

WWCS plans superintendent interviews

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools board of education's decision on the district's next leader is a critically important one.

After a tumultuous summer of inves-

tigating and then navigating a lawsuit related to former superintendent Shelley Holt, the district is trying turn the page.

After starting the process of finding a new superintendent in November, the district picked four candidates to interview for the job.

The four candidates all currently work in the metro Detroit area, something the school board said it wanted.

Before coming to Wayne-Westland, Holt had been working in California.

Two candidates each are scheduled to be interviewed Monday and Tuesday.

The interviews will be open to the public and will be conducted in the district's administration building at 36745 Marquette.

Here's what to know about the candidates:

See **INTERVIEWS**, Page 4A



Sara Sarafa, second from right, stands with her family and guides at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. COURTESY OF SARA SARAFI

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro changed Livonia woman's life

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At the end of the last school year, Livonia resident Sara Sarafa wasn't sure she wanted to be a teacher anymore. But her brother's idea to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, a dormant volcano in Tanzania, with their spouses changed her perspective.

"This was the most humbling experience ever," Sarafa said. "It just really puts your life into perspective, just seeing the world laid out in front of you."

Kilimanjaro, at 19,341 feet above sea level, is the world's tallest freestanding mountain and is the equivalent to just more than 13 Empire State Buildings stacked one on top of the other.

Sarafa said the trip, which the group

took last July, was a relatively snappy decision and she didn't do much preparing beforehand.

"I just went not having been anywhere before and I thought chances were I was going to get altitude sickness and would have to be flown back down," she said. "But it was fine."

See **CLIMBING**, Page 3A

Canton man receives \$22K prize from GoPro

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Canton resident Andy Gryczan was one of just 45 people out of approximately 42,000 entries from around the world to earn a share of \$1 million in a recent GoPro Hero 8 video contest, but he's not quitting his day job.

And it's easy to understand why.

After proving he's way more than proficient while using the action-fueled videotaping technology in his free time, Gryczan's 9-to-5 calling is as a fine-tuning, speed-enhancing engineer for Plymouth's Ilmor Engineering, a firm hired by IndyCar and NASCAR racing teams, among others, to make their cars run as swiftly as possible.

An adrenaline junkie, Gryczan submitted a breathtaking 69-second clip of him snowboarding down a tree-lined mountain near Nelson, British Columbia, as his entry to the GoPro Million Dollar Challenge.

"GoPro created the contest to

See **VIDEO**, Page 4A

Federal funds will kickstart road projects

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

An Oakland County committee named road projects that will receive major federal funding grants in 2023, including projects in Novi and Farmington Hills.

Plans for Taft Road in Novi from 10 Mile to the Northville border call for a major resurfacing project after being selected for \$910,000 in federal funding, said Craig Bryson, a spokesman for the Road Commission for Oakland County.

"It's a pretty big deal, but we're not adding capacity, we're simply replacing the surface there," Bryson said. "To add capacity, they need a lot more dollars. (The desire to widen the road) is a major concern but requires a lot more dollars. When you widen a road, we don't own the right of way and have to

See **PROJECTS**, Page 4A

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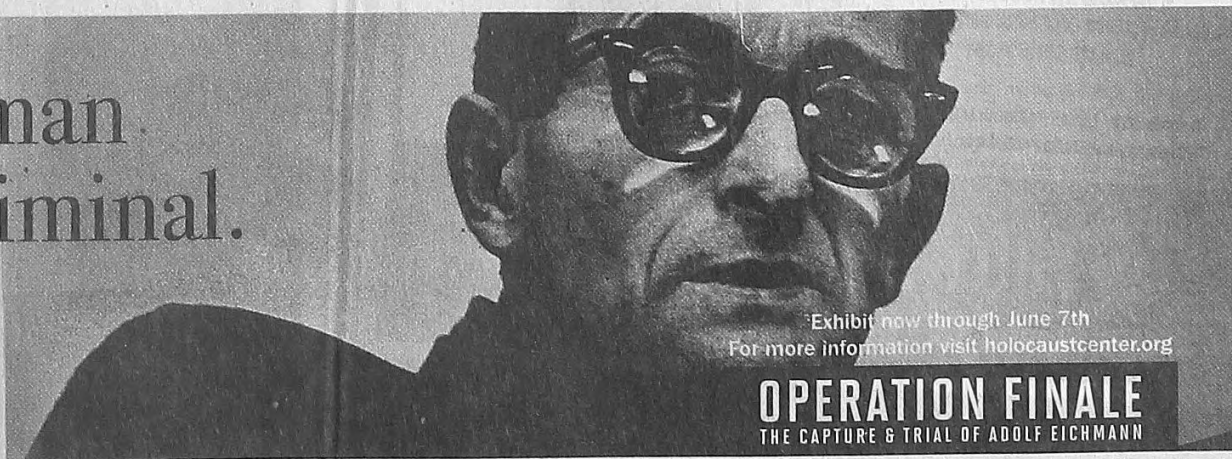


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Police seeking 2 suspects in home invasion

Susan Vela HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills police are seeking the public's assistance regarding two men who broke into a Pebble Court home earlier this month.

They said in a report the men – one white, one black and both in their 20s – broke into the home in a subdivision southeast of the Orchard Lake and Eleven Mile roads intersection around 6 p.m. Feb. 21.

Officers responded to an alarm and arrived to find an unsecured door.

Security camera footage showed the men inside the home prior to their arrival. The black man was wearing a black shirt with orange script.

Patrols have increased in the area, and an investigation continues.

Anyone who recognizes these men should call Farmington Hills police, 248-871-2610.

No other information was available. Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.



Farmington Hills police need help identifying this man in connection to home invasion investigation. COURTESY OF FARMINGTON HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Livonia sets reopening date for Kirksey Rec Center pool

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livonia's Kirksey Recreation Center leisure pool finally has a reopening date after months of struggles following its summer renovation.

The city announced Feb. 25 that the pool will reopen 5:30 a.m. Monday. The pool has been closed to the public since Jan. 6.

After leaks in the new pool liner continued to be a problem following a \$500,000 renovation last summer,

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Ted Davis got approval from city council Feb. 10 to replace the liner with marcite.

The city will give its members "Rec Bucks" worth three months of membership fees to compensate them for the lost time and money.

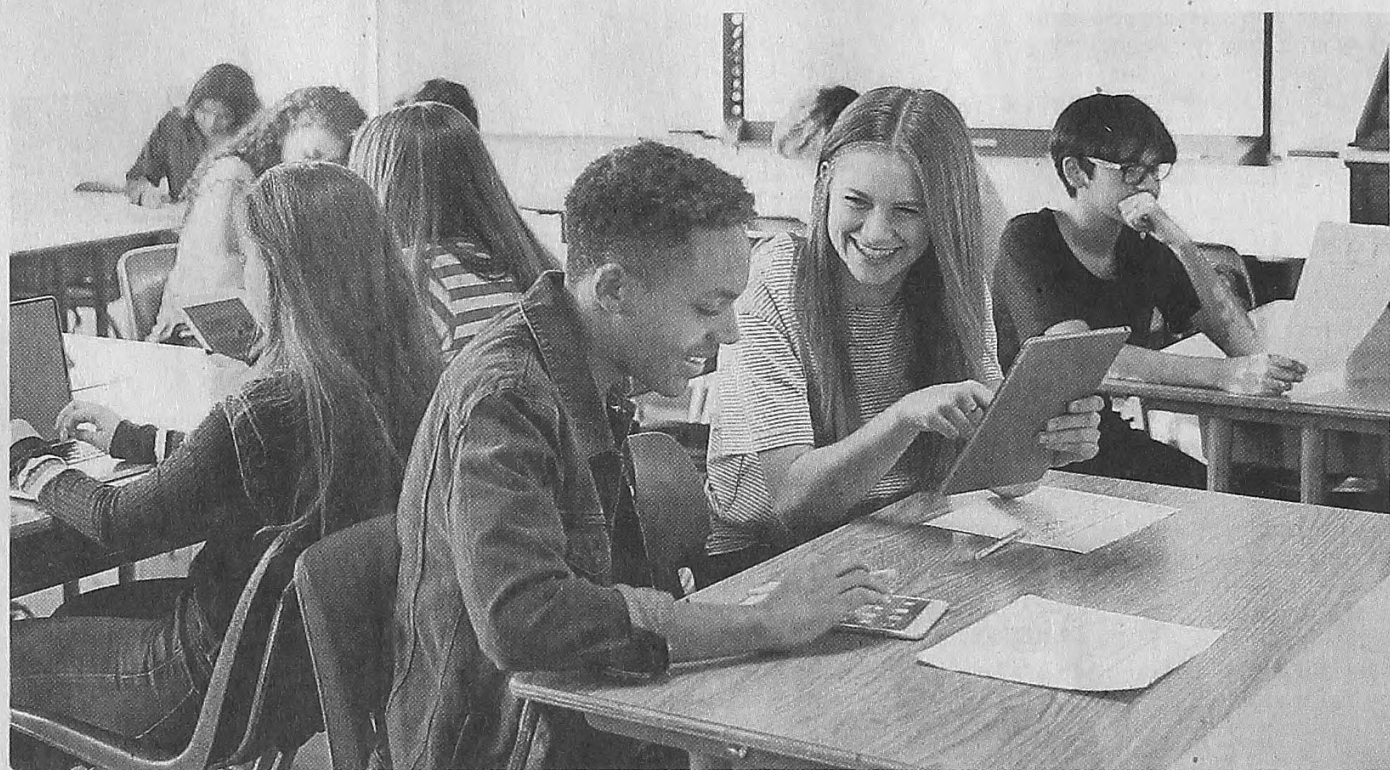
Rec Bucks can be used to pay membership fees, take classes, bring in guests and more.

