers. Its "great handling and affordability" are driving interest, especially among baby boomers, who make up 55% of the quotes on the vehicle. But it may not be affordable for much longer. The average value rose 29.3% in 2019, compared with 2018, and some recent sales have topped \$100,000. Porsche collectors started giving fresh consideration to the 914 after the 911 became unaffordable for many, Webster says.

1970-95 Land Rover Range Rover

Price when new \$45,000
Current value \$20,500-\$30,300

The old Range Rover appears to be drafting off of the success of the current Range Rover, according to Hagerty. You can see some of the current vehicle's design cues from the vintage model. Just gear up for a lot of maintenance. "They're so unreliable, it's comical," Webster says.

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Take care with your gift card: It could be the target of scam

Susan Tompor
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Con artists are making millions of dollars going to major retailers to engage in a variety of gift card scams. So shoppers need to take extra precautions when buying gift cards.

"Look for gift cards that are either near, at or behind the register, or those that need to be loaded with funds before they're usable," said Brian Krebs, who writes a blog called "Krebs On Security" and is author of the best-selling book "Spam Nation."

The popularity of gift cards make them attractive targets for scammers. An AARP survey found that 70% of people plan to give them as presents.

Krebs noted that most retailers and restaurants that sell gift cards also allow you to order those cards via their websites - which might be a smarter option to avoid some types of fraud.

Con artists have engineered a way to

steal information and tamper with gift cards inside the store before you buy the gift card. As a result, you must take time to examine the decal covering a PIN to make sure the PIN isn't visible.

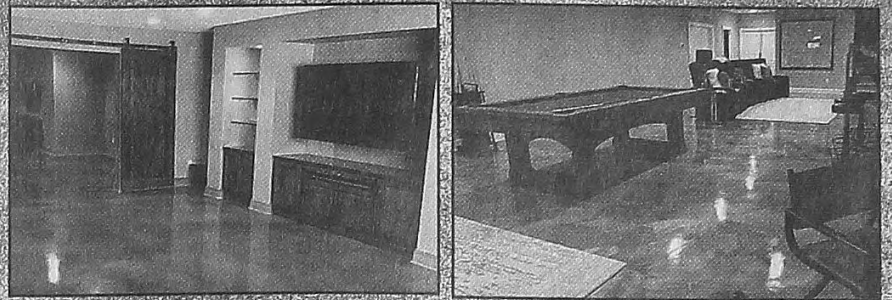
Remember that when it comes to decals, though, "thieves can easily scratch those off and then replace the material with identical or similar decals that are sold very cheaply by the roll online," according to KrebsOnSecurity.com.

It's part of a scheme where crooks can gather enough information from a gift card on the rack, go online to monitor the gift card account's activity at the retailer's portal and then strike once the cards are paid for and activated at the checkout register.

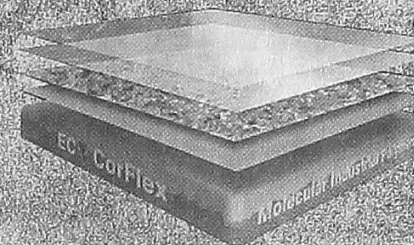
"Once a card is activated, thieves can encode that card's data onto any card with a magnetic stripe and use that counterfeit to purchase merchandise at the retailer," KrebsOnSecurity says. "The stolen goods typically are then sold online or on the street."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its Annual Meeting January 21, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandy Young, Administrative Assistant
 Plymouth District Library
 223 S. Main Street
 Plymouth, MI 48170
 734 453 0750
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Published: January 5, 2020

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH - NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids up until 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 27, 2020. The bid opening will be at 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 27, 2020 for the following:

AIR DUCT CLEANING - CITY HALL

Specifications and bid documents are available at Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170, during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: <http://www.plymouthmi.gov/>. *Mandatory walk-through required. See bid documents for details.

A bid bond, certified check or cashier's check, in an amount equal to 10% of the bid submitted, must accompany each proposal as security to assure the bidder's acceptance of the contract within ten (10) days from the date of award.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

Maureen Brodie, CMC
 City Clerk
 City of Plymouth

Publish: January 5, 2020

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Ready to be a consultant? 3 questions to ask yourself

Eric Titner
 thejobnetwork.com

Most of us have career paths that are full of both carefully planned moves and unexpected twists and turns. What often seems like a concrete plan today can change completely tomorrow based on new opportunities, changing industry conditions, shifting economic forces, and a host of other variables that are both in our control and beyond our reach.

Often, the key to long-term success in today's ultra-competitive and rapidly shifting work world is to pay careful attention to these variables, stay flexible, and pivot as needed.

