

## Farmington United goalie stakes claim as one of best

SPORTS, 1B

CANTON

# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Livonia approves costly pool repairs

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

After months of closures and re-openings, officials expect the leisure pool at the Kirksey Recreation Center in Livonia to open again for good next month.

Leaks in the pool liner continue to be a problem following last summer's \$500,000 renovation. The renovated pool re-opened in September, but it has closed multiple times since then for repairs. The pool has been closed since Jan. 6.

In the hope of permanently fixing the

issue, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Ted Davis got approval from city council Monday to replace the liner with marcite, which lined the pool surface before last summer's renovation.

Davis and Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan said the company that installed the liner, Indianapolis-based

RenoSys Corporation, has been unresponsive to requests to replace the faulty liner. The city is pursuing damages because of the multiple closures and plans to compensate Kirksey members for their lost time and money.

See **POOL**, Page 2A



Tiffany Roberson stands in the Pharaoh's Tomb adventure room at Roberson's Fun Center in Westland. The suite contains a series of puzzles explorers must solve before they can open the mummy's tomb. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## New Westland business corners market on fun

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Having a safe place for young people to just be young people is important to Cynthia Roberson.

The Westland resident knows what it's like to be against the odds: she grew up in foster care on the east side of Detroit and left school after eighth grade, later opting to join a Job Corps program. She earned her GED and went on to ITT Tech to earn an engineering degree.

But she hasn't forgotten her past and wants to help young people who may be in similar situations. That's why she and her daughter opened Roberson's Fun Center in Westland, a place for older children and young adults to unwind.

"I tried to open something for any nationality, kids have someplace to go where they aren't scared," she said.

See **FUN**, Page 2A



Beverly Allen-Williams shoots some pool Feb. 6 at Roberson's Fun Center.

## Plymouth millennials launch MI travel show

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

Leave it to a couple of sharp-witted, social media-savvy millennials to hatch an idea that may completely change the way people look at the Michigan travel industry.

With a friendship forged as students at Canton High School – the pair first met as teammates on a third-grade recreation basketball team – Kyle Clinton and Jay Jasinski, both 28, recently launched Great Lakes TV, an internet-based production company that unveiled its first project on YouTube.

The duo's motivation is straightforward: convince Michiganders to replace vacations to exotic overseas locations with treks within "The Mitten," which has everything you need to create an enviable Instagram post.

"We call it low-stakes travel," said Jasinski, who like Clinton, graduated from Michigan State University in 2013 before moving to Los Angeles to room with another Plymouth-Canton Educational Park buddy, Joe Posler. "A lot of people our age like to travel halfway around the world for those high-stakes trips that give you plenty of awesome photos for social media. We want to let people know that there are plenty of low-stakes trips you can make right here in Michigan that are just as fun and a fraction of the cost."

The company's Instagram page already has over 10,000 followers.

When it came time to produce a pilot episode that they could distribute to potential sponsors and advertisers, the group hauled their recording gear to the Howell Melon Festival.

Why start the voyage with melons?

"It was logistics," said Clinton, who is a filmmaker for The Onion, a satirical digital media company based in Chicago. "A few of my work colleagues were able to help us out one weekend last summer. We looked at a calendar, saw the melon festival was happening that weekend and it was only a half-hour drive from Plymouth. ...

"We had a blast and, hopefully, our pilot episode reflects that."

Jasinski and Clinton's ultimate goal is to produce a 20-minute show for every city in the state.

"Coming up with a theme for Plymouth is going to be tough because we both grew up here, so it's personal," Jasinski said. "We'll come up with something, though."

See **SHOW**, Page 3A





## Fun

Continued from Page 1A

The center, located at 6503 N. Wayne in the Westland Plaza shopping center, sports a dozen big-screen televisions, all hooked to video game systems such as the Xbox One, PlayStation 4 and Nintendo Switch. There's additional space for patrons to bring in and play their own board games.

Several pool tables are also available, and the family has even created two escape rooms: one ancient Egyptian-themed, the other Noah's ark-themed.

The center was built using the skill sets of several family members. Tiffany Roberson, Cynthia's daughter, who also has an engineering degree, was involved in the design of the center's interior and the escape rooms.

"All the wiring, everything," she said. "My mother built the box, I did the wiring, programmed it."

The Egyptian theme is a common choice for escape rooms, which give a group of people a set amount of time to



Darriell McFolley, left, and Steven Roberson play an action-combat video game at Roberson's Fun Center in Westland. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

solve puzzles and figure out how to get out of the room, but Tiffany Roberson said she doesn't know of any others that are inspired by the Bible.

"I went through the stories that everyone knows so it could be for everyone. I chose Noah's ark ... everybody knows the story of Noah's ark," she said.

Work continues on that escape room, dubbed "Escape the Flood," and it's expected to be open later this month.

Children who use the center are charged \$8 for one hour, \$12 for two hours and \$14 for three hours. The escape rooms are an additional charge at \$28 per person.

The hope is the center will eventually host events. Tiffany Roberson said she's even had some interest from businesses looking to do the escape rooms as a part of a corporate retreat.

The center is open from 3-9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday; 3-11 p.m. Friday; and 2-11 p.m. Saturday.

Cynthia Roberson said opening the center is a testament to the drive and determination she and family members have shown in the face of adversity.

"Anybody who made it through foster homes can still make it," Cynthia Roberson said. "You can do so many different things and you don't need a whole lot of money."

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

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## Pool

Continued from Page 1A

"We have lost time, we have lost money and our reputation is not what it used to be," Brosnan said. "Even though we were trying to do something good for the community, it has not turned out that way."

Davis said his department did its due diligence in researching what was believed to be a reputable company and a better product for swimmers.

"This was 100 percent the right thing to do and it has 100 percent failed," he said. "We're bitterly disap-

pointed about that."

The city pursued a liner over using marcite during the renovation because it has a longer lifespan and is more comfortable and affordable. But, the mayor said it's time for the city to go back to something dependable.

"We have reached a point where we can no longer afford to keep the pool closed," Brosnan said.

The city started repairs Tuesday. Davis said the new marcite likely will last five to seven years. The new installation will cost between \$109,000 and \$138,000 depending on the work required after the liner is removed.

The city is pursuing damages against RenoSys, said city Attorney Paul Ber-

nier. Aside from the lengthy closures, new installation, lost memberships and cost to members, the city has drained and refilled the pool four times since the reopening.

"We feel good about our position," he said. "I don't really want to discuss it, but we feel good about our position."

Several council members expressed the opinion that the city happened to draw the short end of the stick on this project, and the funding for repairs was approved unanimously.

The Livonia Family YMCA, 14255 Stark, is allowing Kirksey members to swim for free while the pool is closed.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com).

## CORRECTION

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Please indicate whether you're re-

sponding to content online or in the newspaper.

A story in the Feb. 13 print edition of the Observer under the headline "The Breakfast Club opens in Wayne County"

should have stated the new Livonia restaurant is not affiliated with The Breakfast Club in Farmington Hills, which is independently owned and operated.



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## Show

Continued from Page 1A

Both filmmakers paid their dues, earning filmmaking-related degrees at MSU before making the no-guarantees move to Hollywood.

"Joe (Posler) was going for his master's degree at USC, so we decided to move out there, live with him and see what we could secure job-wise," Clinton said. "We had both worked in the movie industry for short periods while at Michigan State, so our resumes weren't bare."

Just a few days after settling in at their southern California apartment, Clinton struck professional gold with just one cold call.

"There was a job opening for the 'Adult Swim' TV show, so I called the number, the guy interviewed me and basically asked me if I could start the next day," Clinton said. "I thought to myself, 'It isn't supposed to be this easy.'"

"While Jay and I both found work pretty quickly, the work wasn't easy. We were both putting in 14-hour days."

Jasinski and Clinton want to produce their shows for the YouTube audience and generate their salaries by recruiting advertisers, as opposed to trying to secure a slot on cable television.

They will also maintain their current full-time jobs, Clinton at The Onion and Jasinski as a digital marketing manager for the Environmental Media Association in Los Angeles and the Michigan Theater Foundation in Ann Arbor.

"One of the appeals of our show is that it will appeal to a couple of generations of people," Jasinski said. "Our generation prefers to watch shorter shows on social media. We use a lot of dry humor mixed in with useful information. For instance, while we were filming the pilot in Howell, someone came up to us and let us know about an old depot in town that is now a museum."

"We went over there and, unfortunately, it was closed, but we still included it in the show."

The pilot debuted in December at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex in downtown Plymouth.

"There were probably 220 people there, most family and friends," Jasinski said. "It went over really well. We're looking forward to making many more shows."