City officials said they are working to recover the costs Livonia incurred for repairs against RenoSys Corporation, which installed the failed liner and was

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

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

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



Farmington Public Schools is asking voters to support a bond that, if passed, would fund roof and boiler replacements.

GETTY IMAGES

Farmington Public Schools asks voters to support \$98 million bond

Shelby Tankersley HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

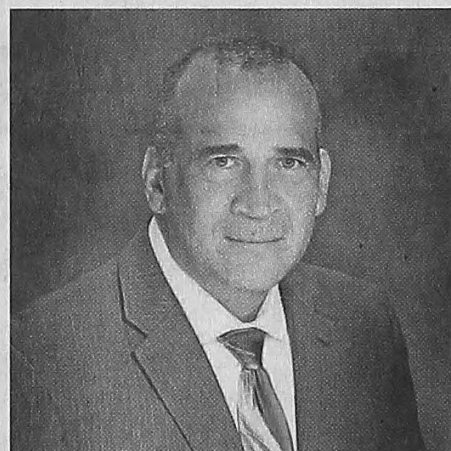
In just a few weeks, voters will head to the polls. In Farmington and Farmington Hills, they will decide on a new bond proposal request by Farmington Public Schools.

The \$98 million bond, if passed, would fund projects such as roof and boiler replacements.

"Everything that we're asking for, like boilers and chillers and roofs and parking lots, were 10 years old, now they're 20-plus years old," said Joe Riebe, Farmington Public Schools' director of facility management. "So we're taking a proactive approach and trying to replace these items before they break."

The proposal cites several current needs throughout the district: remodeling buildings for safety and security, improving building features like roofing and classroom furnishing, improving athletic facilities and playgrounds, and purchasing new school buses as well as technology upgrades.

Superintendent Robert Herrera said the bond would go strictly toward infrastructure needs like parking lots and classroom computers.



Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Robert Herrera said if the bond doesn't pass, money for infrastructure repairs and maintenance would have to come from funding meant for the classrooms.

COURTESY OF FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"The state basically pays for teachers, the teaching and learning environment and basic operational things like paying the electric bill and stuff like that," he said. "But it doesn't pay for infrastructure."

This bond would levy 0.9 mills, or

\$0.90 of every \$1,000 taxable value. If passed, the bond would be a decreasing bond, meaning that the rate collected would go down as property values rise.

Herrera and Riebe said passage of the tax increase would allow the district to take a more "proactive" approach to fixing facilities problems than the "reactive" stance it has taken in the past.

"If the bond doesn't go through and a boiler goes down, now we have to take those operational dollars and fix an infrastructure problem, which means we're pulling money out of the classrooms," Herrera said. "We want to protect all of the money that's going to the classroom."

Jennifer Kaminski, assistant superintendent of business services, also said the bond is intended to keep dollars in the general fund.

"I think this bond allows us to keep our general fund dollars in the classroom and that's really our focus," she said.

This bond follows the district's last request in 2015, which Riebe said was intended to last about five years.

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

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Climbing

Continued from Page 1A

"I mean it was scary at points, but I did make it."

In the months leading up to the trip, Sarafa counted on stair-climbing machines to help her get ready.

"I went and got a gym membership and I went on the stair climber," she said. "That's all I did. And like I put on a weighted backpack and hiking boots and went in all of my gear to the gym. That's all I did for training."

Though she did panic a little beforehand, Sarafa said the journey was mostly smooth. Along the way, meditation and writing in a journal helped her stay of sound mind.

She also didn't go with terribly high expectations. No matter who you are, the intense altitude sickness people experience makes for a 50 percent chance of actually getting to the top.

"I just tried to tell myself that no matter what happens, the journey itself is going to be amazing," Sarafa said.

The climb to the top got increasingly difficult. The path, with stretchers along the way, got steeper, and more people experienced different forms of altitude sickness.

People actually hike the last eight hours of the climb under the cover of night so they can't comprehend how steep it really is, she said.

Sarafa remembers not being able to tell the difference between the group in front of hers and the stars in the sky.

"You have to go at night because, they said, otherwise it would be too defeating," she said. "It's so vertical and it takes so long to get there that they say they intentionally have you go at nighttime because otherwise nobody would be able to make it."

When they finally made it to the top around 8 a.m., Sarafa remembers feeling overwhelmed.

"I mean it was just like, 'Holy s**t. I made it,'" she said.

The emotions hit more intensely when they made it to the bottom of the mountain and realized what they had accomplished. Sarafa said she remains grateful to the required guides and porters, who do everything from lead the way to prepare everyone's food.

"The people are so nice," she said. "Our guides were awesome. We spent



Livonia resident Sara Sarafa poses for a photo during her trip to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. COURTESY OF DAVID STRAILY

like 12 hours a day just talking about life and the differences between there and here. The porters who carry all of your stuff for you on their heads were awesome."

In talking with her guides, Sarafa rekindled her love of education from seeing how much people admired her job.

"They knew I was a teacher and they wanted to talk all about education and how to get the best for their children," she said. "They said education is the key to all the world's issues. And at this point, I wanted to quit teaching."

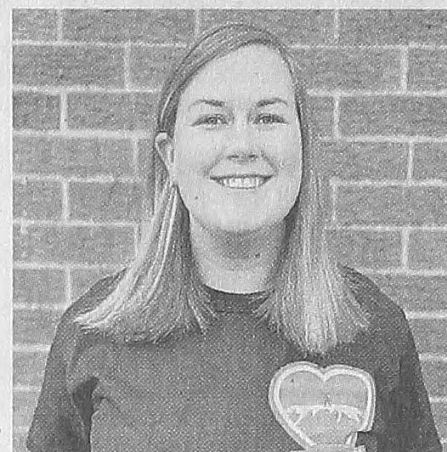
Now, her kindergarten classroom at Haigh Elementary in Dearborn is adventure-themed and she encourages her kids to climb the mountains in their own lives.

"They write these crazy stories about how they're going to go out and explore the world," Sarafa said. "One of them told me they had a dream about climbing a volcano next to me. It's really cute, but it's sweet to see that it actually does inspire them."

On the side, Sarafa and her family started Kopa Tours, a travel agency-like business that sets up people for tours with Tanzanian guides. Kopa works with Zara Tours, which Sarafa and her family used for their trip, with the hope of getting Zara more western clients.

"I thought Kilimanjaro was this super crazy inaccessible thing, and it's not," she said. "Really anyone can truly do it."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.



Sarafa said she meditated and kept a journal to remain calm during her adventure. COURTESY OF SARA SARAFIA



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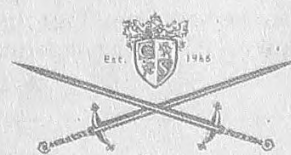
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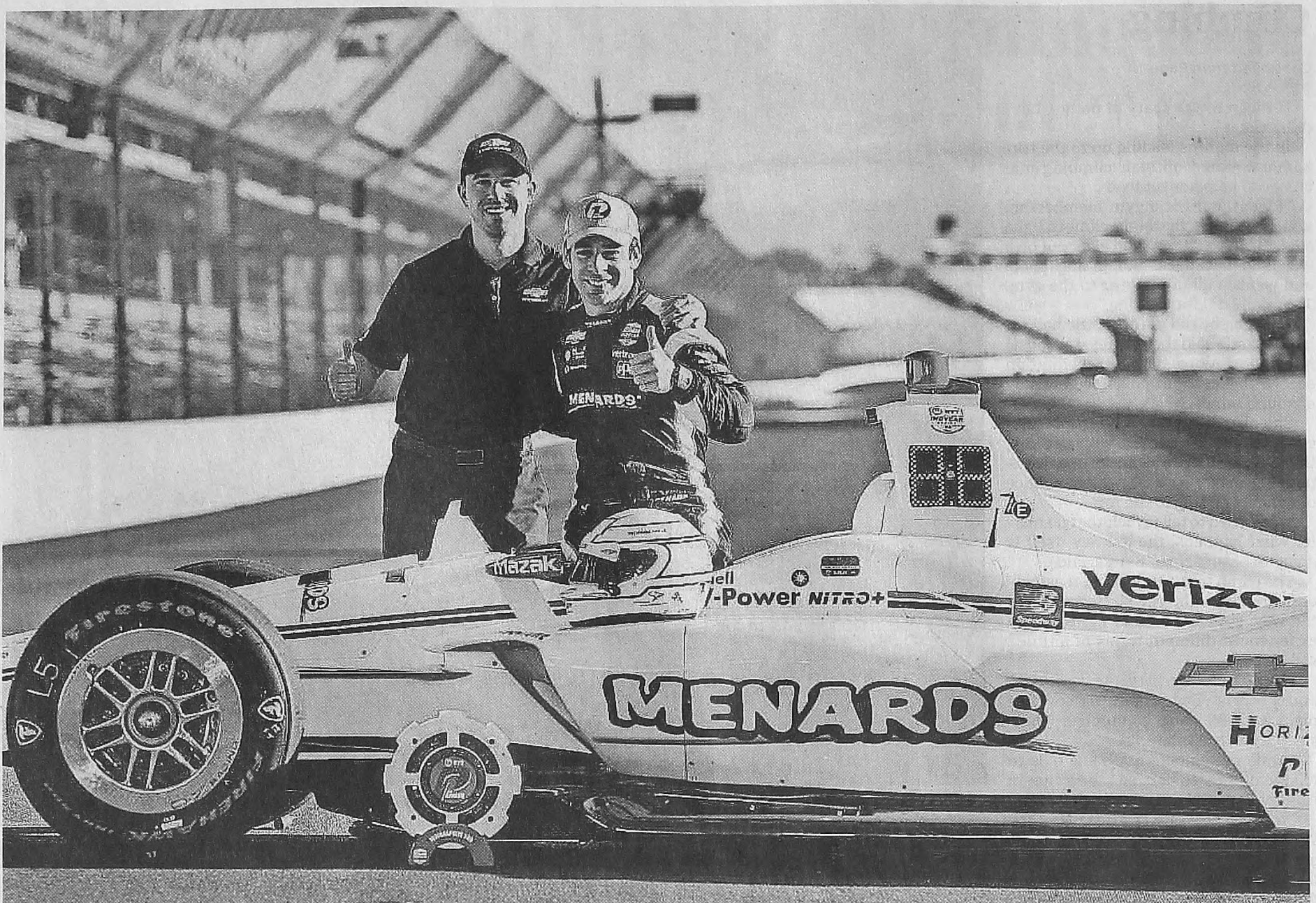
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Andy Gryczan, left, stands with 2019 Indianapolis pole winner Simon Pagenaud, whose car Gryczan made sure was running at its optimal potential.

