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SPORTS, 1B

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OBSERVER

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Livonia ordinance would keep pets from cold

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plenty of people let the family dog spend ample time outside.

But even though most pets have fur, some temperatures are too cold for pets to safely stay outside for a long time. According to the Ann Arbor Animal Hospital, people should check their dogs for

signs they're cold, like shivering, when it temperatures dip below 20 degrees. But, it isn't an exact science and depends on the breed and size of the dog.

Livonia is considering an ordinance to regulate how long pets can stay outside during extreme cold snaps.

Councilman Brandon McCullough asked the city's law department to research what an ordinance might include

and make a recommendation to council on how to proceed. Council voted unanimously to pass the issue to legal. Weather is briefly mentioned in the city's current animal cruelty and neglect ordinance.

"Just even being a dog owner, I've had multiple people over the last year or so after being elected bring this up to me with the cold temperatures and some-

times the heat," McCullough said.

The issue became a hot topic among residents last week when a resident left three beagles outside while metro Detroit was experiencing freezing temperatures.

Local animal control authorities received a flurry of calls about the

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Johnny Mihaesi and Morgan Zaremba sit in a booth at US12 Bar and Grill on Feb. 17 near a display graphic of Iggy and the Stooges. Iggy and his band played at the bar in Wayne when it was the Rock and Roll Farm. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Canton Twp. road epitomizes drivers' frustration

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The poster child for the most messed-up, rim-rattling, tire-damaging roadways in western Wayne County is the half-mile northbound driving surface (calling it a road would be giving it way too much credit) of Canton Township's Canton Center Road from Hanford to Warren roads.

I know because I live just a hub cap's roll from the above-mentioned driving horror show.

The Mars rover would be lucky to last 30 seconds on Canton Center, which is about the lifespan of tires that meet one of its deep and sharply bordered craters at just the right angle.

One of Canton Center's most-recent victims is the driver's side front tire of my wife's 2019 Honda Accord, the replacement of which set us back \$180. Less than a minute after she hit the deflating crater, she observed another disabled vehicle being towed away from a nearby 7-11 parking lot, one of its tires headed toward the rubber graveyard.

After viewing the accompanying video produced while driving down Canton Center one man quipped: "That's the first time I lost a filling just by watching a video."

Less than three years removed from a \$2 million-plus improvement project by the Wayne County Roads Division, Canton Center is littered with gaping potholes and uneven patches of pavement that have been filled with temporary-patching compounds.

Vehicles driven by presumably-sober motorists weave haphazardly through the pothole minefield, appearing as if they've had a few too many cocktails.

Ric Johnson, who co-owns Ric & Rocky's Car Care with his son Rocky, sees a steady stream of business created by Canton Center Road, which runs parallel to his business that sits just south of Hanford.

"It's not just tires that are damaged on that road," Johnson said. "It's rims, suspensions."

Johnson said the most susceptible vehicles are the ones with shorter sidewalls on their tires (like my wife's Honda Accord).

"When the sidewall is shorter, there

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Wayne bar remodel touts its place in rock history

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Tucked away on Michigan Avenue in downtown Wayne is a bar with a rich rock 'n' roll history. Now, its owner is putting that history out front and center.

John Goci, owner of US 12 Bar and Grill, has reopened the space at 34824 W. Michigan Ave., after renovating the longtime mainstay in Wayne over the

past year. The highlight of the renovations include images on the wall of some of the rock acts performing in the space decades ago, including Iggy Pop and The Stooges, as well as Bob Seger.

"I always knew about the rock history of this place," Goci said. "There was no Westland, it was Nankin Township. There was no Canton. Wayne was the big town."

"There have been so many great artists who have played here."

The site was home to the bar called Rock 'n' Roll Farm in the mid-1970s, hosting plenty of musical acts for a small cover charge. Goci said Seger played at the bar three times and The Stooges played once, attracting crowds of all kinds. Several musicians, including those two, now have their images plastered on the walls of the bar with the images of Seger coming

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Livonia WWII veteran celebrates 100th birthday

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Joseph Girolamo has been a lot of things.

He's a father, a brother, a great-great-grandfather, a union man, a soldier during World War II and so much more.

Now he's adding centenarian to that list.

Girolamo will celebrate his 100th year on this earth March 9. His family rented out DeLuca's Restaurant in Westland so he can celebrate with those who love him most. Girolamo was also honored by his friends at American Legion Post 32 in Livonia March 3 for his years of volunteering.

The oldest and last surviving of seven children, Girolamo was born in New

York City in 1921 and grew up in the Detroit area. He sold newspapers on street corners growing up and cultivated a love of music. He's played in bands and won awards for his skill playing violin, trumpet and bass. He can still play his harmonica, too.

During WWII, Girolamo answered

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Westland man sentenced 5-15 years in death of woman found at park

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A grieving father wished an eternity of birthdays behind bars for Anthony Kesteloot, the Westland man who has not fought accusations that he killed Olivia Rossi.

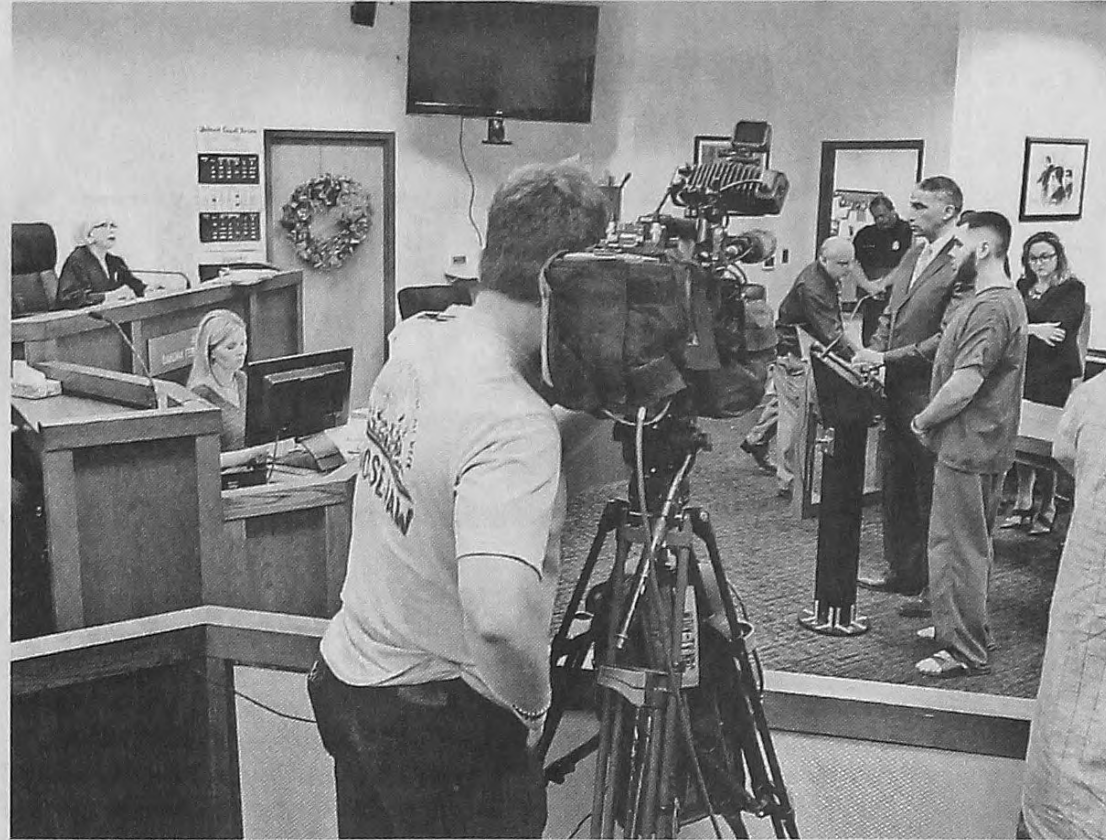
"Olivia was a very loving and trusting person," Michael Rossi said during Tuesday's Zoom sentencing. "Now she's gone forever, for an eternity.

"To think of what he did to her, especially bringing her down to a park and us not knowing for days where she was or what had happened to her. He cheated her of her 24th birthday. I think it would be appropriate that Mr. Kesteloot would spend the rest of his birthdays in prison."