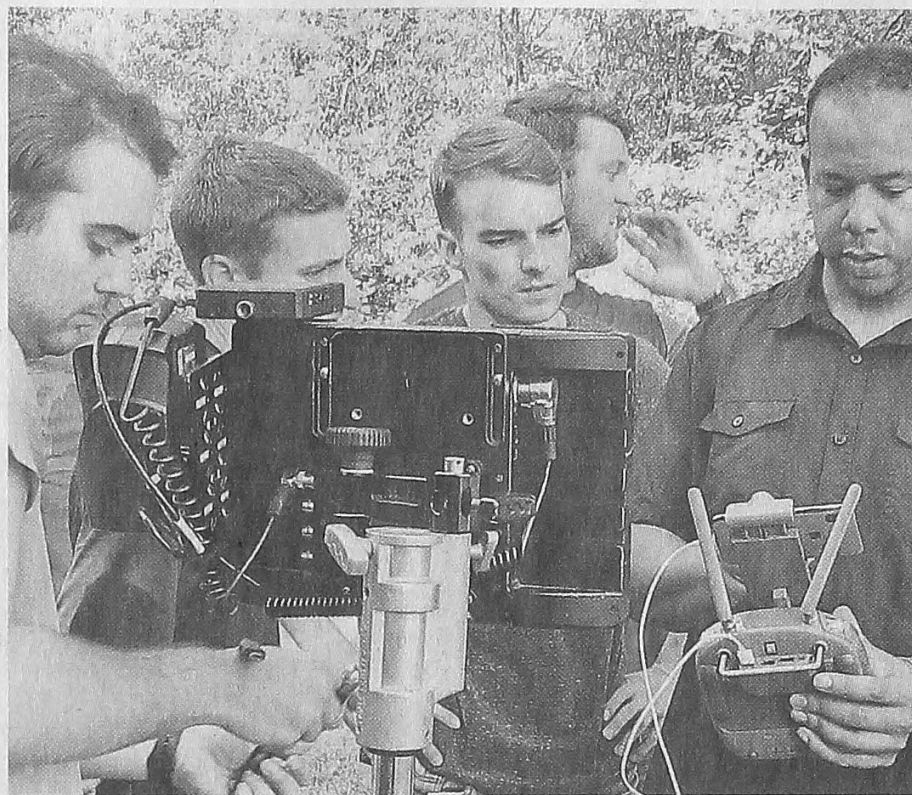
Pictured from left are Dan Stoney, Matt Skubik, Kyle Clinton, Jay Jasinski and Jessica Estes. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREAT LAKES TV

**"A lot of people our age like to travel halfway around the world for those high-stakes trips that give you plenty of awesome photos for social media. We want to let people know that there are plenty of low-stakes trips you can make right here in Michigan that are just as fun and a fraction of the cost."**

**Jay Jasinski** Co-owner, Great Lakes TV

Longtime friend Dan Stoney and his wife, Kara, are mainstays in the first episode. Jasinski's dad, Lee, has also volunteered for cameo appearances.

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



Kyle Clinton, center, looks over a just-processed clip of the travel show.

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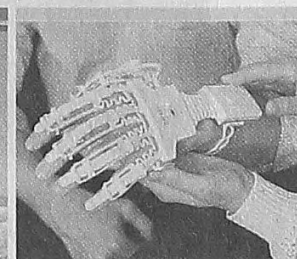
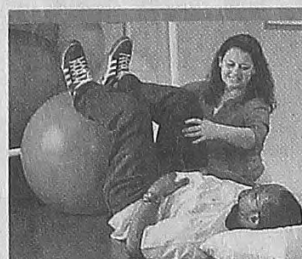
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Farmington Hills firefighters responded Wednesday to a fire at 8 Mile Collision and Fiberglass on Eight Mile between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads. No one was injured in the incident. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Fire breaks out at Farmington Hills auto shop

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A fire at a Farmington Hills collision shop slowed traffic during the morning commute Wednesday morning.

Firefighters were called around 8 a.m. to 8 Mile Collision and Fiberglass, 32440 Eight Mile, on the report of a fire.

Fire Marshal Jason Baloga said there were no injuries and crews were still determining the extent of the damage.

It appeared most of the damage was in the office area, where fire damage could be seen from the sidewalk.

"I basically have the same view as you," he said. "Looks like there was some sort of fire in the building. We need to investigate it still."

Firefighters blocked off part of westbound Eight Mile, but westbound traffic was still able to pass.

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



A firefighter helps to direct traffic on Eight Mile Road outside the shop.

## Westland pedestrian fatally struck

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A 49-year-old woman died after she was fatally struck by a vehicle Tuesday night on Merriman Road in Westland.

According to police, a vehicle hit the pedestrian around 7:30 p.m. as she was trying to cross Merriman Road near the Parkwood Street intersection.

She was pronounced dead at the scene. Police said the driver was not injured and was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susan-vela.

## Westland man, 1 other killed in I-696 crash

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A 61-year-old man from Westland and a 39-year-old man from Oak Park died when they stepped out of their vehicles after an early Tuesday morning crash along eastbound Interstate 696.

Traffic was hampered for hours after the crash happened around 5:30 a.m. near Woodward Avenue.

Michigan State Police troopers said on Twitter two vehicles initially were involved in a minor crash. The Westland and Oak Park drivers exited their vehicles and stood nearby.

Two other motorists struck and killed the drivers involved in the crash.

"It is unknown if they were talking or attempting to direct traffic," troopers said on Twitter.

The two motorists were hospitalized. One has been treated and released. Charges are possible.

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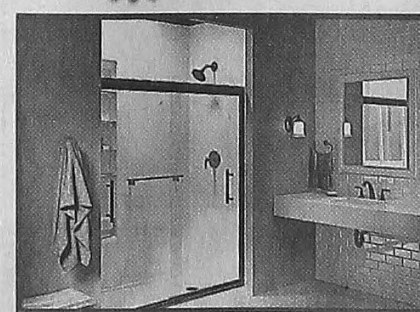
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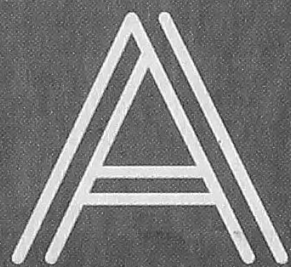
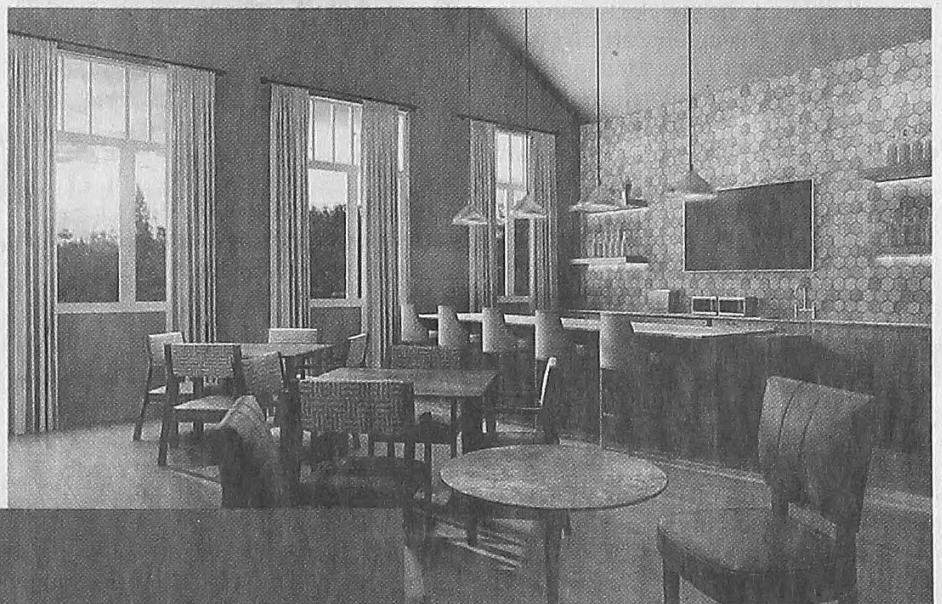
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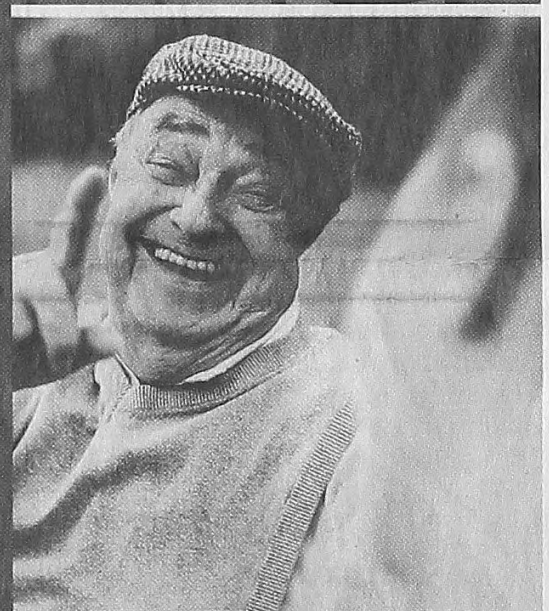
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# Livonia will study options to address climate change

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

As more cities try to counter climate change, Livonia will consider what it can do to be a greener place.