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Video

Continued from Page 1A

encourage people to film their best video clips with the newest GoPro cameras and submit them for consideration to include in a highlight video," Gryczan explained. "Each person selected receives an equal share of \$1 million, which came to \$22,222.22 per winner."

GoPro edited together highlights of varying lengths from each of the winners' submissions to come up with a two-minute video it will feature in social media marketing.

Gryczan's highlight appears at roughly the 30-second mark in the video.

"In my case, I found out shortly after the official video premiere (Jan. 29) that one of my snowboarding clips was selected," he said. "Since then, I have been connecting with GoPro employees and the other creators around the world, congratulating each other on the respective wins."

"Obviously, winning the money was nice, but I think, at least initially, I got as big of a rush out of just knowing my highlight would be included in the video."

GoPro's second Million Dollar Challenge video is a crowd-sourced initiative to recognize and reward HERO8 Black and MAX users for capturing what GoPro refers to internally as "bangers" – videos filled with unique perspectives, spectacular adventures and captivating moments – from around the world.

Jaw-dropping, indeed

Traditionally, the product-focused video was produced by GoPro's internal media team to ensure a continuous stream of jaw-dropping shots.

But for the second year in a row, GoPro put its trust in the hands of its community.

"I mounted the camera to the front of my (snowboarding) helmet so that the angle could capture the front of my board and what was ahead of me," Gryczan said. "Once I edited the video and sent it in, I just sat back and waited, knowing I had done everything I could."

"The day the winners were revealed, I crossed my fingers, but didn't get my hopes up too high before the 9 a.m. release time."

Gryczan was at work at his Plymouth office when an avalanche of congratulatory emails started flooding his inbox and happy, emoji-filled messages lit up

"I mounted the camera to the front of my (snowboarding) helmet so that the angle could capture the front of my board and what was ahead of me."

Andy Gryczan

Describing how he filmed the winning GoPro video

his cell phone.

"I thought it was kind of cool that mine was the only snowboarding highlight on the video," Gryczan said.

Did the judges select the best clip of his entry to put into the final product?

"I feel they did," Gryczan said. "In fact, I can remember the run (down the hill) like it was yesterday, and the part they chose was when I was going down a lot of fresh snow with some tight trees on either side of me."

"I think it kind of nails what they were trying to get out of the contest."

Not surprisingly, Gryczan said he plans to invest at least a portion of his winnings into more videotaping equipment.

Hooked on video

In addition to using GoPro, the Grandville native enjoys producing captivating videos with a drone he uses during vacations and work-related trips.

"For instance, when I was in San Francisco, I got some pretty cool footage of the Golden Gate Bridge," he said. "And I put together a video that I put together from the drone footage of Belle Isle."

Gryczan's IndyCar focus is on making the Chevrolet-sponsored cars run as fast as possible. He travels to all of the IndyCar events and actually assists in calibrating the engines during the races.

"I love my job," he said. "When I invite my friends and family to the races, I try to make sure they experience some of the glamorous side of the sport."

Unfortunately, Gryczan revealed, he doesn't get to sit in the cockpits of the cars he works on – at least while they're moving.

"When I attended Michigan State, I was in a program in which we got to operate these mini-race cars that got up to about 80 or 90 (miles per hour)," he said. "After doing that, I can only imagine what it would be like to drive one going over 200."

ewaright@hometownlife.com

Interviews

Continued from Page 1A

Shaun Black

Black is currently the assistant superintendent of schools for Detroit Public Schools.

He was also recently named a candidate in the Lansing School District's superintendent search.

In the past, Black was tapped to be an appointee on the Farmington Public Schools board of education.

Over the course of his career, he has been a teacher, coach, assistant principal,

principal and assistant superintendent.

Black will be interviewed at 6 p.m. March 3.

Mary Ann Cyr

Cyr is the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the Taylor School District.

Professionally, she's been in education for 22 years and has been a teacher, professor, assistant principal and principal.

In 2016, Cyr was a finalist to become Taylor's superintendent and was in the running to be the Crestwood School District superintendent last year.

Cyr will be interviewed at 7:40 p.m. March 3.

John Dignan

Right now, Dignan is the director of post-secondary options and community partnerships for Southfield Public Schools.

Back in 2017, Dignan was one of three finalists for the Harper Woods district's superintendent job.

Throughout his career he's been a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal. He has never held an assistant superintendent job.

Dignan will be interviewed at 6 p.m. March 2.

Keith McDonald

McDonald works nearby in Livonia as the school district's director of human resources.

He has been in Livonia for his entire professional career as a teacher, principal and assistant principal. He has never held an assistant superintendent job.

This is McDonald's first time being named a finalist in a superintendent search.

McDonald will be interviewed at 7:40 p.m. March 2.

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

Projects

Continued from Page 1A

purchase it, and that's extremely expensive."

In neighboring Wixom, \$2.8 million in federal funding will allow for a major resurfacing of Grand River between Napier and Wixom roads.

In Farmington Hills, two major resurfacing projects are planned for 2023: 14 Mile Road between Drake and Farmington with \$11 million in grant funding and Farmington Road between 12 and 13 mile roads with \$1.4 million in funding.

The Federal Aid Committee uses a point system to decide how the approximately \$18.5 million in federal funding road dollars allocated to the county annually are spent.

The committee, which has representatives from each municipality in the county, as well as SMART and MDOT, met earlier this month in Novi to select projects based on the point system.

They also made some changes to an approved list of projects for 2020 and 2021.

In Farmington Hills, a project that will widen Orchard Lake Road from 13 Mile to 14 Mile will be done in 2021 in-

stead of this year. That project includes creating a roundabout and boulevard for the road just south of 14 Mile Road.

Bryson added that the road commission decided to delay a \$1.5 million resurfacing of Cranbrook Road between 14 Mile and Maple roads until next year in order to lessen traffic issues from Maple Road construction planned for this year by the City of Birmingham.

Projects in Oakland County that will proceed as planned for 2020 are the paving of Dixboro Road from 8 to 9 Mile in Lyon Township, a \$3.5 million project; and a \$2 million project on preventive maintenance for the Grand River bridge over the CSX railroad in Novi.

Still in the conceptual stage with discussions between the RCOC, Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township officials is the possibility of installing a roundabout at the Lahser Road and Hickory Grove intersection.

"There is a chance it could be built this year if we decide to go that way," Bryson said. "We are certainly considering it ..."

"About 16,000 vehicles per day travel through that intersection, and it would be safer and less congestion if we put a roundabout through."

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

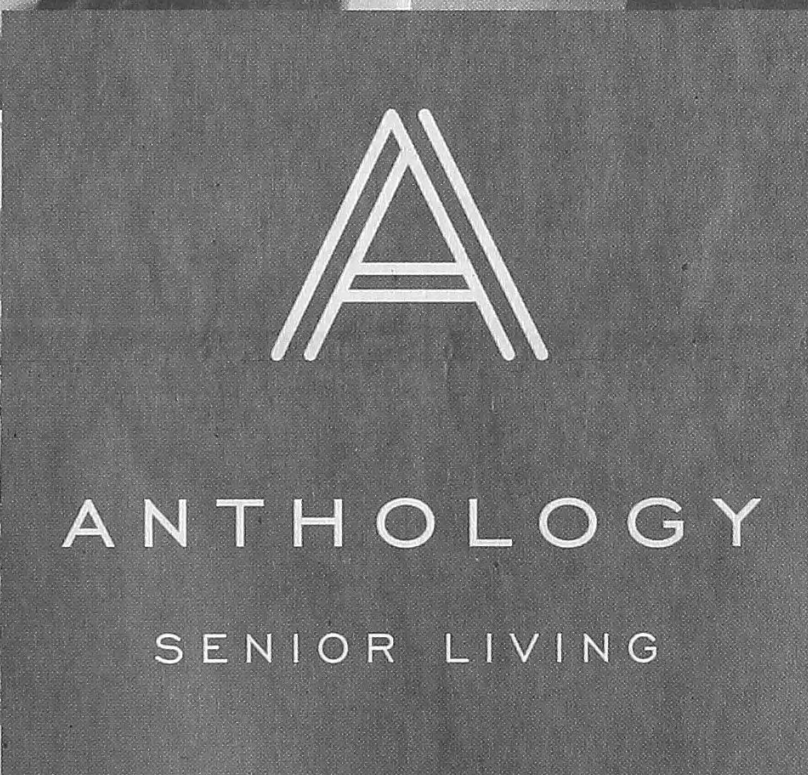
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Hometown Life reporters David Veselenak, left, and Colin Gay review Wendy's Breakfast Baconator, part of the Ohio-based fast-food chain's new breakfast menu. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Staffers review Wendy's new breakfast menu

David Veselenak and Colin Gay
HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Soon the days of driving by a dark Wendy's restaurant in the morning will be over.

