



## Smith brings new foundation home to John Glenn basketball

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Police investigate fight after HS hoops game

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington Public Schools has taken sides in the fight between two high school students following North Farmington High School's home basketball game against West Bloomfield High.

Superintendent Bob Herrera sent a letter to families Tuesday saying that the two boys were known to not get along and that the West Bloomfield High School student threw the first punch.

The fight that ensued resulted in that West Bloomfield senior - Kenede Marion, 17 - being hospitalized for nearly a

week because of a lacerated liver and spleen and fractured vertebrae.

It also may have jeopardized his mother's job as a Farmington Public Schools social worker. Concerned about her son's safety, Kenya Marion is calling Herrera's letter and conclusions "lies."

Kenede attended North Farmington

for 10th grade and most of 11th grade.

He switched schools in March when his mother filed a personal protection order against the same student he fought with after the Jan. 10 basketball game.

See FIGHT, Page 4A

## Girls youth soccer coach arraigned on sex charges

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Northville High School teacher faces three counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct stemming from a 2010 sexual relationship with a student, according to Oakland County Sheriff's Office deputies.

At the time of the alleged assaults, Jason William Dean, 36, of Livonia was teaching at Cedar Crest Academy in Springfield Township, where he also coached soccer and basketball.

The student was a 14-year-old who reported on her former eighth-grade teacher this month.

The alleged sexual assaults occurred on school grounds, at after-school events, and other locations. Deputies said they were able to corroborate her allegations.

Dean was arraigned Wednesday

See COACH, Page 5A

## Officials: Ann Arbor Road railroad bridge needs upgrade

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

If you Google "eyesore," a photo of the railroad overpass that stretches above Plymouth Township's Ann Arbor Road may pop up on your device.

Built in the 1930s, the bridge is rusty with chipped cement serving as its primary features.

The underbelly of the structure looks, well, like an 80-year-old bridge with graffiti sprayed haphazardly along its walls. And there is no walkway running under the bridge parallel to Ann Arbor Road, a predicament that Township Supervisor Kurt Heise deems a pedestrian hazard.

It may be ugly, but at least it's safe, right?

"We don't know at all," admitted Heise. "The bridge is owned by CSX Railroad, so we're unable to make any

See BRIDGE, Page 5A

## 'Hell on Earth'



Near an eternal flame, Paula Marks-Bolton stops by an wall engraving at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills on Jan. 14 that notes how many Polish Jews were killed in the Holocaust. Marks-Bolton grew up in Poland and was sent to a series of concentration camps beginning soon after she turned 13 years old. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Auschwitz survivors tell of life in concentration camp

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Paula Marks-Bolton stood naked in Auschwitz when she was maybe 15 or 16 years old waiting for a shower. She remembers her dignity had been taken from her long before that, just like Nazis took her mother years earlier.

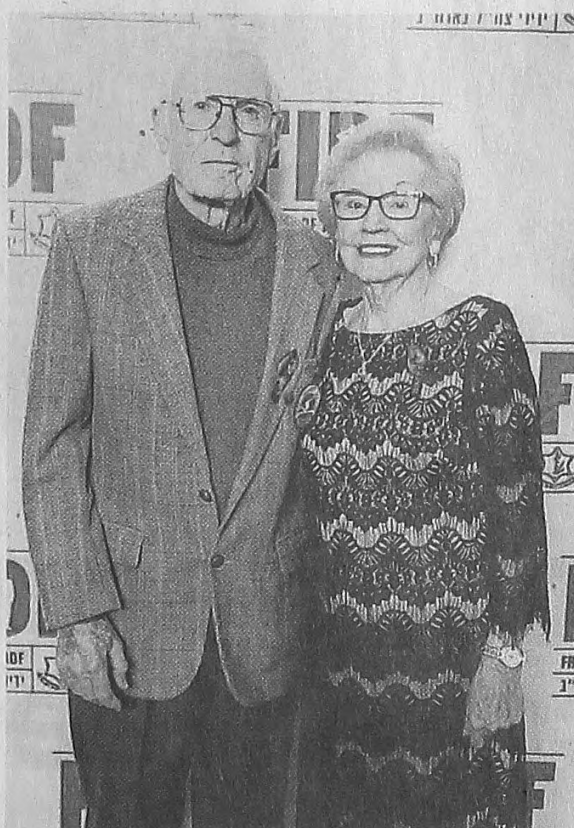
But she still had this small passport photo of her mother, given to her just before Nazis separated her family. And there she was with her small, malnourished fist holding onto the only belonging and the only reminder of her family she had left when a Nazi noticed that something was in her hand.

"Open your fists!" they are ordering me," Paula remembers. "I didn't want to. I knew if I opened my fist they were going to take it away."

"So I'm holding it tight and I am explaining to the guards, 'I have a little picture of my mother. Let me through. It will hurt nobody.'"

**"I feel an obligation that I have to speak even though it's painful and it's emotional. I am one of the few lucky ones that survived the Holocaust."**

Sophie Klisman



Sophie Klisman stands with Doug Harvey, one of Auschwitz' liberators, in 1919. Klisman said she was lucky to escape that place with her life.

COURTESY OF LORI ELLIS

See SURVIVORS, Page 6A





# Stevens, Calley talk business in Livonia

Congresswoman Haley Stevens (D-MI-11) convened a roundtable discussion with local small business owners in Livonia to discuss issues facing the small business community in Southeast Michigan on Jan. 23.

Also participating in the roundtable were former Michigan Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, President of the Small Business Association of Michigan, and Greg Doyle, who leads Oakland County's One Stop Shop Business Center.

During the event, Stevens led a discussion on healthcare, trade, workforce development and other policy issues that are important to the success of small businesses in Michigan. A wide variety of industries were represented including child care, education, fashion, and health care. Business owners from Clawson, Wixom, Livonia, Waterford and Troy participated in the event.

"Small businesses are such an important part of Michigan's economy, but



Congresswoman Haley Stevens, back center, talks with small-business owners on Jan. 23 in Livonia.

COURTESY OF CONGRESSWOMAN HALEY STEVENS

the economy requires these days," said Calley.

Calley also thanked Stevens for voting to pass the USMCA, noting that the agreement is the first U.S. trade deal with a chapter focusing specifically on small and medium-sized exporters, which make up a majority of the businesses that export to Mexico and Canada.

Stevens has been an advocate for Michigan small businesses. In May, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted Stevens' amendment requiring the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to include small business owners on their Consumer Advisory Board.

In July, Stevens introduced a bipartisan bill to update and improve two grant programs that are geared toward entrepreneurs and small businesses. In November, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted Stevens' amendment to help small business impacted by retaliatory tariffs.

creating and maintaining a successful small business can be daunting," Stevens said in a press release. "Today, I had the opportunity to hear from a diverse group of small business owners about the challenges they face, from finding and retaining top talent to addressing the rising costs of healthcare. I look forward to taking the stories I heard today back to Washington to help shape

our economic agenda for the middle class."

Former Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, president of the Small Business Association of Michigan, said finding and retaining skilled workers is one of the biggest challenges facing small businesses in Michigan today.

"It's just difficult to find enough people with the skills that line up with what

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## 'Shark Tank' contestant visits Farmington High

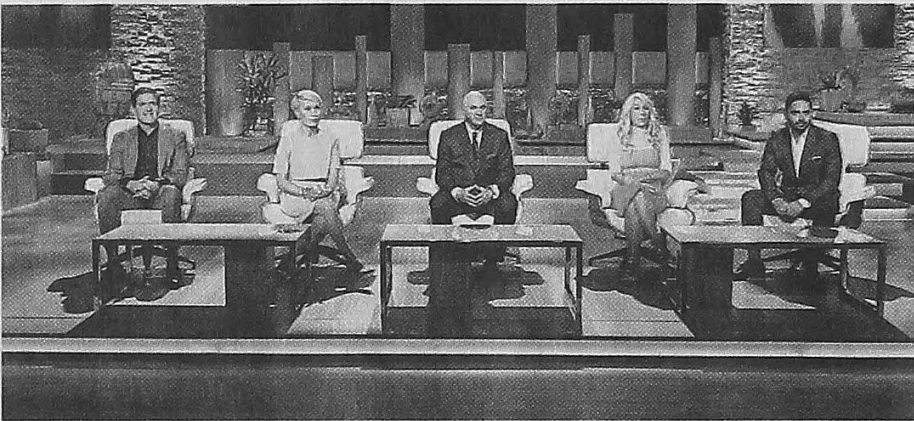
On Jan. 14, entrepreneur Max Feber discussed his invention and experience on "Shark Tank" with Farmington High School marketing students.

Feber started his company BRUW in high school.

The BRUW Filter is the result of that vision, honed through rigorous testing and prototypes. BRUW was launched via Kickstarter in November 2015, and within a month had smashed its target goal to raise more than \$10,000.

BRUW makes reusable cold brew coffee filters that work with mason jars. The first BRUW Filters were manufactured in Jan. 2016. Feber then took his product to "Shark Tank" in Jan. 2019 and received a deal from Mark Cuban consisting of \$50,000 for 30 percent of his company. Feber was given offers by three different "Sharks."

To learn more about his product, visit bruw.net.



The "Shark Tank" sharks: Mark Cuban, Barbara Corcoran, Kevin O'Leary, Lori Greiner, and Rohan Oza. COURTESY OF ERIC MCCANDLESS/ABC

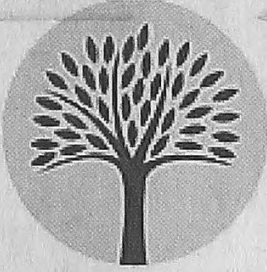
Feber is now studying entrepreneurship at Babson University outside of Boston. His

professors used real-world business experiences to help him apply them directly to BRUW.

Feber's professors also helped him

set up his supply chain, secure a warehouse and learn how to sell his product. Many of his classes prepared him for his appearance on "Shark Tank."

Farmington High students were excited to hear from someone that has actually done what they discuss in class.



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# Good Samaritan returns \$27K to credit union

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

George Condash was having one of the worst mornings ever when he pulled into Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union's parking lot and saw a big black box in the ATM lanes.

"I was, like, 'Man, why would somebody be so piggish and leave their junk out there,'" said Condash, a 53-year-old Ford Motor Co. pipefitter. "I got out to move it. It says Wayne Westland FCU. It had a tag on it. It said '40K'. I was like, 'Yeah, I better take this inside.'"

Without hesitating, Condash did just that. He walked into the Wayne Road credit union at about 2 p.m. Tuesday and asked for a manager so he could return the box to its rightful owner.

Turns out, the ATM cash cassette only had \$27,000. A security company's driver had left about a half hour earlier with three of four cash cassettes. The driver mistakenly left the fourth cassette behind when he drove the others downtown to be balanced.

Credit union officials were so grateful that they gave Condash \$500, which he used for some home improvements and to share with his family.

"It's exciting because it's a great ending," Cash Manager Alicia Stewart said. "It's a very positive thing that happened in our community. It promotes honesty and integrity. We're just so appreciative of George and what he did for us."

The reaction to their monetary exchange has amazed Stewart and Condash. Media outlets including CNN and "Inside Edition" aired their story.

Condash said his wife's family in Mexico have called to say they saw him



George Condash, center, stands with Amy Neale, Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union's marketing director, and Alicia Stewart, the credit union's cash manager. SUSAN VELA/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

on Univision, and his coworkers have been letting him know they're onto his honesty and good Samaritan ways.

"It just blows my mind," Condash said of the attention.

He and his wife Mireya have parented four daughters. They lost Jesse, 24, on St. Patrick's Day.

Condash cried Tuesday over Jesse's

death. But he still had bank business to do and eventually entered the parking lot, spotted the black box and decided to do something about it.

He's confident Jesse would have been proud of her dad taking the time to retrieve the ATM cash cassette for the credit union.

"People are oblivious to their sur-

roundings," Stewart said. "We were watching the footage. There were like five cars that came through the lane that didn't even notice it at all."

She has been dealing with the security company who handles deliveries downtown. According to Stewart, the tote bags can safely handle three cassettes but not four.

## Police: Teen stole phone, drove over woman after meetup

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Detroit teen faces several felony charges because of alleged criminal deeds tied to the lego app, which is used for shopping and selling purposes.

Livonia police said in a report Wil-

liam Louis Stinson, 19, and an unnamed woman met in the Target parking lot on Plymouth Road on Dec. 23 because she was listing a phone for sale.

She approached the vehicle of the potential buyer. Two other males were inside.

The buyer apparently grabbed the

phone from her hand and sped away, dragging the woman several feet. The car ran over her as she fell to the ground. Her left hand and leg were injured.

Similar crimes were reported to Inkster and Westland police. Stinson was arrested and bound over on charges for the Livonia and Westland cases.

In Detroit's Third Circuit Court, he faces robbery and larceny charges for the Jan. 3 incident in Westland and charges of robbery, larceny and assault for the Dec. 23 incident in Livonia.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.

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# Fight

Continued from Page 1A

The PPO detailed profanity, verbal and physically aggressive threats, cyber bullying, Snapchat threats and physical aggression. A hearing on the PPO is scheduled for Feb. 12.

Herrera, though, is suggesting that Kenede may have been the most recent aggressor.

According to Herrera's letter, Kenede exited the school building and lingered outside the doors.

Kenede approached the North Farmington student he was known to have problems with when he also left the building.

They exchanged words and began pushing each other.

"At this point, the North Farmington student was grabbed by a friend and turned to walk away from the West Bloomfield student," Herrera wrote. "The West Bloomfield student then ran in front of the North Farmington student and threw two punches striking the North Farmington student."