Per the direction of city council, Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan will direct one of the city's departments to study ways the city can be more environmentally friendly. Councilwoman Cathy White proposed the idea, which passed Monday in a split 4-3 vote.

White said she hopes the administration tasks the city's Greenleaf Commission with the study. Greenleaf Chair Jim

Baringhaus said he thinks the city could look at transportation, city-owned buildings, energy use and more recycling as areas for improvements.

"We look forward to working on this and we look forward to bringing back some strategies on how we can address this," he said.

Brosnan said she plans to work with Greenleaf, Consumers Energy, DTE Energy and turn to the Livonia Vision 21 master plan to see what can be done.

"Whether you decide to call it climate change or you call it environmental impact, what we're looking to do is lessen the damage...," she said.

Council President Kathleen McIntyre, Vice President Scott Bahr and Rob Donovic all voted against the study.

"That stated purpose of this resolution is specifically to prepare a local response to climate change issues," Bahr said. "That presumes two things. One: that the changing of the climate ... is unique to our time. Two: that we have the power to reverse it. I reject both of these premises."

Donovic said the city does a lot.

"I don't necessarily think that we need to vote or do something different with climate change per se," he said.

Councilmen Jim Jolly and Brandon

McCullough refuted that argument, and McCullough also addressed concerns raised by a resident about the cost.

"I look at it from a standpoint of whatever we can do to lower our carbon footprint but also, where's the (return on investment)?" McCullough said.

Jolly said he thinks this is simply the right thing to do.

"I don't understand why we wouldn't want to investigate leaving less of a footprint, less of a mark in what we do in every circumstance," he said.

Once administration studies the issue it will present its findings and potential initiatives to council.

## FINS replaces last Sweet Lorraine's in Livonia

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

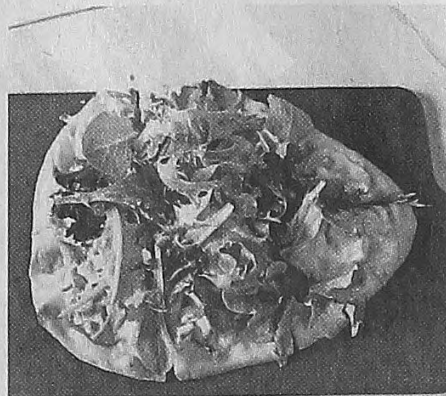
The last remaining vestige of Sweet Lorraine's Cafe is no more. But the staff at the Detroit Marriott Livonia believe they've got a concept that will bring in hotel guests and the community alike.

The restaurant at the hotel, 17100 N. Laurel Park Dr., has undergone a transformation that began last summer. Gone is Sweet Lorraine's Cafe and Bar – the last restaurant of its kind since the one in Southfield closed in 2017, though a Sweet Lorraine's Mac 'N Cheez operates at Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills – and replacing it in FINS Kitchen and Bar, a restaurant paying homage to the area's fishing and auto industries.

"Things that are classic to Michigan," said David Kipfmiller, the hotel's general manager. "You've got the ... auto industry and fins with, of course, fishing."

The transition began last summer and has taken several months to complete. In addition to the new name, the restaurant's decor is updated, new upholstery has been installed and a new bar countertop has been added.

While those names reflect the state, the menu is not strictly seafood fare; while diners can expect to see dishes such as pan-roasted whitefish and salmon amaretto, there are plenty of other options. Those include fettuccine primavera, chicken shawarma and a



**A FINS flatbread pizza can be topped with chicken, cheese and arugula.**

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

prime rib hoagie, among others. It's a new menu made up of the former Sweet Lorraine's items.

"I would say that what we have now is American classic and comfort food," said restaurant manager Linda St. Germain.

Some seasonal menu items will rotate. Breakfast is served each morning.

The reactions from the community and hotel guests have been positive so far, St. Germain said.

"The former customers of Sweet Lorraine's have been surprised, but I want

to say pleasantly surprised," she said. "It's a definitely different look."

While its location caters to more hotel guests, Kipfmiller hopes the new restaurant will also become a community destination. Signage directs shoppers from the Laurel Park Place mall to the space, and the restaurant is running a special where diners on Saturday nights can receive two free movie vouchers to the Phoenix Theater when they buy two entrees and two drinks.

They plan other events as well, such as trivia nights and rock-and-roll bingo, throughout the week. The restaurant also has online ordering for pickup.

"I think there's a stigma out there that hotel restaurants are always going to be super high priced, and we're not trying to be that," he said. "We're trying to be something that compares to other things around the area."

"We really want to be a restaurant for the community, not just a restaurant for the hotel guests."

The restaurant is open from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekends.

More information, including a full menu, can be found at [finskitchenandbar.com](http://finskitchenandbar.com).

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

## Chipotle plans Livonia eatery off Middlebelt

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

It looks like the corner of Middlebelt and Schoolcraft roads in Livonia is going to get a little spicier.

Chipotle Mexican Grill looks poised to have its first Livonia location built at 13900 Middlebelt Road, next to Aldi.

The developer, Thomas Guastello, joked the fast-casual southwestern restaurant could be an homage to the Chi-Chi's that used to occupy that spot.

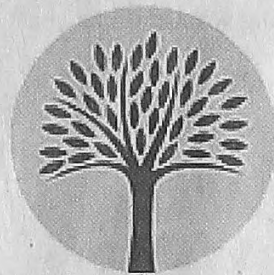
At the Livonia council meeting Monday, members said they were looking forward to the development.

"I am so excited that you are bringing Chipotle there," said Councilman Rob Donovic. "As an avid Chipotle user and fan, I'm excited for it."

The restaurant would have two entrances, one on Schoolcraft shared with Aldi and one on Middlebelt shared with IHOP.

Final approval is expected at the city council's next meeting Feb. 24.

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



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# Plymouth leaders apologize after being accused of lying

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincok publicly apologized Monday to city residents and members of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority board for untrue statements he apparently made during the DDA's meeting Nov. 11 regarding a citizens survey conducted by Eastern Michigan University on the future of Kellogg Park.

While responding to a question about the survey at the Nov. 11 meeting, Sincok apparently stated that the city had no involvement in developing the survey and its questions. He also stated there was no cost to the city in regard to the survey.

However, a Freedom of Information Act request instigated by Plymouth resident David Rucinski revealed that members of the city administration were involved directly in the development of the survey and that the city paid \$2,300 for mailing, printing and staff-related costs.

Plymouth Mayor Oliver Wolcott also apologized at Monday's DDA meeting for not clarifying or questioning Sincok's previous statements to the DDA board members.

Rucinski said Sincok's comments Nov. 11 ended any debate within the DDA regarding the survey.

"The FOIA documents show that the city manager spearheaded the survey back in July, that the city was an active participant in the development of the questions and that the city paid \$2,300 for costs of the survey," Rucinski said. "The only thing I can say about (the cost) is that in the future, if Paul says there is no cost in something, we should ask a follow-up question as to how much is 'no cost.'"

"More important is the idea that the city was involved in the survey beginning in July of last year and Paul made comments that the city wasn't involved. As a result, I think it is very appropriate that Paul would apologize to the citizens and also the DDA Board for making those statements that weren't true."

When given an opportunity to speak during Monday night's citizens comments (Sincok is not a member of the DDA Board), Sincok said his no-cost statement was in reference to EMU conducting the survey itself with no fee to the city, however, there were "incidental costs" to the city, namely mailing, printing and staff time.

"I apologized at the City Commission meeting but, again, my bad; it's on me," Sincok said. "We had about \$2,500 worth of expenses related the survey and I certainly will strive to do better in the future to clearly identify those kinds of costs."

DDA Board member Ellen Elliott didn't let Sincok off the hook following his apology.

"Paul, I want you to understand that where we're coming from is not about the cost," Elliott said. "It was about that you said there was no involvement by the city and that the city didn't know what the questions on the survey were. That's the issue."

"I don't know how else to make you understand about the lies. When you repeat what the FOIA says, that's not what it's about. It's that you lied to us. If you don't think that you did anything wrong, we have a problem."

"Certainly, I apologize for any miscommunication, misunderstanding," Sincok replied. "Literally, I did not know the questions until we received the report; you can believe that or not. I apologize for misleading the group, if that's what you feel I did."

The FOIA response revealed that Plymouth's community development director engaged EMU in July regarding the survey at the direction of Sincok.

On Oct. 10, the DDA development director asked for a list of the survey questions to be included in the packet for the DDA's next meeting. The questions were not provided.