The Ohio-based fast food chain is prepping its kitchens for a nationwide breakfast menu roll-out, which begins Monday, though it appears several restaurants have already begun serving it across metro Detroit. It will join fast-food behemoths McDonald's, Dunkin' Donuts, Burger King and even Taco Bell as the next place to serve a combination of egg, cheese and bacon on a sandwich.

Several Wendy's restaurants across the region have already begun serving breakfast, including the Wendy's at 29480 Wixom Road in Wixom, north of Interstate 96: an employee there said they've been serving breakfast for about five years.

Breakfast is a segment of the fast-food market that has seen growth: a 2018 story by USA Today stated breakfast visits were up over that year, from 6 billion visits to 7.3 billion visits.

So business reporter David Veselenak and sports reporter Colin Gay, a self-described Wendy's connoisseur, made the drive from the Hometown Life office in Novi to Wixom and picked up several of the breakfast items being sold in the new campaign.

We picked up five items and tried them all: the Classic Sausage, Egg and Cheese Sandwich; the Honey Butter Chicken Biscuit; the Breakfast Baconator; the Seasoned Potatoes; and a Vanilla Frosty-ccino. Here's what we thought of each of them, with excerpts transcribed from the videos we made while sampling them (available to watch at HometownLife.com):

Classic Sausage, Egg and Cheese Sandwich

The description from Wendy's: "A fresh-cracked grade A egg, grilled sausage and melted American cheese on a warm breakfast roll. It's how mornings were meant to begin."

Colin Gay: So that's like typical fast food, at least to me. The egg's solid. But it honestly, this is what I would expect from a fast-food breakfast joint.

David Veselenak: Yeah, it's got all the flavors you'd expect. The sausage is a little bit spicier than I kind of expected. It's spicier than, say, McDonald's sausage. It's got some heat to it. I'm feeling it in the back of my mouth. The egg is really good. The bread is really good. The cheese is the cheese.

CG: This is a lot better than I expected it to be, especially because of the sausage. There was some flavor there that I was not expecting.

DV: I'd get this one again.

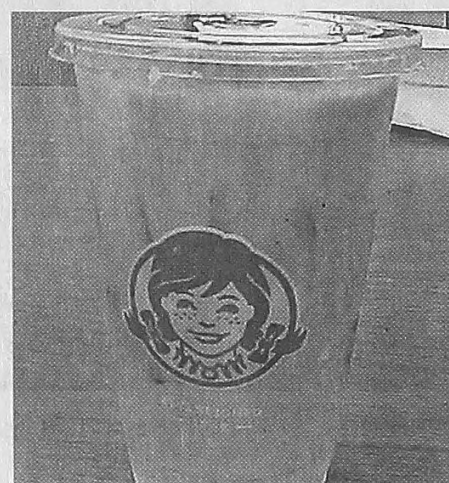
Honey Butter Chicken Biscuit

The description from Wendy's: "A crispy, chicken fillet, perfectly seasoned and topped with maple honey butter on a fluffy buttermilk biscuit. It's sweet, it's savory, and it's a great reason to get out of bed in the morning."

CG: ... This is hard for me because I love this stuff from down south, being born from right outside Houston. This is



Veselenak and Gay discuss Wendy's breakfast menu as they taste test items.



The Frosty-ccino reminds Gay of coffee-flavored ice cream, he said.



The Seasoned Potatoes would be delicious for any meal, Veselenak said.

one that could be a game-changer if it's good.

DV: This looks like a full breast fillet. This is large. That really impressed me when we opened up the sandwich. It's got a sweetness smell to it.

CG: It's not as sweet as the smell indicated.

DV: The biscuit definitely has a buttery texture to it, very buttery. The chicken is really good, it's really good. I imagine it's like the chicken fillet they put on their chicken sandwich. I'm not really getting much of the sauce though.

CG: It's there a little bit, but I like it when it's covered. Usually when I order it at other places, it's so messy that the sauce is coming out the sides. This one, there's just not enough.

DV: Maybe it'll be good for us northerners. ... For me, it was good, I'd probably get it again. It wouldn't be my first go-to.

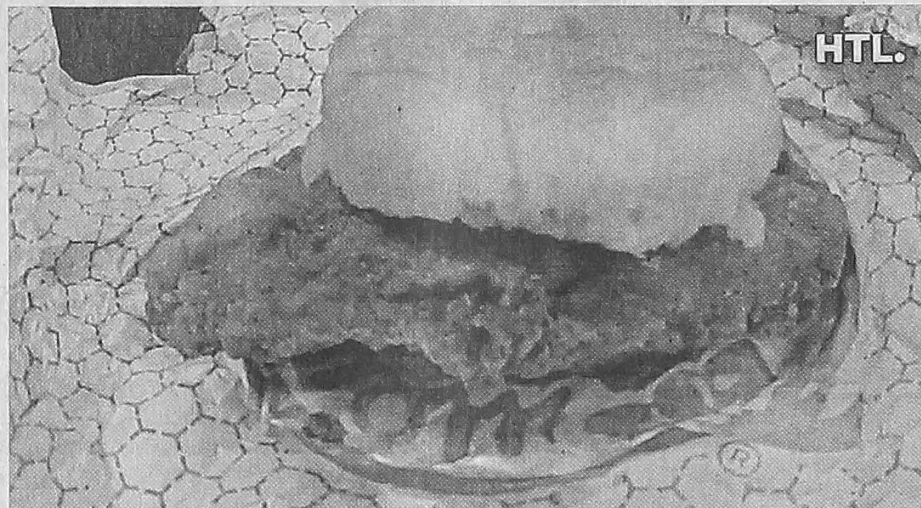
CG: I'm excited it's becoming a national thing. ... I'm a sucker for a chicken biscuit so I might get it, but I'd rather just get a regular chicken biscuit as opposed to this. But I'm gonna finish it.

Seasoned Potatoes

The description from Wendy's: "Natural-cut, skin-on potatoes cooked to perfection and seasoned with cracked black pepper and garlic powder."

DV: Very potato-ey. Do you taste the potato?

CG: These aren't like traditional French fries, which I appreciate. These are ... when I order French fries, even for



The taste testers disagreed on how much sauce should cover the Honey Butter Chicken Biscuit at Wendy's, part of the fast-food chain's new breakfast menu.

dinner, these are the level in terms of the amount of potato.

DV: They're not just deep-fried batter. These taste like a potato. ...

CG: It's interesting that they chose these for breakfast. But I honestly appreciate it, because I'm a sucker for these.

DV: I would have these with my spicy nuggets for lunch. I'd probably have these over their regular French fries, which are OK. ...

CG: I hope they consider moving these throughout the day, too. ...

Vanilla Frosty-ccino

The description from Wendy's: "Smooth, cold-brewed coffee swirled with our legendary vanilla Frosty mix and served over ice."

DV: I don't know. I definitely taste the vanilla. ... I personally am not getting a lot of coffee flavor. It's not that it's bad, but it's not the coffee hit I'd expect from other places.

CG: It reminds me of the flavor of coffee ice cream.

DV: Yes, that's a great comparison.

Breakfast Baconator

The description from Wendy's: "Grilled sausage, American cheese, Applewood smoked bacon, a fresh-cracked grade A egg, (deep breath) more cheese and more bacon all covered in Swiss cheese sauce. Don't just break your fast. Destroy it."

CG: There's a lot of bacon on there. A lot of bacon.

DV: It's actually quite hard to cut because there is a lot of bacon. And that's something I've always appreciate about Wendy's bacon, it tends to be high-quality, at least from my perspective.

CG: This thing is massive. There's a lot of meat on here.

DV: It's good. It's heavy. I'm happy I'm only eating half of it.

CG: There's a lot of cheese going on, too. Same sausage thing, too. It's more spice again, and I like that. I think that's cool.

DV: If you're sensitive to spice, the sausage patties may not be your thing, but if you like a little bit of heat, it's not bad.

CG: I don't know where the sauce is.

The verdict

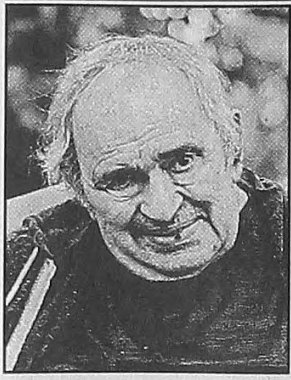
CG: We got a good example of what Wendy's breakfast is. At least for me, I have kind of an idea or what my go-to item would be if I go back.

DV: All the food items we tried were really good and I'd probably get all of them again. I think the thing that shines for me the most is their sausage. ...