The father did not get his wish. Third Circuit Judge Donald Knapp sentenced Kesteloot, 27, of Westland to 5-15 years in prison, with about 560 days of credit for jail time served.

Knapp explained that there was a "strong chance" that a jury would have found Kesteloot not guilty of murder - and no sentence would have been imposed - if he had gone to trial. A medical examiner's report, Knapp said, did not conclusively say that Kesteloot's apparent strangulation of Rossi caused her death.

"There's nothing that I can say or anybody else can say that can assuage your feelings of loss," Knapp said. "I think it's fair to say that the sentence that's going to be imposed is not a recognition of the value of Miss Rossi's life. It's certainly just a reflection of the



Anthony Kesteloot, right, stands with his attorney in the 18th District Court on Sept. 13, 2019, as his preliminary exam is waived by Judge Sandra Cicirelli, left. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

strength of the People's case."

For the Zoom sentencing, the court kept its cameras far from the family, making it difficult at times to discern bodies or words during the sentencing.

"There ain't nothing I can do to change what happened," said Kesteloot, whose remaining words were not clearly discernible over Zoom.

Rossi, 23, apparently died 10 days before her 24th birthday.

She last communicated with her twin sister Raquel Rossi on Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019. She texted her twin that she was with Kesteloot at a Westland elementary school and he was behaving strangely. Her deceased body was found nearly a week later in the Rouge River in Hines Park.

The young women were close and had worked and gone to school together. They knew Kesteloot from high school.

Raquel Rossi said over Zoom that she was still stunned that Kesteloot had approached her and her father to say that Olivia walked home after they spent time together.

"This murder was so senseless and tragic," Raquel Rossi said. "I'll never forget the night my twin walked out the back door, me grabbing her arm and asking her to stay (and) for her to respond, 'I'll be back in a little bit,' pulling out of the driveway with him and never to be seen alive again.

"His rightful place should forever be in jail."

Kesteloot originally was charged with disinterment of a dead body, obstruction of justice, removing a dead body without proper permission, failure to report a dead body and tampering with evidence in a criminal case.

That changed in January 2020, when he was arraigned on an additional charge of open murder. He pleaded no contest months later to a charge of manslaughter.

A no contest plea is treated as a guilty plea, although there is no admission or denial of guilt.

Audra Rossi, like her remaining twin daughter, said Tuesday that she continues to wake up dealing once again with the heart wrenching loss of her loved one.

"What Anthony did to my daughter is unthinkable and unforgivable," she said. "She never did or could do anything to deserve what he did to her."

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

Pets

Continued from Page 1A

situation, but ultimately deemed the three dogs healthy and safe.

Consequently, a number of residents called into Monday's council meeting to express a desire for an ordinance, many citing the beagle case.

"The circumstances were hard to look at," resident Shayla Weston said during the meeting.

Doug Moore, the city's assistant director of public works, said animal control officers handle animal welfare concerns on a "case by case basis" and take action as needed. Often, cases require some investigation before officers can take action.

"The perception of the neighbor of how long the dog has been out versus how long it's actually been out can be different," Moore said.

An ordinance may provide clear guidance for animal control officers. McCullough said he thinks a wind chill advisory could be a good benchmark to determine when it's too cold for pets to spend more than a few minutes outside.

"I do think there's a need," he said. "When it gets that cold out, I think that can be a tool for our animal control to make sure animals are protected."

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Birthday

Continued from Page 1A

the call to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Army like his father had during World War I. He also had a brother who joined the U.S. Navy and another who became a U.S. Marine.

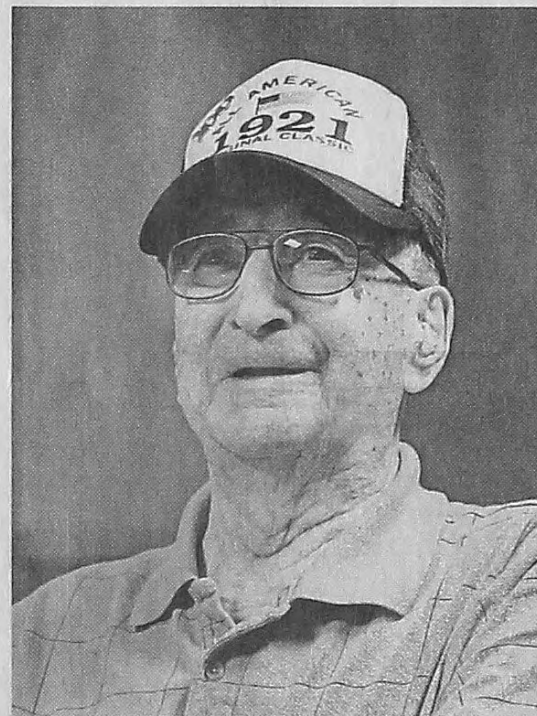
As a Staff Sergeant, Girolamo spent time in Africa, Italy and France. The son of Italians, he found time to visit some family while in Italy. He brought them things like Hershey's chocolate, and they gave him real Italian spaghetti sauce.

"We got into Italy and since my father was born there, we had relatives there," he said. "So as it happens, we were about 30 miles from where they were. We had to hitchhike, and I had food that I brought to them."

After returning to the U.S., Girolamo moved to Livonia with his late wife, Lillian, in 1953. He's continued to live there for the past 68 years.

The Livonian also worked for Ford's River Rouge Complex in Dearborn. He saw workers being treated unfairly and saw only one thing to do:

"I became a union man."



Joe Girolamo talks about his experiences during WWII at Livonia's American Legion Post 32 on March 1. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

As a committeeman for Local 600, Girolamo spent years advocating for workers' rights.

"He worked at Ford before they had a union," Joyce Hermann, Girolamo's daughter, explained. "So, there were ac-

tually thugs and goons running the place. It was a difficult situation until the union came in.

"He made sure everything was done by the book and his workers weren't doing anything unsafe. It was really a big change back then."

Girolamo has also been an ardent advocate for patriotism in his adult life. He was involved in Veterans of Foreign Wars for years and was an active volunteer with the American Legion until recently. He's trained the honor guards, spoken at local schools and was involved with Churchill High School's ROTC program for years.

"He's done a lot around here," Dan Newton, the commander of Post 32, said.

Maybe his secret to living so long is his active lifestyle, or maybe it's that he drank wine with dinner for years. But for others hoping to make it to 100, he doesn't have much advice. When asked how he's managed to live so long, Girolamo didn't have an answer other than being glad to still be around with his daughter.

"Ha! I don't know," he said.

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Road

Continued from Page 1A

is no forgiveness when you hit a pothole hard," Johnson said. "There's not as much to absorb the blow."

Johnson pointed out to a decent-sized Ford F-150 pickup truck in his business's parking lot, saying, "Look at how big those tires are. They're more likely to suffer less damage from even the worst potholes."

No quick fix

Unfortunately, fixing this road seems impossible, township officials and longtime roadway engineers acknowledge, due to a fatal combination of the severely distressed pavement due to a combination of a concrete cancer called ASR (Alkali-silica reaction), inadequate joint spacing that creates excessive cracking and steel reinforcement.

Longtime roads engineer Paul Gluszak asserts that the Wayne County Roads Division is being wrongly accused for the long-term problems associated with the short-term durability of its roads.

"At some point in the mid-'90s, the chemistry of the cement (powder) was changed," Gluszak explained. "During the production of powered cement,

kiln dust was created. This was placed in landfills. The (Environmental Protection Agency) eventually forced the cement manufacturers to recycle the dust back into the cement. The catch was that the alkalinity of the powered cement was raised.

"The sand sources in southeastern Michigan are reactive; the silica in the sands reacts with the high alkali cements forming a gel. This gel freezes creating cracks, predominantly at joints. Once it starts, it doesn't stop. Since it was a minimal issue prior to the change in chemistry, the industry as a whole was taken by surprise."

Gluszak said the county was following accepted protocols when it built what he calls now-flawed roadways like Canton Center.

To make matters worse, Gluszak added, steel reinforcement was eliminated from county road pavement at around the same time ASR started to appear.

