SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020 I HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

PAUSE FOR NORMALCY



Cheryl Donohue, left, and Andrea Hughes, with their dogs Hopper, left, and Honolulu, meet in their Adams Street neighborhood in Plymouth on March 19. Neighbors there gather most evenings at a safe social distance to catch up. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Plymouth neighbors find new ways to connect in pandemic

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

At exactly 7 p.m. each night, many residents of Plymouth's Adams Street embrace a level of normalcy in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

For the past week or so - and in the uncertain weeks ahead - Adams Street neighbors will exit their front doors at 7 p.m. and mingle with one another, making sure they're maintaining a sixfoot distance.

Dogs are also included, as long as their leashes are a minimum six feet in

While it's not quite as fulfilling as the pre-COVID-19 block parties and holiday progressive dinners they used to share, the participants of the recently created Plymouth Pause group appreciate the face-to-face connections while serving as proof that a pandemic is no match for close-knit neighborhoods.

"With so much uncertainty in our lives these days, these brief gatherings bring some normalcy to us," said Cheryl Donohoe, who helped orchestrate the group. "There are four kids on the street who are in the same grade, so it gives them a chance - at least from a distance - to talk to their friends on something other than Facetime.

"Like one neighbor said, it's probably the most normal-feeling part of our

See PAUSE, Page 5A



Keira Mueller, 9, plays catch with one of her Adams Street neighbors March 19.

"There are four kids on the street who are in the same grade, so it gives them a chance ... to talk to their friends on something other than Facetime."

Cheryl Donohoe Co-creator of Plymouth Pause

Canton neighbors worried about wall collapse

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Residents of Canton Township's oldest subdivision are worried that a brick structure near the north entrance to their neighborhood is a tragedy waiting to happen.

Figuring out the person or municipality responsible for fixing the gaping hole in the Holiday Park entrance structure - or demolishing the structure altogether - is unfolding like a

On June 2, 2019, a Holiday Park resident's vehicle, facing west on Joy Road and waiting to turn left into the subdivision, was rear-ended by another driver, pushing the vehicle into the brick wall just west of Holly Street.

The resident was not injured. However, the impact disengaged several bricks in the 60-year-old wall, creating a relatively small hole.

Over the ensuing months, the hole in the 10-foot-high wall has more than doubled in size, increasing its instabil-

"When it first happened, the hole was small, but kids walking by have been kicking it and picking at the bricks," said Holiday Park resident Marie Brancheau. "It's turned into a dangerous situation.

See WALL, Page 3A

Redford woman to appear on 'Price is Right'

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A metro Detroit resident will "come on down" and try her luck on "The Price Is Right."

Redford Township resident Amber Barnette will appear Monday on the decades-old game show. Barnette said she's never been a particularly big fan of the show, but thought it would be fun to sit in a live studio audience on a recent trip to California.

"I didn't really know a lot about the show," she said. "I was just like, 'Hey, this will be a fun time and you never know.' I have family who lives in California, so I'm always trying to get in different shows."

The popular daytime game show features contestants guessing the prices of different items with the hope of winning cash and other prizes, like trips and cars, along the way.

See BARNETTE, Page 3A

Livonia apparel co. ready to make protective masks

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Livonia company that is a newcomer to town is already looking at ways it can help during the coronavirus pandemic that's closed businesses and left

people stuck at home. Leadership at DO Apparel, which moved from Dearborn to a building on

Middlebelt north of Five Mile in Livonia last fall, recently said they're ready to make protective masks if they can connect with a health care provider.

Danny McKae, a co-owner of the business, said they made the call to prepare transitioning the apparel company into a workshop to make masks for health care workers after hearing from some in the field.

"We were getting messages from people in the medical field," he said. "If we can do it, it would be nice to be able to help out."

The company made several dozen samples and is ready to make more if the need arises. But with so much uncertainty - including around the shelter in place order issued by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer – McKae said it's unclear if the company will have that chance.

The pivot to making medical supplies has begun to occur across the region as the nation continues to fight the coronavirus pandemic that has left about 2,300 people confirmed infected and 43 dead in Michigan as of Wednesday morning.

See APPAREL CO., Page 5A



Emerson Middle student, Livonia staffers test positive for coronavirus

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A middle school student in Livonia is one of the latest young people to test positive for COVID-19. Students in Birmingham and South Lyon have also tested positive for the virus.

Livonia Public Schools Superintendent Andrea Oquist sent a letter to parents Monday announcing the diagnosis of an Emerson Middle School student. The district also learned two staffers, one a teacher at Stevenson High School and the other a district staffer, tested positive.

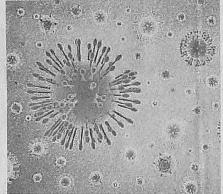
"First, we hope that you will all join us in wishing this student a full and rapid recovery," Oquist wrote. "The news, while unfortunately becoming more commonplace ... is certainly felt in a different life by the person affected and their family."

Oquist said the student self-reported to the district. Administrators are not sharing the age or sex of the student out of respect for his or her priva-

The Stevenson teacher and district staffer also self reported. The district confirmed the teacher has not been in contact with students in the past two weeks, and the other employee has a non-contact job that wasn't in a school

As of Wednesday, officials said Livonia had 22 positive coronavirus cases and two deaths. Statewide, the numbers were 2,295 confirmed cases and 43 deaths.

'We will continue to work together to respond to the new and ever-changing environment in which we are working and living, and know that the good efforts of each individual make a difference for all," Oquist wrote.



COVID-19 coronavirus. STAR FILE PHOTO



A home between Seven and Eight Mile roads in Livonia displays a multitude of colorful hearts as part of a weekly visual scavenger hunt. A Facebook group leads the events. PHOTOS BY DAVID VESELENAK/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Livonia group on Facebook encourages scavenger hunt

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Being stuck at home with little to do can be no fun for youngsters. No one knows that better than Livonia resident Toni O'Connor.

The seventh-grade math teacher at Holmes Middle School realized there would be plenty of students bored with the closure of schools across the state through at least April 13 in efforts to help slow the spread of coronavirus.

After seeing an idea on Facebook for a scavenger hunt for shamrocks leading up to St. Patrick's Day, she decided to bring the idea to Livonia.

More than a week later, her Facebook group, "Livonia Weekly Scavenger Hunts 2020," has more than 1,800 members, many of whom post photos and messages of support while everyone is stuck at home.

"We've learned in the last week that school provides so much more than just lessons," she said.

The concept of the group is simple: residents are encouraged to display simple images in their windows and



A smattering of hearts on this door in Livonia makes it look like Valentine's Day.

families then walk the neighborhood to see how many images they can find

Since beginning with the shamrocks, O'Connor realized the current closures would last longer, and items were added to the group page for future weeks.

Last week, the group encouraged resdents to put hearts in their windows as a symbol of appreciation for health care

Each new weekly list begins on Tues-

This week's theme is "helping hands," which encourages people to put images of hands in their windows in support of grocery store workers, truck drivers and first responders, all of whom continue to work as essential services during the state's stay-at-home order. Participants are encouraged to have their images in the window by March 31.

The next week is dedicated to the Easter holiday, with homes encouraged to put pictures of Easter eggs and Easter

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A home in the neighborhood north of Seven Mile and west of Merriman has two hearts on display in the window.

Tuesday before the holiday.

O'Connor said more themes could come later on, depending on how long the region is affected by the pandemic. She said the reactions among group

bunnies in the windows for April 7, the

members have been nothing but positive, with people offering to help moderate, and even others posting modifications to enhance the scavenger hunt

One person posted a "scoresheet" that tallied up certain items and gives a score for specific items found in win-

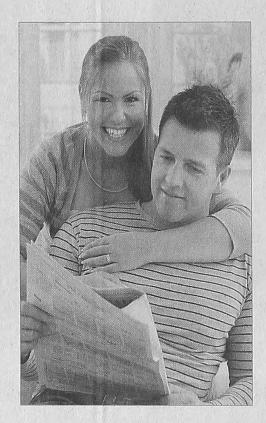
And the hunt seems to have worked: O'Connor said she went out with her family - practicing effective social distancing - on St. Patrick's Day and found shamrocks on several streets, especially in neighborhoods that have many young families with children.

When we went on Tuesday, it was funny how easy it came," she said. "We've also seen four or five cars stop in front of our (house) and count."

Having such an activity is a great way to get the fam' v outside and maintain a sense of norr dcy during these trying times, O'Com or said. It also gives a sense of cama aderie, especially with so little face-to-face interaction.