This is often easier said than done, but if handled properly, it can really set you up with a deep understanding and appreciation of your field. One fork along the professional journey that many of us face is the decision regarding consulting.

But are you ready to become a consultant?

This question often arises after acquiring decades of experience, and we start thinking about whether the time and conditions are right to "pay it forward" and help others benefit from our hard-earned wisdom and expertise. Or maybe the consulting field may just be a great next career move at your current juncture.

Whatever your situation, careful consideration and planning is always a wise approach before deciding what your next career move should be. So, if you're at a crossroads and are wondering if consulting is right for you, then consider asking yourself the following questions to help you make the right decision.



GETTY IMAGES

What are the needs and demands in your field?

The truth is, not all industries and professions are created equal. What works well in some fields may fall flat in others — and consulting is no exception. Before deciding on consulting as your next big career leap, do some careful research and take your industry's temperature. Has there historically been a need or demand for industry consultants, or are you breaking new ground? Is there a clear path and entry point to consulting that makes sense for you, or do you en-

vision a challenge with barriers to overcome? Once you have a clear picture of the needs and demands of your specific industry — both in the short term and over the long haul — you can figure out if a move to consulting makes sense.

What do you have to offer?

Not all consultants are created equal, and in a potentially crowded field that likely contains a wealth of qualified, credentialed, and well-connected consultants, how do you stack up? Take a careful look at your prospective brand

and value proposition should you leap into the consulting arena. What do you offer that would help you stand out from the competition? Have you gathered the requisite industry knowledge and expertise to warrant the move? Are you going to be able to convince other potential clients to choose you over the competition to meet their needs? If your answers to these questions are clear and compelling, then it's a good sign that you're ready to be a consultant.

What are your goals?

Take a close look at your reasons for wanting to be a consultant. Are you genuinely excited about sharing your wisdom and experience with others, or are you just in it for the money? Is this a full-time professional shift for you, or are you just looking for additional work on top of your regular schedule? Are you pursuing consultancy out of necessity in a volatile job market, or is this something you're genuinely passionate about? These are important questions to ask yourself when deciding about whether or not to become a consultant — your answers will speak volumes about the motives underlying your decisions, which will go a long way to determining how genuine and effective of a consultant you'll likely be.

Are you ready to be a consultant? Only you can truly know the answer, but if you honestly ask yourself the questions covered here and proceed carefully, you're setting yourself up to make the best possible decision for your professional success within your field of expertise.

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.

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Nothin' at all
- 4 Got on board
- 12 — Hill (Theodore Roosevelt's home)
- 20 Altar promise
- 21 Quiche —
- 22 Zealous campaigner
- 23 With 39-Down, business for attorneys
- 24 Dreams up
- 25 Enrobing
- 26 Thorax
- 28 Cloister resident
- 29 Native Americans of Oklahoma
- 31 See 69-Across
- 32 Lena of "The Wiz"
- 33 Gal at a ball
- 34 Big fashion inits.
- 35 Blue shade
- 37 Haul to court
- 38 "Time — the essence!"
- 40 Wagged part
- 42 Closest to nil
- 46 Verizon competitor
- 49 Artificial hair
- 51 Skier Tommy
- 52 Ali or Frazier
- 53 Klutzy type
- 54 Radon, e.g.
- 55 Indian "Mr."
- 56 Dangerous way to skate
- 58 Haglike
- 60 Darkened
- 62 Uprightness
- 63 Like radon
- 64 Actress Courteney
- 65 Alluring West
- 66 Kanga's son
- 67 Pitched shelter
- 68 "— knew?!"
- 69 With 31-Across, start to enjoy
- 70 Snooze site
- 71 Like sexist jokes and such, for short
- 75 Mai —
- 76 Ring official
- 77 "Piggy"
- 78 River of Grenoble
- 79 Like much hemp fashion
- 83 Actress Cuthbert
- 85 Was deeply agitated
- 86 Air impurity