"The steel was meant to hold the cracks together," he said. "The problem was that the steel would generally rise near the surface after the paving machine went over.

"Near the surface, the steel would be exposed to water and would cause rust, forcing the shallow concrete cover to pop."

Thankfully, road constructors have learned from their misfortunes.

"If you look at the stretch of Warren Road from Canton Center to about Mor-

ton Taylor, you'll see that road is pretty much pothole-free," Gluszak noted. "They're using different techniques."

In order to ensure that Canton Center becomes a smooth driving strip like Warren, a total rebuild is necessary, but that will require millions of dollars, months of construction and an invaluable level of patience from residents who live near the damaged zone.

Good news

There is a sliver of encouraging news for drivers whose vehicles sustain damage on Canton Center Road, which is classified as a county road: Wayne County offers a damage claim reimbursement program.

In order to be refunded, drivers must show that Wayne County failed to maintain the actual road in reasonable repair to prove a road defect claim and show that the county knew of the condition and had an opportunity to repair it, or that the condition existed for more than 30 days.

The damage claim requires the date, time and exact location of the accident, and an estimate or receipt for vehicle repairs needed as a result of the damage. A photograph of the damaged car part and the road problem is also helpful, the claims website states.

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Bar

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from one of his performances in Wayne. The bar's former iteration was owned by Leo Speer, Goci said, the same person who owned the old Michigan Theater in Detroit. Many times the owner would lure acts to western Wayne County to perform there as well.

"It used to hold a couple thousand people," Goci said of the bar. "When these artists would come through and had an open day before or after, he'd book them in here."

Tyler Moll, director of the Wayne Historical Museum, said that era of history in Wayne is unique, especially when it comes to music venues. He said other places, such as the State Wayne Theater down the road, also began offering live music in the venue around the 1970s.

He said while the museum doesn't have a lot of artifacts connected to the city's rock scene, it has plenty of old newspapers from that era he hopes to go through as early as this summer. Considering the amount of buildings being torn down in town at the time, having some of these rock bands perform was a unique part of Wayne's history, Moll said.

He echoed Goci's comments regarding the rest of the region, saying Wayne was the center of the area and where people would head for an evening out.

"There really wasn't any music venues around here," Moll said. "Most of the towns that were around here were still pretty small and rural."

Goci's family has owned the space since the 1980s. When restaurants were ordered closed last spring, Goci decided it was time to do some refreshing inside. So in between selling items like toilet paper during the shutdowns, he decided to spend a few hundred thousand dollars and update US 12 Bar and Grill. He's worked on the space throughout the past year.

In addition to the graphics on the bar's walls, new booths were added inside and the side room has completely transformed into a tiki bar-themed space. Dubbed the "Daiquiri Shack," the side room to the bar feature tropical decorations and will serve up special drinks just in that room.

"It hadn't been touched in 20 years," he said. "I hired some local artists and



A promotional poster for Bob Seger's concert on display at US12 Bar and Grill. Seger played at the bar when it was called the Rock 'N' Roll Farm three times from 1971-74.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



US12 Bar and Grill owner John Goci in his new next door hangout - the Daiquiri Shack. Goci's family has owned the space since the 1980s. He's worked on remodeling the bar since soon after the coronavirus pandemic began.



A display graphic on a wall at US12 Bar and Grill shows Bob Seger during a performance.

we're still finalizing it."

Goci also relocated his real estate office from its location in Plymouth to the former VIP room at the bar as part of the renovations.

Renovating a part of the bar into a more tropical theme, Goci said, should hopefully bring in customers looking for

some warmth, especially during the colder months.

"It's a family lineage that I want to continue," he said. "I know people are going to be stir crazy from staying home with this lockdown, I think people are going to be looking for entertainment venues.

"There's nothing better than going to a place that (transports) you to a tropical setting when it's minus 2 degrees outside."

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



US12 Bar and Grill bartender Jamie O'Leary pours a drink near a photo of bar owner John Goci's parents.

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Service animals complicated in no-pet developments



Robert Meisner
Guest columnist

Q: I am an owner of an apartment building. I have a dilemma because one of my tenants, who has a medically-documented severe allergy to pet dander, rented an apartment, relying in large part on the "no pet" provisions of the rental agreement.

At the time, there were no pets in the building. Later, I rented a unit down the hall, and that tenant asked for permission to keep a dog and submitted a letter from his psychiatrist stating that an emotional support animal would be beneficial to his physical and emotional health.

I am afraid I will be sued by my first tenant, and I am wondering what I should do given the circumstances. What do you think?

A: Hire an attorney immediately to take a look at all of the details of your case and provide guidance. Cases where the fair housing rights of different tenants/owners conflict are by no means clear-cut, and the best advice will de-

pend on the specific facts involved.

That said, your inquiry reminds me of a recent Iowa Supreme Court case decided last year, *Cohen vs. Clark*, 945 NW2d 792 (Iowa 2020), which involved similar circumstances.

In a 4-3 split decision, the court decided that the accommodation provided the second tenant was not reasonable in light of a direct threat to the health and safety of the first tenant, citing a "first in time" factor to the decision. However, the court also made clear that "first in time" was by no means the only factor to be considered.

As an example, the court noted that if the second tenant were blind and needed a disability service dog, the ruling may have been different. Courts regularly confirm that accommodation issues generally require balancing the needs of both parties involved. It's also important to understand that this case does not set precedent for the State of Michigan, but decisions from other states are nevertheless instructive as to how other courts might decide similar cases.

I should note that one interesting question that may not have been raised was whether the second tenant claimed a dog was the only type of animal that

could provide emotional support. Could he not have received emotional support from some other type of animal to which the first tenant was not allergic? These issues continue to be a developing area of real estate law which draw a great deal of interest from landlords, tenants, and co-owners of condominiums.

Q: I have read your book, and I am interested in buying a new condominium. While the project is being developed by a prominent developer, their name is not on the purchase agreement, which seems strange. How do I find out about what this developer is all about?

A: Unfortunately, the disclosure statement that the developer has to give you will only include information concerning the project in question. It does not require them to divulge information about other developments that the developer or its limited liability companies have developed.

If you find an attorney who has been around for a number of years, that attorney may well know about the history of the developer in other projects and may well also know about whether or not that developer has been saddled with construction defect litigation or other problems with purchasers. Keep in mind that most developers operate un-

der a separate legal entity for each project, which insulates them from liability and does not require them to disclose other problems that they had at other projects.

The Corporations Division of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs provides records online, including filings showing the principals of corporations and limited liability companies. Go to michigan.gov/lara and find the corporations division under the dropdown list of bureaus.

Purchasing a home is one of the most important financial decisions that you will ever make, so be sure to take advantage of all publicly available information. You have every right to ask questions of the developer if anything you discover makes you uncomfortable.

Even better is to get an attorney to ask those questions. The more you learn about the developer and the principals of the developer entity, the better you and your attorney will be able to assess the viability of such a purchase for you.

Robert M. Meisner, Esq. is the principal attorney of The Meisner Law Group. His book "Condo Living 2: The Authoritative Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium" is available at www.momentumbooks.com.

Working teens should take advantage of Roth IRA options



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Dear Rick:

My 14-year-old son worked this summer at his grandfather's company. He earned a few thousand dollars and received a W-2. A couple of years ago I heard you speak at the Livonia Public Library and I remember you mentioning that a minor could open a Roth IRA and that it would be a great way to save for their retirement.

I spoke to our tax professional and they said I must have misunderstood

you because minors are not allowed to have brokerage accounts. Is my 14-year-old allowed to have a Roth IRA? And how much can he put into it?

Thank you, Amy

Dear Amy:

Yes, your son is eligible for a Roth IRA, and I definitely recommend you open one for him. I think the confusion is whether he is able to open a brokerage account.

Because your son is under 18, he cannot open a brokerage account in his own name. However, a Roth IRA can be opened for your son, as long as you open a custodial Roth IRA.

A custodial Roth IRA provides all the same benefits as a regular Roth IRA; the only difference is that there is a custodi-

an who controls the assets until the child reaches age 18. The custodian is usually a parent.