"Just being able to see other people in the community," she said. "It just provides that sense of community we're missing right now."

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



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Financial challenges abound as bull market ends



Money Matters

I first would like to remind everyone that the crisis we are facing is real and we all must take it seriously. There is nothing more important than your health and safety.

The economy was strong before the virus; unemployment was at a 50-year low. We have officially ended the bull market, which we have been in for the last decade, and entered the 12th bear market since the end of World War II.

On average, the recovery period from the low point to reaching record highs is two years. I have no doubt that this track record will continue, and we will be 12 for 12 in recovering from a bear market. However, it will take time and as investors we must be patient.

During bear markets, people feel more vulnerable, and scam artists take advantage of the opportunity. During these challenging and uncertain times it is important not to let your guard down.

The theme of these crooks is that they either have an investment that will protect your money and that you can't lose, or they push another investment with unreal returns, because you're buying it at a steep discount. Either way, the game is the same: they are trying to separate you from your money.

Another lesson I have learned over the years is that it is impossible to time the market. You probably have a better chance of winning the lottery. Remember, when you time the market you have to be right twice: once when you buy and once when you sell. Timing the market is just like gambling.

I wish I could tell you when markets will regain their strength. I don't know. What I do know is generally markets recover faster than the overall economy. I believe that for the short term we are going to see more uncertainty. I believe we will continue to see crazy days in the market.

However, I believe brighter days are ahead of us. Whatever course of action you choose, don't assume you can time the market, because you can't.

To be a successful investor you don't have to buy at the ultimate low or sell at the ultimate high. As Warren Buffett once said, it's not timing the market; it's time in the market that will make you successful. I agree.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. If you would like him to respond to your questions, please email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Wall

Continued from Page 1A

"If that wall collapses and falls on someone, it's going to cause serious injury or worse. We just want it fixed or torn down. We want it safe."

But who's responsible?

The at-fault driver in the accident fled the scene and has not been identified, said Canton Township Police Lt. Michael Kennedy.

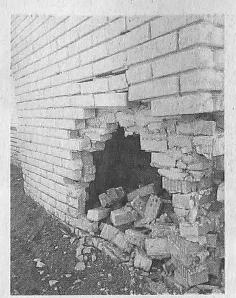
"The case is still considered an open investigation," Kennedy said. "If we locate the driver at fault, his or her insurance company would be charged with fixing the damaged wall.

"Until then, it's the responsibility of the resident who owns the property on which the wall is located."

That resident, who lives in the first subdivision home built in Canton history, is refusing to file an insurance claim, insisting he shouldn't have to pay a deductible on something he has nothing to do with, neighbors said. The subdivision does not have a homeowners association, which typically would handle such issues.

An attempt by Hometown Life to interview the resident was unsuccessful.

"It's a sticky scenario because, here you have a homeowner who has done nothing wrong and knows nothing, yet it's a wall the township says he is re-

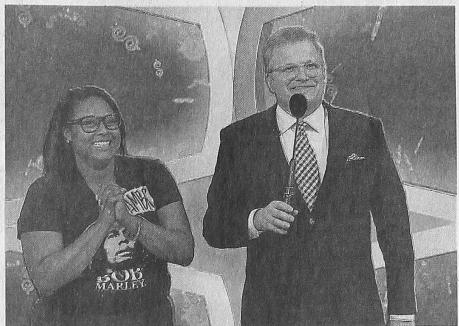


A 10-foot-high brick wall near the entrance to Canton's Holiday Park subdivision was damaged in a 2019 car crash. ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

sponsible for," said Richard Roberts, who lives next door to the resident deemed responsible for the wall. ...

"Sooner or later, it's going to fall and, rest assured, if it falls on someone, they're not coming out of it alive."

Kennedy said that as the situation is now, the homeowner who lives nearest the wall would be responsible if someone is injured by a collapse of the



Amber Barnette, of Redford, stands with "The Price is Right" host Drew Carey. COURTESY OF CBS

Barnette

Continued from Page 1A

Barnette was lucky enough to be an audience member selected by host Drew Carey to "come on down" and stand on Bidders Row.

She said the experience is some-

thing she'll never forget.

"The experience was great, from the folks in the front of the screen to behind it," she said.

Barnette's episode will air at 11 a.m. Monday on CBS.

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

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A homeschooler's tips on learning amid pandemic



Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

So, how many people have a ton of respect for grade-school teachers right about now?

COVID-19 has many of us stuck at home. Schools are closed until at least April 13, and I know plenty of parents who are adjusting to quasi-homeschooling.

Homeschooling, or helping kids retain what they've been learning in school while the country practices social distancing, isn't easy. I know.

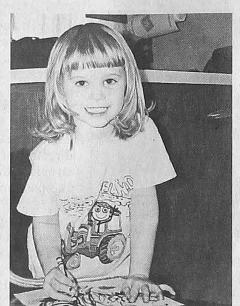
My mother homeschooled my little sister, Emily, and me for the majority of grade school. Looking back on those years, I now see that my education was unique in a lot of ways.

So, here are my tips, and some from my friends, on how to keep your kids engaged while they learn from home:

Teach them a real-life skill

When I started my freshman year of college, I was flabbergasted at how many people didn't know how to do laundry or cook the simplest of meals.

If kids or teens don't know how to fold a shirt, wash dishes, vacuum, make spaghetti, cook a chicken breast or write



Shelby Tankersley was homeschooled for most of her grade school years. COURTESY OF MARY TANKERSLEY

a check, teach them.

'Invite them into the family team," said Kristin Stocking, who is eclectically homeschooling a 12th-grader and a sixth-grader.

Don't recreate the classroom

Your district may or may not be giving your child school work right now. If

they are, reach out and ask the professionals how they handle kids in the classroom. Kids spend a ton of time with their teachers, so those teachers probably know what motivates your child.

"Don't be afraid to email the teachers and ask for tips (or) advice," said Alexis Epps, a homeschooled graduate.

And in the context of coronavirus, don't feel like you have to become a pro.

"You're not trying to recreate what they do in a public school in your home at your kitchen table," Stocking said. "It's not the same thing. When you're at home, one of the most important things to remember is you can learn through playing."

Learning doesn't have to come from a book

Especially for kids 8 and older, documentaries, Legos, video games like Minecraft or board games like Monopoly and Scrabble are great ways to exercise the brain and have a little fun.

And there's no shortage of hands-on activities that can reinforce what kids are learning in school. Check out Pinterest for ideas on everything from science experiments to writing prompts.

"Practice what they know," Stocking said. "Have them read every day even if they don't like to read. ... Or (have them) build something with their Legos.'

While government agencies have en-

couraged us all to practice social distancing, there's also nothing wrong with taking your kids outside, doing a scavenger hunt or playing soccer.

Be patient with kids, yourself

Whether it's school-related or not, it's hard to be together every minute of

'Relax and take it easy step by step," said Kate Lundy, who has her 10th- and 12th-grade sons schooled at home in an all-online program through Oxford Public Schools. "Instead of looking at the big picture where you get overwhelmed, we take it one day at a time."

Take advantage of the free stuff

Coronavirus has prompted music halls and museums to release some concerts online and virtual tours for free.

The Philharmonie Berlin, Metropolitan Opera, The Louvre and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History are just a few cultural resources going online for free.

Enjoy it

I'm not a parent. But I do know that people grow up, life changes and kids don't get to be kids forever.

"We all wanted this time off, and now we've got it," Lundy joked.

Apparel co.

Continued from Page 1A

Automakers are exploring the option of making medical equipment such as ventilators, and breweries and distilleries like Birmingham's own Griffinclaw Brewing Co. have begun making hand sanitizer from the grain alcohol in their

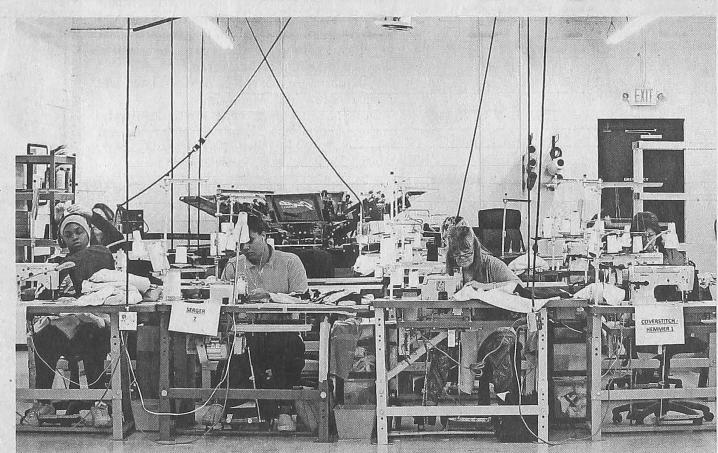
In addition, the Livonia Chamber of Commerce is calling on all businesses that have extra protective masks to donate them for use at the region's hospitals. Companies looking to donate extra masks can contact chamber president Dan West at dwest@livonia.org.