DOWN

- 1 Nothin' at all
- 2 Gem State
- 3 * A thousand and a
- 4 * March Madness quarterfinal
- 5 Family member
- 6 Slivovitz and kirsch
- 7 Has a debate
- 8 * 1998 Tom Clancy novel
- 9 Family members
- 10 Adversary
- 11 Cease's partner
- 12 Filmmaker
- 13 * Part of the Constitution establishing the judiciary
- 14 Very nery
- 15 "... so far — know"
- 16 * Helicopter of the U.S. president
- 17 Major Norse god
- 18 Sublet, say
- 19 Therefore
- 27 Ignore rudely
- 30 Trendy
- 36 Typical lab rat, e.g.
- 39 See 23-Across
- 41 It has a charge
- 43 Pivotal line
- 44 Split-off group
- 45 Deuce follower
- 46 Specifically
- 47 Neighbor of Quebec
- 48 Place (down)
- 50 * Request for a hand slap
- 57 Engine cover
- 59 LCD alternative
- 60 Ski —
- 61 Consume
- 64 * Group of defendants that included Abbie Hoffman
- 68 "Hold on!"
- 69 Styling stuff
- 70 Furry scarf
- 71 Consume
- 72 Occasion to shout out the ends of the answers to this puzzle's starred clues (from left to right)
- 73 Dress fussily
- 74 Handed over
- 75 In this way, informally
- 76 Withdrawal
- 77 * "She Loves You" band's nickname
- 78 * Tangoing truism
- 79 Lofty poetry
- 80 Heart
- 81 Toast topper
- 82 * A state of bliss
- 84 Window area
- 85 View
- 87 Rustic denial
- 89 View
- 95 Capital of Latvia
- 98 Helical form
- 100 Taoism founder
- 103 Omit in speech
- 105 Nicholas Gage memoir
- 108 City in Germany
- 109 Styles
- 110 Knife feature
- 111 Old Italian currency
- 112 Bird class
- 114 Bird hangout
- 118 Snead of golf
- 120 Classic British sports car
- 121 Hard drinker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20			21								22							
23			24								25							
26		27		28				29		30						31		
32				33				34			35		36					
		37			38			39		40		41		42		43	44	45
46	47			48				49		50		51			52			
53			54					55			56			57				
58		59						60			61			62				
63				64						65				66				
67				68				69			70			71	72	73	74	
				75				76			77			78				
79	80	81	82					83			84			85				
86							87			88				89			90	
91							92			93				94			95	
96							97			98		99		100			101	
				102		103			104	105	106			107			108	109
110	111	112			113		114				115					116		
117				118						119	120				121			122
123										124								125
126										127								128

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

SUDOKU

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

CHILLY WEATHER WORD SEARCH

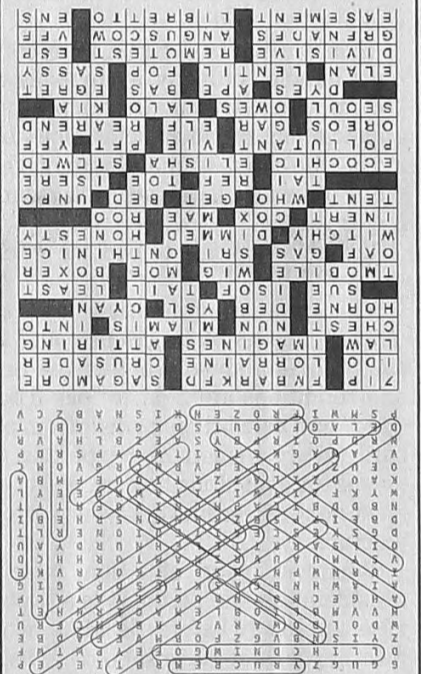
G G U G Z Y R U C R E M R B T I E C E P
 D L L I H C D N I W G O F E Y P W T W F
 Z Y I S N B V G Z F O B M V E F A D B E
 W D O L D O W A R V Z P R B R M C F R U
 H V V M B L I O B L E M A O I R H H E T
 A H G E C N O T N R O G S L Y A Y A C F
 A I A W H N B C A S K T C S D P S G I G
 I U R N W P N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

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

WORDS

- AIR MASS
- ALTITUDE
- ARCTIC
- BAROMETER
- BLACK ICE
- BLIZZARD
- CLIMATE
- COLD
- CONDENSATION
- CRYSTALLIZATION
- DEGREE
- FOG
- FREEZING
- FRONT
- FROSTBITE
- FROZEN
- GALE
- HYPOTHERMIA
- MERCURY
- SNOW
- TEMPERATURE
- VISIBILITY
- WINDCHILL
- WINTER

ANSWER KEY



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

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Assorted

Items

all kinds of things...

Novena

Prayer to Holy Spirit
 Holy spirit, You who solved all problems, who lights all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life. You are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank You for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You, even in spite of all material illusion. I wish to be with You in eternal Glory. Thank You for your mercy towards me and mine. The person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days, the favor requested will be granted even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted without mentioning the favor, only your initial should appear at the publication.
 Publication promised. G.D.B.

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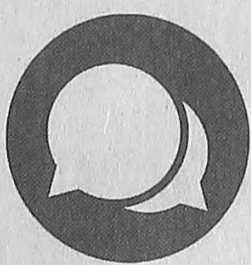
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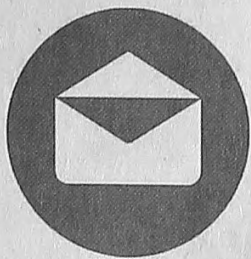
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