With regards to the maximum contribution that can be made into a Roth IRA, the current limit is \$6,000 or the total of a child's earned income, whichever is less. For example, if your son's W-2 was for \$3,500, that would be the maximum contribution allowed into the Roth IRA. On the other hand, if he earned \$7,000, then \$6,000 would be the maximum.

Not only can a Roth IRA be a vehicle to help teach a child the benefits and the importance of investing, it will also help teach the child the importance of saving for their retirement.

To be able to invest money that will grow tax free for 50 plus years is a huge

benefit.

The key is whether your child has earned income. In other words, if they received a W-2, then they are eligible. Whether the child puts their own money into the Roth or you help them by making the contribution for them, it is a great opportunity to help secure your child's future, and I recommend that you definitely take advantage of it.

Don't forget, you have until April 15, 2021, to make a Roth IRA contribution for 2020.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is www.bloomadvisors.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomadvisors.com.

Stand still and birds may land on you at Kensington Metropark

Diane K. Bert Special to HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

"It was a heart stopping moment. It was so beautiful," Birmingham resident Elisabeth Snyder recalled. "I have never had a bird on my hand before. It was thrilling to feel the little feet curled around my fingers as I held out my hand with sunflower seeds to feed it."

She was at Kensington Metropark on the nature trails.

Jani Gustafson of White Lake is an experienced guest on the nature trails. "I go two to four times a week," she said. "It gives me a feeling of awe that the birds trust you enough to land on your hand. I find that getting outside calms my spirit."

Gustafson advises people coming for the first time to coach children to be patient and stand very still in areas on the trails which have clusters of trees and the sounds of birds singing.

Holding hands outstretched with black sunflower seeds in your palms is the best way of attracting the chickadees, nut hatches, tufted titmouse, and downy woodpecker birds.

Hilary Simmet, media specialist for the metroparks, said visitors to the metroparks pay a vehicle entry fee (\$10 daily or \$40 annual).

"Visitors may not bring dogs. Wildlife animals may not be fed," she added. "Only birds that may land on your hands may be fed. You may want to bring water to drink."

On site at the Kensington Metropark Nature Center is Victoria Taylor Sluder, Western District interpretive services supervisor.

"We have seven miles of trails, on any one of the trails small songbirds can land on your hands," she said. "There are also sandhill cranes and wild turkeys, which should not be approached. Some people bring huge bags of seed. I recommend small Ziplock bags of seed which are easier to handle. Almost every songbird likes black sunflower seeds. Early on overcast days is the best time to come. We open at 6 a.m."

The nature center building is closed due to COVID-19, however restrooms are available.

"Visiting Kensington Metropark is a



A tufted titmouse enjoys some sunflower seeds near Wildwing Lake at Kensington Metropark.

COURTESY OF LAURIE COOPER

wonderful, unique opportunity in our area to get close to nature," Dexter Snyder suggested. "Birds tend to be in the clusters of trees. Stand still for five minutes like you are a statue, hold out your hand with seeds, and the birds will come, sharing their lives with you for a few moments."

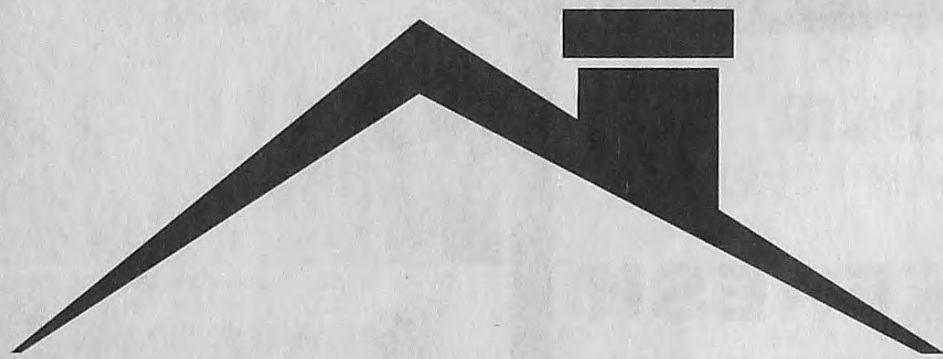
Jani Gustafson feels that she has gotten to know some of the birds.

"One has a damaged eye and one has a growth on his leg," she noted. "I am always glad to see them again and again and know that they are all right. I enjoy seeing deer in the area, also. Sometime the birds land nearby and observe the humans for a few minutes or make trial flights before landing on your hands. It is as if they are checking that you are trustworthy."

Laurie Cooper, a retired Birmingham teacher, had the chance to feed the birds for the first time this past fall. She realized that her former students would be fascinated by the antics of the birds. She took photos and composed a small book and sent it to her students.

"There was a special feeling of serenity there. It was very peaceful in the woods listening to the sounds of the birds. Seeing them up close and perched on my hands was wonderful. I've been back several times since that first visit," says Cooper said.

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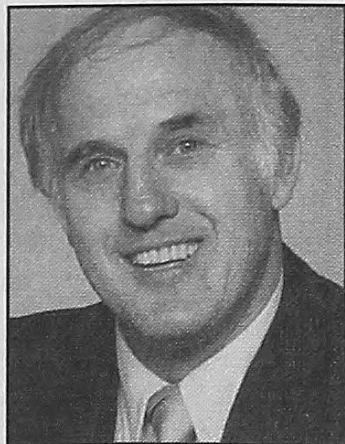
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Obituaries

Raymond John Wiacek

WIACEK, Raymond John passed peacefully in his sleep on February 22, 2021, at the age of 90. Mr. Wiacek was preceded in death by his high school sweetheart and wife of over 70 years Winifred (McLeod) and son Michael. Loving father to his six children Raymond, Jr. (Nancy), Diane, David (Sylvia), Joe (Kathy), Nancy White (John) and Patty Martin and cherished grandfather of Katie, John (Meredith), Billy and Michael Wiacek; Elizabeth, Mary, and Jennifer Drabik; John and Jackie White, Jessica Livingstone (Kyle), and Eileen Martin. He is survived by his brother Ronald; four step grandchildren; nine step great grandchildren; two step great, great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.



his peers for his outstanding and positive contributions to his community and field. During his tenure as Director, he attended Central Michigan University and acquired continuing education credits through the Recreation Administration program at CMU.

He retired after over 25 years in the Recreation Department but his service to his community was not over. He entered the field of politics and was elected to serve as a member of the City Council. After leaving elected office, he continued his community involvement by attending council meetings on a regular basis speaking to important local issues on behalf of the citizens of Garden City.

Ray was a devout Roman Catholic and served his faith community at St. Norbert Parish in Inkster and St. Raphael Parish in Garden City. Until recently he was a fixture as an usher at the noon mass at St. Raphael. He was also a longtime member of the Garden City Rotary Club.

In retirement Ray enjoyed puttzing around the house, spending time with his family playing pinochle and watching sporting events live or on television. He was an avid reader particularly of the local newspapers and the New York Times. He enjoyed travel especially to his son's vacation home in the Chesapeake Bay area where he could spend quality time with his children and grandchildren.

Ray loved his family and was proud of the accomplishments of his wife, children and grandchildren. He was a caring, compassionate and kind man but also strong willed and opinionated. He used these traits wisely to support his family and serve his community.

Raymond John Wiacek was a dedicated family man who accomplished a lot in his ninety years on this earth; an outstanding high school student athlete, a professional baseball player with the Detroit Tigers, a good police officer, a coach and mentor to young kids, a world class sports official, a top notch bowler, an innovator in the field of Recreation Administration, a dedicated public servant, and a community activist and leader. However, his crowning achievement in those 90 years was being the best, most devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather he could be. And he was. May he be at peace in heaven with Winnie and Mike.

A memorial service in celebration of Ray's life will be held at a later date. No flowers please. Charitable contributions in his memory to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd. Livonia, 48154. Interment will be at St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights, in the family plot with his beloved wife Winifred and next to his dearly departed Mike.



Ray was born on October 13, 1930, the fourth child of John and Mary Wiacek. Raised in Dearborn, he attended and graduated from Fordson High School. An outstanding student athlete, Ray was an all-state basketball player and a tremendous baseball talent. Signed out of high school by the Detroit Tigers, Ray and his new bride Winnie traveled the south as a minor league ballplayer in the Tiger organization. After a few years Ray recognized that pro ball was not in the cards and returned to the Detroit area to start a new career and a family. However, he would use his love of sports throughout his adult life.