Detroit Sewn in Pontiac has begun making 50,000 masks for Livoniabased Trinity Health, the parent company of the St. Joseph Mercy Health System and many other regional health care systems across the country.

McKae said some of his employees have begun some work at Detroit Sewn, but they could return depending on whether an order for masks comes in.

'Now, if we do get a big order, we're going to have to ramp up quick," he said. "It's good. We're all transitioning to help where we can."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com.



DO Apparel employees work at a bank of sewing machines to finish stitching together jerseys at their Livonia location in this 2019 file photo. The company says it's preparing to produce protective masks for health care providers if called upon. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Pause

Continued from Page 1A

Donohoe said members of the group are maintaining positive spirits, for the most part.

"Everyone's mood alternates, depending on the day," she said. "It feels like we're pretty much all in the same boat in that we're working remotely from home, we're home-schooling our kids and we're isolated from everyone except our families. So that 30 minutes to an hour of outdoors time is wonder-

The idea originated when other neighborhoods shared the connectivity project on social media.

"I believe a lot of streets in Plymouth are doing this," Donohoe said.

One joyfully surreal moment that unfolded on Adams Street earlier in the

week brought smiles to everyone's faces.

"One of our neighbors' kid's cello practices was canceled, so he brought his cello out to his front yard and he played for all of us," Donohoe said.

People are placing art in their windows for themed neighborhood walk scavenger hunts, she added.

"On (St. Patrick's Day), we counted 54 shamrocks in front windows," Dono-

Other themes on the horizon include silly faces, animals, encouraging words

and jokes (for April Fool's Day). 'We'll keep it up until we're given the all clear," Donohoe said.

Plymouth isn't the only community promoting grassroots neighborhood events. Several recent social media posts have advertised Front Porch Farmington, Chalk your Walk and more.

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



Adams Street neighbors try to keep a safe social distance when they gather outside each evening to spend time together. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Obituaries

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



Doris Jeanne (Lauer) Craig

Doris Jeanne (Lauer) Craig died in Novi, MI on March 20, 2020 while under Hospice care. She was born in Detroit, MI on July 31, 1926. She graduated from Mackenzie High School and married the late Edward "Scotty" Craig in 1946. She is survived by seven children, 17 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren and her boyfriend Al. She was an active participant in senior golf and bowling leagues and was a fixture in bi-weekly swim-aerobic classes in the Novi/ Northville area for over 30 years. She will be remembered for her great faith, compassion, sense of humor and always sharing her knowledge and wisdom with her family (with or without prompting). Doris was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church.



Michael "Mickey" G. Edgar

SOUTH LYON - Mi-

chael (Mickey) G. Edgar, passed away March 18, 2020. Born October 15, 1946 in Pontiac Michigan, he was the son of Inez (Burk) Edgar and Gar (Ruby) Edgar. He is survived by nieces Candace (Brad) Koester and Jennifer (Sam) Runkle, 7 great-nephews and a great-niece. Mickey grew up in Alma and graduated from Alma High School in 1964. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard where he was stationed in Jacksonville, FL and in Alaska. Mickey loved riding his bike all over the suburbs of Detroit. He enjoyed reading, sewing, and wood crafts. His favorite TV show was Jeopardy, hardly ever missing a night. He also enjoyed time with his nieces. He was preceded in death by his father, mother, brother, Lawrence R. Edgar, and nieces Samantha and Heather Edgar. Burial has taken place at Lakeview Cemetery in Howell. There will be a celebration of "Mickey's life held at a later date. Please sign the family's online guestbook at macdonaldsfuneralhome.com

MacDonald's Funeral Home

May you find comfort in family and friends

Anne Burner Hommes

FARMINGTON HILLS
- Age 78, passed away
Wednesday, March
11, 2020. For visitation and funeral information, please visit
heeney-sundquist.com





Gerald M. Horan

FARMINGTON HILLS
- November 17, 1935 December 29, 2019

Gerald M. Horan, 84, passed away Sunday, December 29, 2019. He was born November 17, 1935 in Toronto, Canada to Joseph and Winifred (Parkinson) Horan. Jerry and his wife Bernadine have been wintering in



Following his service in the U.S. Army, Mr. Horan worked as an Accountant in various capacities including as a controller of a major corporation. He went on to study at Central Michigan University and received his first Master's Degree and at age 74 received his second Master's Degree from the University of Michigan of which he was very proud. Following his early retirement from Volkswagen of America, he went on to become a consultant for Ford Motor Company and also Valeo Corporation. He was an avid reader and enjoyed watching and playing hockey.

Mr. Horan is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Bernadine Horan, his sons: Jerry Horan (Sandra) and David Horan (Kathrine) Horan, both of Michigan; his grandchildren: Raina, Brianna, Joshua, Jett, Sarah and Jack. He is also survived by his siblings: Joan Barron, Rosemarie Wolski and Norman Horan; as well as two sisters-in-law, Dianne Horan and Elaine Horan.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Local funeral arrangements are under the direction of Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, 1589 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33907, 239-936-0555.

Stuart Kaye Jeske

RALEIGH NC - Stuart Jeske, 87, of Raleigh NC, passed away on March 21, 2020.

Stuart was born on August 5, 1932, in Detroit, Michigan to Walter Jeske and Estelle Kauffman Jeske. Stuart was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Barbara. He is survived by sons Stephen



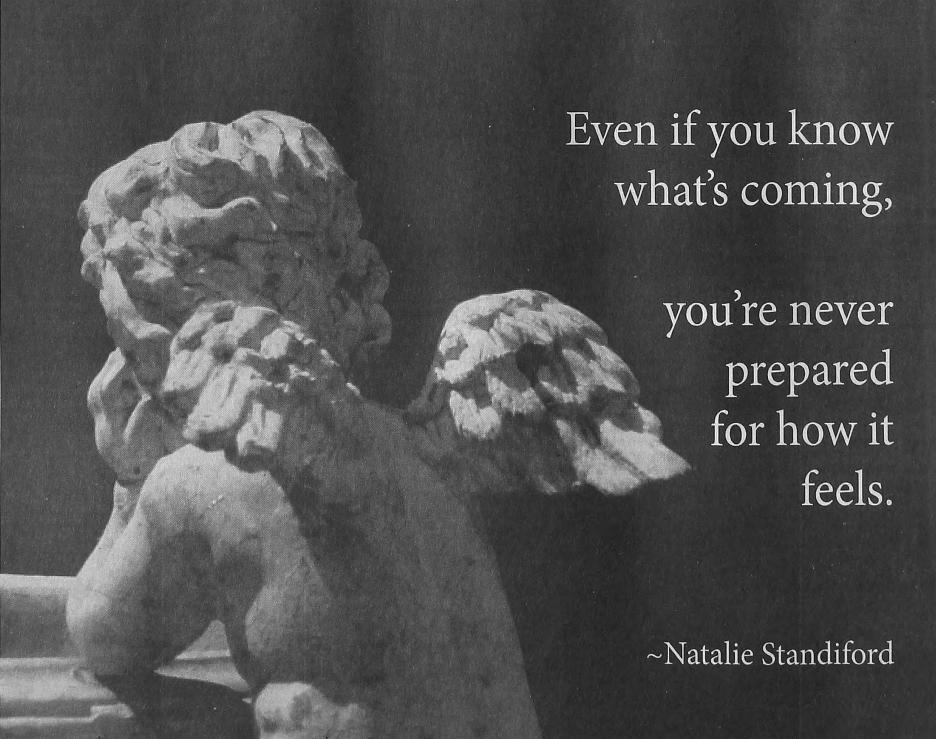
(Tamara) of Birmingham, MI, Michael (Lea Anne) of Clemmons, NC, and Robert (Katherine) of Chapel Hill, NC. He is also survived by six grand-children and one great-granddaughter.

Stuart was a graduate of Albion College in Albion, Michigan. Following graduation, he started a career as a sales manager in the lamp division of General Electric, where he worked for over 40 years until his retirement. Stuart was a long-time coach and President of the Birmingham, Michigan Little League. He also served on the board of directors of the Birmingham YMCA. Stuart was an avid golfer, a fan of his beloved Detroit Tigers, and passionate follower of Michigan Wolverines sports.