One week later, the DDA development director gave the city's community development director a list of questions that "I would like to see on the survey."

Finally, at the November DDA meeting, Sincok made his statements regarding the city's lack of involvement and financial responsibilities in reference to the survey.

"The issue is not about the survey itself, but the way in which it was handled," Elliott emphasized. "This is about trust and credibility going forward. When citizens resort to FOIA requests, it's an indication that they don't trust their government."

"How do we rebuild confidence for the board and the citizens? How do we avoid this from happening again?"

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



A survey regarding the future of Kellogg Park ruffled some municipal feathers after Plymouth DDA members and at one resident said Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincok lied about having no involvement in the survey. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS

## Obituaries

### John Francis Courtney

**LIVONIA** - John Francis Courtney, 87, of Livonia, Michigan, passed away peacefully, on Friday, January 10, 2020 surrounded by family in Houston Texas. Mr. Courtney was born April 7, 1932 in Detroit Michigan to John S. and Lauretta (Cadarette) Courtney.

John was preceded in death by his loving wife Loretta (Massaro) Courtney, his parents John and Lauretta and his sister Mary (Courtney) McGee. He is survived by his children, Sharon Courtney Walker and husband Mark, Thomas Courtney and wife Sally, Daniel Courtney and wife Thaisla; grandchildren, Andrew, Larissa, Olivia, Samuel, Luke, Dylan, Erik and Anna. John is also survived by his brother in law Charles McGee and his sister, Ann Courtney.

John grew up in Marquette Michigan. He graduated from Northern Michigan University and upon graduation started working for United States Gypsum Company where he spent his entire career. John was working in Pittsburgh PA when he met the love of his life Loretta Massaro. They married and settled in Pittsburgh. His career moved them to Livonia, MI where they raised their three children and spent many happy years. John enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family and friends. He was passionate about his Catholic faith and was a devout parishioner at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia.

John was an avid golfer and enjoyed many hobbies such as photography, woodworking, and model shipbuilding. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and was always so proud of his children and grandchildren. He was a great friend and neighbor and was loved by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

The Courtney family will be present to receive friends, Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 11:00 AM until 11:30 AM at St. Colette Parish, 17600 Newburgh Rd., Livonia MI 48152. The Funeral Mass will begin at 11:30 AM following visitation. A reception will follow Holy Mass in the church Community Center. Visit [www.DettlingFuneral.com](http://www.DettlingFuneral.com) to leave words of condolence for the family.



### Mary Beth Mason

-- Mason, Mary Beth, February 5, 2020, age 63. Dear sister of Matthew J. (Renate) and Michael A. (Pam). Dear aunt of Michael and Emily. Family will receive friends Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 3-6pm at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile), (248) 549-0500. Funeral Mass Friday, February 14, 2020, 11am at St. Regis Catholic Church, 3691 Lincoln, Bloomfield Hills. Visitation at church begins at 10:30am. Memorial tributes to Angels' Place, 29299 Franklin Rd., Southfield, MI 48034.

View obituary and share memories at [AJDesmond.com](http://AJDesmond.com)

### Margrit Brüggmann Getsinger

**ORINDA, CA** - Margrit Brüggmann Getsinger, age 100, of Orinda, CA formerly of West Bloomfield, MI - 10/8/19 - 2/4/2020.

Preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Getsinger (1995) & son-in-law, Peter Cassidy (1996).

Survived by children, Joan, Pierce & John; granddaughters, Kyna, Brie, Liza & Leah and 6 great-grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held at Christ Church Cranbrook with a tea to follow at the Village Women's Club on June 13th.

### Katherine Jeanne Harris

Katherine Jeanne Harris, 51, passed away February 5, 2020 in Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Devoted mother of Rhys Alpha Lacock, loving daughter of Margaret Carol (nee Anthony) and Donald Eugene Harris, sister to Jody Susanne Harris, Anne Elizabeth Nolan (Robert), Donald E. Harris Jr. (Denise), aunt to two nieces and six nephews. Preceded in death by sister M. Julie Clark. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University, and in December 2019 graduated from Radford University with a Bachelor of Science in Anthropological Sciences with Distinction. There will be no funeral service. Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or donations to her son, via GoFundMe, organizer Jody Harris.

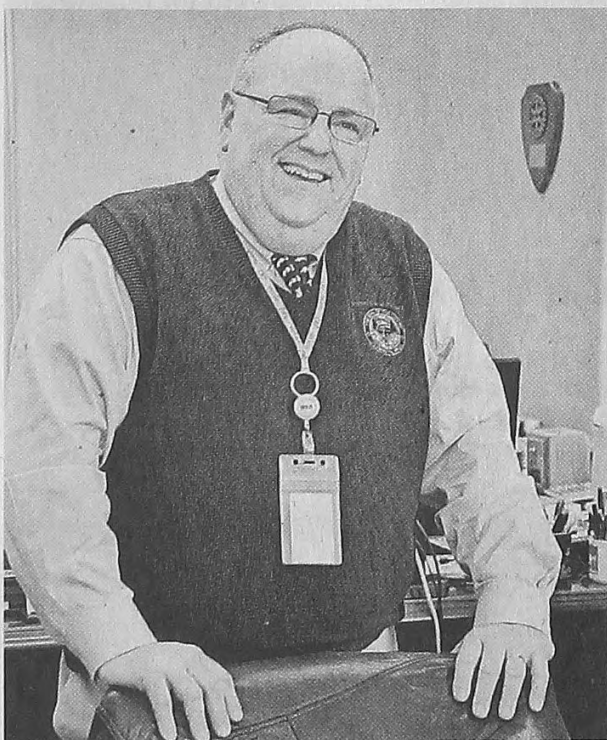
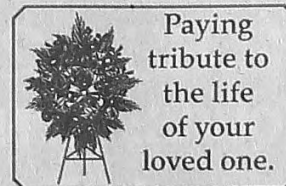
### Myrna Elizabeth Hersh

**PLYMOUTH** - Myrna Elizabeth Hersh age 84 of Plymouth passed away February 6, 2020. Born to Ortt and Maude Sprague. Survived by her children Julie, Debbie, Ron and Dale (Jennie).

Grandchildren Mike (Katherine), and Tony (Ashley) Diana.

Proud Great Grandmother to Ryley and Kennedy. Brother Ed Sprague, sisters Anne Bingman and Sharon (David) Nowak. Many nieces and nephews. She was loved and thought of as a second mom to many.

Preceded in death by her husband Richard, son in law Mike Diana and Grandson Nick Diana. Memorial to follow at later date.



Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincok publicly apologized Monday to city residents and members of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



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# Sports

GIRLS BASKETBALL WAYNE MEMORIAL

## Young core upholds standard

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Despite earning back-to-back KLAA titles and back-to-back state semifinal appearances, Wayne Memorial girls basketball head coach Jarvis Mitchell views himself as a normal guy.

“I don’t walk on water, I can’t change water into wine, I didn’t have 12 disciples. I am as normal as you are. You could probably do a better job of coaching these girls than me,” Mitchell said. “But at the end of the day, this is what I do, this is what I love, so I’m going to give you the

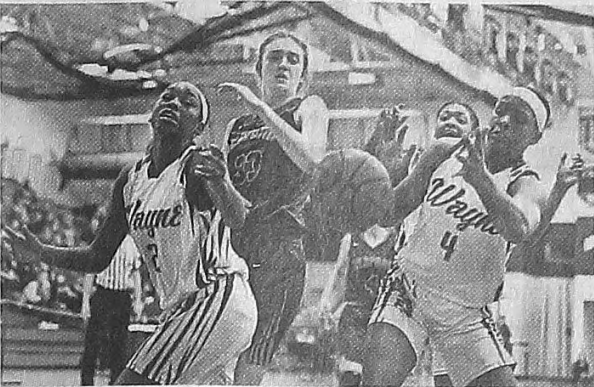
best of me.”

Mitchell’s best, though, has created an expectation surrounding the Zebras’ basketball program, having not lost to a KLAA opponent since Feb. 23, 2017. The expectation is for Wayne Memorial to return to the Breslin Center in March, moving past the semifinal and getting the chance to earn the program’s first state title in school history.

While that may be the expectation, a state championship is not Mitchell’s primary goal.

“We all want to win a state championship. We’re

See ZEBRAS, Page 2B



Sophomore Jordan Wright, left, and junior Alanna Micheaux are part of the foundation at Wayne Memorial. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTO

HOCKEY FARMINGTON UNITED

## ONE OF THE STATE’S BEST?

### Sommerfeldt stakes claim with strong senior season

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

There are few positions in all of sports as important as a hockey team’s goalie.

Farmington United is lucky to have one of the state’s best in senior Bryn Sommerfeldt.