Settling in the Village of Inkster, Ray began a new career as a member of the Inkster Police Department. He was a dedicated officer. During his time as a member of the Police Department, he and several other officers sponsored and coached little league baseball teams in the Inkster Rec League. He rose to the rank of Sergeant before leaving the force in the late 1960s. To support his growing family, Ray began a career as a sports official. He umpired youth baseball and adult softball and refereed CYO and high school basketball. He was so proficient at his craft as an umpire that he officiated many World Championship slow and fast pitch softball tournaments.

After leaving Inkster, Ray began a new career in the up and coming field of Parks and Recreation Administration. Hired by the City of Garden City to head their Recreation Department, he began a long career in the city. He dramatically improved the recreational services provided by the City to its citizens including the enclosure of the ice arena, expanding and improving park facilities including Moeller Field, more children's programs, a senior community center and new playground equipment throughout the city just to name a few. He was a member of the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association professional group and was widely respected and honored by

Eunice Mitchell

LIVONIA - Eunice A. Mitchell, 87 of Livonia, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on February 26. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 61 years, James R. Mitchell. She is survived by her son Mark (Linda), daughter Lisa (Ed) Kadala; and two grandchildren, Anna and Ellie.



Eunice's love for the Lord and her family guided her life and work as a stay at home mom, teacher, and secretary. She was the daughter of Pastor Howard Fulton of Belden Baptist Church in Chicago, IL, and attended Northwestern University and Michigan State University. She studied the Word of God daily under the ministry of R.B. Thieme III of Berachah Church in Houston, TX.

Easy to laugh, Eunice was endeared to all by her kindness, thoughtful actions, and selfless love. She enjoyed music (singing hymns, going to concerts, and playing piano - especially gospel and boogie woogie), family gatherings, dogs, sewing and crafts (everyone loved to receive her specially adorned cards), reading, playing games, and doing puzzles. She would often be heard whistling as she went about her life and there was always a joke or funny saying on the tip of her tongue. She will forever be in our hearts.

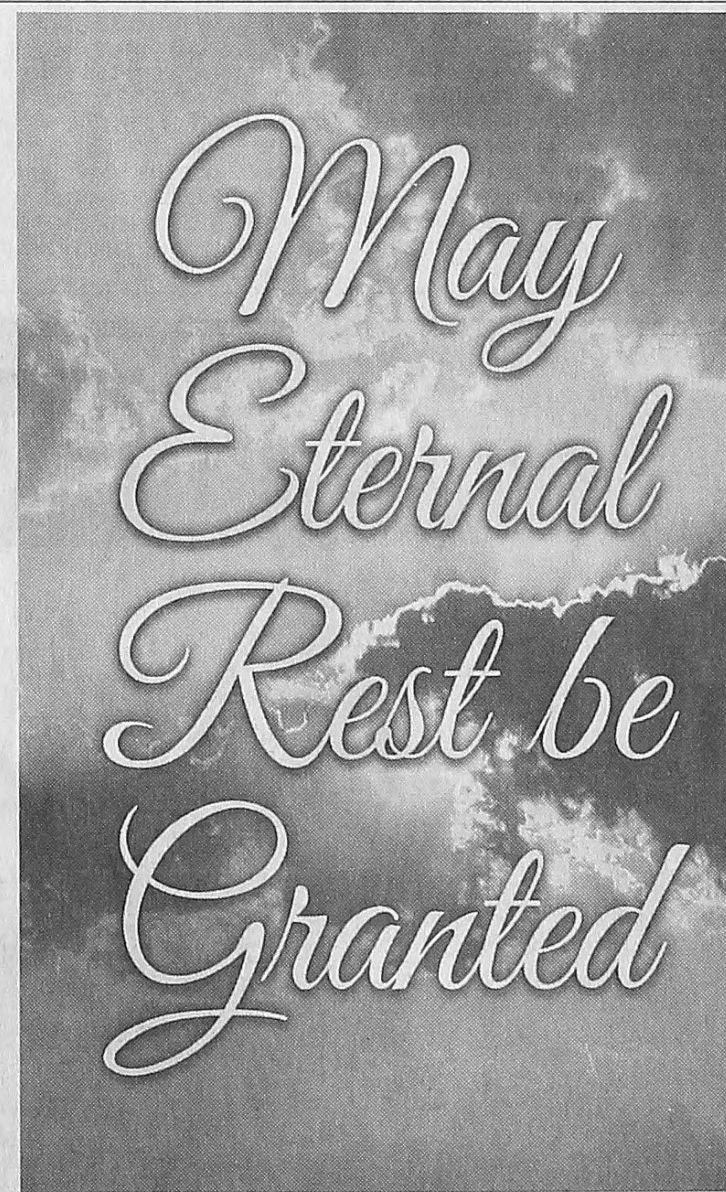
A graveside service will be held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery at a later date.

The Mitchell family would like to express our deep gratitude to God and all of her doctors, nurses, and caregivers at Michigan Medicine, Visiting Angels, and Arbor Hospice for their kind and compassionate care.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

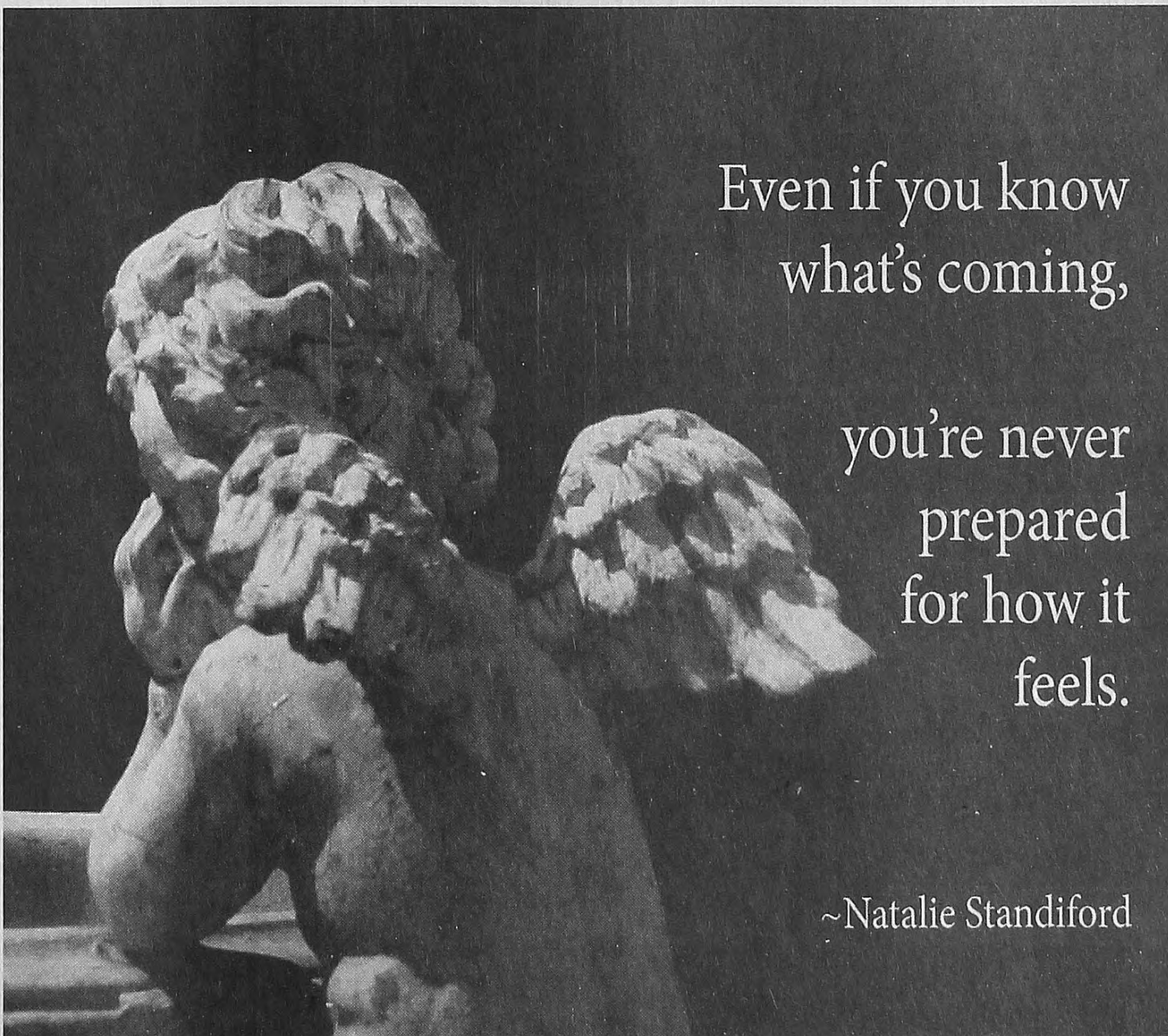
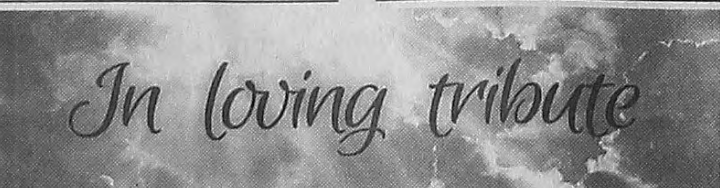
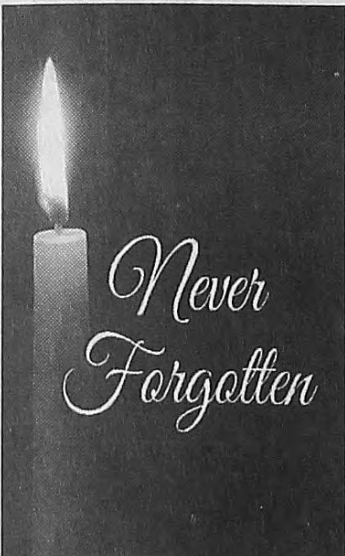
Richard "Dick" E. Michel