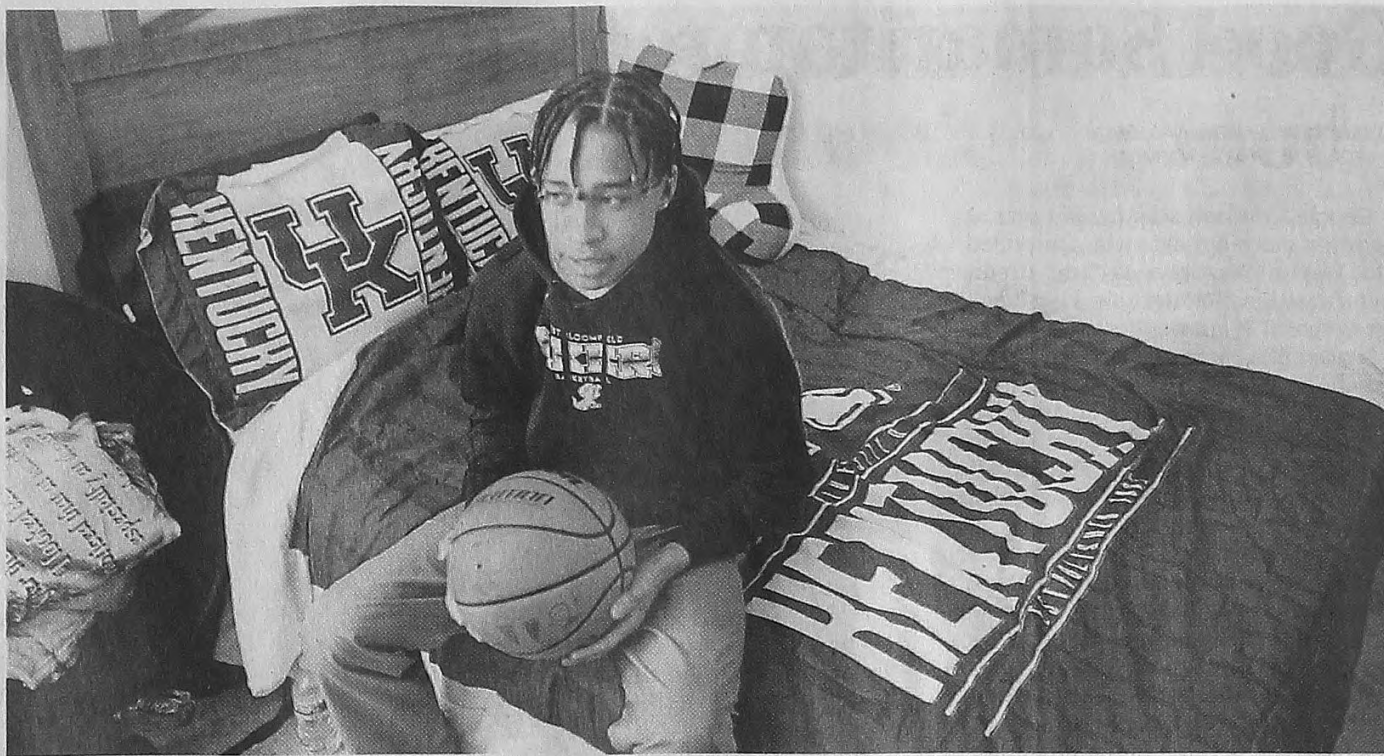
"The two students then engaged in a fight and it went to the ground where two other individuals, who have been identified as being from West Bloomfield, can be seen kicking and punching the North Farmington student."

The fight lasted "just over one minute" before adults including the principal and Farmington Hills police officers intervened. Adults had been trying to keep the teens apart all night because of their known problems.

Kenede's mom returned to the school and took her son to Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. District officials said Farmington Hills police officers asked Kenede's family if they wanted him transported to a hospital. They declined.

Herrera said students, families, surveillance footage from both inside and outside the building, video from other sources and other witness statements were part of the district's investigation, which has concluded.

"At Farmington Public Schools, we will not tolerate threats, intimidation, harassment, bullying or acts of violence on school grounds, near a school facility, or at athletic events," the superintendent said in his statement. "We reiterate that behavior such as this does not reflect the values of Farmington Public



A fight Jan. 10 after a basketball game left West Bloomfield High student Kenede Marion, 17, hospitalized for nearly a week because of a lacerated liver and spleen and fractured vertebrae. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Kenede's mother, Kenya, stands with one of her other sons, Krue Harper, 7.

Schools, the students who make up this wonderful learning community, nor the positive culture that we foster in our school community."

## Other side of story

Kenya Marion was appalled. She has spoken to a few school administrators but not Herrera.

"Nobody has talked to Kenede," she said. "I am floored. That is not an accurate depiction of what happened at all. We don't have a reason to lie. This, to me, is victimization all over again."

Her version of the evening's events started as she sat through a hostile game where Kenede was verbally taunted, and parents and students were confused about why Kenede wasn't getting court time. He's only been getting a few minutes of game time, both he and his mother confirmed.

Before the whistles blew, Kenede was told to expect getting jumped by the other student at the game. And from Kenede's viewpoint, that's what happened as he walked toward a car to go home.

When the melee stopped, he thought five or seven teens attacked him. He was told later there were more than 10.

"They were kicking and stomping him. They were pulling his hair. It was like a free-for-all," his mother said. "They all had their phones. You could tell they knew it was going to happen."

Marion said she plans to advocate for her son as much as she's done for other children over the years.

"I owe that to him," she said. "If Kenede had been a Caucasian kid, a Jewish kid ... there would be outrage. Nobody cares about a little brown boy almost getting beat to death on the sidewalk. Do I think this was an isolated incident? Absolutely not."

Kenede is stuck wearing a brace for his back and neck for his immediate future.

He's already been accepted by some colleges. Standing about 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighing 135 pounds, he plans to play traveling league basketball when he's ready and to try out for his college's team.

He said he's confounded that troubles with the North Farmington student haven't been resolved.

"I really just want to get back on the court," Kenede said. "That's it."

Farmington Hills police continue with their own investigation.

"We hope to wrap up the investigation soon and present the case to the prosecutor's office for any possible charges," Assistant Chief Daniel Rodriguez said in an email.

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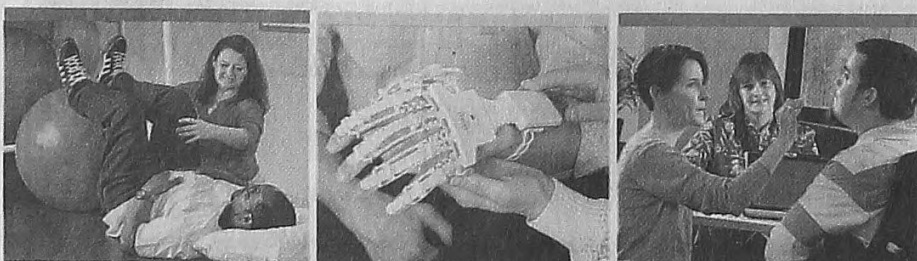
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# GreekFest 2020 is all about music and food

In the late summer and early fall, you can find a Greek festival nearly every weekend in the metro Detroit area. But if you're not Greek, where do you go to fill that craving for delicious Greek food and fantastic Greek music in the winter months?

GreekFest 2020 is a one-day Greek festival to be in the Hellenic Cultural Center of the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Westland on Sunday, Feb. 9.

And what would a Greek festival be without music and dancing?

There will be plenty of both. Running 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., the HCC halls will be filled with live Greek music from the band Enigma Detroit; and dancers from the KYKLOS Hellenic Society, and other area Greek Orthodox churches will perform in native costumes. Those attending the Greek Fest will likely find themselves being drawn into the action on the dance floor, as everybody becomes "Greek for a Day!"

Plus, bringing a good appetite to GreekFest 2020 is its own reward.

The highlight of the festival is the wide selection of homemade traditional Greek foods — savory and sweet — moussaka, pastichio, souvlaki, gyros, fresh Greek salad, sweet loukoumades (fried bread dough drizzled with honey) and Greek pastries, including the ever-popular baklava. Greek beer and wine, Greek coffee and frappes will also be offered.

Tours of the beautiful Saints Constantine and Helen Church sanctuary and iconography will be offered throughout the afternoon; and Greek cookbooks, icons, and gift items will also be available for those who enjoy shopping.

Admission to GreekFest 2020 is \$2 a person, and there will be free valet parking available. All activities will be held indoors, in the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, between Wayne and Newburgh.

## Coach

Continued from Page 1A

afternoon in 52-2 District Court in Clarkston. His next scheduled court appearance is Feb. 10 for a probable cause conference. He remains an Oakland County Jail inmate, with bond set at \$500,000.

"I applaud this brave victim in coming forward to report this truly atrocious behavior by a teacher," Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard said in a statement. "Our teachers are supposed to be trusted mentors, role models, and leaders for our children, and when one violates this trust, they must be held accountable and punished to the fullest extent of the law."

Dean's life took a turn Monday, when he was arrested because of the CSC in-

vestigation and placed on administrative leave by Northville Public Schools.

Northville school officials alerted district families about the arrest in a letter. They said there was no reason to believe the allegations and charges involved a Northville student.

Dean was a girls soccer coach for the Michigan Hawks. His name has been removed from the Hawks' online coaching roster. According to WXYZ Channel 7, the organization sent a letter to past and present Hawks families, saying they have no reason to believe that the "allegations/charges against the coach involve any Hawks' club player or connection."

Dean previously worked as a soccer coach at Wayne Memorial and Garden City high schools.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Twitter: @susanvela.



Officials say the railroad bridge that passes over Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township is in desperate need of an upgrade. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Bridge

Continued from Page 1A

kind of structural analysis. After the 9/11 attacks, it's illegal for anyone except CSX or federal officials to step on or near the tracks.

"The overpass was built over 80 years ago and it looks like it. We want to make sure it's safe and that chunks of concrete don't start falling on cars."

CSX inspects its approximately 14,000 bridges at least once every 12 months, with more frequent checks on older models. This frequency, CSX states on its website, exceeds the Federal Highway Administration's requirement of inspections once every 24 months.

While Plymouth Township can't touch the bridge — the municipality is actually fourth in line in terms of responsibility for the bridge behind CSX, Wayne County and the Michigan Department of Transportation, Heise said — its leaders would at least like to beautify the structure and the area surrounding it, since it's a form of welcoming gateway to Plymouth Township and Plymouth for visitors from the east.

An extensive study on the bridge and its potential beautification was completed by a design firm back in 2008,

Heise said.

"The file is about five inches thick, so a lot of time went into it," he added.

### Cooperation is key

In late 2019, the Plymouth Township Downtown Development Authority, which is funded by township taxpayers, presented CSX with the study and \$15,000 in exchange for an assurance from the railroad giant to come up with a plan to improve the area's appearance.

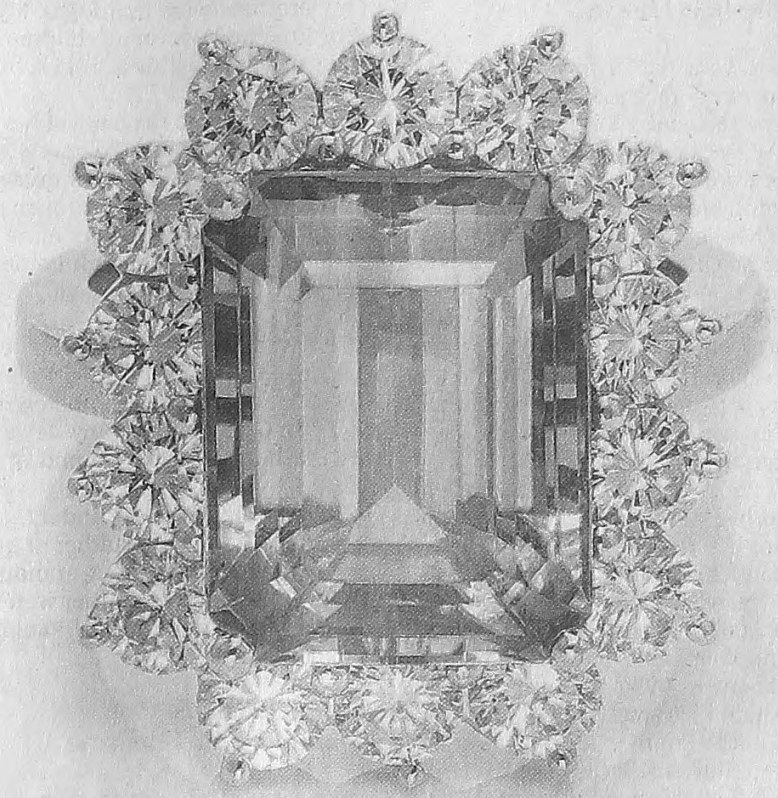
"We're asking CSX to look at the study and attempt to integrate some of its ideas to enhance the appearance and safety of the area," Heise said. "Ideally, I'd like to see the bridge replaced completely. At minimum, I'd like to see some landscaping improvements and a walkway constructed on the north side of Ann Arbor Road."

Heise said he hasn't heard a significant amount of feedback from residents "yet," but he feels that some kind of enhancement of the area is "a no-brainer."

If CSX solidifies a beautification plan for the structure it would only be the first of many steps.

"Wayne County and MDOT would also have to approve the project," he said. "But at least this is a start."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [edwright@hometownlife.com](mailto:edwright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.



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# Survivors

Continued from Page 1A

"Open your fist!" They start to beat me all over my face and my body. They held my wrist, and the picture fell on the floor... When I looked down on the floor, the picture fell with the face up, and I was crying bitterly. I tried to retrieve it. My mother said to me, 'Leave it, you're going to be OK.' She wasn't there to say that, but in my heart she was."

Indeed, Paula was going to be OK. She tells that story of the last time she saw her mother's face often. But to tell the story is to re-experience every detail of the incomprehensible things she's lived through.

Still, Paula and Sophie Klisman tell their stories, stories of the Holocaust, all the time.

"When I speak about it, I can see it," Paula, who was just 13 when World War II began, said. "Every word I say, I live it. You cannot imagine how hard it is to speak about it. Why I can and others cannot, I don't know."

She and Sophie have powerful, heartbreaking stories they tell students who visit the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills on a regular basis.

These stories are of cruelty, survival, kindness and family. They're also stories that cross paths with Auschwitz, where historians estimate about 1.1 million people were murdered.

"People should be aware of what hate and prejudice can do and how much suffering it can bring," said Sophie, who was 10 when the war began.

The antisemitism and genocide that define the Holocaust haven't gone away, but both hope that remembering what happened will eventually teach humanity something.

So, they invite you to remember with them. Let's start from the beginning, when Paula and Sophie weren't even old enough to be in high school.

"As I say, can I tell you my story?"

## Just like anybody else

Paula's story begins in Orzokow, Poland, where she had three older brothers and two doting parents. Her family was a loving one, just like anyone else.

But, as she says, that didn't last long. "I had loving parents, grandparents,

uncles, aunts and cousins just like everyone else, but not for long after the Nazis invaded Poland," Paula said. "Two of my brothers were murdered. My oldest brother had two small children, a little boy of 5½ and a little girl of 2½, but not for long."

Sophie was also the baby of her family growing up in Lodz, Poland. She had two brothers, a sister and parents. They didn't have a lot of money, but she says lack of material goods was more than made up by the love in their home.

"I was a happy 10-year-old," Sophie said.

That childhood innocence ended when the Germans invaded Poland in 1939, turning Sophie's hometown into the Lodz Ghetto. For many Jews, this was the beginning of the end of their lives.