CG: I think they've always been known as a bacon restaurant, so to have them step up in terms of the sausage, that really impressed me, especially with the most seemingly mundane sandwiches. I was very impressed by it. I thought the potato wedges/French fries were a phenomenal side as well. ... Coffee, not my thing, but then again, when I'm going to fast food, I want a sandwich and fries, so Wendy's has it for you.

Obituaries

To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit mideathnotices.com/place.php



Robert Rudolf "Bobcat" Anzlovar

FARMINGTON HILLS - age 78, passed away Friday, February 21, 2020. Beloved husband of the late Sara (d. 2009); loving father of Robert Charles Anzlovar, Jean Louise (Brian) Lee and Peter Alexander (Heather) Anzlovar; dear grandfather of Ian Michael Lee; fond brother of Maryann Seely. Visitation Friday, February 28, 3-8 pm at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds, N of Grand River) Farmington. Funeral Mass Saturday, February 29, 10 am (in state 9:30 am) at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 23615 Power Rd, Farmington. Memorial tributes to The Michael J. Fox Foundation. heeney-sundquist.com



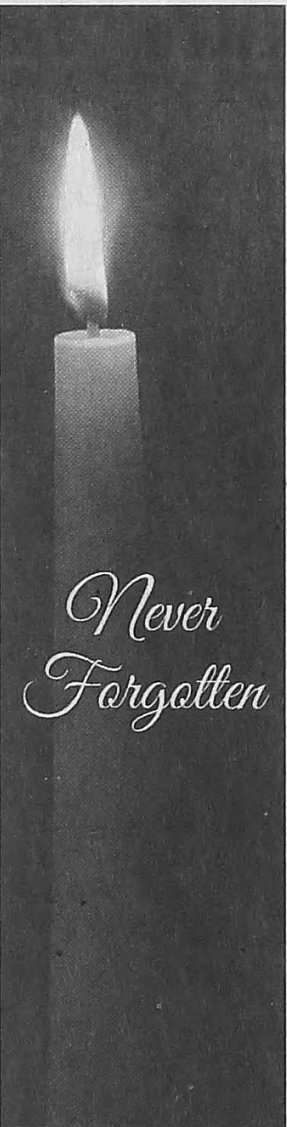
Kerry R. Bordine

CANTON - Kerry R. Bordine age 75, of Canton, died February 4, 2020. Born in Plymouth on January 21, 1945. Kerry was a graduate of Plymouth High School in 1963. He is survived by wife Phyllis (nee Sanford), 3 daughters Rhonda (Kevin) Thomas, Amy (Jon) Gawlik, and Jennifer (Brian) Simmons and 4 grandchildren. Memorial Service was Saturday, February 22, at the Cherry Hill United Methodist Church. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers to the Cherry Hill United Methodist Church or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



Edwin Felczak

WESTLAND - Edwin Felczak age 95, of Westland, died February 23, 2020. Born in Detroit, MI to Walter and Mary Felczak. Beloved husband of the late Rita Felczak. He is survived by his children Edwin Jr. (Jeannine Hauck), Michael Sr. (Shirley Padlo), Marcia (Paul Kopacz) and Ritaanne (Brady Otto), 11 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and his sister Dorothy. Visitation Thursday, February 27th, at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home from 2-8pm. Funeral Mass Friday, 10:30 am at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, 48154. To view full obituary and leave a condolence, please visit schrader-howell.com



Marcella "Marcy" Frances Haney

BRANDON TOWNSHIP - Marcella "Marcy" Frances Haney of Brandon Township, died on February 24, 2020 after a long illness. She was born on March 2, 1937 in Detroit to Anthony and Claire Fodell. Marcella leaves behind her husband, William V. (Bill) Haney; son Mark Haney; daughter Jennifer Koch, her husband Edward, and children Meghan, Gillian, and Robin; daughter Rebecca Zirnheld, her husband Patrick, and children Jerome, Zacharie, and Amelie; and Jessica Haney and her children Elliott and Annika. She was predeceased in 1987 by son Patrick. Marcy enriched countless lives in many communities. She gave unreservedly of her time, her talent and her deep empathy for people in need. From her teenage job in the newborn wing of Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital to her supervisory and management roles at Common Ground Resources & Crisis Center, she freely shared with others her talents, kindness, and compassion. She managed the Crisis Line, trained counselors, and was a leader in suicide prevention. Throughout her life, Marcy devoted herself to her children, grandchildren, and those in need anywhere in the world, as well as to animals and protecting our fragile natural places. Among the happiest days for Marcy were those spent watching the grandkids and family friends enjoy the scenery, wildlife and tranquility of her home in Brandon Township. She loved sharing stories of family events. As a teenager she worked at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital with responsibilities in the nursery, caring for infants, including premature babies. A graduate of Berkley High School, Marcy majored in Sociology/Psychology in her 1959 B.A. degree from the University of Michigan. She served in several care-giving and counseling organizations before her leadership roles at Common Ground Sanctuary. A lifelong lover of animals, Marcy kept Siamese cats and Springer Spaniel dogs, and was comforted in her final years by Clare, her rescued Springer Spaniel. The family is being assisted by Village Funeral Home in Ortonville, where arrangements will be posted on www.villagefh.com along with further information about Marcy. Cremation has taken place with ashes to be interred in the family plot at Pine Lake Cemetery in West Bloomfield. Details will also be announced on the Village website for a future ceremony celebrating Marcy's life of giving and caring for others. For those wishing to make donations, the family requests they be made in Marcy's name to the rescue site English Spring Spaniel America or the Humane Society of Michigan. www.villagefh.com



In loving tribute of those we've lost

Glenda Ann Hiltunen

L'ANSE - Glenda Ann Hiltunen age 83 of L'Anse, MI passed away on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at Bayside Village in L'Anse, MI. She was born October 24, 1936 in Detroit, MI daughter to Thomas and Alice (Dillon) Werner.



Glenda graduated in 1954 from McKenzie High School in Detroit. In 1973 Glenda married Alden Hiltunen. While living in Garden City, Glenda was a member of Good Hope Lutheran Church and the Jaycette's. She worked in retail and for L & L Cartage in the office. In 1980 they moved to Aura.

Glenda is survived by her 7 children, Cherri (Mark) Hesel of Pinckney, MI, Gene (Denise) Hiltunen of Belleville, MI, Scott (Sherry) Hiltunen of Howell, MI, Doug (Penni) Peavey of Pinckney, MI, Joan Kirkland of Pinckney, MI, Mark (Wendy) Hiltunen of Aura, MI, Nancy (David) Haanpaa of Aura, MI; 18 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death are her parents Thomas and Alice; husband Alden Hiltunen; grandson Alex Rowland; siblings, Thomas, Merrill, Charlie, and Rosie Werner.

A visitation and memorial service will be held in the spring. Burial will be in the Aura Cemetery.

The Jacobson Funeral Home handling the arrangements.

Friends may sign Glenda's guest book or send condolences at www.jacobsonfuneralhome.com.



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Sports

BOYS BASKETBALL

Embracing the chance

Canton's Vickers brothers on same team for 1st time

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Ryan Vickers describes himself as being born with basketball in his blood. Born in Kentucky, he grew up cheering for the Kentucky Wildcats and eventually played college basketball at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta.

Vickers was in love with basketball, something he instilled in his two sons: Jake and Cole.

"Probably in one way or another, it has dribbled down to them," Ryan Vickers said.

Now, Jake Vickers, a senior forward, and Cole Vickers, a sophomore guard/forward, are playing together for Canton, the first time the two have been on an organized team with one another.

Prior to the start of his senior season with the Chiefs, head coach Jimmy Reddy told Jake Vickers that he had to help get Cole ready for the varsity level, only after one year with the Canton junior varsity team.

"He's going to be a big part of what we are going to do," Jake Vickers said Reddy told him.

In their first season together, the Vickerses have led Canton to continued success. The Chiefs are 12-6, winning 10 of 14 games against KLAA West opponents.

The two are totally different players on the court. Jake Vickers is a big, bruising forward, who Ryan Vickers described as not being a fair fight against Cole in the driveway.

Cole Vickers, on the other hand is long and slender, using his increased basketball IQ to put bigger players in a position to succeed on the court.