-- February 6, 2021, Age 92. Birmingham resident for 58 years. Korean War Army Veteran and Purple Heart recipient. Dean at Lawrence Technological University. Member First United Methodist Church Birmingham. Beloved husband of the late Martha for 68 years. Loving father of Carol Michel, the late Jane Goding, and the late Paul Michel. Cherished grandfather of Jason Goding (Sarah), Deborah Michel (Cory Paiva), and David Michel. Proud great-grandfather of Katelynn Nguyen, Trey Paiva, Andrew Goding, and Athena Goding. Memorial service will be announced and held at a later date. Memorial tributes to First United Methodist Church, Birmingham 1589 W Maple Rd Birmingham, MI 48009 or LTU's Paul Michel Grant or Michel/Goding Scholarship Fund c/o LTU Development Office 21000 Ten Mile Road Southfield, MI 48075. Please indicate the Paul Michel Grant or the Michel/Goding Scholarship fund in the memo line. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and sign tribute wall at AJDesmond.com



Andrew Currie

GOTHA, FL - Andrew Currie, age 64, of Gotha Florida, formerly of Birmingham, Michigan, passed away peacefully February 19, 2021. Beloved husband to his high school sweetheart, Marylynn. Loving father of Neal and Austin. Full obituary at cremationchoicesfl.com.



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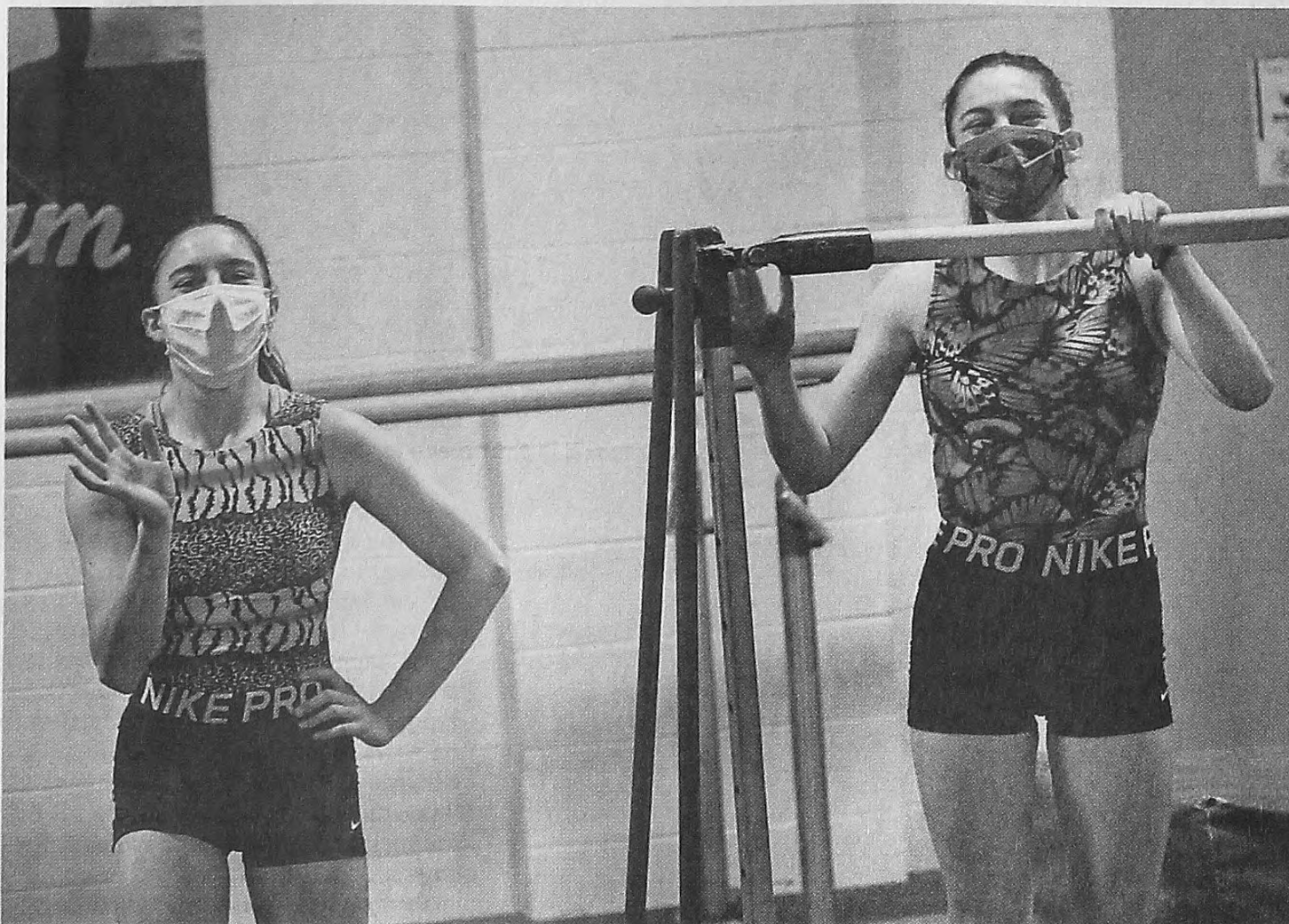
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SPORTS



Farmington High gymnasts Allie, left, and Sydney Schultz wave to a photographer while practicing Feb. 23. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Farmington continues success through twin sisters

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Since taking over the Farmington gymnastics program in 1987, Jeff Dwyer and his team have been incredibly consistent.

The team earned a regional championship in 15 of the past 20 seasons, placing in the top 5 at the state meet 18 times since 1998 while earning five state title trophies: a legacy that speaks for itself.

"They understand right away that, 'Hey, we're a good team,'" Dwyer said. "They almost put pressure on themselves because they don't want to be the team that lets the legacy down."

"It's kind of like Harrison football. People always wondered why they were so good. Well, the players know they better be good."

This is a mentality identical twin sisters Sydney and Allie Schultz implemented upon arrival, helping Farmington win two straight state championships in 2018 and 2019 after a 12-year drought.

Now, heading into their senior year as the team's two captains with two state titles and another just within reach — Farmington was the No. 1 seed coming into the 2020 state meet before it was canceled due to COVID-19 — the Schultz sisters strive to make sure the legacy does not end with them.