"If you were Jewish — under the Nazi regime — or your grandfather or grandmother or your great-great-grandmother or great-great-grandfather were Jewish, you had no right to live," Paula said. "Can you imagine?"

## Taken from home, separated from family

Not long after Jewish people were forced to wear yellow Stars of David, Paula remembers her brothers Moishe and Shimik being taken from home.

Whether every few days, hours or weeks, no one knew when Nazis would come and load young men into trucks and take them away.

When Moishe and Shimik ended up on one of those trucks, she found herself running after them.

"I didn't see Moishe, the trucks were filled with people and he was punched down with other people," Paula remembers. "The truck was filled. But I saw Shimik. As they were pulling away, he got up as high as he could and he waved to me."

All these years later, Paula stops at this point in her story to wave the circular wave that Shimik waved to her.

"When I say they didn't come back, I still get a skip in my heart," she said.

Not long after, she and her parents were taken to a school. It was actually the one she attended.

"Alle Juden ruas': All Jews out," the Nazis screamed at them. "We came out from our home with just the clothes on our backs. We couldn't take nothing with us."

While they walked through the streets, people stood by and watched, another of many moments where people stood by and let the Holocaust happen.

"There were people, unfortunately I must tell you, there were people looking on as we were marching and being beaten," Paula said. "Nobody said nothing."

Once inside the schoolhouse, Paula was pushed into a too-full room with her parents.

She then saw one of what would become many examples of cruelty. Their neighbor, a man named Hans, was there in a Gestapo uniform. Paula's mother asked him for help.

"She begs him, 'Hans, please take out my little girl.' He was actually mad at her. He slammed the door in her face and told her he did not know her," Paula remembers. "But the man in the Gestapo uniform was no other but a good neighbor of ours. I went to school with his children. We did our homework together."

She was separated from her parents around 4 a.m. the next day. Paula, at 13, had nothing but the clothes she was wearing and a small passport-sized photo of her mother.

"We were orphans already. We never saw our parents again," she said.

Paula was taken from the schoolhouse to the Lodz Ghetto, where another little Jewish girl, Sophie, already was.

For little Sophie, separation from her family came in the form of death. Weekly food rations were only good for one or two days of eating, so starvation worked its way through the ghetto.

"It was very hard on my mother, seeing her children being hungry," Sophie said. "So, little by little, whatever food there was she would give it to the children. That's the hardest part for me telling this story, because a short time after my mother became weak and sick. There was no medicine, no help whatsoever and as an 11-year-old I had to watch my mother die a slow death of starvation."

A year later, her father met the same fate. Then one of her brothers, Moszek, died from malnutrition as well. Sophie encourages students to imagine being 11 years old and watching three family members die such a slow death.

## Life in the ghetto

No matter somebody's age, people

who were able to work did so in Lodz. Even though work meant long hours with no pay and little food, to work was to continue living.

"I was fortunate that I worked; because the elderly, children and babies were taken away," Sophie said. "We never heard from them again."

But malnutrition reached everyone. "We were starving," Paula said. "We were scavenging for all kinds of horrifying things, peels from potatoes and stuff like that. We were lucky if we could find it. We called them potato pancakes... They tasted wonderful then, but when I think of it, the garbage we ate was unbelievable."

Sophie remembers the dead, her family included, being taken away in trucks.

"We never knew where they buried them," she said. "We had to just cry and wave goodbye."

Until the truck came, though, the dead just lay among the living.

"There were dead everywhere," Paula said. "So many people were walking around like skeletons. When I was 14 or 15 years old, I was walking around with a cane myself from malnutrition."

Neither girl was completely alone, though. Paula had met a girl a few years older than her named Ruta, who became her best friend. Sophie's oldest brother, Israel Sruelek, and her older sister Fai-ga, were still by her side.

Eventually, they were all put in cattle cars and taken to their first concentration camp.

## Carted like cattle

They both say it's a miracle anyone survived the ride.

"You cannot imagine what went on inside," Paula said, estimating there were 90 people crammed in every car. "So many people suffocated. We were actually laying among the dead. It's a sheer miracle, a miracle, that any survived those rides."

Sophie remembers feeling like she was going to be the next one to die.

"We didn't know if this was going to be the end, we're just going to die in this car," she said. "But, miraculously, I mean I don't know how (we survived)."

The cars would stop and start again along the way, but the doors never opened.

See **SURVIVORS**, Page 7A


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# Survivors

Continued from Page 6A

When the doors finally opened, they all came face-to-face with hell on Earth.

## Auschwitz

"I see women. Women, they look like from outer space, with prison dresses, most of them barefoot with shaven heads," Paula remembers. "They screamed out and waved to the new arrivals in different languages. They shout to us, they scream, they want to tell us what is happening.

"In different languages they say, 'My God, where are you coming from? It's sheer hell here.'"

People from all over Europe were taken to this massive concentration camp, where crematoriums burned day and night and experiments were performed on elderly, Gypsies, homosexuals, pregnant women, babies and twins. Paula said you could always smell burning flesh in the air.

As they came from the cars, Nazi guards with "vicious" German Shepherd dogs by their sides would order people, "Rechts, links, rechets, links." Right, left, right, left.

During that separation, Sophie and Faiga held onto their brother Israel Sruelek for the last time.

"This huge Nazi, a frightening-to-look-at soldier, tore our brother away from us," she said. "Tore, really, because we were holding onto him and so scared."

Israel Sruelek waved to them as he was led away with the other men. He died later at Bergen-Belsen, but this was the last time they saw him.

From the cars, people were either taken to gas chambers or to have a shower. Paula, Faiga, Ruta and Sophie all had showers, where Paula had to say her own goodbye as she parted with that little picture of her mother. After years of separation, that photo was all she had left of her family. Of course, it was later taken from her.

"She had it in her pocket and when we were marching to that school, being beaten to march faster and faster, she knew that we were going to be divided," Paula says of her mother. "She took out that little picture from her pocket and stuck it in my pocket. Something to remember her by.

"I always had it in front of my eyes," Paula said as she stops to wipe a few tears away. "I usually don't cry, I'm sorry. This is the only thing that I had. I looked at it, and what I would have given then to see her face again. I never did."

Neither Paula nor Sophie was in Auschwitz very long. Despite the short time, Sophie said she was lucky to escape that place with her life. During a selection of who looked too sick or too young, Sophie was almost sent to die. After quickly moving through the crowd, a Nazi guard looked at her and took pause.

"When it came to me, he yelled out 'Stop! Stop.' Needless to say I was petrified," she said. "I thought I had done something wrong, and he had a rifle. He was in full Nazi uniform. I thought right there and then that he's going to shoot me. Shaking, unbelievable fright entered me.

"He came up and he asked me how old I was. Well, I was 15 like I said when we arrived at Auschwitz. By some miracle, I said I was 18. After, maybe it took a second or two, to me it felt like my lifetime, he motioned for me, a miracle, to go to the right. I don't think I looked 18, being malnourished for so many years, but he motioned for me to go to the right. I hugged and cried with my sister. Little did we know if we're going to live or we're going to die. But we were together."

Ladies at Auschwitz had nothing but a dress and a pair of wooden shoes. No socks, no underwear. In their barracks, it was a wonder anyone could sleep, with several prisoners grouped together on a single piece of wood without sheets or pillows.

In the middle of the night, guards would call on the ladies to undress and head outside to be counted. Paula said the prettiest girls were taken away, not to be seen again.

Paula's best friend, Ruta, was taken on one of those nights. She died at Auschwitz.

Soon enough, Sophie, Faiga and Paula were off to another camp.

## Muhlhausen

Before arriving at Muhlhausen, where historians say anywhere between 122,000 and 320,000 people were murdered, Paula was taken to Ravensbruck, where historians say near 50,000 women were killed. What happened there is too painful for her to talk about.

She said Muhlhausen had its horrors



Outside the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills is a small landscape of intersecting railroad tracks that forms a Star of David, seen at right. As the Nazis began to send prisoners by train to concentration camps, including Auschwitz, they forced Jewish people to wear a Star of David on their clothes. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

as well, but the story Paula tells of it is one of kindness. She worked in a factory there, and she says her foreman saw a human being rather than a "little Jewish girl."

"My foreman was the kindest German I had met at the Nazi regime," she said. "He always stopped at my station and talked to me, and he always made sure guards are far away so he could stop and talk to me. He was a grandfather, and he had a granddaughter named Paula. She was about my age."

Whenever he could, the man brought her bread, fruit or rags for her feet because she had no socks. Paula never learned his name, but that foreman might be one of the reasons she's still alive.

Those small conversations reminded Paula that good people existed in a world where so many were cruel.

"I say to the people I speak for, look how one person can make such a difference on your life," she said. "One person can change your life, even if you don't know his or her name."

However, Paula had to leave the foreman behind when she was taken to Bergen-Belsen.

## Bergen-Belsen

Sophie and Faiga were also taken to Bergen-Belsen, where it's estimated 50,000 people were murdered. The camp is probably most known as the place where Anne and Margot Frank died.

At Bergen-Belsen, they got one piece of bread every day. At her young age with so little food, Sophie soon came down with what she thinks was strep throat. Getting sick was terrifying, because if a Nazi noticed they might kill her for it.

"At that time, I was ready to give up," Sophie said. "I told my sister, I said, 'I can't take it. God, please take me out of this misery. I am in such pain, such suffering.'"

But Faiga wasn't about to let that happen.

"My sister leaned over and she said, 'You're all I've got,'" Sophie remembers. "'You can't leave me. You can't die.'"

Sophie says her sister's reliance upon her restored her will to survive. But with no medicine, there wasn't really a way to get better. Another prisoner, who Sophie suspects may have been a nurse before the war, encouraged her to take some unconventional, revolting medicine.

"She said, 'Look, there's no water, there's no salt water. Why don't you, when you urinate, gargle with your own urine,'" Sophie said. "I did, and somehow I think that saved my life. After two or three days, my throat felt better."

Paula also remembers finding a little rejuvenation through desperate means at Bergen-Belsen. She said she was lucky enough to be one of 40 girls sent to work in the kitchen, and that meant a lot of scraps were around to eat.

"We were sent into a kitchen to peel potatoes. Heaven, right?" she said. "We have peels, raw peels of potatoes. We have something to eat. We stuffed our raw peels of potatoes into our mouths as fast as we could."

They all got 25 lashes for eating the scraps. Paula says now it's hard to imagine what someone will do when they're starving, but raw potato peels were just as good as anything back then.

Paula stayed at Bergen-Belsen until the day of liberation, but Sophie and Faiga's story has one more stop.

## Salzwedel

The sisters worked 12-hour shifts in an ammunition factory at the Salzwedel labor camp, where over 90 people were found dead upon liberation. With the long hours, Sophie found herself unable to stand and collapsed one day before going to the factory. A female Nazi guard had a moment of kindness and told her to go back to bed.

But, another woman came to wake Sophie and bring her back to the harsh reality of her young life.

"She screamed and yelled and pulled me off. 'You've got to go to work,'" Sophie remembers. "She was so angry with me because she had to make a special trip to the factory."

"It was about a mile walk from the barracks to the factory. She had to make that special trip with me, so she started hitting me and beating me every step of the way. I felt blood gushing, my eyes got swollen. It's miracle number three that I survived."

The beating was bad enough that the teenager collapsed again and had to be dragged the rest of the way. But once Sophie arrived, Faiga noticed her and hid her, because Sophie wasn't supposed to be there that day anyway. Tucked under a work bench, Sophie slept the 12-hour shift away after her sister cleaned her up. The nap gave her some life, and she was able to work again after that.

They kept working day in and day out, having no idea when or if the war would end before their lives did.

"We had no knowledge that the war was coming to an end, that the Nazis were losing the war," Sophie said.

But the sweet moment finally came.

## Liberation

"April 14, 1945, I'll never forget it, and I'm 90 years old now," Sophie said, triumph in her voice. "That was the day when we saw tanks and trucks coming toward the camps, toward the door and we called them angels. These were American soldiers."

Paula remembers her moment, on April 15, 1945 at Bergen-Belsen, with the same glee.

"This wonderful moment of liberation: Beautiful young soldiers are jumping off their Jeeps right in front of our kitchen and storming in," she said. "They screamed out with joy, 'You are free! You are liberated!'"

Soldiers fed and medicated the prisoners, though people still died of illness afterward. Many prisoners went into displaced person (DP) camps until they could get back on their feet, Paula, Sophie and Faiga included.

Paula met her first husband, the late Martin Bolton, at one of those DP camps. Sophie and the couple both found themselves in Detroit in 1949 and are part of the tight-knit survivor community in the metro area today. While in America, Paula learned that one of her brothers, Shmeril, had also survived by fleeing to Russia.

Sophie attended night school at Central High School in Detroit, where she met her husband, the late Bernard Klisman, and Paula was gifted a diploma by a high school in Toledo in 2017. Today,

Sophie lives in Walled Lake and Paula lives in West Bloomfield. The biggest thing America gave them both was a chance to move on, which Sophie said was incredibly difficult for Faiga, who died in 2016.

Sophie, attempting to keep a burden off her children's shoulders, didn't tell them about her past for years.

"We never wanted to talk to our children about what we'd been through," Sophie said. "We wanted them not to feel sorry, not to feel the pain that we felt. We wanted to raise them to be normal and happy."

Sophie eventually shared her story with her children and her daughter, Lori Ellis, wrote a book about her mother's life called "4,456 Miles to Closure." Sophie also located where some of her family was buried and put up a tombstone for them back in Lodz. She has returned to Auschwitz twice, which she said was important for her to do.

However, the thing that gives Paula and Sophie the most closure is telling students their stories and encouraging them to remember.

"God gave me this gift to speak, to teach others," Paula said. "That's why I have to do it. I have a mission which, after the war, I promised the six million who have perished, innocent men, women and children, that I was going to do something if I survived."

## Remember

This year brings a series of occasions as different survivors observe the 75th anniversary of their liberation. These survivors, many well over the age of 85, want to make sure their stories aren't forgotten as their lives come to a natural end.

"I feel an obligation that I have to speak even though it's painful and it's emotional," Sophie said. "I am one of the few lucky ones that survived the Holocaust."

Paula said the main lesson she offers is one her parents taught her when she was a little girl.

"It should never make any difference what nationality a person is, what religion a person is or what color skin a person has," she said. "We are all connected. We are all God's children."

Both ladies show students and, frankly, anyone who meets them that kindness and bravery can overcome even the worst trauma. Paula and Sophie said kids regularly come up after their lectures to say they'll never forget them. That's their reason for reliving the horror of the Holocaust.