At Farmington Hills Ice Arena, Sommerfeldt put on a show against Bloomfield Hills for the second time this season, shutting down the Black Hawks’ attack Feb. 5 to secure a 4-1 victory for his team.

The win moved Farmington United to 10-7-1 on the year, while Bloomfield Hills dropped to 13-3-1. It’s the second time this season that Farmington has knocked off the Black Hawks, winning 2-0 back in mid-December.

“It’s a big team win, we’ve had our issues play a full game but I feel like it was a good team win,” Sommerfeldt said. “We took care of business when we needed to.”

Sommerfeldt took center stage and was the best player on the ice, stopping 43 of 44 shots by Bloomfield Hills. That boosts his save percentage to .933 for the season and lowers his goals against average to 2.73 goals allowed per game.

“We’re going to ride Bryn all the way until the end,” Farmington United assistant coach Grant Newton said. “We game-plan around his ability. We keep shots to the outside so he can see the puck and he takes care of the rest. He is by far the MVP tonight, and he is for a lot of games. He’s been huge.”

In just 15 games this season, Sommerfeldt has faced a whopping 597 shots, meaning he faces an average of 39.8 shots per game — a high number for any level of hockey. His season high mark is 50 saves, which he’s done twice this year.

Newton said Sommerfeldt really doesn’t have any weaknesses as a high school goalie.

“I think the better question is what aren’t his



Farmington United goalie Bryn Sommerfeldt stopped 43 of 44 shots by Bloomfield Hills during a 4-1 victory on Feb. 5, boosting his season save percentage to .933. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Brother Rice seniors, from left: Luke Newman, Zach Maynard, Smith Casper, Jon Brantley, Antonio Nikprelaj and Michael Singleton. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

BOYS BASKETBALL BROTHER RICE

## Brantley leads seniors to win over rival CC

Colin Gay  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Jon Brantley was the last senior to touch the court for Brother Rice.

After being the last one honored Tuesday in the pre-game senior night ceremony, coming out with his parents, hugging head coach Rick Palmer at center court, the senior guard sat on the bench.

The four-year varsity player watched as the tip fell toward the Warriors. He watched as senior forward Smith Casper gave Brother Rice a lead with a 3-point


bank from the top of the key.

Brantley volunteered to sit.

With six seniors on the roster, Brantley gave his starting spot to guard Antonio Nikprelaj, a senior who had struggled with injury throughout his final season with the Warriors and came in with a large brace on his knee.

“It just tells you what type of kid he is,” Palmer said. “That was really special that he did that. We’ve talked about us sacrificing, doing stuff for our brothers. I just thought that was very special that Jon did that.”

See BROTHER RICE, Page 2B




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BOYS BASKETBALL MILFORD 50, SEAHOLM 47

# Mavericks send seniors out on high note

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It's been a rough season for the Milford Mavericks, there's no way to sugar-coat it.

Entering Tuesday's game against Birmingham Seaholm, the Mavericks had won just one game this year and if you judged by records, were going to be in for a long night against the Maples. However, in rivalry games and other emotional atmospheres like Senior Night, you can throw those records out — and that's exactly what Milford did.

Led by seniors Dylan Schils and Tommy Tyrrell, the Mavericks took it to Seaholm, holding a steady lead throughout the game and ultimately winning, 50-47, at Milford High School.

"For them to get a win on Senior Night, as we said in the locker room and something we say often in our program is let's go make a memory," Milford coach David Gilbert said. "Tonight is about them, and to get that win, it's definitely a high note for them."

The victory moves Milford to 2-11 on the year, while Seaholm falls to 9-4.

The Mavericks' starting lineup was all seniors and it was the first time this season that this particular group started a game together this year. Schils, who didn't start but played significant minutes and had a game-high 18 points, said the special lineup gave the team a boost that allowed the Mavericks to get off to a good start.

"I think we had big energy in the start of the game, especially with the seniors," Schils said. "We were excited to finally all play together as a collective whole on the same court at the same time. I definitely felt there was different energy."

The team's seven seniors all saw playing time and were honored before the start of the game. Those seniors are Schils, Tyrrell, Nick Krol, Nathan Rand, Ryan Lewis, Ronnie Savage and Justin Meyer.

"This is a really special group here, we've played with each other since fifth



Seaholm's Matt Fricke, center, feels some pressure from Milford's Ronald Savage, left, and Nicholas Krol. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

or sixth grade," Schils said. "It was nice to be able to all get out there and get us a win, especially with the way our season's going. We've had a lot of close games and it was nice to get one."

Milford took a 10-6 lead after the first quarter and after Seaholm briefly took the lead early in the second, came back to lead 22-19 at halftime. Schils was the catalyst, scoring eight of his 18 points in the first quarter.

In the third quarter and into the fourth, Milford began to pull away, building an 11-point lead with 4:30 left in the game. The Maples didn't quit, though, and got to within two with just over a minute to play before the Mavericks closed it out at the free throw line. Seaholm missed a potential game-tying triple

to the buzzer.

"As a coach there's a lot of things we can clean up, but we've struggled to get some wins this year, so to end up on top is good for them," Gilbert said. "We've only been in two games like this where we've had to do some decision making things down the stretch, so I'm going to use this as a learning opportunity and obviously when you can win off of that, it's a great thing."

Seaholm was led by senior Alex Lonze, who scored 16 points, and senior Matt Fricke, who scored 14 points. Fricke made three triples in the final quarter, but it was enough to close the gap.

Milford's defense was strong all eve-

ning and was another area Schils excelled in for his team.

"I told our guys, on Senior Night, someone has to step up and make some things happen," Gilbert said. "(Schils) kind of took the bull by the horns and did that. I'm extremely proud of him. He does a lot of our dirty work, so for him to get some buckets definitely helps us out."

Gilbert has been the coach at Milford for seven years, but this was the first time his team had taken on Seaholm. The Mavericks had a bye on the league schedule and wanted to find another non conference game, which Seaholm was able to make happen. Despite the poor record, he said his team has been competitive all year and is continuing to get better.

"If you walked into our practices, you'd have no idea that we were 1-11," Gilbert said. "We work hard every day, we're highly competitive, our kids have had a great attitude all year long. I give credit to our seniors and their leadership for that."

"We've still got some season left, let's finish this second half strong. We've got some goals out there that we're trying to obtain. Our mindset has been great this season."

With only a few weeks left until the playoffs, Schils echoed his coach's sentiments.

"It definitely starts in practice," Schils said. "All of our guys tend to get in half an hour or 45 minutes before practice if we can. Our practices are always competitive, especially coming off big losses, that's what's huge for us. At the start of the season it was hard, but to see that we're coming back each and every day and pushing each other is nice. With the type of games we play and how close we are, we always know there's going to be a turnaround and I think tonight was a big one for us."

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

## Brother Rice

Continued from Page 1B

With 4:15 to go in the first quarter, Brantley took the court for the first time, seemingly ushering the new era of Brother Rice basketball with it, joining freshmen Henry Garrity, Xavier Thomas and Curtis Williams, along with junior forward Will Shannons.

This kind of lineup was something Brantley was used to this season, one in which he led by example for the young guys, dictating pace of play and intensity on the court.

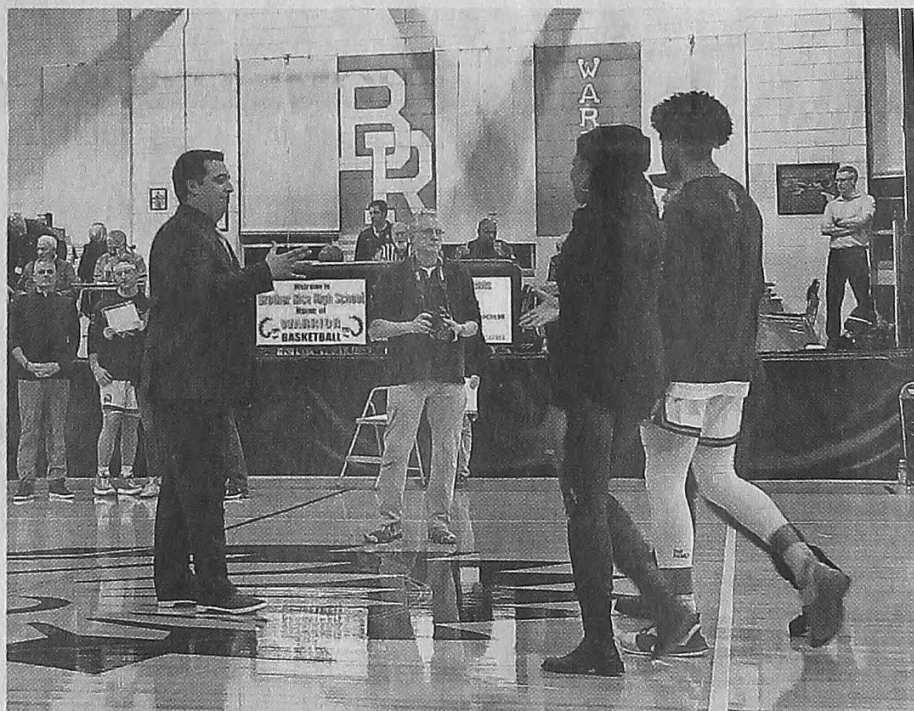
In his final regular season home game, facing the Warriors' main rival, Brantley did what he always does: compete, leading Brother Rice (10-5) to its 10th win of the season in a 72-62 victory against Catholic Central (5-9).