Wanting to progress

While their mother was a gymnast, the Schultz sisters were not really exposed to the sport until the 2012

Olympics, watching Team USA take gold in London. "I was like, 'They are so cool, doing all those flips,'" Allie Schultz said, joining a gymnastics class in fourth grade with her sister.

After developing skills with a club team, Allie and Sydney were introduced to Dwyer through their father, who used to work for Farmington Public Schools. Compared to their club team, it was a new environment.

The pair quickly acclimated to the culture: the spirit and attitude of Farmington gymnastics, the confidence, the feeling of success and striving to do better regardless.

Both sisters saw the love that the team members had for the sport and for one another, uniting students from Farmington and North Farmington high schools for the sole purpose of success on the mat.

From that starting point, the Schultz sisters began to feed off one another.

"Whenever I saw her progress, I wanted to progress too," Sydney Schultz said. "We always kind of pushed each other a lot."

As a freshman at the state meet, Sydney Schultz, participating in the uneven bars and balanced bars, scored 17.8 points to Farmington's 144.750 total points for a state title. As sophomores, the pair competed together: Sydney in the floor exercise, vault and uneven bars; and Allie in the vault and uneven bars, helping Farmington to its second-straight championship.

Dwyer said the Schultz sisters are team players and have improved over the years, something that

See GYMNASTICS, Page 2B

Groves football coach joins Detroit Lions coaching staff

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

DeOn'tae Pannell grew up in a football family, but it took a while to follow in his family's footsteps.

Pannell was an asthmatic, and his mother was afraid to let him play football; after all, he spent a couple months in the hospital each year until he was 10 years old dealing with it.

But Pannell continued to beg her to let him play.

When he got to Birmingham Schools and was introduced to the football coaches, Pannell got his chance.

"Once I got the opportunity to play, just running around, hitting people and not getting in trouble for it, that was right up my alley," Pannell said.

That opportunity to play turned into his life calling, transitioning from playing football for Groves and Penn State to coaching, teaching the game he learned to love.

Pannell's coaching passion led to a job at the highest level, joining the Detroit Lions as a part of the William Clay Ford Minority Coaching Assistantship, working primarily with the offensive line.

Finding out about the opportunity from new Lions offensive coordinator Anthony Lynn, the former Penn State lineman longed for any opportunity to learn and to grow in the game, two things that had already defined his football career from the start of his playing days.

Growing up

Groves head football coach Brendan Flaherty first saw the "gentle giant" on the basketball court, realizing the potential right away: a Berkshire Middle School athlete who was only going to get bigger, stronger and more athletic.

As he developed into an offensive and defensive lineman for Flaherty in high school, Pannell developed into an NFL-caliber prospect, taking up space inside on defense, while using his size and athleticism on offense to keep defenders out of the backfield.

But even more impactful to Flaherty was Pannell's ability to draw people in off the field even after committing to Penn State after his junior season.

"He was Groves' favorite son," Flaherty said. "You couldn't find a person to say something bad about him. Humble almost to a fault. 'It's OK to put your shoulders back, you are a Big Ten football player now,' but he's just such a good guy that way and just so well-grounded."

During Pannell's recruitment, Flaherty remembers Penn State recruiters roaming the halls of Groves High School, asking random students what

See COACH, Page 2B

South Lyon East continues LVC dominance against Lakeland

Colin Gay
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

South Lyon East boys basketball head coach Ron Levin knew he wanted his team to play its brand of basketball.

The Cougars already faced Lakes Valley Conference rival Lakeland this season, beating the Eagles in a 39-37 slugfest in the fourth game of the 2021 season. Instead, Levin wanted to see his players pick up the pace, score in transition and get in the 50-plus scoring range.

With the help of senior guard Bryce Bird early in the third quarter, South Lyon East (7-1) got what it wanted, beating Lakeland (5-3) for the second time this season, 57-52.

Trailing 26-24 after a half of play, Bird took his coach's message to heart: speeding up the game, taking control using South Lyon East's five senior guards. The Cougars wanted to outrun the Eagles.

Bird opened the third quarter with a layup, an and-1 try and a 3-pointer, giving South Lyon East back the two-point lead.

See BASKETBALL, Page 3B



South Lyon East boys basketball has won six of seven games in Lakes Valley Conference play this season. COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Seaholm boys swim wins Oakland County title

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After three-straight wins by Detroit Catholic Central, Seaholm supplanted the Shamrocks in the Oakland County Swim and Dive Championships Saturday, earning the victory by 43 points.

The Maples finished in the top eight 13 times in 10 different events with junior Cami Wilson, senior Tate Chutkow, senior Bryce Liddell and junior Patrick Branch teaming up for a first-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay; senior Tom Girdler, Branch, junior Owen O'Neill and Wilson finishing in first place in the 200-yard freestyle relay; and senior Kameron Liberman finishing in first place in one-meter diving.

Catholic Central senior Matthew Kozma finished in first place in the 200-yard IM, finishing just over a second ahead of second-place finisher and

teammate senior Christian Dunaitis.

Dunaitis earned his own first-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke, beating Cranbrook Kingswood sophomore Ethan Schwab by 0.23 seconds.

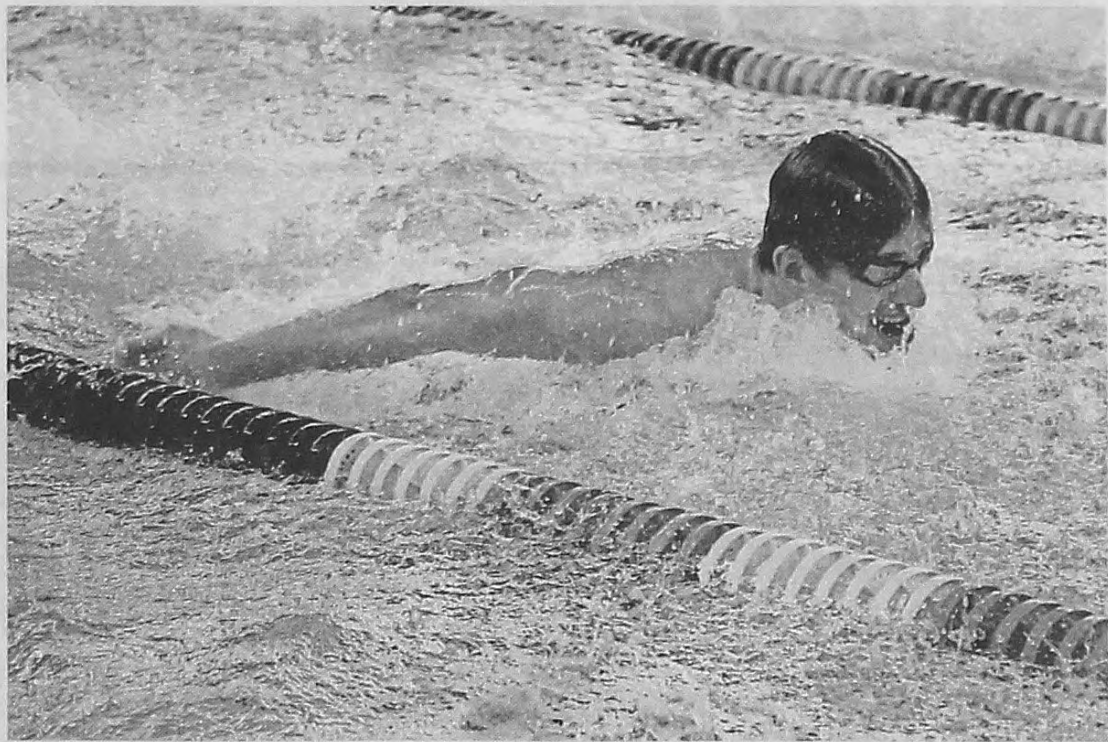
The Shamrocks also finished first in the 400-yard medley relay, with Kozma, junior Killian Bishop, Dunaitis and senior Dallas Fisher finishing two seconds faster than the Maples.

Catholic Central was disqualified in the 200-yard medley relay.

Groves finished in third place with 17 points, while Cranbrook Kingswood placed fourth with 148.

Farmington finished fifth with 141 points and Novi placed 10th with 98, leaving the meet with three new state-qualifying times.