"It's painful but rewarding," Sophie said. "I feel that I'm doing something good to educate those kids."

They hope kids won't forget them and instead create a more understanding world where Holocaust denial, genocide and hate crimes don't exist.

"We can't say never again because genocide has happened over and over and over again," said Sarah Saltzman, director of events marketing for the Holocaust Memorial Center. "It's again and again and again, but we have to remember what happened, take the lessons and learn from it."

If humanity starts with remembering, maybe someday change will come.

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



# Holocaust Center's new exhibit will be its last in US

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus has announced its newest special exhibit, "Operation Finale: The Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichmann" which runs through mid-June.

"Operation Finale: The Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichmann" is a co-production of The Mossad: Israeli Secret Intelligence Service; Beit Hatfutsot, The Museum of the Jewish People, Tel Aviv, Israel; and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.

The exhibit reveals the secret history behind the capture, extradition and trial of one of the world's most notorious escaped war criminals.

Eichmann, the head of the Nazis' homicidal "Jewish Department," who managed the transport of millions of innocent people to death camps, vanished after World War II. Photographs, film and recently declassified spy artifacts reveal the dramatic history behind the daring abduction and globally broadcast trial of a principal perpetrator of The Final Solution, Nazi Germany's plan for the mass murder of Europe's Jews.

"The Holocaust Memorial Center is proud to host Operation Finale and pro-



**The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus' new exhibit, "Operation Finale: The Capture & Trial of Adolf Eichmann," runs through mid-June. Eichmann, who was the head of the Nazis' "Jewish Department," managed the transport of millions of people to concentration camps during World War II.**

COURTESY OF THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER

vide our visitors with unprecedented access to artifacts and documents on a critical juncture in history," said Holocaust Memorial Center CEO Rabbi Eli

Mayerfeld. "The unwavering commitment to bring this war criminal to justice was not only inspiring, it also created global awareness of the destruction of

European Jewry during World War II."

The multimedia exhibit includes 60 original artifacts and 70 photographs, including maps, printed case files, hand forged documents and a pair of goggles used to obscure Eichmann's vision during his capture. There also is a replica of the bulletproof glass booth used during the 1961 trial. Short films within the Operation Finale exhibit will allow visitors to hear the accounts of the abduction team that caught Eichmann and the legal team that prosecuted him.

Eichmann escaped to Argentina following the end of World War II and changed his name to Ricardo Klement. He was located through the work of a Holocaust survivor and Israel's National Intelligence Agency, Mossad. Operation Finale was the code name given to the Mossad's effort to capture and abduct Eichmann. He was smuggled back to Israel and stood trial for crimes against the Jewish people, where he was found guilty and executed in 1962.

The exhibit is open Sunday through Friday and is free with membership or museum admission.

For more information, call 248-553-2400.

## Don't hire members for homeowner association projects



**Robert Meisner**  
Guest columnist

**Q:** We hired a maintenance person for our homeowners association who was also an owner in our subdivision. We had to terminate him, and he is creating all kinds of problems for us. How do we deal with it?

**A:** As I have advised associations for over 45 years, it is not a good idea for the association to hire anyone who has any proprietary interest in a community association as a member/owner in the association. If that person does not do the job properly and you have to demand the fault be cured or demand reimbursement for resulting damage, you are faced with the prospect of retaliation

from the employee/member against the Board of Directors, which could undermine the operation of the association. As a member, that person might even decide to get his friends together and take over the board in order to avoid responsibility for his mistakes.

There are also insurance concerns because often these relationships are created informally without contracts, and questions may be raised regarding whether a person is an independent contractor or an employee of the association. Depending on how your insurance documentation is written, there may be wiggle room for denial of coverage in accident claims.

You are also faced with the prospect of having to sue that person for malfeasance should that be the case, even though he is a member of the association. In short, you have to ride the waves

for what you have created, deal with it as if it were any other type of adversary with the assistance of your community association attorney.

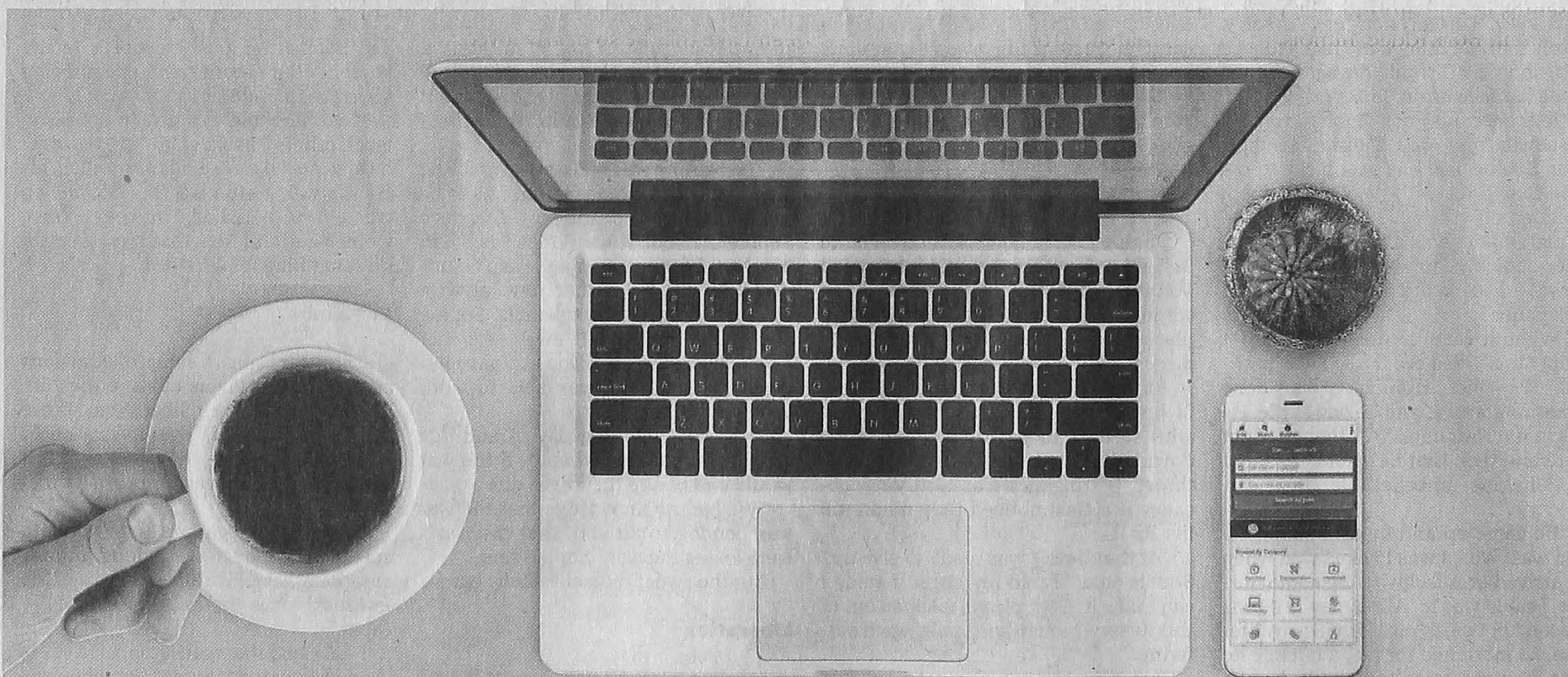
But please learn your lesson. Even though it might be less expensive for the association in the short run, in the long run, it may be a big headache.

**Q:** We purchased a home with a septic system and were told that it was in good working order. However, after closing we found out that there were serious mechanical problems with the system, and neither the seller nor the seller's Realtor got a required inspection as mandated by the municipality. What can we do?

**A:** Obviously, there has been a breach of the seller's and realtor's duties owed to you as a purchaser to fulfill the municipal requirements, and you do have recourse against the seller and the Realtor,

based upon our firm's experience in similar issues. You will, no doubt, find that the Realtor will stonewall your claim as long as possible, and you should retain an attorney experienced in these matters to assist you in receiving compensation for your damages, inclusive of the fix necessary to the septic system.

*Robert M. Meisner, Esq. is the principal attorney of The Meisner Law Group, based in Bingham Farms, which provides legal representation for condominiums, homeowner associations, individual co-owners and developers. His book, "Condo Living 2: The Authoritative Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium" is available at [www.momentumbooks.com](http://www.momentumbooks.com). He can be reached at 248-644-4433 or [bmeisner@meisner-law.com](mailto:bmeisner@meisner-law.com). Visit the firm's blog at [www.meisner-law.com/blog](http://www.meisner-law.com/blog).*



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# Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit [mideathnotices.com/place.php](http://mideathnotices.com/place.php)

## Carol J. Bailey

Carol J. Bailey went home to Jesus on January 19, 2020 at age 69, after a long and courageous battle against lung cancer. Beloved daughter of the late Nadine and Robert Thorpe, loving and devoted mother of the late Pamela Bailey, Wanda Bailey, and Mark Bailey, dear sister of Pamela Joyce Bennett, and caring grandmother to Cody Bailey - Badgley.

Arrangements entrusted to Generations Funeral Services, Farmington Hills, MI.

May peace be  
with you in this  
time of sorrow.



## Frances Virginia Howard

Born May 15th 1928 in Greenup Kentucky. Passed away peacefully at home on January 22nd 2020 in Wayne Mi.

Frances was preceded by her parents Dayton Howard and Ada Martin her siblings Reed Howard, Ernie Martin and Pauline Poplin and her Daughters Virginia Pack and Melody Buchanan, 3 Grand Children and 1 Great Grand Child.

Frances was Survived by her 3 siblings Wilma Atherton, Jude Howard, and Duke Martin. Her 3 children William Archey, Greg and Monica Wilhide, along with 7 Grandchildren, 21 Great Grandchildren, and 4 Great Great Grandchildren. As well as many nieces, nephews, and greats.

Frances was a lifetime resident of Wayne county, long time owner of Brownies Diner with her sister Wilma. She also was a lifetime member of the Order of the Easter Northern Star a Masonic Chapter.

Frances will be missed, and remembered by countless people who's life she touched.

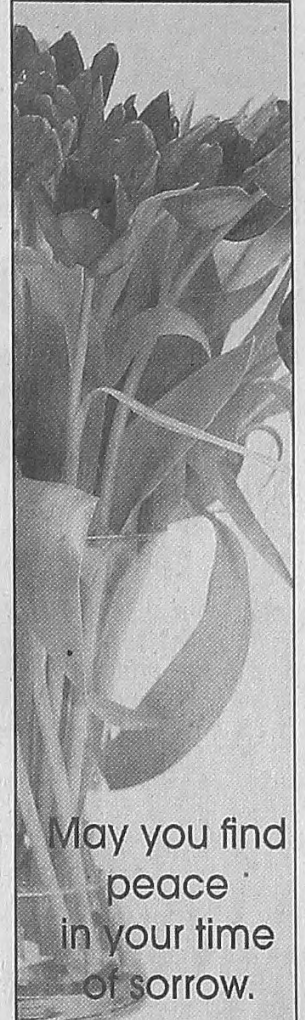
Memorial services are to be held January 26, 2020 at Husband Family Funeral Home, Westland (734) 331-3349 or [RHusband.com](http://RHusband.com)



**Husband Family  
Funeral Home**

## Michael P. McGovern

On Wednesday, January 15, 2020, Michael P. McGovern, formerly of Bloomfield Hills passed away at the age of 58. Mike received his undergraduate degree from The University of Miami-Florida and his Masters in Finance from Walsh College. He was a member of Birmingham Groves swim and water polo teams as well as the University of Miami swim team. He had a life-long career in Commercial Real Estate. He was preceded in death by his parents Paul and Marie. He is survived by his wife Ann and his daughters Kaitlyn (Patrick) and Shannon (Matthew) and five siblings, Marlene, Terrance, Ronald, James and Colleen. He was a loyal friend who always strove to be supportive. Mike loved the Lord and valued the fellowship of his faith community. He will be missed, but will live on in the hearts of his loved ones forever. Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, February 1st at Kensington Church, 25000 Hall Rd, Clinton Township, MI 48036. Visitation is at 11:00, service will begin at 11:30. Memorial donations can be made to Feinburg Consulting, 7125 Orchard Lake Rd, Suite 110, West Bloomfield, MI, 48322.



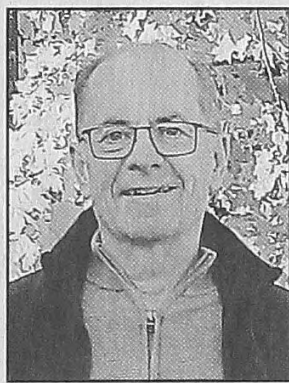
## Jerry R. Conroy

**EMPIRE TOWNSHIP** - Jerry Robert Conroy, 74, passed away on January 18, 2020 at his home on Glen Lake after a 15-month long battle with Pancreatic cancer.

Jerry was born in Syracuse, N.Y. on September 26, 1945 to Eva E. (Coleman) Conroy and Gerald J. Conroy. Upon graduating from Syracuse Central Technical High School, he studied and graduated from The State University of New York at Morrisville, and transferred to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, graduating with a BS degree in Automotive Engineering. Upon graduation, he joined Ford Motor Company in January of 1969.

His first assignment was working in the Dynamometer Lab testing and evaluating race car engines. Having been a "gear head" from the age of eight – it was an ideal match. He moved to several different areas within the company and retired in February 28, 2007. He spent a year visiting various museums in and around Michigan. He then began working at Case New Holland in Burr Ridge, Illinois, retiring in March, 2014.

From then on – it was a nothing but moments of enjoyment. He loved hiking known and unknown trails. He volunteered for the Park and Conservancy grooming trails in the winter, beach clean-up in the summer, restoring homes on Manitou Island. He was a member of a local golfing group; he enjoyed his wonderful friends - "The Car Guys." He helped to restore old barns, and repair antique farm equipment. He enjoyed working in cemeteries in the county restoring and cleaning-up head stones and markers. Family and local history was very important to him. He was a member of the Antique Outboard Motor Club, both local and national chapters. He published the local chapter newsletter, and contributed to the national publication. After



being diagnosed with cancer, he turned his attention to restoring some of the 50 antique outboard motors he had collected. He won several ribbons and took great pride in what he had accomplished and saved. He loved participating in various car shows and touring the area in RED E GO - his red 2007 Solstice convertible.