During retirement, Stuart and Barbara escaped the cold and snow by relocating to Chapel Hill, NC, and later moved to Raleigh, making many new friends along the way, continuing to play golf, and volunteering at the UNC Children's Hospital.

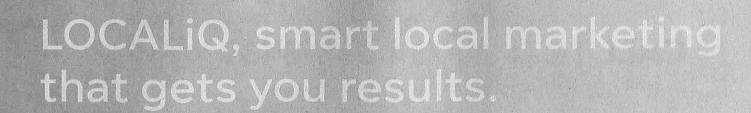
Memorials may be made to The Centers for Exceptional Children, 2315 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27106 or to the UNC Children's Hospital, 101 Manning Drive, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514.





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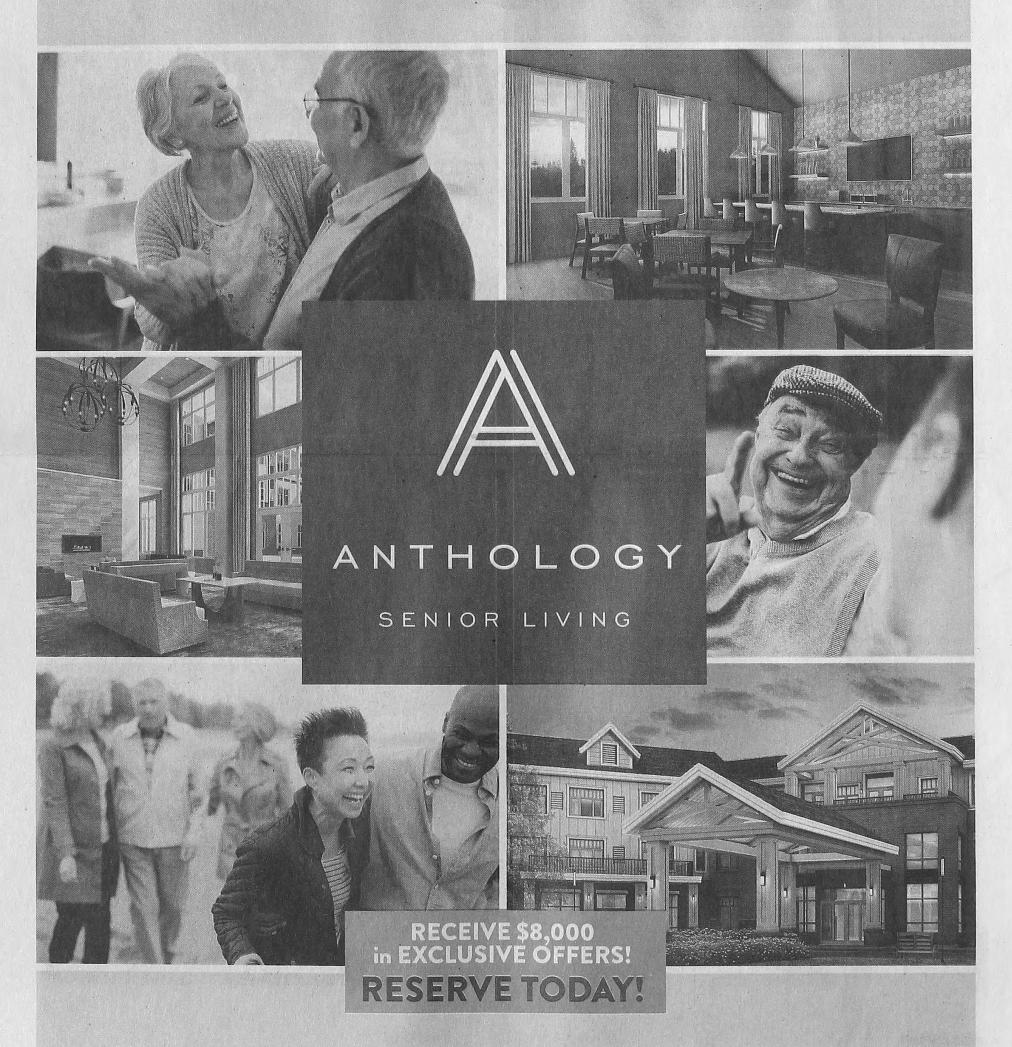
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USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Val Dichau fall book in lave with boo

Kal Riebau fell back in love with basketball in his senior year of high school. He played the sport all growing up,

stopping after falling victim to puberty – describing himself as small and chubby. But the combination of a sixinch growth spurt and a 35-pound weight loss brought him back to the floor in his final year of high school.

Riebau made the team, playing the role he expected he would: a player coming off the bench sporadically for minutes, a guy who wanted to be around his team as much as he could. He was a guy who just wanted to help others get better.

Now, years later, Riebau can't seem

to leave the floor.

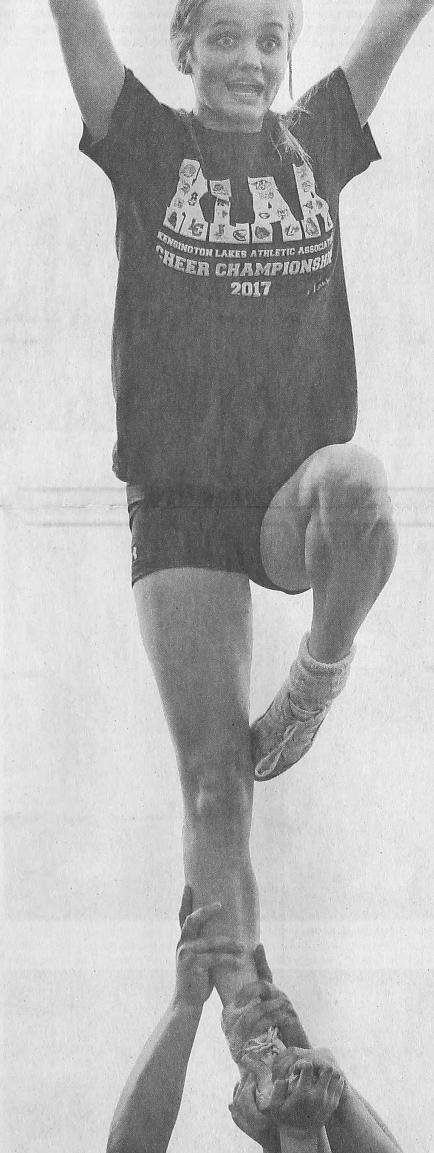
He serves as junior varsity head

See RIEBAU, Page 3B



Kal Riebau spent two seasons as a graduate assistant for Detroit Mercy.

MIKE MCDERMOTT



Plymouth cheer places second in state Div. 1

Andrew Vailliencourt

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The Plymouth cheer program made history earlier this month, finishing its best season ever by placing second in the state

The Division 1 state competition was held March 6-7 in Grand Rapids and saw eight teams fight for the state championship after those teams advanced out of regionals.

Plymouth received a final score of 790.74, just under one point less than state champion Rochester Adams, which finished with a score of 791.70.

"This is hands down the best performance and team that Plymouth has ever had," Plymouth cheer coach Samantha Koehler said. "These athletes dedicated their time, energy, heart and sole into the cheer program for these last nine months and the reward was so worth it. Week after week they worked hard to perfect all three of their rounds and when they took the mat at the state finals they left everything on the floor. They truly showed their passion and dedication in their rounds and left their whole heart on that mat."

We talked to Koehler and three of her assistant coaches about the special season the Wildcats experienced:

Q: Describe your emotions when finding out your team placed so highly? What was that moment like?

"State finals night was one of the most incredible and emotional times for this team and this program. Prior to the competition, we told the team that, no matter the outcome, they were never going to forget how it felt to compete at state finals. After each round coaches are able to check scores to see what place they are in moving forward. Following round three, our coaches didn't check the scores because we were fully confident that they put out the best three rounds they had ever performed and that feeling, in itself, was better than anything else. We thought that feeling was unmatched, but the payoff was even greater. Hearing the announcer call the placements in reverse order from 8th place to first was nerve wracking for everyone, but in the same sense we all had this sense of content with

See PLYMOUTH, Page 2B

The Plymouth High School competitive cheer team practices on March 2 at the school as it prepared for the state finals. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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'Leap of faith' takes Brighton's Erkkila to NMU

Bill Khan Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Marquette has always felt like home to Tim Erkkila.