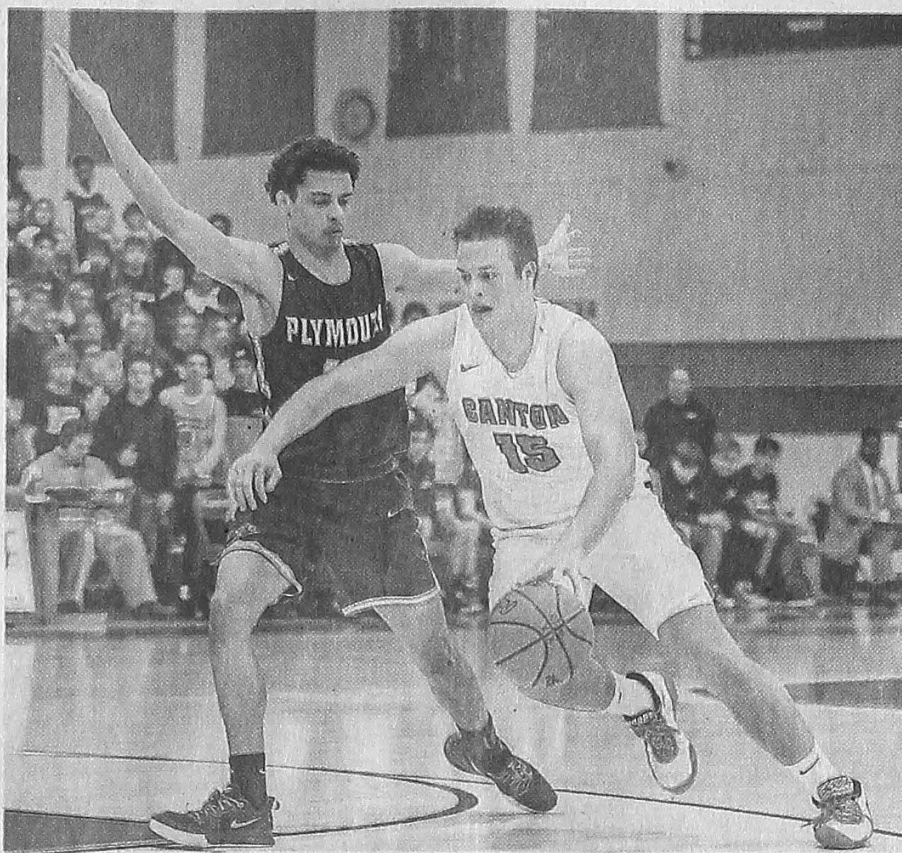
With Jake in the paint, knowing his play better than everyone, Cole Vickers has that advantage with Canton.

"Playing against each other for a long time and going to all his games and stuff, I kind of know how he plays, what he likes to do," Cole Vickers said.

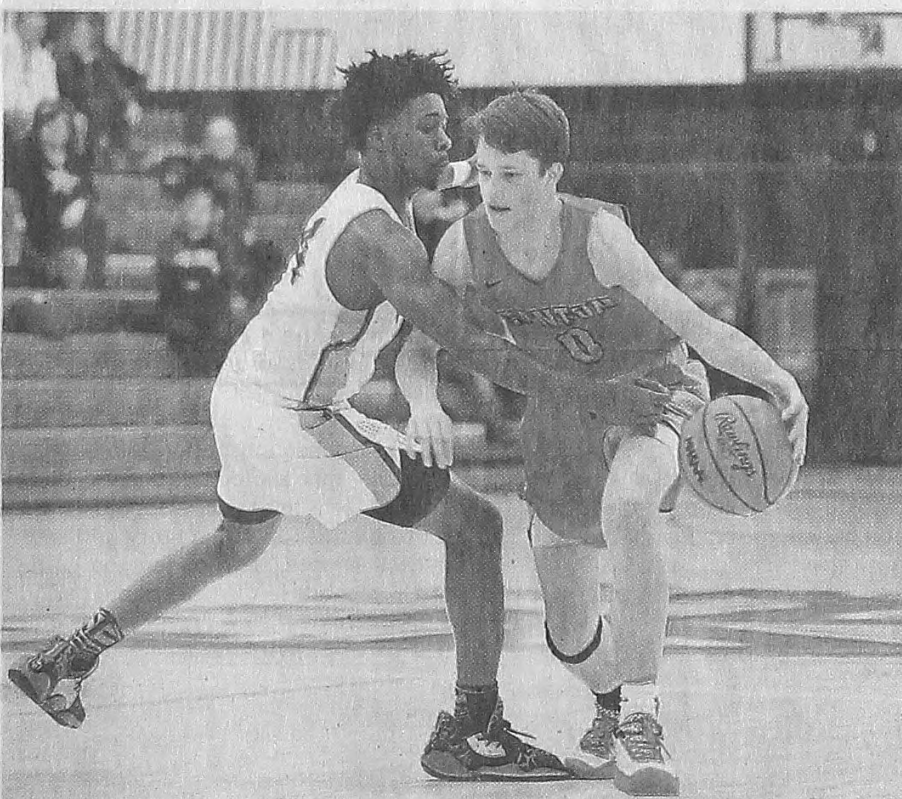
But even with the differing styles of play on the court, both Vickers brothers have the same thing that drives them.

"They play hard, they like to win, they put the work in," Ryan Vickers said. "Them being alike in that way probably brings them closer than anything else."

See **BROTHERS**, Page 3B

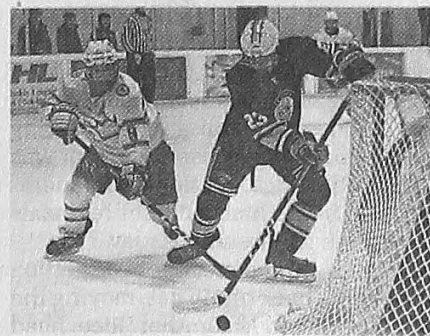


Senior forward Jake Vickers goes to the hoop against Plymouth's Jacob Smith. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Sophomore guard/forward Cole Vickers drives against Pioneer's Koebe Moore. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

HOCKEY



Stevenson defenseman Nick Justice, right, in action against Salem. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE PHOTOS

Stevenson, Rice lead charge in D-2 playoff race

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brother Rice hockey head coach Ken Chaput likens the postseason to final exam week, taking the lessons learned along the way to now, the time to perform and show what his players know in the regional.

Livonia Stevenson head coach David Mitchell stuck with the sports analogy, comparing the Division 2 hockey playoffs to March Madness.

"It's comparable to the NCAA basketball tournament: it's survive and advance," Mitchell said.

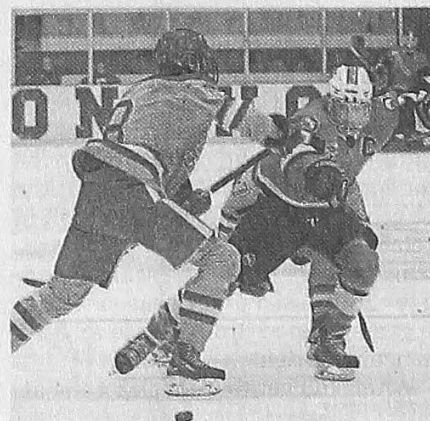
For the head coaches of the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in Division 2 high school hockey, Stevenson and Brother Rice both used the regular season schedule as an opportunity to consistently put their players into playoff-like situations.

However, in what Mitchell considers to be the most competitive division in the state of Michigan — calling it the deepest in terms of teams that can compete and prevent you from competing for a state title — there is not much teams can do but test themselves night in and night out.

"We made it as tough a schedule as we could possibly make it. It helps, on top of that, to play in the league that we play in," Mitchell said. "Our league is so competitive that our guys are used to competitive hockey games and high-pressure situations, and as many of those as we can put them into throughout the year, the better."

In Stevenson's playoff regional, the Spartans will start against the No. 10 team in Division 2 — Plymouth — awaiting possible matchups against No. 9 Canton and No. 8 South Lyon Unified.

See **DIVISION 2**, Page 2B



Brother Rice captain DJ Dixon, right, in action against Detroit Catholic Central.

BASEBALL

Stevenson's Waligora signs to play in college



Nate Waligora is headed to Hillsdale. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

One of the area's best pitchers has signed to continue his baseball career into college.

Livonia Stevenson senior Nate Waligora has officially signed to play baseball at Hillsdale College. He was the team's ace last season, leading the team to a KLAA East Division title.

The 6-foot-5 right-handed pitcher is a two-sport scholar-athlete and is a member of the basketball team in addition to baseball. He maintains a 3.67 GPA and plans to pursue a degree in biology or sports medicine at Hillsdale.

On the side, Waligora said he loves the outdoors and became an Eagle Scout in 2018; plus he is a fifth-year Spanish student.

Waligora added that he loves playing all sports, but baseball is his true love.

Hillsdale is a Division 2 program and a member of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference. The Chargers also signed John Glenn baseball standout Chad Stevens last year.

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

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HOCKEY BROTHER RICE 14, WEST BLOOMFIELD 1

Warriors open regional play with rout

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At the start of the first period, Brother Rice hockey had the upper hand offensively. Forward Dylan McNulty beat a West Bloomfield defender, missing a goal just high and wide left. Forward Ryan Murphy had a similar opening seconds later, flying past two Lakers defenders put missing high and wide left.

With 11:22 to go in the first period, forward Jay Frye didn't miss. After securing his fifth goal of the season, the rout was on for Brother Rice, beating West Bloomfield, 14-1, in the first round of regionals at Oak Park Ice Arena Tuesday.

"It gets confidence going, getting pucks in the back of the net, moving the puck pretty good," Brother Rice head coach Ken Chaput said. "They played the right way today, which we expect them to do. We'll take it."

Brother Rice has recorded double-digit goals in three games this season, scoring 11 against Grosse Pointe North in the season opener and 10 against Cranbrook Kingswood in the CHSL tournament semifinal.

West Bloomfield had not allowed more than six goals in a game this season.

The Warriors recorded six goals in the first 17 minutes, including three by senior forward Matt DeTar, who came in recording only two goals this entire season.

Coming out of the locker room after the first hat trick of his varsity hockey career, DeTar could not help but smile.

"Playoffs are starting now, so we're all getting really amped up," DeTar said. "It just felt great to put some pucks in the back of the net and get the team going, get everyone excited."

Chaput said DeTar, who finished with four goals, has been an important part of the Warriors' game plan all season, and will be vital to the long-term success of the offense as a whole.

"We finally got some goal-scoring out of him. It's been awhile," Chaput said. "He's had kind of a rough year getting the puck in the back of the net. He's been a big part of our team, been in the middle of a lot of things. Good to see him score goals. We need him to score goals. We need more scoring than just from three, four guys."