Brantley scored 11 points for the Warriors, with Garrity leading the way with 14.

Catholic Central senior forward Michael Jaracz led the Shamrocks with a career-high 20 points.

In his final regular season home game, Brantley's goal was to show everyone what they thought coming into the season was not possible.

"We play together," Brantley said. "A lot of people at the beginning of the year had said we were going to have problems with chemistry. I just wanted to prove that we play together and we get



Brother Rice head coach Rick Palmer greets senior guard Jon Brantley before his final regular season home game. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

the job done. This is Brother Rice basketball."

In the Warriors' second win this season against the Shamrocks, Brother Rice showed that. Five of the seven scorers for Brother Rice recorded double-digit point totals, distributing the ball to whoever was open.

While watching her son play, Andi

Brantley could not help but think back to the start of Jon's high school career.

"Basketball wasn't thought of as a first sport for most kids. It was a second sport, sometimes a third sport," Andi Brantley said. "It wasn't a first sport, it wasn't a team full of basketball players."

"Now it's a team full of basketball players."

## Basketball resurgence

Part of that is the trend Jon Brantley has set for the Brother Rice basketball program.

The senior became the first player since 1992 to earn a Division I basketball scholarship coming from Brother Rice.

With the expectation he has set, Brantley, leaving to play basketball for Lafayette University next season, thinks the Warriors will see players like him, or even better than him, seek out Palmer and Brother Rice.

"I just set a trend of 'You can be a star basketball player and come here,'" Brantley said. "Come to Brother Rice, under Rick Palmer, and it's going to get you where you want to be."

To Palmer, Brantley has just bought into the system that he has established in his two years with the program, and that he was a part of the changed perception of Brother Rice basketball, creating something special in the senior guard's final season.

"Jon's been here through the bad times where you don't win a league game all year," Palmer said. "To come around, sweep our rival, do some of the things we have done, we've got a lot more goals to accomplish, but I was pleased with how Senior Night ended."

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).

## Zebras

Continued from Page 1B

here, every day in the gym, competing for that," Mitchell said. "But if our mission and our goal is to help kids, then watching their maturity is their state championship."

For a team that lost its leading scorer to Illinois in former two-time All State point guard Jeanne Terry, Wayne Memorial has been focused on developing a younger core of players, headlined by juniors Alanna Micheaux and Henry Ford transfer Lachelle Austin.

With playing a significant role in the Zebras' runs over the past two years, Micheaux knows what it takes to return to the top of the KLAA and to the state semifinal. To her, it's not about individual talent, but team cohesion.

"We need to have a team that's going to try and get better together, not like trying to get better for themselves, but try to work hard as a team so we can become better as a team," Micheaux said.

This is something Wayne Memorial struggled with early on.

The Zebras lost their first three games of the season to Ann Arbor Huron, Detroit Renaissance and Bolingbrook. While his team came up short in each of those games, Mitchell said Wayne Memorial came into KLAA play "battle-tested," and pleased with the growth he saw from those three games.

Since then, that cohesion on the basketball court has paid off.

The Zebras have won 11 straight games — only two of which came with a single-digit deficit — allowing an average of 36.6 points per game to an opponent in each of its victories.

Throughout conference play, sopho-

more guard Jordan Wright, another holdover from last season's starting lineup, said the Zebras began to find an identity together on the basketball court.

"We started understanding each other more, understanding each other's game," Wright said. "There are a lot of new players, and we accustomed to each other better. More love built."

With a young roster, Mitchell said the best way to develop players is on the job, experiencing playing for Wayne Memorial, being viewed as a target with the success the Zebras have had over the past two seasons.

Over time, as his players consistently play with that on their shoulders, they develop the skills to match the expectation the outside world has set on the program.

"You come in here and see the banners, you see the Final Four banners, you see we haven't lost a KLAA game in three

years... you don't understand that magnitude again until you've had repetition with it," Mitchell said.

From the moment Austin transferred in to Wayne Memorial, she had to earn her spot. She had to convince Mitchell and her teammates that she could meet the standards that each player has in the Zebras' program.

While Austin has earned that trust — Mitchell described her as a player that can "do it all" — the junior has to use her skill to make her teammates better around her, a step each member of the roster is taking ahead of March.

"We have the talent and everything. We just have to put it all together," Austin said. "We'll get there."

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).



## HOCKEY PINCKNEY

# Smith never thought about leaving team

**Bill Khan**  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

CHELSEA — Anyone looking for an update on where Sebastian Smith stands in the state high school hockey scoring race could ask him.

It's possible that he might even know. More than likely, a family member will have up-to-date knowledge of the Pinckney senior's status among the top scorers in Michigan.

"My mom looks at it more than anybody, and my grandparents," Smith said. "But I look at it occasionally. I look at it when I'm sitting on MIHS and looking at teams we're playing and stuff."

The advent of the Michigan High School Hockey Hub in 2012-13 meant there are few secrets in what, for many years, was a niche sport garnering little statewide media coverage.

It has helped provide exposure for players and teams who might have otherwise starred in relative obscurity.

Johnny Hockey might be having a great season over in Grand Rapids, but how does it stack up with his peers around the state? One trip to the Hockey Hub provides the answer.

The most recent list on the site shows

that Smith regained the state goal-scoring lead with his four-goal performance Feb. 8 in a 9-0 victory over Ann Arbor Huron. Smith's final goal of the game was the 100th in 99 games over his four-year career, giving him 42 in 20 games this season.

With five regular-season games remaining for Pinckney, Smith leads Dearborn's Jason Crossland (39), Mount Pleasant's Andrew Hovey (38), Monroe St. Mary's Willie McGuire (37) and Riverview Gavin Holmes (37).

Smith has taken another step this season after a breakthrough junior season in which he earned second-team all-state in Division 3.

He scored 15 goals and had 27 points as a freshman, dropped to seven goals and 18 points as a sophomore, then exploded for 36 goals and 56 points as a junior. He's recorded 10 hat tricks this season.

"This summer, I got a lot faster and stronger," said Smith, who is fourth in the state with 61 points. "That was one of my weak links. Last year I played with Jacob Meade and Bennett Sheppard. They've really progressed this year and they're helping me out."

"I just drive the net a lot. It's a lot easier this year than last year to just drive to

the net and push kids around."

Like the other players at the top of the goal-scoring list, Smith is a dominant player on a team that isn't among the top teams in the state. The Pirates are 10-10, seeking their first winning season since the 2013-14 team went 15-13.

Smith could have transferred to a



**Sebastian Smith has scored 42 goals in 20 games this season, boosting his four-season total to 100.**

more successful program or played travel hockey, but he's never regretted one moment of playing for Pinckney.

"It's just a lot of fun," Smith said. "I was debating on it my freshman year, and I'm really glad I did it, because I never would've played tennis and golf. It lasts way too long, travel hockey. You travel way too much. It's nice to play with kids in your school and talk about hockey with kids in your school."

"It's been a pleasure. We weren't too good our first two years. We turned a corner last year. I think we're continuing to turn that corner. I think it's going to continue after I'm gone."

Perhaps, but the Pirates don't want to think about life without Smith in their lineup. The last time they won a game in which Smith didn't score was in the 2018-19 season opener. They've lost all 11 games in which he failed to score since then.

Smith followed in the footsteps of his brother, Connor, who starred for Pinckney from 2012-13 through 2015-16. The older Smith holds school records with 114 career goals and 54 goals in 2015-16, marks that Sebastian could eclipse with a strong finish.

"He played his whole life, too," Smith said. "When he was 4 or 5 and I was 1 or 2, I was out on our backyard rink, just crawling around, skating around."

Smith would like to continue playing hockey, and possibly tennis, after graduating from Pinckney. Smith was the Livingston County Player of the Year in tennis after going 23-9 and becoming only the second Pirate No. 1 singles player to win a match in the state tournament.

"I might go play juniors somewhere or go to college somewhere," he said. "I'm not really sure yet. I would love to do both if I could."

Contact Bill Khan at [wkhan@gannett.com](mailto:wkhan@gannett.com).

## Sommerfeldt

Continued from Page 1B

strengths as a goalie," Newton said. "He moves so well, he sees the puck when other guys wouldn't see it. He reacts to shots that I have no idea how a guy can react to those, it's great to see. I can't really find a weakness."