The three-time all-state defenseman from Brighton has family in the Upper Peninsula's largest city and a sister who will graduate from Northern Michigan University in December.

But to secure a college future in familiar surroundings, Erkkila had to venture 3,700 miles from home — to Alaska.

After graduating from Brighton last year, Erkkila spent the past winter playing for the Fairbanks Ice Dogs of the North American Hockey League.

He will spend the next four seasons playing for Northern Michigan after making a commitment to the Wildcats this week.

"It's always been a dream of mine to play college hockey in the U.P.," Erkkila said.

"Northern just had a strong history of success in hockey and academics. Their

coaching staff made a really strong pitch. In talking to them, I thought it'd be a good fit."

Erkkila is the second Livingston County all-stater from the Class of 2019 to commit to Northern Michigan, joining Hartland's Joey Larson.

Larson spent the season with the Chilliwack Chiefs of the British Columbia Hockey League, but Erkkila moved even farther from home to pursue his bockey dreams

"It was nerve-racking, for sure," Erkkila said. "It was kind of a leap of faith, but looking back I'm definitely glad I took it.

"It was really cool. You never really experience Alaska until you go there and live there for a little bit. Just to get a feel for it, to live outside the Mitten, was pretty awesome."

While living in Alaska with a host family, Erkkila took a year off from academics to focus on hockey.

"To start my academic career is going to be really nice after taking a year off," said Erkkila, who was an academic all-



past
winter
playing for
the
Fairbanks
Ice Dogs of
the North
American
Hockey
League.
COURTESY
PHOTO

Tim Erkkila spent the

stater in high school. "Taking another year would've been tough to get back into balancing school and hockey."

Erkkila had two goals, 16 assists and a plus-31 rating in 49 games this season. He had five points in his last seven games.

At Brighton, he had the green light to jump into the attack. He was the Bulldogs' second-leading scorer as a senior with nine goals and 18 assists in .27 games.

"I was happy with how I played defensively," said Erkkila, the only Livingston County player to make the all-state Dream Team twice. "As the season went on, I thought I increased my play offensively. I think my coaches were happy, as well.

"Going into college, the main focus is going to be to lock it down in my own end and do the little things right that they recruited me for. From there, I'll try to up my game offensively."

Erkkila helped Fairbanks post a 38-11-1-2 record, good for first place in the Midwest Division and third overall out of 26 teams in the NAHL.

His season ended when the NAHL cancelled the remainder of its schedule because of the coronavirus. Erkkila arrived back in Brighton Wednesday.

"It was pretty devastating news to hear it was canceled," Erkkila said. "We had a really good group. We definitely would've made a pretty deep run. It feels like a little bit of unfinished business."

Plymouth

Continued from Page 1B

how we completed our rounds for the last time. After third place was called I remember looking at the coaches next to me, the team in front of me, and our fans knowing that I would never forget that moment. For the first time ever we had not only qualified for state finals, but we knew we were one of the top two in the state. The pure excitement, joy, and gratitude that came from the team when they heard their name called for the 2020 Division One State Runner Up title was a feeling no one could ever forget. In that moment the hard work, dedication, and passion each of these girls showed us for the past 9 months had been paid off and for one last time we celebrated as a team. No words can describe how irreplaceable that feeling was." - Alyssa Tocco, varsity assistant

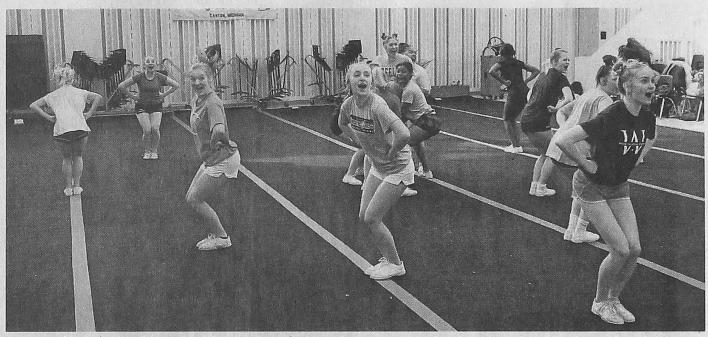
Q: How would you summarize your feelings about this team and the season you've had?

"This team was something special. The work, drive, and determination that the girls had along with us coaches is the reason we made it so far. Week by week they continuously improved, as coaches we couldn't have asked for a better season. Each week our goals would have to change because they would accomplish the ones from the previous week. A good problem to have. Going into regionals our goal was to place top four, but the girls put up great performances to land us a top two spot. Then the same thing happened again at state finals. State Runner-Up was the icing on the cake. A word to describe this season would be: blissful. Pure happiness was experienced with this team and this season." -NaKhari Barkley, varsity assistant

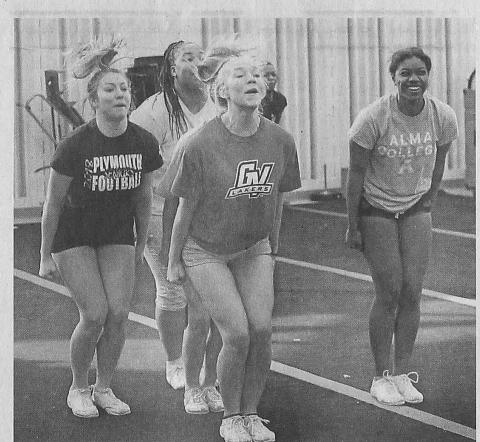
"This team will forever hold a special place in my heart because they gave us as coaches everything we could have ever asked for and made all of our dreams come true as well. Our focus all year was being the best we could be and we as coaches, always preached to our kids that 'your best is enough' and so many times over this season it proved to be true. In cheerleading we only have an offense; we have no defense. So we can only control what we perform and every day that drove our athletes to strive for perfection and fixing the smallest details. Every time they took the mat, they performed like it would be their last and gave every ounce of energy, passion and heart they could and that was a key factor and one of the many reasons this team was so special and successful."

Q: Are there any individual stand-

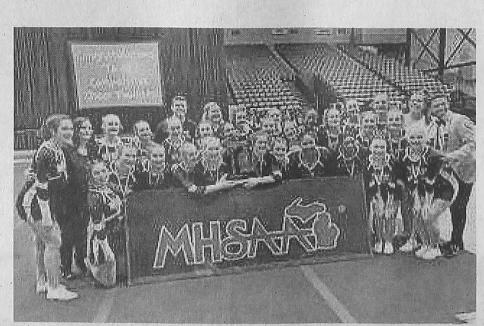
outs you'd like to highlight? "We were very lucky to be lead by a strong class of Seniors this year, Jillian Baldwin, Ally Stepek, Janae Washington, Faith Williams, Sarah Helling, Amber Tao, Lauren Williams, Emily Fines and Beth Perry really lead the pack and stepped up as leaders. We had four athletes who competed in every single round, every competition, every practice, Alley Cassar, Ally Stepek, Avery Maruszewski and Natalia Muzquiz. To compete at the Varsity level in all three rounds takes not only talent but hardwork and a special kind of love for the sport. These four athletes never got a break and gave everything they had into all of their performances. We have a



Above and below: The Plymouth High School competitive cheer team runs through its routines March 2 at the school. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The team poses after its second-place finish at states earlier this month.

COURTESY OF SAMANTHA KOEHLER

really strong group of sophomores and freshmen who make up more than half of our team. Sophomores Alley Cassar, Katie Fisher, Avery Maruszewski, Kia McDowell, Natalia Muzquiz, Ava Perry, Serenity Schaecher, Hailey Tocco and freshmen Khalilah Harvey, Lexi Macyda and Anissa McKenzie all played huge rolls in the success of this season and will continue to do so in the next couple years. Alaina Beadle and Taylor Hendershot lead the junior class along with

Division 1 state cheer finals results

1. Rochester Adams	791.70
2. Plymouth	790.74
3. Grand Blanc	789.74
4. Eisenhower	788.30
5. Rochester	787.26
6. Brighton	786.74
7. Lake Orion	785.64
8. Hartland	778.56

Kendall Rabold and Hannah Rawlings. Each athlete on this team really contributed to the success of our season." – Koehler

Q: What made this team so good/ special?

This team was extremely special because of their work ethic and relationships. They worked every single practice to make sure that they fixed everything that was asked of them. And they would not stop until they could perform a perfect round. They were able to give constructive criticism to each other and it was given and received with a lot of respect. So instead of having a couple coaches watching, there were 30 sets of eyes each rep. Their desire to make history drove them to have the most passion and desire out of any other cheerleading team Plymouth has seen before." - Sara Kempton, varsity assistant coach

Q: Anything else you want to add?