In its final three regular season games, Brother Rice had not seen much success offensively. The Warriors only outscored opponents 8-7, earning a draw against U-D Jesuit, beating Brighton and falling to Cranbrook Kingswood.

Along with DeTar's three first-period goals, Frye, Murphy and forward Ryan Marone recorded first-period goals for



Brother Rice celebrated early — scoring six goals in the first 17 minutes, including three by senior forward Matt DeTar — and often during a 14-1 win Tuesday against West Bloomfield. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

Rice.

After Brother Rice allowed a West Bloomfield score 45 seconds into the second period, the onslaught was quickly continued.

Forward Nick Marone scored two

goals in the second period, along with Murphy — who scored two second-period goals for a hat trick — forward Sam Yono, defender Jack Geraghty and senior Nick Dippre, who ended the game with 15 seconds left in the second period

due to a mercy rule.

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

HOCKEY BROTHER RICE 4, BRIGHTON 2

Dixon takes charge early on senior night

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Despite taking control of the offensive momentum from the start — outshooting Brighton 22-4 in the first period — Brother Rice hockey could not finish.

But on his senior night, DJ Dixon ensured that the Warriors would not leave without a score.

The senior forward skated across the middle of the ice, shooting a puck in the right corner of the Bulldogs' net for the first score of the game with 11:03 left in the second period.

Dixon's 16th goal of the season, adding his 26th assist of the season later in the game, helped Brother Rice to a 4-2 win against Brighton on Feb. 19.

"When you get that much on the at-

tack, you need to get that one through," Brother Rice head coach Kenneth Chaput said. "Then you feel a lot better about yourself."

Dixon also helped Rice continue its momentum, adding an assist, along with senior captain Alex Andoni, on a goal by Max Brown on a power play to give the Warriors a two-goal lead in the second period.

"It was really special," Dixon said. "Senior night, having a goal, having an assist, it means a lot to me. One of my last games at the Oak. It's going to be sad leaving it, but I'm glad I left it all out there tonight."

However, Rice took a hit late in the second period.

With 3:15 to go before the intermission, Brown took a hit to the side of the head, lying face-first on the ice and having to be helped off the ice by a trainer.

Chaput said the junior forward, who did not return for the Warriors, would be fine heading into their final game of the season against Cranbrook Kingswood.

With the Warriors' fourth-leading scorer sidelined, Brighton took advantage.

Bulldogs forward Lars Erkkila took the puck on a breakaway, beating Brother Rice goalkeeper Cooper Duncan on a one-on-one for the first score of the day for Brighton.

Trading goals at the start of the third period within 47 seconds, Rice senior defenseman Nick Dippre put the two-goal dagger into the Bulldogs.

After attempting a slapshot from 10 feet out, Dippre grabbed his own miss, tucking it around Brighton goalkeeper Chris Wozniak for the fourth goal of the day for Brother Rice, the Warriors' second on a power play.

Brother Rice has won each game this season in which it has scored four goals or more.

"I thought we worked hard," Brighton head coach Paul Moggach said. "If it weren't for the two power-play goals, it would have been a pretty even game."

With both Brother Rice and Brighton having one game remaining in the regular season, Chaput said the matchup was a good representation of the reason of playing each other so late in the season.

Having the No. 2 team in Division 2 face off against the No. 3 team in Division 1, Chaput said, is always a good tune-up heading into the playoffs.

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

Division 2

Continued from Page 1B

But during the regular season, Stevenson was battle-tested.

The Spartans came into the playoffs with 22 wins in 25 games, earning victories against Division 2 foes like Trenton and Hartland.

They have been tested against teams outside their division as well, beating Calumet, the No. 1 team in Division 3, while falling to Detroit Catholic Central, the No. 1 team in Division 1, in only one of two regular-season losses.

Brother Rice, on the other hand, had

big wins no matter what division.

The Warriors won two of three matchups against the rival Shamrocks, but fell to Calumet and Saginaw Heritage, the No. 2 team in Division 1.

After its regular-season schedule, Brother Rice has already shown a level of aggressiveness in the playoffs, beating West Bloomfield Tuesday in the first round, 14-1.

From the moment the previous season ends, Chaput said his mind shifts to the upcoming season, finding ways in the schedule as points to check how his group compares to some of the top teams in the state, to better prepare them for March.

"That's our goal from Day 1 is to be

ready for this time of the year and it's on these guys to finish and make things happen," Chaput said.

While acknowledging that other teams have improved since seeing them in the regular season, Mitchell said the mindset has shifted a little bit.

Ahead of its playoff run, Stevenson has simplified things on and off the ice, focusing on the next period, the next shift as opposed to the next game.

While the single-elimination tournament is a change, Mitchell still instills the message of progress.

"The one-and-done mentality, you can't run from it, you can't hide from it, you can't pretend it doesn't exist," Mitchell said. "However, we've always

preached process over outcomes."

With Brother Rice and Stevenson on opposite sides of the Division 2 bracket, a lot has to happen for the two teams to meet in the final, to have a rematch of their 4-4 draw on Nov. 30.

But after the schedule he put together, Chaput is confident his team will be at USA Hockey Arena on March 14.

"Yeah, it will be a tough bracket to get through, but, at the end of the day, we are ready for it," Chaput said.

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

BASEBALL

Franklin hosting spring, summer camps

Andrew Vaillencourt
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

With spring approaching, baseball is right around the corner.

The Livonia Franklin High School baseball program is hosting a pair of camps for both boys and girls in the coming months, starting with the 14th annual Future Stars camp on March 14.

The camp, which will be led by Franklin coach Matt Fournier and the rest of his coaching staff, will be for boys and girls in grades 2-6. The camp will consist of two sessions focusing on sport specific skills.

The Franklin staff has extensive experience at the high school and college levels. The camp will be held inside the Franklin field house using the same facilities the high school teams use. Each camper will be assigned to groups according to age and ability and in-

structed on a wide variety of skills.

Here is the planned schedule for the day:

■ **SESSION 1:** 9 to 11:30 a.m. The morning session will consist of hitting, base running skills, and infield work. Taking the extra base, hitting for average and proper infield approach are just a few of the skills the campers will come away with.

■ **LUNCH:** 11:30 a.m. to noon. Each camper will bring his/her own sack lunch. The campers and instructors will eat a supervised lunch together in the bleachers of the field house. Please pack a lunch that will not have to be refrigerated and clearly marked with a name.

■ **SESSION 2:** noon to 2:15 p.m. The afternoon session will consist of defensive work. Pitchers fielding practice, catching drills and outfield approach are some of the key points focused on in session 2.



Fournier

The cost is \$30 per session or \$50 for both. Make checks payable to Franklin High School. Send to Matt Fournier, Franklin Baseball Camp, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

The second camp will be held from June 22-25.

Fournier and his staff will host a camp for boys and girls exiting grades 2-8. The camp will consist of four days focusing on sport specific skills. The camp will be held on the Franklin Varsity Baseball and Softball Fields, or in the Franklin Field House in the event of inclement weather if available on that day.

Have questions about either camp? Contact Fournier at mfournie2@livonia.k12.mi.us or 734-968-0499.

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

Brothers

Continued from Page 1B

Before playing with each other for Canton, Jake Vickers thought his relationship with Cole was a close one.

As the season has gone on, the relationship has only gotten stronger.

"We're at practice every day with each other, we've been going home with each other, having dinner with each other," Jake Vickers said. "We're together literally all the time. I think it has brought us way closer."

However, with the 2019-20 season coming to a close, that physical closeness will come to an end sooner rather than later.

Jake Vickers, a senior, committed to play football at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Cole, a sophomore, will, according to Reddy, be leading the Chiefs on the basketball court for the next two years.

Watching Jake on the court, Cole said he learned a lot about leadership: how he can lead Canton in his two years as an upperclassmen, how he can talk to players and help them out on the court.

From what Jake has seen from Cole in his first season on varsity gives him hope for Canton's future.

"I know the next year and the year after that, he's

"Playing against each other for a long time and going to all (Jake's) games and stuff, I kind of know how he plays, what he likes to do."

Cole Vickers
Canton sophomore

definitely going to be dominating everybody," Jake Vickers said. "He's going to be, assuming in much of the same situations as me where he's going to be doubled, even maybe tripled in games."

But with a KLAA tournament and a playoff run still ahead of the Chiefs, Heather Vickers, Jake and Cole's mother, still has a few more chances to see something she never thought she would see when her only two sons were in high school.

And while it's coming to an end, Heather Vickers remains incredibly grateful.

"They both have a heart of gold," she said. "We are very fortunate, very lucky to have two kids that are both great students. I can't be more proud of them. They are our only two kids, so it has been amazing having them together on the court."

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



Cole, right, and Jake Vickers play basketball in the driveway at home. SUBMITTED

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH 2020 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2020 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 3rd Organizational meeting 12:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 4th First meeting 3-9 pm
- Thursday, March 5th Second meeting, 9-4 pm
- Monday, March 16th Final meeting 9-12 pm

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. COMPLETED 2020 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 16, 2020 by 12:00 pm.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 16th, 2020 by 12:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 453-1234, ext 252.