Newton was the acting head coach for the game after head coach Brad Levick was unable to attend due to illness.

"I felt pretty good, my defense cleared the net for me and it all worked out in the end," Sommerfeldt said. "I'm trying to keep them in there and get us to the state championship."

His strong season has put him squarely in the mix as one of the state's

best high school goalies. There is plenty of talent to go around, but it's hard to argue with his results.

"I think you have to put him in that conversation," Newton said. "I've played with some really good goalies, seen some really good goalies in my day, I've played on a team with (Michigan State goalie) John Lethemon when he was a senior, so I've seen what it takes to be a guy that's not only successful in high school but can be good at the next level, and he has everything it takes to do that."

Sommerfeldt acknowledged that there are a lot of hard-working goaltenders in the state, but he said he's right there with them and wants to keep it that way.

In order for him to earn his eighth win of the season, he needed a lift from his

offense, which he got early in the contest against the Black Hawks.

Farmington got a pair of first-period goals to take a 2-1 lead into the first intermission. The first goal was scored by junior Joe Daniels and assisted by senior Brian Burgol and senior Kyle Jackson. The second goal came from junior Gino D'Ascenzo.

Bloomfield Hills only goal of the game came on a power play late in the period, with sophomore Drew Speaks firing it past Sommerfeldt with assists by sophomore Kyle Lucia and junior Lucas Solomon.

"Quick starts are everything," Newton said. "That's something we really emphasize with the guys, we have to come out and compete. We have to match their intensity and rise above that, tonight we did that."

In the second period, Daniels added his second goal of the game, with an assist by Burgol. In the game's final seconds, Burgol scored the game's final goal on an empty net to finish the night with three points.

"I'm really impressed with our leadership," Newton said. "That comes from our juniors and seniors, every kid that we've asked to step up has responded and that's huge for us. Coming down the stretch with a two goal lead, we really have to hold that and our leaders did that, including Bryn, who was fantastic between the pipes."

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at [avaiilienc@hometownlife.com](mailto:avaiilienc@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).

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## GYMNASTICS

# Farmington United takes first place at invitational

Andrew Vaillencourt  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The defending state champions haven't skipped a beat.

Farmington United came from behind to win the Jeanne Caruss Invitational, scoring 143.375. That was enough to top runner-up Fowlerville and third place Huron Valley, which scored 141.325 and 140.825, respectively.

The squad started on bars and had high scores from Elena Vargo (9.2), Allie Schultz (9.0) and Zoe Rasico (8.75). However, they traveled to beam and hit their season low team score of the year.

"We looked scared and that is not the way to compete beam," Farmington coach Jeff Dwyer said.

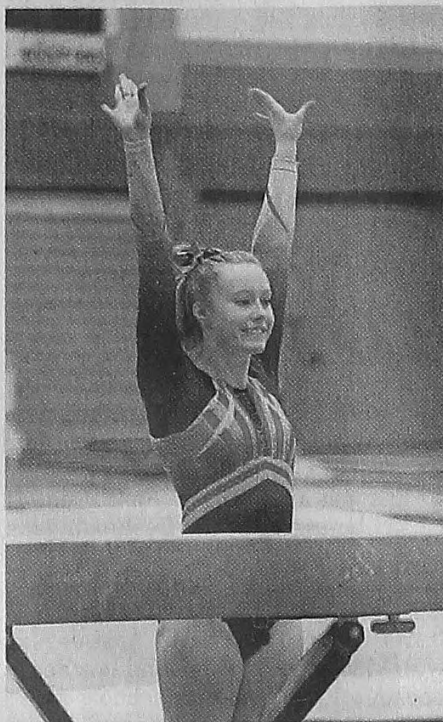
Dwyer added that at intermission the team looked down as they knew they bombed beam, an event where meets are usually decided.

"As they were warming up their tumbling at intermission we had no zest," Dwyer said. "We talked about it at the break. I wanted to see how they responded as I pointed out we were letting beam results affect their energy."

Farmington then took first place as a team on floor, with high scores from Vargo (9.85), Kamini Playle (9.225) and Schultz (9.15). Heading into vault, Farmington was 1.5 points behind Fowler-ville United and 0.5 behind Livonia Blue.

Dwyer's team again took first place overall on vault with huge scores from Vargo (9.8) and Sydney Schultz (9.5).

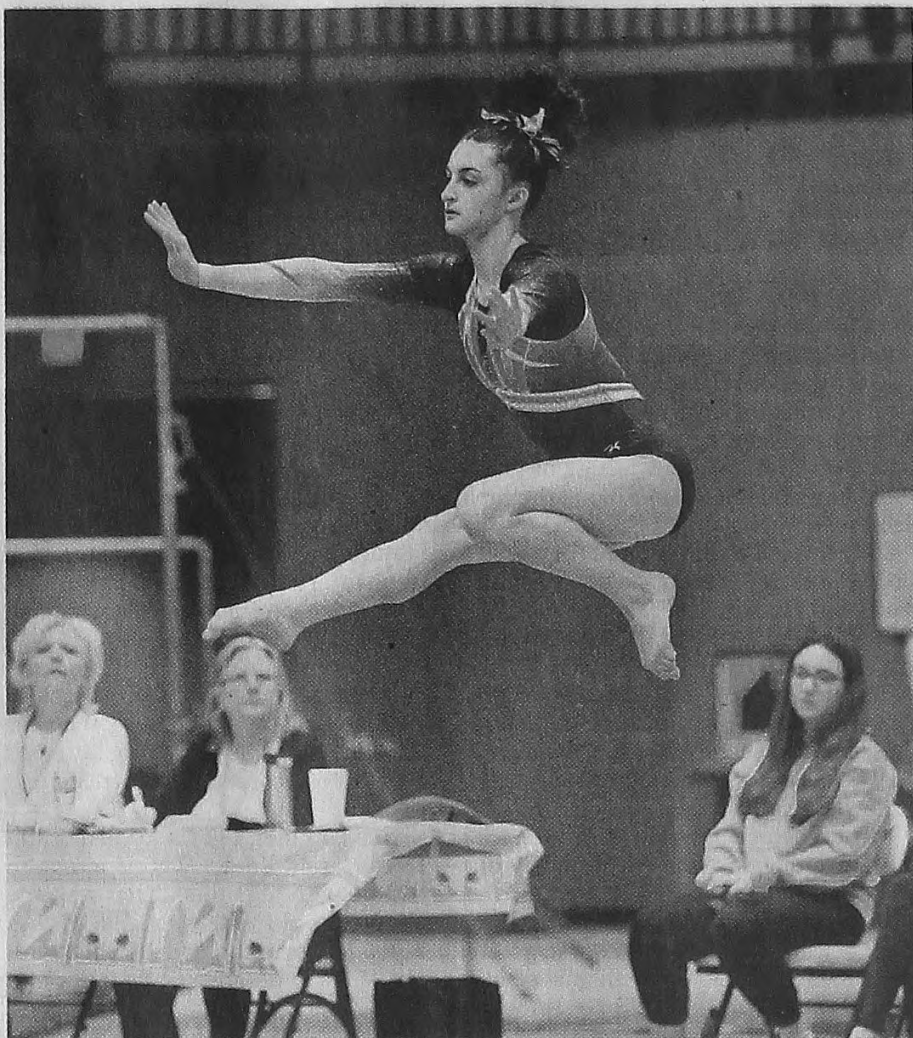
"We had regained our energy on these



Farmington gymnast Zoe Rasico poses after finishing an event.

two last events and it showed," Dwyer said. "I was really happy with how we responded after being down. It gives the team confidence heading forward."

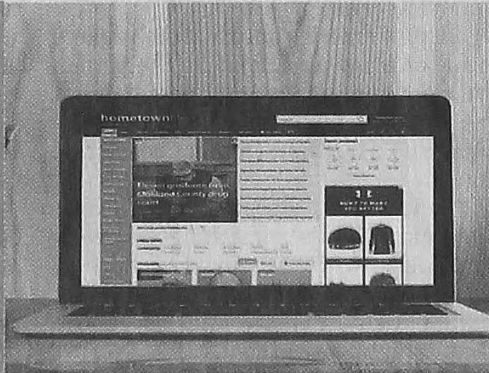
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Farmington gymnast Allie Schultz helped lead her team to first place at the Jeanne Caruss Invitational. PHOTOS BY ROGER PLAYLE

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## CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TESTING OF VOTING EQUIPMENT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020, 6:30 P.M.

Plymouth Cultural Center  
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To the qualified electors of the City of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Public Accuracy Test for the optical scan voting equipment that will be used in all precincts in the City of Plymouth for the PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION to be held on TUESDAY, March 10, 2020, is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer programming used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of Michigan election law. Election Source from Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been contracted by the City of Plymouth to conduct the testing to assure the equipment has been programmed appropriately. This is an open testing session and any interested person is encouraged to attend.