"It takes a village to have a successful program and we owe many thanks to our Booster Club, team moms, parents, community, school and athletic department for all of the support year after year. This team and season has been the best by far and broke every school record that was ever held. This team is finishing the season as City Champs, East Division Champs, KLAA Conference Champs, District Champs, Regional Runner-Up and State Runner-Up as well as earning Academic All-State Team Honors. This team will forever hold a place in the history books at Plymouth High School and we couldn't ask for a better group of athletes to represent our program." – Koehler

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

OAA GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL-LEAGUE TEAMS

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

While the regular season may be over and the playoffs suspended, the Oakland Activities Association released its all-league teams for girls basketball from the 2019-20 season.

Representatives from Birmingham Groves, Bloomfield Hills, North Farmington, Birmingham Seaholm and Farmington each made the list of honor-

Here is a look at who took home allleague honors from the Hometown Life coverage area, broken down by division:

OAA Red

■ Ellie Ruprich, senior, Birmingham Groves

I Kaitlin Quinn, junior, Birmingham Groves I Angelina Savaya, senior, Bloomfield Hills

Honorable Mention Il Melisa Macaj, sophomore, Bloomfield Hills

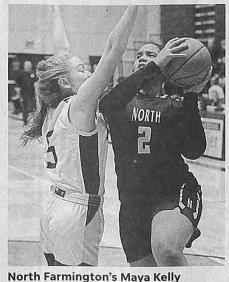
OAA White

I Maya Kelly, senior, North Farmington Il Heaven Rogers, junior, North Farmington **Honorable Mention**

Molly Simpson, senior, North Farmington

OAA Blue

I Grace Liebler, senior, Birmingham Seaholm



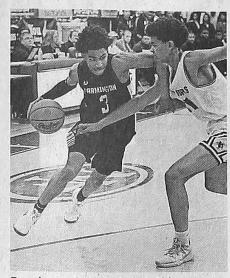
prepares to put up a shot. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lily Morrissette, junior, Farmington ■ Valadian Pallett, junior, Farmington **Honorable Mention**

I Julia Crump, senior, Birmingham Seaholm I Katie Sullivan, junior, Birmingham Seaholm Autumn Bartlett, sophomore, Farmington

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.

OAA BOYS BASKETBALL ALL-LEAGUE TEAMS



Farmington High's Jaden Akins, an MSU recruit, heads to the basket. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

While the regular season may be over and the playoffs suspended, the Oakland Activities Association released its all-league teams for boys basketball from the 2019-20 season.

Representatives from North Farmington, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, Birmingham Groves and Birmingham

Seaholm each made the list of honor-

Farmington finished the regular season as the OAA White champion, and head coach Terrance Porter was voted as the division's coach of the year.

Here is a look at who took home allleague honors from the Hometown Life coverage area, broken down by division:

OAA Red

Basheer Jihad, junior, North Farmington ■ Eddie Lenton, senior, North Farmington I Jamal Hayes, senior, North Farmington ■ Collin Hecker, senior, Bloomfield Hills **Honorable Mention**

Mason Canfield, junior, Bloomfield Hills

OAA White

Jaden Akins, junior, Farmington Tariq Humes, junior, Farmington

Robert Davis, sophomore, Farmington I Daniel Lee, junior, Birmingham Groves

OAA Blue

Alex Lonze, senior, Birmingham Seaholm I Dominic Cullen, senior, Birmingham Seaholm

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.

Riebau

Continued from Page 1B

coach at Bloomfield Hills High School, bringing a coaching resume filled to the brim with collegiate experience - from student manager at Marquette under head coach Buzz Williams to graduate assistant at Detroit Mercy.

As a walking conglomeration of some of the greatest minds in the college basketball world, Riebau earns respect from players and coaches before he even walks into a room. Many describe him as a Division 1-level college coach.

When he walks into a gym with a whistle around his neck, the respect level does not change. Riebau had instant credibility, even though he is missing most of his left hand.

Riebau was diagnosed with amniotic band syndrome at birth - a condition resulting in the tearing of the amniotic sac in which the fibers may break off and limit blood flow, leading to a possible loss of limb.

As a small child, Riebau viewed it as something he would figure out along the way, saying he used a prosthetic left hand from when he was 6 months to 2 years old, but that he hated it and it got in his way.

To him, more so than anything, it forced Riebau to work harder to master simple things, something his parents never let him use as justification.

"I had incredible parents that never let me use it as an excuse ever, for any rhyme or reason," Riebau said. "I think between my family and the core group of friends that never batted an eye or made it a bigger deal, or a deal at all, those groups to fall back on, it never was an issue."

Riebau had the team around him to set up success at an early age: a family and friend group that he said empowered him to do anything he wanted.

He also had a role model in Jim Abbott, a pitcher from Flint with amniotic band syndrome who spent 10 seasons in MLB, to show that he can thrive in the sports world with this disorder.

"He was the man growing up," Riebau said. "To see a professional athlete, someone who looked like me, perform at the highest level was super cool."

Riebau had to find different ways to get things done when playing sports, whether it was basketball, football and baseball. Describing himself as "never the best athlete of the group," Riebau was always excited to be a part of a team and to perform the role given.

When his role shifted in college at Marquette, his passions in basketball were cemented

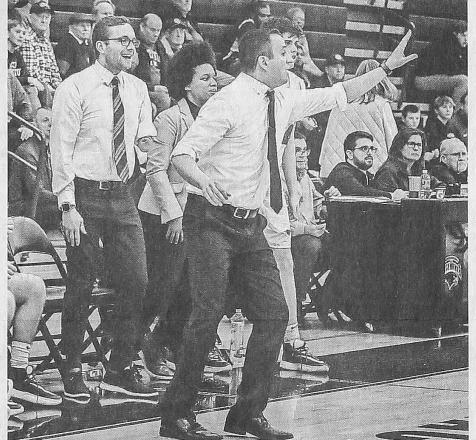
Learning on the job

As a freshman at Marquette, Riebau, already turned down for a job with the men's basketball team, sat in his dorm room on a Tuesday night in October when the phone rang.

It was an assistant coach with the Golden Eagles asking for help in cutting up film for practices.

Riebau learned on the fly, separating film cuts into "ones and twos" for offense and defense.

"I left at like 12:30 in the morning, and the coach who had called me was still there, and he said, 'OK, see you tomor-



Kal Riebau, left, just completed his first season with Bloomfield Hills as the JV head coach after college stints with Marquette and Detroit Mercy. SUSAN ADAMS

row," Riebau said. "And I worked there under these coaches with his own team.

Riebau served as the student manager for Marquette from 2010-14, working with Williams and the Golden Eagles through two Sweet 16 appearances and an Elite Eight appearance in 2013.

Lyle Wolf, a former graduate assistant at Marquette and a current assistant coach with Williams at Texas A&M, remembers Riebau's contagious energy and ambition, the edge he carried himself with, that he did not allow anything to get in the way of his goals.

He could tell that Riebau wanted to be a basketball coach.

"Kal was an avid note taker, was somebody who was always asking questions about why at the right time, so obviously he was always listening and would do what you tell him to do," Wolf said. "But later on, when the time allowed it, he would try and get insight into why we did this."

Riebau was in awe of the college basketball experience, traveling with the team, watching the recruiting process and watching those players progress into the success stories that Marquette had in that time.

"It was watching Coach Williams and his staff take boys, kids in high school, and getting the absolute most out of them physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and pushing them so much farther than they thought they could ever go," Riebau said.

Riebau brought that mentality to Michigan, joining the Detroit Mercy men's basketball coaching staff as a graduate assistant under head coaches Ray McCallum and Bacari Alexander while he studied in the education administration master's program.

During his time in college basketball, Riebau worked with four different head coaches who brought four different styles to the court.

In this time, Riebau said he was a sponge, ready to use what he has learned

"There are things that I took from everybody, absolutely, that I wanted to incorporate and do so at the high school level," Riebau said.

This season, Riebau got the chance.

Put into practice

Bloomfield Hills varsity basketball coach Phil Kurajian views Riebau as a high-level college basketball coach. So when Detroit Mercy made wholesale staffing changes and Riebau was without a coaching position, Kurajian saw his chance.

"I begged him to come join us," Kurajian said. "Number one because he is just a great person to be around. He's a fantastic role model for our guys, and, obviously, he knows hoops too.'