In 1968, he married the love of his life, Kathy Massey. They had always been very good friends in High School and began dating in 1965. Together they had two wonderful daughters, Jennifer (Tom) Donnelly, and Kelli (Aaron) Kunec. He was so proud of his two granddaughters, Caitlin and Erin Donnelly. Jerry was always known for his warm smile, his kindness, caring, always willing to help, and his compassion for all.

In addition to his immediate family, he leaves behind a sister Barbara Hollister, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Sue and Bob Kanerva and nephew Eric. Several other nephews and nieces in New York State, California, and South Carolina.

He was preceded in death by his parents, infant granddaughter, Madison Donnelly, sister, Carol Austin, and niece, Jacqueline Kanerva.

He was able to spend the last few hours of his life looking out at beautiful Glen Lake that he so dearly loved.

There will be a celebration of Jerry's life in the spring of 2020.

In lieu of flowers please direct memorial contributions in Jerry's honor to: Leelanau Conservancy, 105 First Street, Leland, MI 49654 or Port Oneida Community Alliance, 11101 S. Mann Road, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Please share a memory with Jerry's family by visiting his tribute page at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com). The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services is serving the family.

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# Sports

## BOYS BASKETBALL

# Early success for Smith at John Glenn

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Jerret Smith is building a house. In his first year as the head coach of the John Glenn boys basketball team, the one-time University of Michigan guard had the blueprint already laid out. His foundation? Nate Oats, the 11-year head coach at Romulus, who, after winning 222 of 274 games in his tenure, became a college head coach, currently leading the men's basketball program at Alabama.

Smith played under Oats from 2004-05, winning 39 games with the Eagles and leading Romulus to its first regional title since 1986. Smith took the baton from Oats in 2013, leading the Eagles to as far as the Class A state semifinal in 2017.

"Nate is probably one of the greatest coaches I have seen," Smith said. "Seeing him work the same system I work... and he's at Alabama being successful and we are here, we know it works."

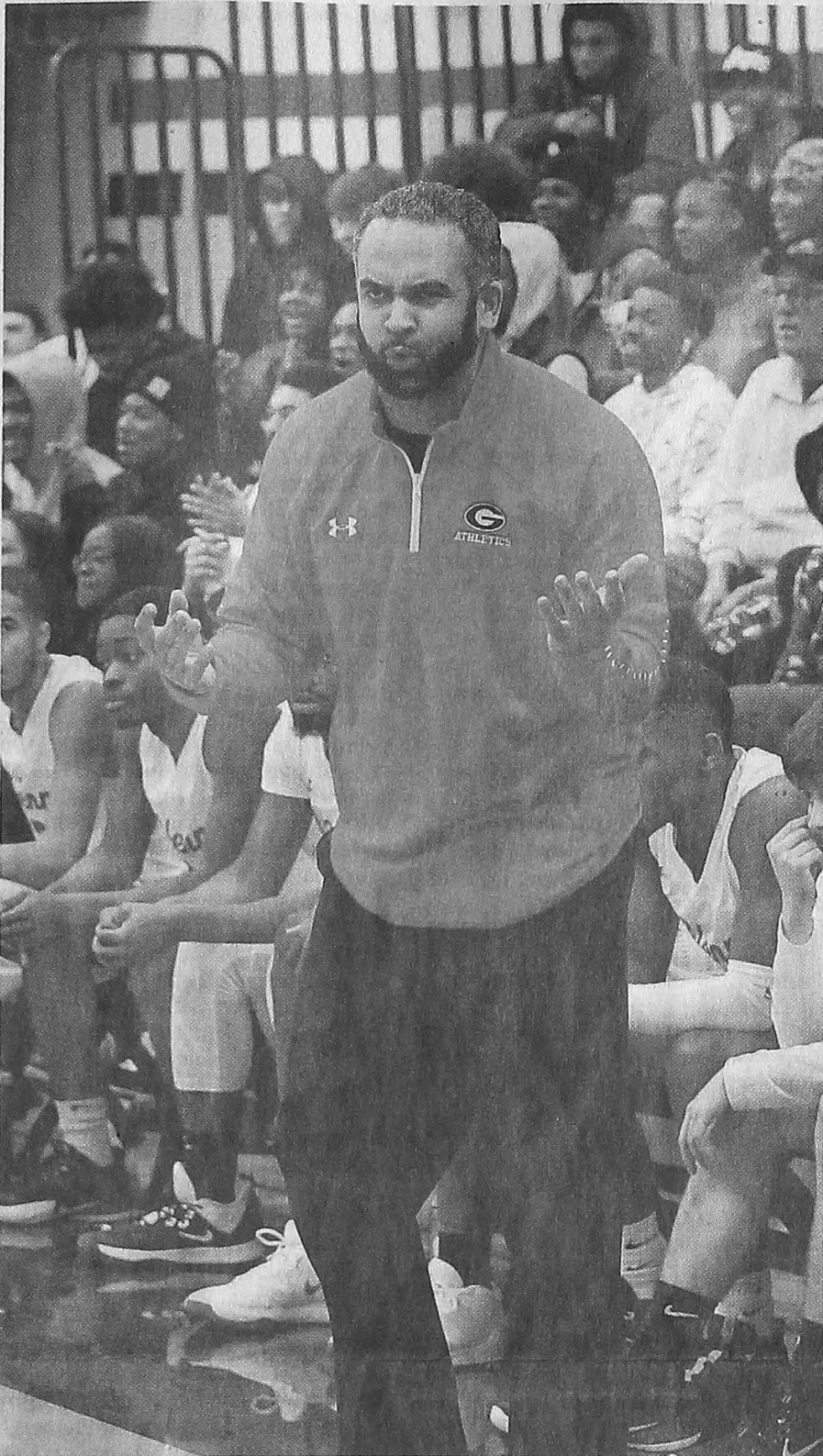
In his first time trying to establish Oats' system outside of Romulus, John Glenn has found success. The Rockets are 7-3 through Tuesday, winning six of their seven games this season against KLAA East opponents.

But to Smith, the early success does not indicate John Glenn is ahead of schedule.

"I inherited good kids off the court, but to understand the game of basketball, they weren't really there," Smith said. "Even now, people see us performing well and they think 'Oh, they are really good.' No, there is a long way to go"

**The system**

The Rockets don't stop. With the focus on defensive efficiency, making sure opposing offenses have only one chance to score each possession, John Glenn flies down to the other end of the court, scoring in transition



John Glenn coach Jerret Smith is following the blueprint laid out by his high school coach at Romulus – current University of Alabama head coach Nate Oats – in his first season as the Rockets' leader. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTO

and getting back to its priority. For Sharief Liddell, a second-year varsity starter for the Rockets, it's completely different than last year's team: a team that did not focus much on the little things, a team that tried to set plays and get into the half court too much.

With the emphasis on pushing pace, and moving the ball quickly across the floor, Liddell was not physically prepared for what Smith had in store.

"Just not playing basketball for awhile and coming back and trying to push the ball that fast and trying to do it on a consistent basis, play after play, it was hard," Liddell admitted.

Senior Deonte Pearson said Smith viewed every practice as game-like, pushing themselves past the point of exhaustion, past the so-called wall that they think they cannot pass.

The focus on skill development and

See ROCKETS, Page 2B

## BOYS BASKETBALL CANTON 50, PLYMOUTH 44

# Stesiak's outburst powers Chiefs

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Days after suffering a tough loss to Howell, Canton was back in action against a familiar foe — the Plymouth Wildcats.

This time, Canton was on the winning end of a close game, beating Plymouth 50-44 at Canton High School.

The win boosts the Chiefs to 7-4 overall and 5-2 in the KLAA. Plymouth drops to 4-6 and 2-5.

"It feels good," Canton senior Ben Stesiak said. "We had to bounce back from Howell on Friday and that's what our goal was here today. We did it and got it done."

Here are three takeaways from the game:

### Stesiak carries offense early

Canton started the game on fire, racing out to a 10-3 lead before Plymouth

See CANTON, Page 2B



Canton's Ben Stesiak goes in for a bucket against Plymouth's Matt MacLellan. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## BASEBALL

# LeMahieu makes preseason visit to alma mater

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

While Brother Rice basketball played in its biggest game of the season — an eventual 60-51 loss to Catholic League rival Orchard Lake St. Mary's — a successful alumnus returned to his alma mater to relive the glory days.

After playing for the Warriors on the basketball court and the baseball field from 2004-07, DJ LeMahieu has shined as an infielder for the New York Yankees.

LeMahieu is a three-time All Star,

winning his first Silver Slugger award in 2019 after hitting .327 with a career-high 26 home runs and 102 RBI in his first season in pinstripes.

The Yankees finished in first place in the American League East, losing to the Houston Astros in the American League Championship Series, ending their 2019 campaign.

In the weeks before heading to Tampa, Florida, for spring training, LeMahieu returned home to check out how his high school basketball team was doing.

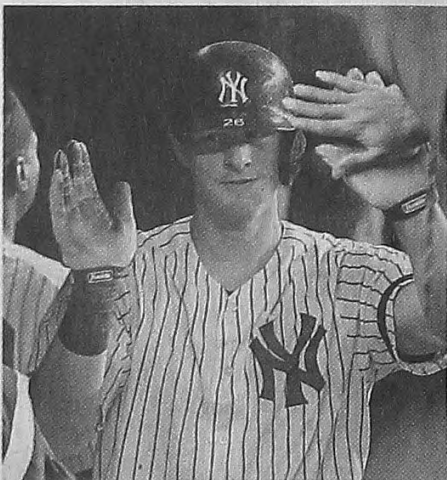
"I guess I just enjoy being a part of Brother Rice again, watching my team,"

LeMahieu said. "It's an exciting team to watch. Some of my most fond years were playing baseball and basketball here."


The second baseman said he still hangs out with the friends he made when he attended Brother Rice, and that the school itself set him up for success at the college level, for Louisiana State University, and in the major leagues.

LeMahieu is no stranger to success. In the past three seasons, the second baseman has been to the postseason

See LEMAHIEU, Page 3B



New York Yankees infielder DJ LeMahieu played baseball and basketball for Brother Rice. BRAD PENNER/USA TODAY SPORTS




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BOYS BASKETBALL ST. MARY'S 60, BROTHER RICE 51

# Warriors' 4th-quarter rally comes up short

Colin Gay [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brother Rice basketball had a learning experience Tuesday night. After freshman forward Xavier Thomas converted on an and-one try, giving his team an early 3-2 lead, Brother Rice (8-4) never led again, as Orchard Lake St. Mary's (10-1) defeated the Warriors, 60-51, on the road. The Eaglets recorded their fourth-straight win in Catholic League Central play, while Brother Rice dropped its second game against a conference opponent. Here are three takeaways from the Catholic League battle:

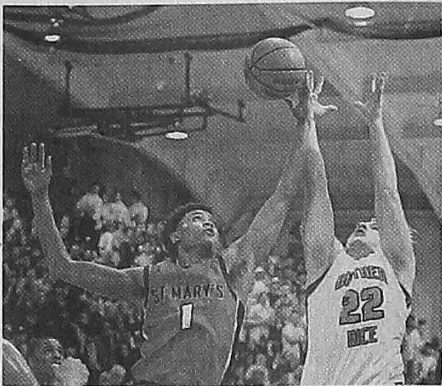
### Close call

Brother Rice came out of the huddle at the start of the fourth quarter hot. After two free-throw makes by junior forward Will Shannon and a jumper from Thomas, junior guard Mikkos Stewart hit a dagger from 3, igniting a capacity crowd with one of his four makes in the second half — finishing with 10 points — and bringing the Warriors to within one. St. Mary's head coach Todd Covert immediately called a time out, trying to stop the momentum. "I wish I drew up a magic play, but there was no magic play," Covert said. "It was just about having some poise, and I thought we just got sped up a little bit, which isn't like us."

Out of the timeout, the Eaglets took possession, found Jack Crighton in the corner, who hit a 3, his only points of the game, beginning a 9-0 run to give St. Mary's the momentum it needed to finish the game.

### Rattled

Brother Rice head coach Rick Palmer thought his team came out of the gate nervous. Facing the No. 3 team according to the Associated Press Top 25 poll for Michigan high school basketball, the Warriors came out flat, allowing 22 first-quarter points. The Brother Rice offense, on the other hand, recorded 11 points. Palmer could see it, watching as the Warriors stumbled across the court, losing possession in transition and finding trouble finding success against St. Mary's. "This is a learning experience for us," Palmer said. "We haven't had guys that have played in this type of atmosphere. It showed a little bit at the start." Williams struggled to find success in open space. After a corner 3 in the first corner, the freshman failed to score

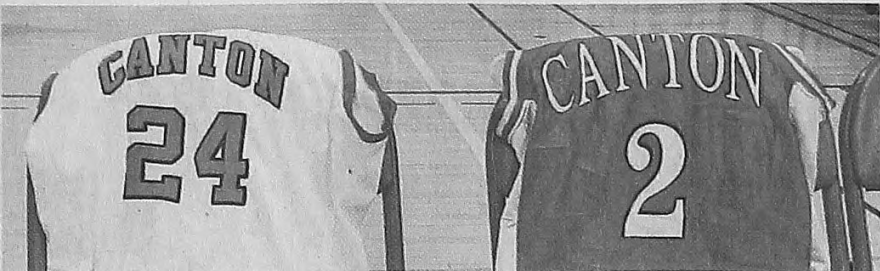


Brother Rice's Luke Newman, right, goes up for a rebound along with Orchard Lake St. Mary's Julian Roper II. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

again. Thomas led Brother Rice with 13 points. "That's what happens when you have guys playing in big-time environments for the first time, and even guys who have been there before weren't really comfortable," Palmer said. "I think once we got through it, played through it, we were fine." Guard Jon Brantley had limited playing time in the second half, tethered to the bench with four fouls. Palmer said he would have put the senior in sooner, but that he did not want to disrupt the momentum Brother Rice had at the start of the fourth quarter.