Maureen Brodie
City Clerk

Publish: February 23, 27, & March 1, 2020

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting on March 17, 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: March 1, 2020

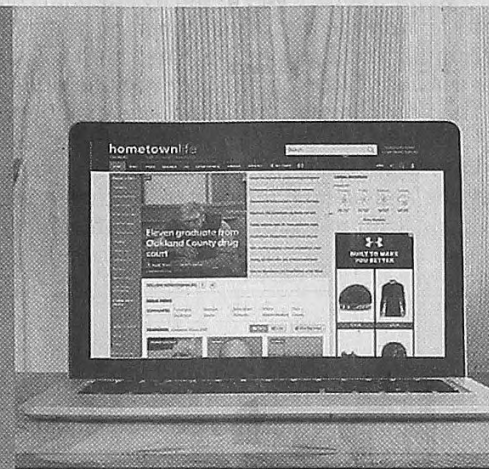
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the job network

YOUR LOCAL JOB LISTING FROM LIVONIA OBSERVER

How hiring trends for 2020 will affect your job search

Kate Lopaze
thejobnetwork.com

As baseball sage Yogi Berra once said, "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." This feels especially fitting for the fast-spinning cycle that is hiring and job seeking, with technology and social media making it feel like things are shifting constantly. But there are already some trends showing for 2020, which you should keep in mind for your own job hunt this year.

Economic uncertainty

Recession or no recession? Economists are conflicted about whether there's trouble on the horizon. Companies are tending to be cautious, though, and may be trying to adopt leaner, meaner hiring and recruiting strategies for the year.

An economic downturn may also mean more applicants in the pool for fewer jobs. Still, don't let that discourage you. While companies may be flooded with applicants for open positions, they tend to receive more unqualified or stretch applicants during this time as well.

Building a strong application package (tailored resume, detailed skills, and experience, strategic application submissions) can help you differentiate yourself in that pool, even if the economy is trending downward.

Going mobile

We do virtually everything on our phones these days: shop, research, communicate, order food, get news and information, etc. And in fact, 81% of U.S. adults own a smartphone, so employers are trying to go where the candidates



GETTY IMAGES

are. That means mobile outreach is becoming a major recruiting priority for companies. For companies that have relied more on desktop websites and platforms to attract and process applicants, this also means that they'll be optimizing their sites for mobile use.

For your own job search, you should be open to using these new mobile technologies to find and take advantage of opportunities as they come. Your resume should be clear and easy to read on a number of different platforms (large screen or small), and easily acces-

sible to you when you're on your phone or tablet and away from a computer.

Focus on culture

Skills and experience will always be among the most important determining factors in the hiring process, but companies are increasingly looking for people who will be good cultural fits as well. From a worker perspective, this tends to make companies more employee-friendly - instead of a cold cubicle farm that takes your work and spits you out

at the end of the day.

Sussing out a company's culture while you're still in the initial research phase can help you a) figure out if you would enjoy working there, and b) develop talking points if you're called in for an interview. Check the company's website to read up on its history, mission, vision, values, and the like. You can also look at review sites like Glassdoor or Salary.com to see what others say about what it's like to work there. Corporate boilerplate and subjective stories from ex-employees likely won't give you the whole picture of a company's culture, but it should give you some basic knowledge about what the company expects from its employees, what its priorities are, and other bits of knowledge you can use to show you'd be a great fit.

Emphasis on diversity

Most companies are prioritizing diversity, both in the traditional sense (gender, ethnic, religious) and in the kinds of perspectives they hire. If you can, call out the ways you could contribute to the diversity of the company and the unique skills or experiences you bring.

As always, a little prep goes a long way in your job search, no matter what's happening in your industry or in the hiring economy in general. The more care and curation you bring to every job application, the more successfully you'll be able to capitalize on these trends and land the right new job. Good luck!

Kate Lopaze is a career advice journalist for TheJobNetwork.com where this article was originally published. She investigates and writes about current strategies, tips, and trending topics related to all stages of one's career.

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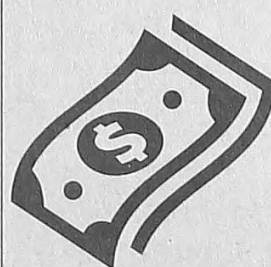
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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Nightclub show
 - 8 "Sweet Rosie —" (Betty Grable film)
 - 14 Floating with no control
 - 20 Surplus amount
 - 21 Greek Muse of astronomy
 - 22 Pointy beard
 - 23 Cough-quelling tablet
 - 24 Cowboys' toppers
 - 26 Like old teams that ferried borax
 - 28 Luau garland
 - 29 Knife incision
 - 30 —mo replay
 - 31 Big serving spoon
 - 34 Big record label, once
 - 37 Suffix with serpent
 - 38 Long-term home loan option
 - 45 Javelin's path
 - 48 Ending for señor
 - 49 Small musical band
 - 50 The "A" of ETA: Abbr.
 - 51 Mem. of the family
 - 52 1979 Nick Nolte film
 - 59 L-P center
 - 60 More silver-haired
 - 61 Dispatched in the direction of
 - 62 Hold up
 - 64 Pianist's challenge
 - 66 Rajah's mate
 - 68 With a leg on each side of
 - 70 "Apollo 13" org.
 - 71 1994 Erica Jong memoir
 - 76 Unlucky time for Caesar
 - 77 Cold Lipton offering
 - 79 —am (touter of green eggs and ham)
 - 80 Food fish
 - 81 Gp. to call after a stall
 - 82 Deft
 - 86 King in "The Lion King"
 - 89 State south of S. Dak.
 - 90 Flying on foot
 - 93 Ill, in modern Rome
 - 94 Ex-Texas governor Richards
 - 95 Fat-removal procedure, for short
 - 96 Chou En- (former Communist leader)
 - 97 Old JFK lander
 - 98 Philadelphia election-monitoring group
 - 106 Santa —, California
 - 107 This moment
 - 108 French for "daughter"
 - 109 Meditation syllables
 - 112 Take care of
 - 114 "... — mouse?"
 - 117 Phileas Fogg's around-the-world time
 - 122 Right angle feature
 - 127 Satirist P.J. type
 - 129 Lack
 - 130 More boisterous
 - 131 Father, e.g.
 - 132 Seaport south of Kiev
 - 133 No less than
- DOWN**
- 1 Male foal
 - 2 States bluntly
 - 3 Gemstone mounting
 - 4 "Am so!" retort
 - 5 Vent vocally
 - 6 Like omelets
 - 7 Be rife (with)
 - 8 Money spent
 - 9 Gluttonous
 - 10 Managed
 - 11 Director Lee
 - 12 Oven knob
 - 13 Ivy League school
 - 14 In past time
 - 15 With 74-Down, longtime morning radio host
 - 16 Match cheers
 - 17 Napoli locale
 - 18 Throwing a big party for
 - 19 Student being quizzed
 - 25 VIP's ride
 - 27 Final: Abbr.
 - 32 "— smile be your umbrella"
 - 33 British peers
 - 35 Artsy- —
 - 36 Basically
 - 39 Door part
 - 40 "Do — else!"
 - 41 — avis
 - 42 Provoke
 - 43 Mournful cry
 - 44 Pound sound
 - 45 Iran neighbor
 - 46 Avis offering
 - 47 Inspector in "The Pink Panther"
 - 53 Supermodel Banks
 - 54 Use the ears
 - 55 '62 Bond film
 - 56 RBIs, e.g.
 - 57 Some fishing spears
 - 58 Some Alpine singers
 - 63 Safest option
 - 65 Father
 - 67 Conditions
 - 69 Tumbler top
 - 71 Was a tributary of
 - 72 Bring home
 - 73 Renown
 - 74 See 15-Down
 - 75 Cartoon skunk — La Fume
 - 78 It gives red wine its color
 - 80 "— isn't so!"
 - 83 Eye flirtatiously
 - 84 Nastase of the court
 - 85 — the iceberg
 - 87 Car shaft
 - 88 Marvel's Lee
 - 91 "Platoon" zone, briefly
 - 92 Ex-U.N. head Annan
 - 98 Brief sleep
 - 99 City east of Syracuse
 - 100 Way
 - 101 Having no depth, briefly
 - 102 Rains down ice pellets
 - 103 Actress Cuthbert
 - 104 Really chill, with "out"
 - 105 "Hey, bro!"
 - 110 Singer Callas
 - 111 Comedian Wanda
 - 113 Editing mark
 - 115 Total revision
 - 116 Ripened
 - 118 Circle dance
 - 119 Horse pace
 - 120 Cry of pain
 - 121 Spanish muralist José María —
 - 123 Foil material
 - 124 Up to now
 - 125 "Norma —"
 - 126 Trauma ctrs.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19				
20							21						22									
23							24						25									
26							27					28				29						
30							31			32	33		34	35	36		37					
45	46	47		48						49					50							
51				52			53	54	55				56			57	58					
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90			91							92								93				
			94				95						96					97				
98	99	100					101					102	103	104			105					
106				107						108							109	110	111			
112			113				114	115	116				117			118	119	120				121
122				123	124					125	126					127						
128										129						130						
131										132						133						

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

SUDOKU

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

ON THE COURT WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- AIRBALL
- ASSIST
- BACKBOARD
- BASKET
- BENCH
- BOUNCE
- BOX
- CARRY
- CHARGING
- CLOCK
- COURT
- DEFENSE
- DUNK
- FORWARDS
- FOUL
- GUARDS
- LAYUP
- OFFENSE
- PASS
- PLAYERS
- PRESS
- REBOUND
- TRAVELING
- TURNOVER

ANSWER KEY

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

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12 Months

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