While it was not the college level, Riebau thought the junior varsity coaching job was appealing.

He said it was an opportunity to establish his own group, his own program, running practices like Alexander ran at Mercy or Williams ran at Marquette with some variance based on the skill level.

Riebau had the example from the programs he was a part of: each preached development, getting players from where they are now to where they want

"When I was in college, that was the NBA, for most kids' goals," Riebau said. "For here, it's a sophomore making varsity or a junior making varsity when the time comes."

The Bloomfield Hills junior varsity basketball team finished with a 10-10 record in Riebau's first season, winning four of its last five games of the season.

Riebau said he had to grow a lot that first season. He said he realized he played with a group of players that were playing for different reasons, and understanding that and adapting his leadership style to that was a big sense of

But it was also more simple than that for the first-year head coach.

"I think I had to take a step back and realize that we weren't going to go undefeated," Riebau said. "That not necessarily our wins and losses would dictate success of the season, but making sure I have prepared 15 kids to try out and ultimately their goal is to make our varsity squad."

Pete Kahler knew what Riebau would bring to Bloomfield Hills long before he took the job.

The Bloomfield Hills assistant coach worked with Riebau on the Detroit Mercy coaching staff. He hyped up Riebau to the junior varsity team, telling them about his experience at the college level and working for USA Basketball.

He even told the team that Riebau has Buzz Williams on speed dial.

That was all before they actually saw their new head coach. But, even without a left hand, Kahler said it makes no difference for Riebau.

"The first thing you realize is that 'Oh, this guy is missing half an arm,' " Kahler said. "Then you realize quickly that it doesn't impact a single freaking thing that he does, whether it's playing on the court, like literally drills, to texting on his phone or typing or anything else.'

"It pisses me off because he can shoot better than I can too."

'He's Kal'

When Riebau was at Marquette, Jerry Wainwright, a former assistant coach for the Golden Eagles, now with Tulsa, said something to him that he will never for-

"He said, 'Kal, it takes you two minutes to do something that most people try to spend their whole lives doing, and that's walk into a room and immediately be recognized," Riebau said.

Riebau used to think that was just identifying someone as different, like himself, who does not have two hands.

But through life experience, not allowing his physical disability to hinder him in any way, to inspire players and coaches on a daily basis by just doing what he loves, Riebau thinks Wainwright is 100 percent correct.

What he was saying was that it's really a blessing and a unique situation that you can walk into a room and, yes, be immediately identified, but you can use that to your advantage in whatever you decide to do for the rest of your life," Riebau said.

This is the confidence Riebau has exuded from the start, stemming from the idea that he can do whatever he wants to ingrained in him from an early age from his friends and family.

It's the confidence every time Kurajian sees Riebau in the gym, working with his kids.

"The thing with him is, he doesn't back down from anything," Kurajian said. "The way he lives his life, it's hard to put into words because his confidence, I get more confident being around him. He's that personality where you don't even know that he has the one hand.

"He's Kal."

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.

Olympics will be worth the wait



Christine Brennan
Columnist
USA TODAY

Someday relatively soon, a Summer Olympics will take place in Tokyo. It won't begin on July 24, as we know after officials postponed the games on Tuesday, but it will happen. In the midst of sadness, uncertainty and fear over the worldwide outbreak of the novel coronavirus, this is where an Olympic conversation should start today: with the hope and relief the largest regularly scheduled gathering of the world will bring, when it comes.

Can you imagine the scene when the Olympic flame is brought into the stadium in Tokyo next spring or next summer to signal the beginning of the 2020 Olympic Games – in 2021? How strange, and yet how exhilarating.

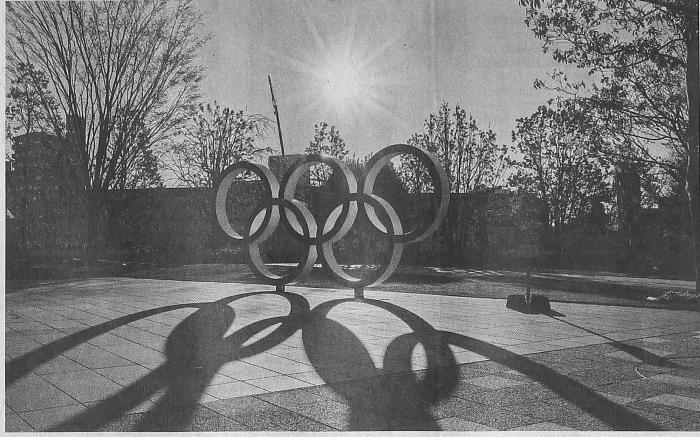
The athletes of the world forced this change upon the International Olympic Committee and the various national Olympic committees and sports federations, and they will be the ones to revel in it when the moment arrives. They were the ones who were concerned that they were endangering not only their own health but the health of those around them by continuing to try to train in the midst of a pandemic. They were the ones who didn't want to defy shelter-in-place orders to keep their Olympic dream alive. They were the ones who wanted to be good global citizens

It's now our fervent hope that when the Olympics comes, it will have been worth the wait.

Clearly, any Olympics, much less any sporting event, will not – or should not – go on if there still is a danger that the virus is among us. But presuming the world is back to some semblance of normalcy in 2021, the Tokyo Games will be there to formally announce it.

Ironically enough, these were being called "The Recovery Games" in Japan, referring to the country's tsunami and earthquake in March 2011 and the subsequent meltdown of three nuclear reactors. Recovery, indeed.

"One of the great things about an



The Olympic rings cast a shadow in Tokyo on Tuesday, the day the International Olympic Committee and Japanese government announced that the 2020 Olympics will be postponed "to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021." CARL COURT/GETTY IMAGES

Olympics is all the stories about athletes overcoming adversity," American Olympic swimming star Katie Ledecky told USA TODAY Sports in a phone interview Tuesday afternoon. "Now everyone in the world is facing so much adversity. When the Olympics are held, it will truly be a celebration of the entire world coming out of this adversity and coming together. After all the social distancing, in a year's time, the hope is that we'll all be together, celebrating together."

It's mind-boggling to think of everything that must be done to move a Summer Olympics from one year to the next. It's a massive undertaking that has never been done before. There have been cancellations for World War I and II and political boycotts in 1976, 1980 and 1984, but nothing like this. It involves billions of dollars, hundreds of structures and

hundreds of thousands of people. It's venues, an Olympic village, hotels, tickets, flights, spectators, organizers, the news media, everyone. It's truly overwhelming.

That said, if any city can pull this off, Tokyo can. Organizers have already spent a fortune, well over \$12 billion, to get ready for the games, and they're about to spend more. But it's a good guess to expect that Tokyo will be as ready for its Olympics as any city could be, whenever it is.

An Olympics is a sporting event, certainly, but it's often so much more. In this way, Tokyo has been through this before

The 1964 Games, the first to be held in Asia, were Japan's coming-out party to the world just 19 years after the end of World War II. Organizers of those games met the symbolism of the moment by selecting a runner named Yoshinori Sakai to be their final torchbearer to light the cauldron at the opening ceremony.

Why the 19-year-old Sakai? His age gives it away. He was born on Aug. 6, 1945, in Hiroshima, the day the atomic bomb was dropped on that city.

Legendary U.S. swimmer Donna de Varona, who won two gold medals as a teenager at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, said Tuesday that she remembers traveling around Japan two years before those games on a promotional swimming tour.

"The country was being transformed," she said. "They had a two-lane road from the airport and there was only one hotel that still had bullet holes in it.

"Then it all changed. They'll find a way. They'll find a way."

ADs make contingency budget plans

Steve Berkowitz and Matt Galloway

Some major-college athletics programs are beginning to prepare for the possibility of a delayed start to the football season because of the coronavirus

Three athletic directors say budget forecasts for the 2020-21 fiscal year are being adjusted to take into account the impact of the still-growing public health emergency, including the possibility of reduced attendance at games.

Kansas AD Jeff Long said during a video conference with local reporters on Monday that his program is exploring "What would a 10%, what would a 20% cut in our operations look like?" – although he stressed that no decisions have been made.

Football drives not only television contracts and ticket sales but also the value of schools' local multimedia/marketing rights deals; shoe and apparel agreements; and payments that some customers must pay for the right to lease suites or buy prime tickets. Guarantee-game payments, a feature of many early-season matchups, also could be impacted.

There are no indications at this time the college football season will be disrupted, but athletics departments must plan for potential impact to their budgets.