### Welcome to the big leagues

Facing a highly touted St. Mary's team, including Lorne Bowman II, a Wisconsin recruit who played despite suffering from the flu, Brother Rice fell short in its biggest game of the season up to this point. However, Palmer was pleased once the Warriors settled down in the second quarter, playing relaxed and continuing to chip away at their deficit. Covert was impressed with the way Brother Rice fought back against his team. "They are a good team. They are not going to go away," Covert said. "We lost some kids in transition in the second half. We had some missed assignments, but credit to them. They hit some big shots." He said a year ago, this would have led to a light-hearted locker room. Not in 2020. "We're not to the point anymore of moral victories," Palmer said. *Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to [LivSports@hometownlife.com](mailto:LivSports@hometownlife.com).*



Canton left basketball jerseys with the numbers 24 and 2 out on the bench for Tuesday night's games against Plymouth to honor Los Angeles Lakers legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna after they were killed in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26. ANDREW VAILLIENCOURT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Canton

Continued from Page 1B

even knew what hit them. Stesiak was the catalyst, driving into the lane against the Wildcat defense for numerous baskets, ultimately scoring 11 first half points. He stayed a focal point of the offense throughout the evening, finishing with 18 points. "I know as of late, I haven't much scoring as much these past few games so I knew I had to pick it up a bit more and knew I'd have to do it by getting to the hole," Stesiak said. "I just kept going to the hole and was able to score." Plymouth coach Mike Soukup said his team had a hard time getting in front of Stesiak, which led to Canton baskets. "I love that (Stesiak) was getting curl cuts to the rim," Canton coach Jimmy Reddy said. "I think he's a hard guy to guard when he's slashing to the rim and he's pretty hard to defend when he's driving to the rim too. ... He was pretty good down the stretch too and he has to be, he's a senior and a three-year player and he has to do those things for us." After Canton's quick start, Plymouth settled in and chipped away at the Chiefs lead before the opening quarter ended with the Chiefs up five. In the second quarter, it was Canton again that controlled the game's pace, taking a 27-15 lead into the break. The Chiefs limited Plymouth senior big man Matt MacLellan to just four first half points.

### Wildcats storm back

The Wildcats didn't go quietly. Plymouth came out strong in the second half, going on an 8-2 run to begin the third quarter. The one-two punch of MacLellan and senior Jacob Smith combined for 27 points, 13 by MacLellan and 14 by Smith. Plymouth junior Brandon Craddieth was also a big factor in the second half. He knocked down three triples and finished with 11 points. Soukup said that he wishes he was able to get the ball to MacLellan and Smith down low earlier in the game. "They did a great job, those two guys are our guys," Soukup said. "We go how they go. I wish we would've started a little better, we didn't throw it in there

early for whatever reason. They were open, or at least seemed open from the bench. But it doesn't matter what I can see, it's about what the guys on the floor can see." At one point late in the fourth, Plymouth narrowed Canton's lead to just three at 47-44. Canton made its free throws to hold on and secure the win. "We came out slow in the second half, a little lackadaisical, but we weathered the storm and were able to make a couple stops and get a couple buckets to stay ahead," Stesiak said.

### Teamwork makes the dream work

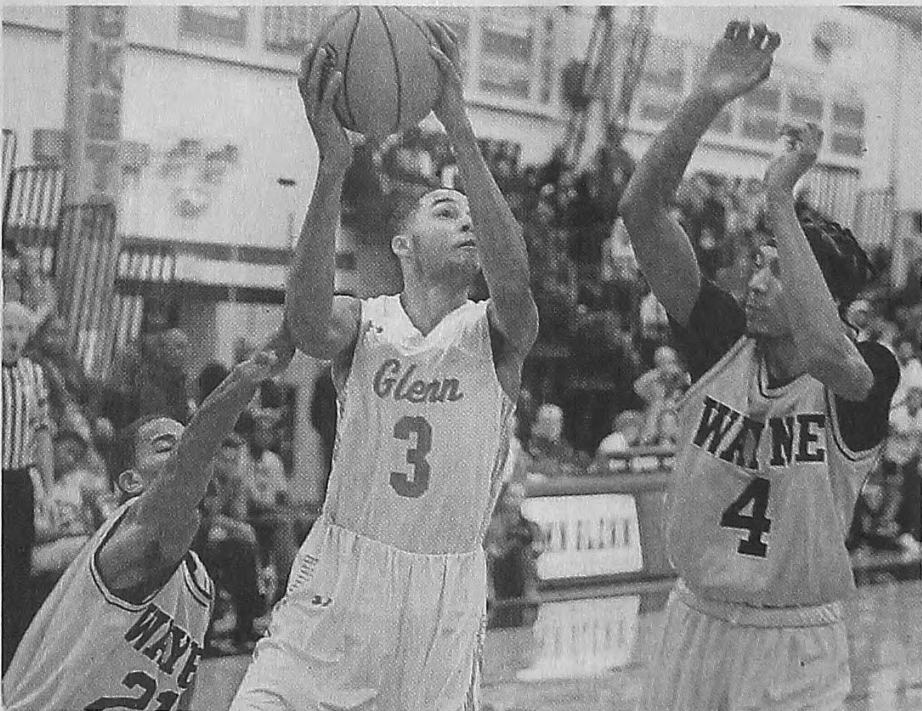
When Canton is most successful, it has both Stesiak and senior center Jake Vickers playing at a high level. Tuesday was one of those nights. In addition to Stesiak's scoring outburst, Vickers was solid, scoring 15 points — seven of those on free throws. Free throw shooting was a big part of the game, as Plymouth made just 10-of-23 attempts from the line. Having played football together for years, Stesiak as the quarterback and Vickers as a tight end, the two have good chemistry. "You got Jake down low as a big, you have to double him and if you're doubling him we can kick it out and I can create off of that," Stesiak said. "It's tough because you have a big man and a guard and we work well together, we mesh. When you have that, it's hard to beat." The duo has carried Canton offensively most of the season as other younger players begin to grow into larger roles. One of those youngsters is sophomore Lake McIntosh, who scored seven points, but outside of him, nobody else scored more than four points. "We just need to start playing better basketball for 32 minutes," Reddy said. "Tonight we were almost there, but that third quarter wasn't good enough. When we had to get stops there at the end we got them, we made some free throws, not all. ... We need to start putting together a complete game on both ends of the floor. If we can do that, we got a chance, there's still a long ways to go." *Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at [availlien@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlien@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to [LivSports@hometownlife.com](mailto:LivSports@hometownlife.com).*

## Rockets

Continued from Page 1B

playing fast offensively to put the focus on defense may be unique at the high school level. But for Smith, a former prominent Michigan player with an up-and-down tenure as a Wolverine, he knows those skills are what colleges want to see. "We're not going to sit in a zone offense or try and stall our ball against conference teams or anything," Smith said. "It's about playing the right way to get that opportunity." Smith, was the Wolverines' 2007 Rudy Tomjanovich Most Improved Player award winner. The next season, he was dismissed from the Michigan basketball program after failing to meet team expectations. On the surface, the speed and the play of the Rockets can set John Glenn apart from other teams. "If they see that our defense is there and our offense is so quick and tiring for them, because they don't probably train like we train, Pearson said. "They don't work as hard as we work and they don't run as hard as we run." However, it's keeping the frenetic pace up through a full 32 minutes that has been a struggle for John Glenn. Smith said the Rockets have led in each of their three losses this season, losing steam at a point during each that allowed their opponent to come back out ahead. That's what nearly happened to John Glenn against Livonia Stevenson on Jan. 24, as the team watched a 14-point lead evaporate, securing the win with only four seconds left on the clock. Liddell said the Rockets can play at a

high level for 24 minutes, but there is a point in time where the focus starts to wane, and the play becomes lackadaisical. For Smith, that's a part of the process. "Every system has its own base," Smith said. "Our foundation is a little bit different, our base is a little different, but as we are getting that established, you see that we are able to kind of wear teams out." **Changing the perception** Pearson knew of his new head coach from his time at Romulus. From the first practice that Smith ran, the senior had bought into what his personality was going to be. "I just kind of picked up his mentality: having a work ethic and a killer mentality, a winning mentality," Pearson said. "He hated losing and it always gives you the drive to being a winner. You always want to compete." Smith would have hated how recent seasons have finished for the Rockets. In 2018-19, after finishing with a 12-8 record, John Glenn lost to Canton in the district semifinal by six points. In 2017-18, the Rockets lost to Wayne Memorial in the district semifinal by five points. Liddell has heard it all before. "I think a big part of it is just the doubt from other people and just the belief that John Glenn is the same team every single year," Liddell said. "They might do well in the conference or well in the district, and they get to the first round of districts or the second round of districts and get knocked out by a good team. "I think it's a good motivation." Smith is far more blunt, stating John Glenn does not have a winning culture.



From the first practice that Jerret Smith ran at John Glenn, senior Deonte Pearson (3) had bought into what his personality was going to be. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTO

With the foundation the first-year head coach is building, he's creating an approach to start an era of Rockets basketball Westland has not seen in a long time. As a Westland native, that's what Smith wanted to bring to John Glenn. "For my program, I expect to really build," Smith said. "I don't like losing. It's obvious, I'm a poor sport when it comes to losing. Becoming a winner is to make that mentality with the kids to where we do all of the little things so that losing is not an option." With a team filled with juniors and

seniors, the window of success for this particular team is closing fast. However, as early-season success has indicated, something different is happening in the halls of John Glenn High School. But don't tell that to Smith. "We're not even close to where we need to be," Smith said. "This team, honestly, is not even close to where it can be." *Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter at @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to [LivSports@hometownlife.com](mailto:LivSports@hometownlife.com).*



HOCKEY BRIGHTON 3, SALEM 0

# Bulldogs avenge earlier loss to Rocks

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

Brighton hockey traveled to Plymouth Jan. 23 to take on the Salem Rocks for the second time this season.

Salem won the first meeting at the end of November, but it was Brighton that came out victorious this time around, scoring a goal in each period to earn a 3-0 win at Victory Ice Center in Plymouth.

"It's always good to win on the road and they are a good team," Brighton coach Paul Moggach said. "They're well-coached and we lost to them earlier in the season, so it was a good game for us."

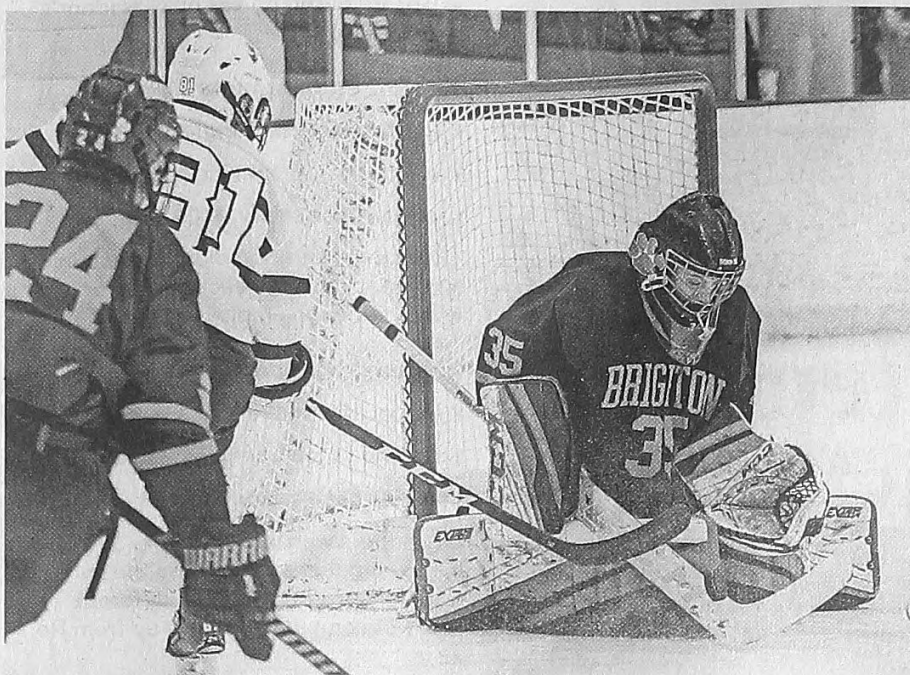
It was a well-played game on both sides, but it was Brighton that stood out offensively.

With 7:08 to play in the first period, Salem junior Matt Rochna was sent to the penalty box, setting up Brighton with a golden opportunity to draw first blood.

With 5:50 left in the opening period and 42 seconds left on the power play, the Bulldogs struck. After an initial shot bounced out in front of Salem sophomore goalie Andre Genereux, Brighton senior Brady MacDonald was there to fire it in the net.

That's where the score would stay at the end of the period.

The second started with a bang. Salem picked up another penalty less than two minutes into the period giving Brighton a chance to build upon its lead. Instead, Brighton sent one of its own to the penalty box after senior AJ Benit tripped a member of the Rocks who had



Brighton's Chris Wozniak stops a shot fired by Salem's Devan Grayshaw during game action Jan. 23 in Plymouth. TIMOTHY ARRICK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

a shorthanded breakaway. The penalty likely saved a goal, but it did mean the Brighton power play was over.

After 13 seconds of 4-on-4 action, Salem had another scoring chance as its man exited the penalty box. Salem sophomore Alex Mazzuca received the pass at the blue line and went in all alone on Brighton junior goalie Chris Wozniak, who made an outstanding save.

"(Wozniak) was our MVP," Moggach said. "I thought he was the best player on the ice. He wasn't tested a lot early, but he made a couple of good saves. He

played well."

Wozniak made 26 saves to preserve the shutout, 11 of which came in the third period.

"It feels pretty good coming after a 6-3 loss to them," Wozniak said. "It was good getting a shutout too, the boys were moving today, getting the pucks deep, doing what we had to do and came up big."

"I felt pretty good, my angles were good and I was getting in position. It's all about taking on the angle and intimidating the shooter."

The two squads continued their

back-and-forth play for several minutes until Brighton junior Jacob Seiter lined up a shot and fired it past Genereux for the game's second goal with 8:49 left in the second period. It may have been tipped in front of the net by a Salem defender before going in.

The Rocks had another chance four minutes later, as senior Ethan Granowicz found sophomore Dylan Enszer right in front of the net, but it was Wozniak who again made a brilliant save.

The third period gave Salem numerous chances to get back into the game. Brighton did a poor job staying out of the penalty box, drawing three penalties in the period, all in the final seven minutes of the game.

"I'm pleased with the way our defense held up under that but the penalties at that time weren't good penalties," Moggach said. "We're pretty good on our penalty kill and I think that showed tonight."

Luckily for the Bulldogs, Salem was unable to capitalize. With 15 seconds left, MacDonald scored an empty net goal, giving Brighton the 3-0 victory.

"We got outworked for the majority of the game right from the get-go," Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "We got outworked, we got out-coached, there really wasn't anything positive to say about the game. I would say if you're looking for anything positive, we kind of turned it on late at the end, but it wasn't enough."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

## BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

# Registration open for Canton youth leagues

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

Registration is now open for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association (GCYBSA) summer baseball and softball leagues.

The organization, which is the area's largest recreational league and the only league that invests in the PCCS fields along with Canton and Plymouth townships, offers leagues for children ages 4-14 and offers a 15-18U (high school) division that plays in June and July.

Most baseball leagues run from May to the end of June, while softball goes until mid-July. Registration runs through March 15.