If there are any questions, please direct them to the City Clerk's office at 734-453-1234, ext. 234, 225 or 203. The Plymouth Cultural Center is in compliance with the American Disabilities Act and is handicapped accessible.

Maureen A. Brodie, City Clerk  
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### How to make work friends when working remotely

 Eric Titner  
[thejobnetwork.com](http://thejobnetwork.com)

The modern work world has seen tons of changes sweep across industries in recent years, largely led by seismic shifts in technological innovation that have completely revolutionized how many of us handle our jobs. There's simply no denying it: today's workplace is a brave new world. How we work and what we're able to accomplish during any given day has been undergoing a radical transformation in recent years and will likely continue to evolve – those of us who choose to stay on top of all the latest developments and ride the wave of change will be best positioned for success; those who fail to do so may be left behind.

Even where we're able to work has changed. Where once we were all required to commute each day, back and forth, to a communal workplace in order to do our jobs effectively, this is no longer a hard and fast rule. Many companies have begun offering remote work options, and today's employees are able to handle their work responsibilities from the comfort of their homes, from a coffee shop, on a train, or wherever they find themselves in the world at any given moment. For many of us, all we need is a computer and a decent Internet connection in order to get things done at work. These days, there's an app for virtually every task, from project management to task organization and reporting, to video conferencing, to sales aggregation, and much more – all which are making the notion of a "brick and mortar" office space increasingly obsolete.

Global Workplace Analytics recently reported that telecommuters represent the fastest-growing segment of the em-



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ployee population, and it's really no surprise.

Companies benefit from this arrangement by reducing overhead costs and having an engaged and motivated workforce who can channel time wasted on commuting into their work. Reduced geographic requirements for employees also open up opportunities for hiring talented individuals from a larger and more diverse pool. Then, employees get to save the time and costs associated with commuting into work each day and enjoy increased freedom and flexibility. In many ways, it's a win-win situation.

That said, there are some potential pitfalls to working remotely. For some, it can be an isolating experience. When working remotely, connecting in meaningful ways to colleagues becomes more of a challenge, and making work friends and maintaining these key relationships is harder and takes more work. This can have a real and lasting impact on employees' sense of connection to

the companies that employ them, as well as their professional happiness and well-being. That said, there are ways to make friends when working remotely. Consider the following strategies to help you pull it off successfully.

#### Come in the office from time to time if you can

Many companies offer telecommuting as an option, but still, provide a dedicated workplace to come into should employees choose to do so – and seriously consider doing so! Dividing your workweek between time in the office and time at home will help you get valuable face time with your coworkers, and help you strengthen and maintain those important workplace friendships.

#### Get out of the house

Working remotely doesn't have to mean working from home – and work

friends don't necessarily have to be people you work with. There's a whole universe of remote workers who find public places to get things done. You'll likely run into remote workers in places as wide-ranging as libraries, coffee shops, restaurants, and other public venues with free Wi-Fi; consider working from one of these spaces and try talking to your fellow telecommuters. Who knows – you may have lots of things in common and find yourself making new work friends in no time!

#### Make a better effort

Just because it gets harder to make work friends as a telecommuter doesn't mean it's impossible. If you'd like to make and keep work friends when working remotely, you're going to have to put yourself out there. Use social networks and video conferencing tools to keep in touch on a regular basis. Keep each other up to date on how things are going by using available messaging resources (email, Hangouts, Slack, etc.). Organize after-work events and activities with colleagues so you can see each other more often. Work friendships are just like other types of friendships – they require effort on your part, so don't forget to nurture these relationships.

Telecommuting may open up a world of new work options for you, but you don't have to blindly accept the potential loneliness that some people experience when working remotely. Use the strategies and advice presented here to ensure that your work friendships are as satisfying as your work. Good luck!

*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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65 Faced  
66 Phileas Fogg creator Jules  
68 Like a slob's bed  
69 Blowtorch the exterior of your launch vehicle?  
74 Wind section player  
75 Quaint oath  
76 Just a — (somewhat)  
77 Hissing snake sound  
78 Ice-skating food fish?  
80 Mexican menu items  
84 Blast maker  
85 "Mammal" has three  
86 "Thank you, Henri"
- 87 Opéra part  
91 PR concern  
94 Farmer's motto?  
97 Risen from sleep  
100 Seemingly that rarely has home games  
101 Park oneself  
102 Dwelling: Abbr.  
103 Tirades about the trials of being a mother?  
109 Not switched off  
111 Ace  
112 Art style  
113 Sofa  
115 Spanish for "queen"  
116 Wax theatrical  
118 Actor Moranis playing a garbage sweeper?  
121 12-inch stick  
122 Small toiletry case  
123 Pay the penalty  
124 First-aid plant  
125 Fencing blades  
126 Part of NYPD: Abbr.  
127 Tightly wound

- 128 Give away temporarily

## DOWN

- 1 Squid dish  
2 Expanse  
3 Sports squad that rarely has home games  
4 Vivarin rival  
5 Fourth mo.  
6 Belt holder  
7 Longtime con  
8 Split evenly  
9 Lucy's TV pal  
10 32nd pres.  
11 Actress  
12 Disguised, for short  
13 Alternatives to Pepsis  
14 Tapioca-yielding tree  
15 Hoppy drink  
16 1972-77 Broadway musical  
17 Explanation  
18 Queued up  
24 Tennyson's "— Arden"  
25 More elusive  
30 Astron. distance  
33 Little pouch  
35 Like the vbs. "eat" and "lie"  
36 Tiny dog
- 39 Get bested by  
43 TV network north of the USA  
44 Ty-D- — (bathroom brand)  
45 Slo- — (fuse type)  
46 Riga native  
47 Brawl  
48 Athena's bird  
51 Sam once in the Senate  
52 Trees yielding wood for ships  
53 Mythical hell  
54 Dramatist Clifford  
56 Collect  
57 Conductor Zubin —  
58 Cake icer  
59 Countryish  
60 Cell terminal  
61 Yukon maker  
62 Cut short  
63 Harp on gloatingly  
64 Anterior  
67 Cut short  
70 Suffix with neat or peace  
71 "— tell ya!"  
72 Problems for vain types  
73 Tide targets  
79 Shin's place
- 81 Noted coach Parseghian  
82 Bygone AT&T rival  
83 Slump  
86 Home of Monte Carlo  
88 Vehicle ownership certificate  
89 Get drunk  
90 Trapped  
91 34th prez  
92 Corporate marriages  
93 Avonlea girl  
94 Hide — hair  
95 It's nothing  
96 Comical Cheri  
97 Current unit  
98 Pre-race stretch, say  
99 "King Ralph" actor Peter  
100 Ocular cleansing receptacle  
104 One way to mark debits  
105 Uninspired  
106 Like skim milk  
107 Mozart's "Così fan —"  
108 "Danke —"  
110 Prenatal  
114 Egg layers  
117 Golf gadget  
119 Model-making set  
120 "Annabel —"

## SUDOKU

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

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!

## BREAKFAST WORD SEARCH

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

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

## WORDS

BAGELS  
BREAKFAST  
BUTTER  
CEREAL  
COFFEE  
CROISSANT  
EGGS  
HASH BROWNS  
HEARTY  
HOT  
HUNGRY  
JAM  
JUICE  
MEAL  
MORNING  
MUFFINS  
OATMEAL  
OVER-EASY  
PANCAKES  
SAUSAGE  
SAVOR  
TEA  
TOAST  
WAFFLES

## ANSWER KEY

ONE	THREE	SEVEN	TWO	FOUR	SIX	EIGHT	NINE	FIVE
ONE	THREE	SEVEN	TWO	FOUR	SIX	EIGHT	NINE	FIVE
ONE	THREE	SEVEN	TWO	FOUR	SIX	EIGHT	NINE	FIVE
ONE	THREE	SEVEN	TWO	FOUR	SIX	EIGHT	NINE	FIVE
ONE	THREE	SEVEN	TWO	FOUR	SIX	EIGHT	NINE	FIVE
ONE	THREE	SEVEN	TWO	FOUR	SIX	EIGHT	NINE	FIVE
ONE	THREE	SEVEN	TWO	FOUR	SIX	EIGHT	NINE	FIVE
ONE	THREE	SEVEN	TWO	FOUR	SIX	EIGHT	NINE	FIVE
ONE	THREE	SEVEN	TWO	FOUR	SIX	EIGHT	NINE	FIVE

9	8	9	6	7	1	8	2
1	7	8	2	9	8	7	9
6	2	7	9	1	8	7	9
7	6	2	9	8	9	8	1
8	8	9	7	6	1	9	2
2	1	6	8	7	9	7	9
8	9	8	7	2	9	6	2
9	2	7	1	9	6	2	8

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

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