While the first games are scheduled Aug. 29, most schools have budgets that work under a fiscal year that begins June 1 or July 1. So as fiscal 2020 outcomes seem likely to be affected by the cancellations of the NCAA men's basketball tournament and other events, the development of spending plans for fiscal 2021 are getting started.

And administrators already are looking at the prospect of increased spending to accommodate spring sports athletes whose seasons have been canceled. The NCAA Division I Council's eight-member leadership group said March 13 that providing a replacement season of eligibility "is appropriate for all Division I student-athletes who participated in spring sports."

"Our athletics department is one of the most fiscally efficient in the Power



LSU won last season's College Football Playoff national championship. Its season is scheduled to begin Sept. 5 against Texas-San Antonio. DERICK E. HINGLE/USA TODAY SPORTS

5," Washington State AD Pat Chun said via text message to USA TODAY, referencing a budget that perennially is among the smallest of those schools. "The exercise of reducing expenses for our department is complex but a mountain we are destined to climb.

"The economic forecast in the near term is daunting. The unknown variables at this time need to be defined and will be significant – the reduction in distribution from the NCAA and the impact of student-athletes with an additional year of eligibility. The scenario of the football season being impacted becomes more real by the day. The impact on our overall finances could be precarious.

"We are in the beginning phases of our 2020-21 budgeting process and will need to factor in a scenario that includes a negative impact on football revenues."

Long said Monday that his program has extended all part-time and graduate

employees and its event workers through the remainder of this academic

year, guaranteeing those salaries. Asked at what point he has to start worrying about losing September games and what contingency plans are in that scenario, he said: "We're talking a lot about that, as you might expect. We're somewhat waiting on more information, right? ... We will have to look into the future, and we're doing some exploratory cutting. What would a 10%, what would a 20% cut in our operations look like? We've just, again, started those as part of strategic planning for the future, haven't made any decisions. And again, most of that is determined on how far and how long this crisis

Conferences' multisport television agreements and schools' local media and marketing deals get as much as 85% of their value from football, according to AJ Maestas, the CEO of Navigate, a Chi-

cago-based firm that specializes in college and professional sports rights valuations. Those deals, as well as shoe andapparel deals, often contemplate the prospect of payment adjustment negotiations if games are not played for reasons beyond the school's control.

"We are working on all sorts of contingency plans," Temple AD Pat Kraft said via text message. "We are just starting to run numbers as to what the impact of a delayed football season would look like. The impact would be felt not just on ticket sales but things like merchandise sales, donations and the potential impact on sponsorship and media dollars. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

"I don't know yet what the total impact on the department would be, but it would impact our revenue for sure."

Berkowitz writes for USA TODAY; Galloway writes for The Topeka (Kansas) Capital-Journal.

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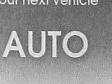
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For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com. Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

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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

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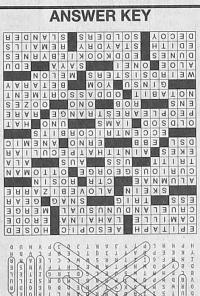
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Making the case for hiring older workers at your firm

Eric Titner theiobnetwork.com

If you're responsible for hiring at your company, your goal is crystal clear: seek out and retain the very best available talent in your field in order to meet the requirements of your open positions and the needs of your business – all in an effort to help your organization push past the competition and lead the pack in your industry.

It's an important goal - and an achievable one - provided your approach to recruitment is well developed and razor-sharp. That said, some recruiters tend to get "tunnel vision" when hiring and approach each recruitment effort with a pre-determined notion of the sort of candidate they'd like to hire. While this can reflect a carefully thought out strategy, it can also be a big mistake. Simply put, approaching any recruitment effort with a canned idea of what sort of person would be ideal for a given position can limit your ability to seriously consider candidates outside of this narrow frame - including folks who may ultimately turn out to meet and even exceed your expectations.

A key demographic that often gets placed out of focus and relegated to the sidelines during recruitment initiatives are older workers. It's an unfortunate reality of today's modern workplace – older workers run into a range of biases that work against them when out in the job market, and they often face a real uphill battle to be taken seriously when in between jobs and looking for their next opportunities.

According to a recent study by AARP, "Two out of three workers between ages 45 and 74 say they have seen or experienced age discrimination at work, and job seekers over age 35 cite it as a top



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obstacle to getting hired. And if you happen to work in the high-tech or entertainment industries, your chances of experiencing age discrimination are even higher."

Clearly, this is an issue that deserves more attention – especially since most of us plan to be gainfully employed and reach this demographic at some point in our career journeys.

They come with a wealth of skills and knowledge

Beyond a desire for fairness, there are real benefits to taking older workers seriously. Experienced workers typically come "pre-loaded" with a wealth of hard-earned abilities that they've likely acquired across a wide range of professional opportunities - all which can be put to effective use for your business if they're given the opportunity. Also, it's time that some of the clichés about older workers finally got put to rest and placed in the dustbin of history, because they simply don't stand up to the evidence. These include the notions that older workers are stuck in the past with rusty, outdated skill sets and lack the energy and drive needed to keep your business agile and running efficiently into the future.

They're motivated to stay current and engaged

The truth is many people well older than the millennial age make a real effort to keep their skills and abilities current and cutting edge in their industries. And in terms of energy and motivation, many older workers have their younger counterparts beat, as they're driven by a desire to squash the old notion that older equals out of the loop. They also often come backed by a temperament that includes a level of appreciation, maturity, patience, and flexibility that they've honed over years of experience.

They're often less fickle and more dedicated than newbies to the industry

Older workers can also typically be counted on to use sound, careful logic, and rational thinking when making key decisions. And when it comes to longevity, older workers are more likely to stick it out and help your business grow over the long haul, as compared to younger employees who tend to jump between jobs more often. Given the considerable expense of replacing and onboarding new employees, hiring older workers may just be a sound financial investment for your business.

When you take all of the factors listed here into consideration, it's clear that a case could – and should – be made for taking older workers seriously when making recruitment and hiring decisions. Keep your options open and your biases at bay the next time resumes of all ages cross your desk.

Eric Titner has been an editor and content creator for more than a decade. His primary professional focus has been on education- and career-related topics.

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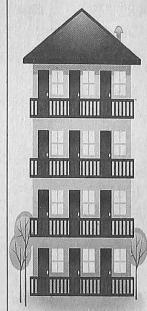
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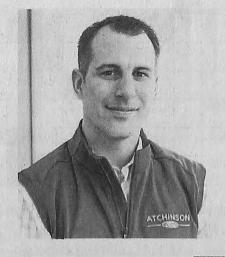
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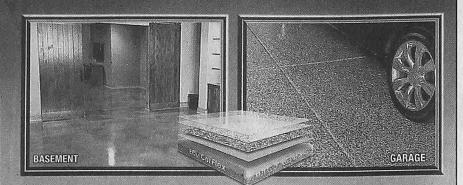
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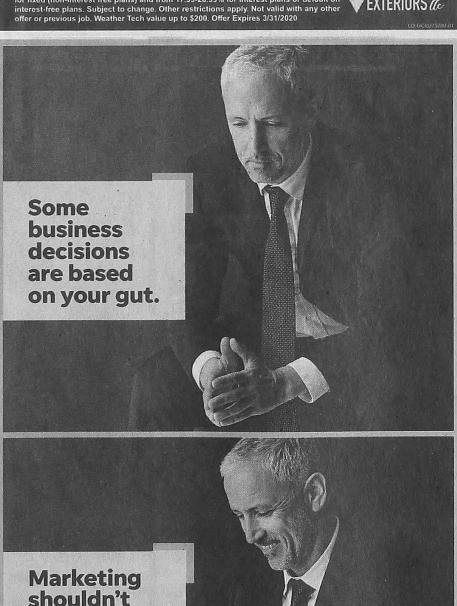


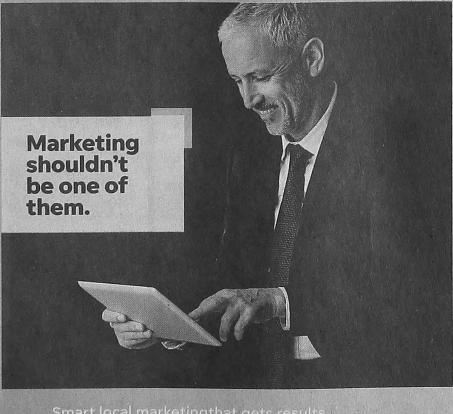
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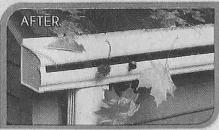
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