In addition to the summer leagues, there are fall leagues available that run

from August to October. That registration runs from June 1 to July 10.

Costs for both leagues vary from \$75 to \$140.

The GCYBSA has the Canton Cardinals as its boys travel program and Plymouth-Canton Spirit as its girls softball program. The GCYBSA has partnerships with Canton Township, Plymouth Township and with the Plymouth Canton Community Schools.

For more information and to register, visit the GCYBSA's website at [gcybsa.com/page/registration-information](http://gcybsa.com/page/registration-information).

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillencourt at [availlenc@hometownlife.com](mailto:availlenc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter at @AndrewVcourt. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

## LeMahieu

Continued from Page 1B

three times — twice with the Colorado Rockies and once with the Yankees. In 14 games, he has a .267 batting average with a .843 OPS.

The second baseman said his success on the basketball court and on the baseball field prepared him for that success in his major league career.

"We had a very successful team when I was there, baseball and basketball, had a lot of good coaches, a lot of good teammates," LeMahieu said. "We won a lot. School wise too, prepared me for college. Every aspect set me up well for the future."

Heading into the 2020 baseball season, LeMahieu is expected to return to the postseason for the fourth time in

four years. Along with teammates Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton and Gleyber Torres, the Yankees added former Astros right-handed pitcher Gerrit Cole to a nine-year, \$324 million contract this offseason.

While the offseason has been nice for LeMahieu, he said he is ready to start preparing for a chance at the Yankees' first World Series since 2009.

"I'm really excited. It's going to be a fun year," LeMahieu said. "Going down to spring training in a couple of weeks and I couldn't be more excited to get down there."

The Yankees will travel to Detroit to take on the Tigers April 20-23 for a four-game series.

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

# KLAA should switch to varsity basketball twin bills



**Bill Khan**  
Columnist  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICH.

I was pleasantly surprised to walk into Brighton's gym Jan. 24 and not only see two sets of bleachers pulled out for a girls basketball game against Hartland, but both sets filled nearly to capacity.

This isn't a common sight in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, where fans at girls basketball games are usually contained in one set of bleachers.

It was a great environment for a showdown between two state-ranked rivals, with Brighton's players entering the court from an inflatable Bulldog through a cloud of smoke, then knocking off the top-ranked Eagles with the support of a large and vocal student section.

This is how high school basketball should be every Friday night.

But it could have been even better.

That's because in a gym 12 miles away, the same schools were playing a varsity boys basketball game at Hartland.

Fans of both schools had to make a choice, like they do every Tuesday and Friday throughout the winter. They could either watch the boys or the girls varsity games, but not both.

As a result, players in both games were deprived of an opportunity to play in front of the largest possible crowd.

Imagine what it would have been like to bring the fans from Hartland over to Brighton to watch a varsity doubleheader between the schools.

Leagues throughout Michigan had to make a decision when girls basketball was moved to the winter in 2007-08. Some chose to have varsity doubleheaders on Tuesdays and Fridays, some only on Fridays and some split up

the varsity games. In the latter format, which the KLAA adopted when it debuted in 2008-09, there are freshman, junior varsity and varsity tripleheaders for one gender at the same site.

The KLAA chose its format at a time when schools were understandably gun-shy about lawsuits relating to perceived gender inequity.

"We kicked around a number of ideas when we formed the KLAA," Brighton athletic director John Thompson said. "From legal opinions and looking at all kinds of different factors, we were very comfortable that this not only ensured gender equity to the fullest, but it provided a consistent mechanism for our fans to be able to support both genders in an equal fashion. There is always a home basketball game on Tuesday or Friday. It's just a matter if it's the girls varsity playing at 7 o'clock or the boys varsity playing at 7 o'clock."

One league that went to varsity doubleheaders on Fridays was the Flint Metro League, where Howell girls basketball coach Tim Olszewski coached the Fenton boys for 11 seasons.

Even if the 6 p.m. girls basketball game wasn't a marquee matchup, the game still attracted more fans than usual because they were arriving early to see the boys at 7:30.

"They would have a nice crowd, but by halftime it was usually packed because of the boys game," Olszewski said. "They would stay there and cheer. All of us would cheer on our girls team as they were wrapping up the second half. It was nice. You didn't have to choose. I'm a very staunch supporter of having girls and guys play on the same night on Friday, as I am with rivalry games. I think rivalry games should be scheduled on Friday nights."

The Capital Area Activities Association, of which Fowlerville is a member, plays varsity doubleheaders on Friday nights. Boys and girls alternate between 6 p.m. and 7:30 start times every other year.

## FOOTBALL

# Plymouth High begins search for next head coach as Lewis departs

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

Plymouth High School will head into February looking for its next football coach.

Brian Lewis, the school's coach over the last two years, accepted the head

coaching position at Howell High School last week.

In his two seasons at Plymouth, Lewis, 30, went 15-6 overall and made the playoffs each year. Last season, he led the Wildcats to a KLAA West Division title before losing to Belleville in the conference championship game.

The man in charge of finding Ply-

mouth's next coach is Ray Miller, Plymouth's new athletic director.

"Brian made an outstanding impact during his two years as a teacher and coach at Plymouth High School," Miller said.

Plymouth posted the position on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools website Monday.

"Once we get a number of quality candidates we feel comfortable with, we will bring them in and start the interviewing process," Miller said.

Miller declined to comment on whether or not he was looking for a coach that runs a specific system or has previous experience on a Plymouth coaching staff.





GETTY IMAGES

# Check out tech for job satisfaction

Paul Davidson  
USA TODAY

If you can't beat Big Tech, you might want to join it.

Technology already is pervasive in our lives – from smartphones to social media to buying goods and services online – a reality that some embrace while others shun.

Now, technology jobs are increasingly being viewed as the best occupations in the country.

Tech positions make up the top seven of Glassdoor's 50 best jobs for 2020, an annual ranking based on job satisfaction, median base salary and number of openings. Last year, tech jobs comprised three of the top seven and four of the top 10. The job satisfaction ratings are based on Glassdoor's popular employee reviews.

While such tech giants as Apple, Amazon and Facebook may be the most prominent providers of technology products and jobs, virtually every sector – from retail to financial to health care – depends heavily on software and computers.

"Every company is a technology company," says Glassdoor community expert Sarah Stoddard. "Everybody has a website. Everybody has an application these days." Not to mention a social media presence and Big Data team that crunches reams of numbers to better target customers.

This year, front-end engineer, essen-

tially a web developer that creates the look and feel of websites, displaced data scientist as the top best job. Several non-technology roles in the top 10 of Glassdoor's 50 best jobs ranking last year fell further down in the top 20, including nursing manager, occupational therapist, program manager (who oversees several projects at a company) and human resources manager.

While health care jobs may have slipped a bit, they remain in high demand as the population ages and a source of gratification for workers.

"Folks who work in health care feel they have the opportunity to help people and they're drawn by that," Stoddard says.

Marketing manager, ranked third last year, didn't show up in the top 50 this year, but that's because employees didn't provide enough ratings to meet Glassdoor's criteria, Stoddard says.

Last week, the Labor Department reported a disappointing 145,000 job gains but unemployment remained at a 50-year low of 3.5%. That means workers generally continue to enjoy bargaining power over employers, a dynamic that's prompting many workers to switch jobs and even careers. And January is a prime month for switching, Stoddard says.

Here's a look at the top 10 of Glassdoor's 50 best jobs list: (Ratings are out of 5. Job openings and median base salary are based on ads on Glassdoor's site in 2019)

## Top 10

Here's a look at the top 10 of Glassdoor's 50 best jobs list: (Ratings are out of 5. Job openings and median base salary are based on ads on Glassdoor's site in 2019)

### 1. Front end engineer

- Job satisfaction rating: **3.9**
- Number of job openings: **13,122**
- Median base salary: **\$105,240**

The popular position didn't appear in last year's rankings because there weren't enough employee ratings.

### 2. Java developer

- Job satisfaction rating: **3.9**
- Number of job openings: **16,136**
- Median base salary: **\$83,589**

Developers who write code for Java are in growing demand because the software lets programs run on different types of computers. Moves up from No. 22 last year.

### 3. Data scientist

- Job satisfaction rating: **4.0**
- Number of job openings: **6,542**
- Median base salary: **\$107,801**

A data scientist, who analyzes vast amounts of data to spot trends, has been touted as the hottest job in the country in recent years. But the website towarddatascience.com says some professionals have become disillusioned and left the field, in part because some companies don't have the technology in place to get the most out of artificial intelligence.

### 4. Product manager

- Job satisfaction rating: **3.8**
- Number of job openings: **12,173**
- Median base salary: **\$117,713**

While there are product managers in a wide variety of fields, Stoddard says those advertised on Glassdoor's site generally oversee technology products. Moves up from No. 5.

### 5. DevOps engineer

- Job satisfaction rating: **3.9**
- Number of job openings: **6,603**
- Median base salary: **\$107,310**

DevOps engineers oversee the release of new computer code. Moves up from No. 6.

### 6. Data engineer

- Job satisfaction rating: **3.9**
- Number of job openings: **6,941**
- Median base salary: **\$102,472**

Data engineers build infrastructure that data scientists use for their analysis. Moves up from No. 8.

### 7. Software engineer

- Job satisfaction rating: **3.6**
- Number of job openings: **50,438**
- Median base salary: **\$105,563**

Software engineers design the software to meet a company's needs. Programmers write the code. Moves up from No. 10.

### 8. Speech language pathologist

- Job satisfaction rating: **3.8**
- Number of job openings: **29,167**
- Median base salary: **\$71,867**

The top-ranked healthcare job moves up from No. 19.

### 9. Strategy manager

- Job satisfaction rating: **4.3**
- Number of job openings: **3,515**
- Median base salary: **\$133,067**

A strategy manager assesses how best to achieve the company's goals and works with different departments to do so. Moves up from No. 16.

### 10. Business development manager

- Job satisfaction rating: **4.0**
- Number of job openings: **6,560**
- Median base salary: **\$78,480**

A business development manager identifies new opportunities and attracts new customers. Moves up from No. 29.

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The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting on February 18, 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 District Library Board will provide auxiliary aids and services of materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Carol Souchock, Director, Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 at 734 453-0750 X 218.

Publish: February 2, 2020

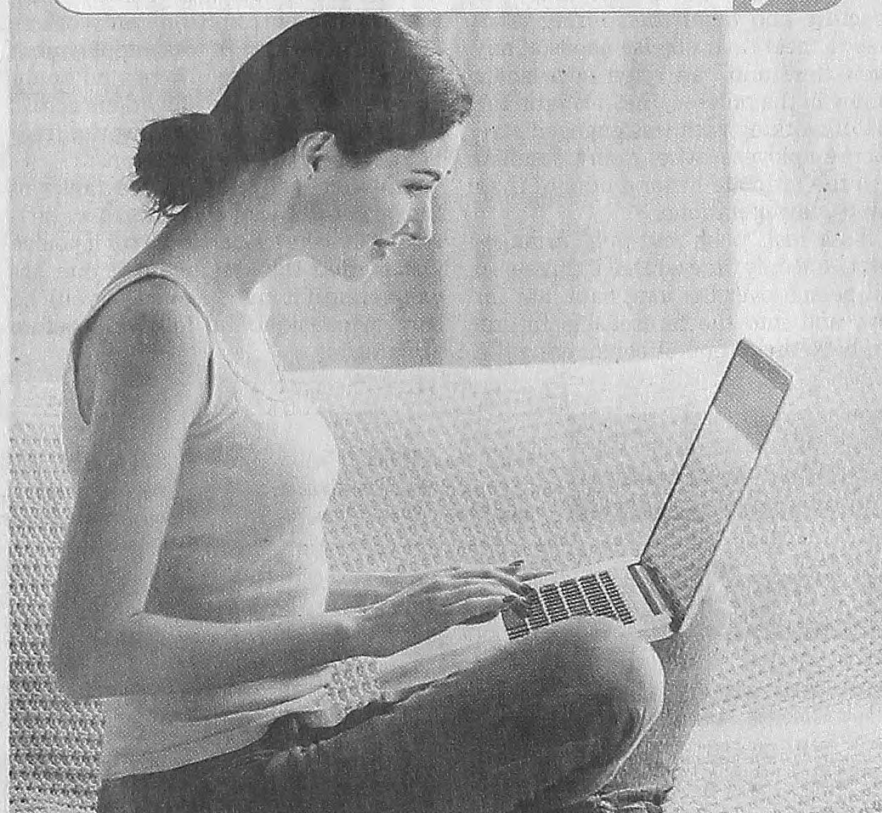
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### Are you ready for freelance life? Ask these questions

**Erik Titner**  
[thejobnetwork.com](http://thejobnetwork.com)

There's no denying it, the work world has witnessed seismic shifts in recent years. There are lots of factors contributing to this radical change – everything from unpredictable economic forces to massive waves of technological innovation have changed the way people approach the very notion of work.

This shift exists on both ends of the spectrum, as employers and employees alike are thinking about hiring and employment in new and innovative ways. The rise of the gig economy, in which employment is handled on a temporary, per project basis, is a perfect example of this.

Depending on your situation and perspective, these shifts can either be ideal or a source of real anxiety. Although today's workers have a greater degree of flexibility to incorporate varied types of interesting work and projects into their schedules, it often comes at a cost. Drawbacks to a more ad hoc schedule for workers include decreased stability, a need to perpetually hustle for work, and a lack of the sorts of benefits that typically come with full-time employment.

For employers, although they can structure and tailor their hiring practices to meet their precise needs at any given time and can often save some money in the process, they also run the risk of working with less engaged contract employees who aren't familiar with the intimate ins and outs of their day-to-day operations.

It's a real "push and pull" arrangement, and only time will tell if this setup will persist over the long haul. But for now, and into the foreseeable future, you have the option of considering if a



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more flexible work arrangement is the right move for you. This includes freelancing. More people today are freelancing than ever before, whether out of economic necessity, a desire for greater work flexibility, or just to try something different and explore new employment options.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, which recently released a report on contingent and alternative employment arrangements (which includes freelance employment), contingent workers accounted for 1.3% to 3.8% of total employment, independent contractors accounted for 6.9 percent of total employment, and on-call workers accounted for 1.7% of total employment in the United States. There's no doubt about it – for millions of workers across the nation and around the world, freelancing is a viable work option.

Are you ready to join the ranks of freelancers? If you're eager to get started and live the freelance life (or if you've just started thinking about it and are wondering if it makes sense for you), be sure to consider the following before jumping in.

#### Know your industry

The truth is, when it comes to freelancing, not all industries are created equal. While some have been early and eager adopters of hiring freelancers to meet their needs, others have been slower to embrace the arrangement – which means that your opportunities for securing freelance employment can vary wildly depending on what field you're pursuing. Therefore, your best bet is to do some research before getting started to determine if freelancing is a widely accepted standard in your industry. Also make an effort to figure out if the sorts of projects typically handled by freelancers in your field make sense for you based on your background, experience, and skill set. The desire to freelance is great, but it really helps to have the requisite background, expertise, and network if you're going to make a serious go at it.

#### Know your needs

Before diving headfirst into freelancing, make sure to first determine if it fits your current (and future) needs and life-

style.

Ask yourself some key questions:

Are typical project fees commensurate with your living expenses?

Does your projected annual earnings potential help you meet your short- and long-term goals?

Is the lack of employer-provided benefits (e.g., medical and dental insurance coverage, 401(k), etc.) something you can live with?

Will you enjoy freelancing? (For some, freelancing can be too isolating and the constant need to network and secure new clients can be exhausting.)

If after asking yourself these questions you feel that freelancing is a good fit for you, then it may be something worth pursuing seriously. If your answers left you with doubts, then proceed with caution.

#### Start small (and be realistic)

Don't forget, becoming a freelancer doesn't have to be an "all-in" affair. You don't have to quit your day job (if you have one) in order to dip your toe into the freelance waters. Consider starting small and taking on a project that you can realistically manage, just to see if you enjoy freelancing and can see yourself making a serious go at it. Then build from there and gradually increase your involvement in freelancing, all the while checking in with yourself and asking all the right questions. The key point here is that it's wise to take your time and start off small in order to determine if freelancing is right for you – before changing your life drastically.

*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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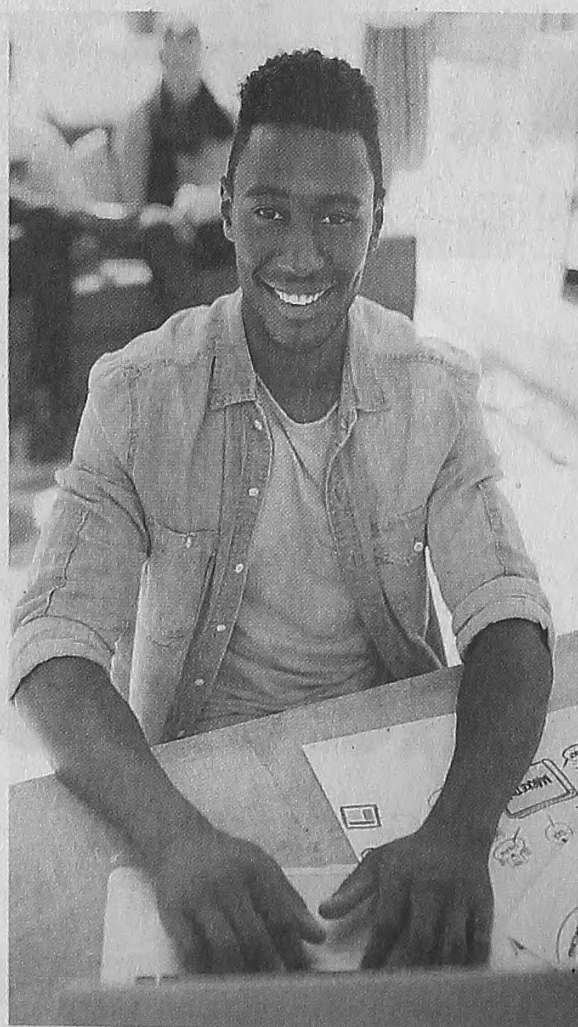
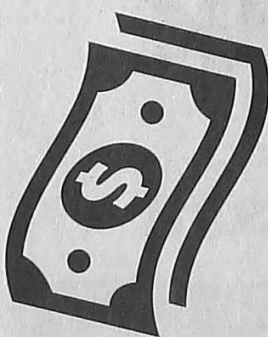
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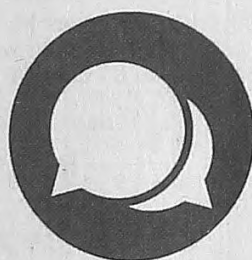
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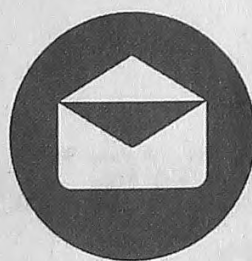
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# SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### ACROSS

- 1 Approach intrusively  
7 Lamenters' sound  
11 Process of going bad  
19 Attach with heat, as a patch  
20 Heart sections  
22 When shows are broadcast  
23 Butler or maid  
25 Fish also called a largemouth  
26 Mop  
27 At that point  
28 CNN anchor  
30 China's Mao — -tung  
31 1960s reform movement in China  
38 "Sid the Science Kid" network  
41 Tracker maker, once  
42 Convert to the Koran's religion  
43 Chevy model  
45 Suffix with towel

- 48 Korean, Thai or Chinese  
52 Precipitating heavily  
57 Big Apple sch.  
58 Off-white  
59 March composer John Philip  
60 Cease  
61 Lives (in)  
63 It lures fish  
65 Loss of memory  
67 Posed (for)  
68 "Stop thinking of me as so naive"  
74 "— recall ..."  
75 Headlined  
76 Dying words from Caesar  
77 Inflicts upon  
79 Honshu sash  
80 Small piece  
83 Ad biz prize  
87 Collaborator  
88 Person in the third decade of life  
91 Frantic scramble  
94 Correct copy  
95 Hitchcock classic  
96 Light blue avenue in Monopoly

- 100 Neat — pin  
101 Announcer Hall  
102 American flier with scarlet patches  
109 Special time  
110 Tabula —  
111 Postal letters  
112 Get in return  
116 Person petting  
120 What the last words of 23-, 31-, 52-, 68-, 88- and 102- Across are  
124 Unusual  
125 1983  
126 Holy rings  
127 Property of a magnet  
128 Solar output  
129 Fully ready

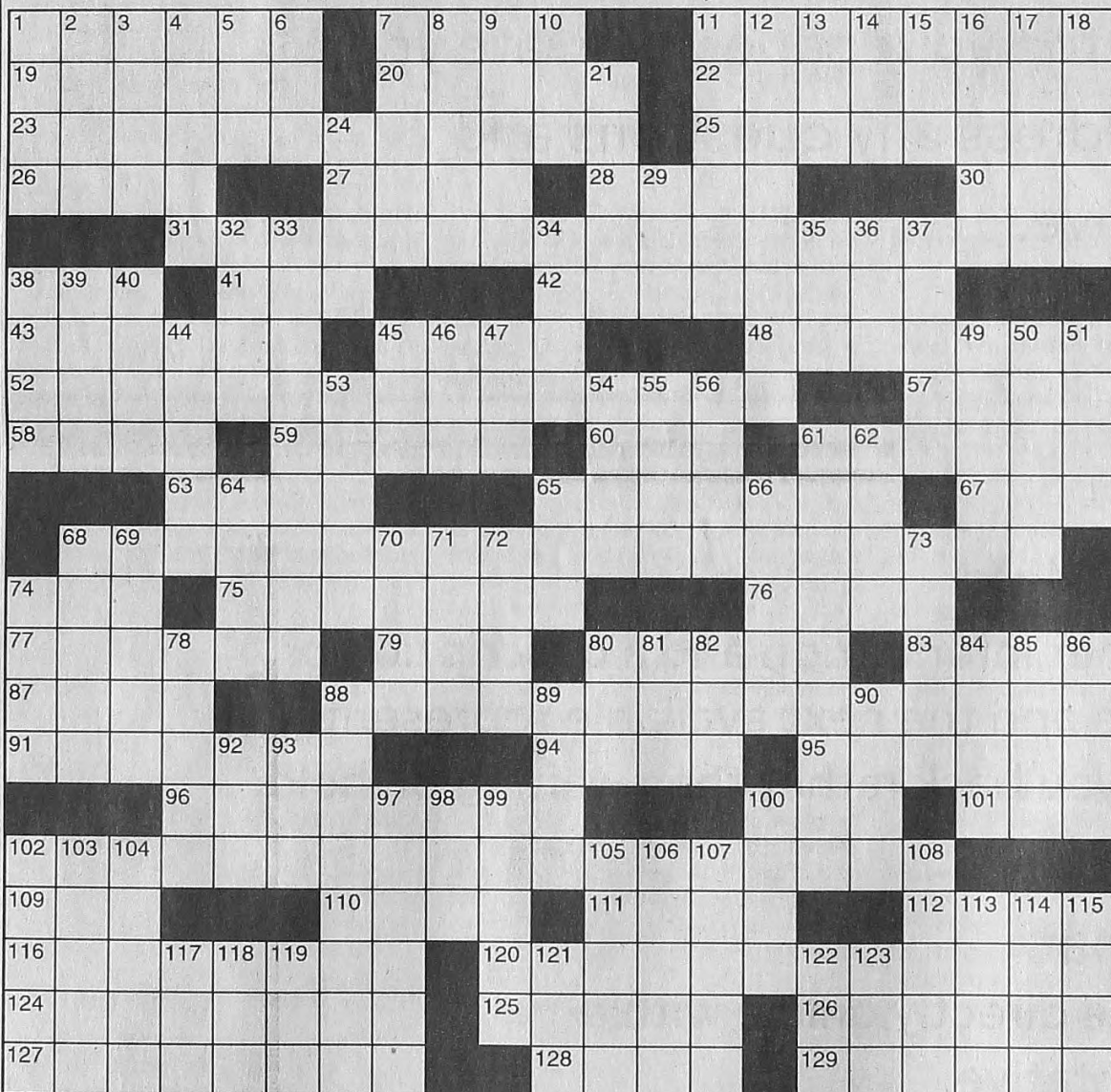
### DOWN

- 1 Bails out, e.g.  
2 Brag loudly  
3 Unconscious state  
4 Final non-A.D. year  
5 "Mayday!"  
6 Blast source  
7 — Picchu (Peruvian site of Incan ruins)

- 8 Alternative  
9 Game venue  
10 Zip  
11 Mouth liquid  
12 Billy Joel hit  
13 Planet Mork came from  
14 Suffix with social  
15 Ad- —  
16 Rare violin  
17 Undercoat for painting on wood  
18 West German city  
21 People who mimic  
24 "What's — ya?"  
29 Brother or aunt: Abbr.  
32 Tangelo trademark  
33 Tilts one's body toward  
34 Bank claim  
35 Fleur-de- —  
36 Israeli arm  
37 Poke fun at  
38 Conduit  
39 Coll. hotshot  
40 Motivate  
44 Island near Venezuela  
45 College Web site suffix  
46 Set- — (sharp fights)  
47 Old United rival

- 49 Oklahoma oil city  
50 Mosaic work  
51 Certain skin bulge  
53 "You — see this!"  
54 — Martin (cognac)  
55 British queen  
56 "Beware the — of March!"  
61 Coke Zero alternative  
62 Witch's blemish  
64 Secy., e.g.  
65 Moreover  
66 Vapor  
68 Land in water, in Italy  
69 Use, as a tool  
70 Sweat of one's —  
71 "Kill — killed!"  
72 Hold in check  
73 Small state ruled by a sovereign  
74 Eve's man  
78 Actor Max von —  
80 Rocker Barrett  
81 CBS drama  
82 Turn rancid  
84 Pet parasites

- 85 With a sharp picture, for short  
86 Hymn start  
88 Epithet for Alexander  
89 Be a ratfink  
90 Alexis I, e.g.  
92 Jackie's hubby #2  
93 Offense  
97 Almost  
98 Six-pt. plays  
99 Cry like —  
100 Amply skilled  
102 Rundown  
103 Bards' Muse  
104 Singer Hall  
105 Oven maker  
106 Spiteful  
107 Passes idly, as time  
108 Dryly funny  
113 Slaughter of baseball  
114 James with a Pulitzer  
115 Discreet call  
117 MPG monitor  
118 Chaplin's title  
119 — -fi flick  
121 Always, poetically  
122 Oldies group — Na Na  
123 "Tonka" star Mineo



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

## SUDOKU

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

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!

## GOOD SIGHT WORD SEARCH

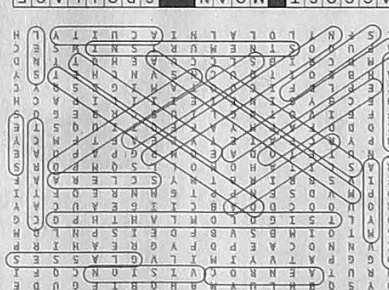
D Y S Q B H L U Y M R H Q B I E G U D E  
N R U T A E N R O C V I S I O N C Q F I  
D G G P A T V Y I M I L V G L A S S E S  
I V N N O C A E P O F Y G R E A H I R P  
S M T O I M B S V B F O E I S P N L Q M  
O Y L T S I G O L O M L A H T H P O C G  
R O U O O C D O A B C I I G E A U C A Y  
D P M V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

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

## WORDS

ACUITY  
AMBYOPIA  
AQUEOUS  
ASTIGMATISM  
BIFOCAL  
CATARACT  
CONTACTS  
CORNEA  
DISORDER  
EYES  
EYESIGHT  
FOCUS  
GLASSES  
INSTRUMENTS  
LENS  
MYOPIA  
OFFICE  
OPHTHALMOLOGIST  
OPTICIAN  
OPTOMETRIST  
REFLECTION  
RETINA  
SCLERA  
VISION

## ANSWER KEY



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

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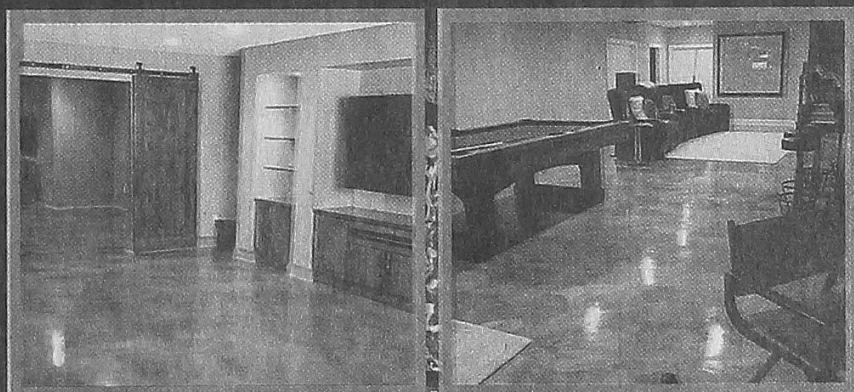
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