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



CC senior Matthew Kozma finished in first place in the 200-yard IM.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Coach

Continued from Page 1B

they thought of the recruit. Each student seemed to say the same thing, Flaherty recalls: Pannell was a nice, genuine person.

To Pannell, this was the football team's effect on him from the moment he joined the freshman team to senior year.

"Everything about football was about family, and that's what I was about," he said. "Groves football became my family."

But on the high school football field, Pannell was different. He only knew one way to play: playing hard, physical, through the whistle while intimidating opponents with his stature and athleticism.

Wanting to go to a school where he knew he would be successful, not necessarily coming into a situation where he would be the best player on the team, the Groves lineman found his way to the Nittany Lions.

And while the team had success in the final four years with head coach Joe Paterno and Tom Bradley — after Paterno's dismissal nine games into the 2011 season — Pannell, looking back, was not exactly satisfied with how his college career went.

"My favorite thing that Joe always said was, 'Take care of the little things, and the big things will take care of themselves,'" Pannell said. "Ironically, when I was in college, I didn't do a very good job of taking care of those little things. So ever since the day where I walked across that stage, I really made it a point to take care of the little things to make sure that I didn't miss out on opportunities."

Despite his personal inconsistencies with his collegiate career, Pannell felt he would still have an opportunity to play football on Sunday afternoons. The New Orleans Saints gave him an opportunity, signing him as an un-drafted free agent after the 2012 NFL Draft.

Spending a whole offseason with the Saints, Pannell said he was told he had a spot with the team's practice squad, before becoming one of the last cuts made prior to the start of the regular season.

Without an NFL job and any prospect of another tryout, Pannell was ready for a break, taking two months off. But the football itch returned, as scheduled, the



After four seasons at Penn State, DeOn'ae Pannell returned to the Groves sideline as an assistant coach. COURTESY OF BRENDAN FLAHERTY

next fall.

"I was getting that feeling of, 'Why don't I go and hang out at some football practices?'" he said. "I don't have anything else to do, I don't know anything else, so I might as well go to football practice."

Learning from experience

Pannell returned to the Groves sideline with instant credibility.

"You got the credit, you got the clout: you are a big-time football player," Flaherty said, bringing back Pannell as an assistant coach. "You played in four bowl games, you started in the Big Ten. You didn't really have to say much and kids are just listening because you played at such a high level."

A return to where he first developed a love for football proved to be the start of

the rest of his professional career. Even though he was coaching wide receivers as a former lineman, Pannell felt he was doing what he was right back where he belonged.

"I learned I never wanted to do anything else but coach," Pannell said.

This calling, this itch sent Pannell to Peru, Neb. to coach at Peru State College, starting as a graduate assistant — coaching cornerbacks and the secondary — and blossoming into a defensive coordinator for three seasons.

In this time, Pannell refined his attention to detail, dealing with different types of people in what he deemed as "middle-of-nowhere Nebraska."

Each coaching stop, whether the high school or the NAIA college level, was all a part of the learning process for Pannell, leading to the tremendous leap of a coaching position with the Detroit Li-

ons.

But each stop is the same idea. To Pannell, it's about finding different ways to motivate people to be their best and find ways to get better.

In the NFL, having experienced an offseason with the Saints, he knows the approach is a bit different with professionals.

"Everybody's an adult, everybody's smart and everybody works hard," Pannell said. "If you aren't prepared, or you don't have all the answers or if you aren't challenging guys enough, you are going to have a hard time in this league."

Flaherty is just happy Pannell is getting a chance.

The Groves head coach describes his former lineman and coach as charismatic, diligent and "one of those guys where he can be successful at just about anything."

But, unsurprisingly to Flaherty, Pannell has caught the coaching bug.

"I think he's going to be extremely successful. I'm surprised he hasn't taken off more," Flaherty said. "It's like finally, the kid's got a break and it's a launch pad into some other endeavors. I think he's the next thing, as far as a coach."

"He's a star waiting to happen."

Pannell doesn't like to look ahead like that though.

His focus is on the 2021 Detroit Lions playbook, transitioning back to coaching offense for the first time since 2015 — reviewing trends and tactics along with video dissecting personnel the Lions will have on the line.

At this point, Pannell is a sponge, soaking everything in, learning as much as he possibly can. But he has learned a lot already. He's learned from his mistakes, learned from the areas in and out of football, things in and out of his control that have held him back throughout his career.

To Pannell, who was held off the football field for so long, it's all just added motivation.

"Every time you get knocked down, you know you have to be ready to get back up," Pannell said. "And I sure as heck know there's no punch I can't take and get back up from and, almost, throw an even heavier punch right back at them."

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

Gymnastics

Continued from Page 1B

represents the philosophy of his team as a whole.

"We've been successful, and when the responsibility is put on you to be successful, you either stand up and accept it or are scared of it. They have stepped up at every level, every year," Dwyer said. "They have been hard working since freshman year. They know what it's like to be on the team and go hard every day. They do, and it's paying off in dividends."

Encouraging one another

Over his four years coaching the Schultz twins, Dwyer knows he has to remind them both they are not superhuman.

Both sisters struggle with perfection, with negativity seeping in after a missed turn or imperfect tumble. Throughout their career, Dwyer has encouraged them to keep their heads up, to

not get down during the meet just because they made a mistake.

But the Schultz sisters have proven to be that encouragement for each other, knowing what one another are going through.

"I just try and be near her. I don't even have to talk, but just being near her," Sydney said she does when Allie is struggling in a practice or competition. "I think our presence kind of helps each other."

Allie said she experiences the same things as her sister, helping her know what to say and what to do when Sydney is having a tough day, and vice versa.

"We've been there, so we are kind of speaking through experience when we are talking to each other, reminding ourselves that that one turn can't determine an entire meet," Allie Schultz said.

The encouragement does not only stop between the two sisters.

Teammates say that their positive energy seeps into the rest of the team.

"You'll talk to everyone and they are like, 'Oh, they are the sweetest.' It's just how they are," senior Kristen Fleming

said. I think they are very, very positive, especially with other teammates.

"They're our captains, they're our role models," senior Zoe Raisco, who has been on the team with the Schultz twins for the past four years, added. "They also just take a lot of time making sure that we're in the right headspace. They take a lot of stress out of the environment and they will just ask me how my day (went)."

"It just kind of makes it feel homey."

Continue the legacy

Preparing for 2021 without the closure of 2020, Dwyer still had a solid idea of what kind of team he would have. He knew he had a core group that was one year older.

The Schultz sisters were in the middle of those thoughts, the head coach viewing the pair as a prime example of consistency.

"They feel it's their responsibility as they have gotten older and older to not let down the team," Dwyer said. "Those athletes are the ones you really miss when they graduate because... they just

bring an atmosphere into the gym that just drives the other kids."

Through summer practices led by assistant coach Kim Mandrelle, trying to help athletes stay in gymnastics shape while not being in a gym, through working as a pair using YouTube workouts and conditioning sessions at home, the Schultz sisters wanted to make sure they were ready to continue the legacy.

Throughout their tenure with Farmington, the conversation was not about winning states. It was always about pushing each practice, each meet and see where it takes them.

When the Schultz sisters returned to the gym for their senior season, they were just happy to get the chance at a third trophy.

"It really has opened my eyes to how lucky I am to have this team," Sydney Schultz said. "Not seeing them for a few months, coming back and seeing, 'Wow, I really missed this,' it makes me appreciate it even more."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17.

Brother Rice basketball fights off CC comeback

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For the first two quarters Feb. 24, Brother Rice continued its beat down of rival Detroit Catholic Central from the previous Saturday.

After beating the Shamrocks, 78-37, at home five days prior, the Warriors exploded to a 56-26 halftime lead, using the shooting range of sophomore Curtis Williams and sophomore Xavier Thomas to create a mismatch.

Then the Shamrocks woke up.

Catholic Central outscored Brother Rice, 28-7, in the third quarter, helped by 11 points by freshman point guard Chaz Lewless to bring the Shamrocks to within seven points. But Brother Rice (4-2) kept Catholic Central (1-5) at enough of an arm's length to secure the 75-67 victory on the road.

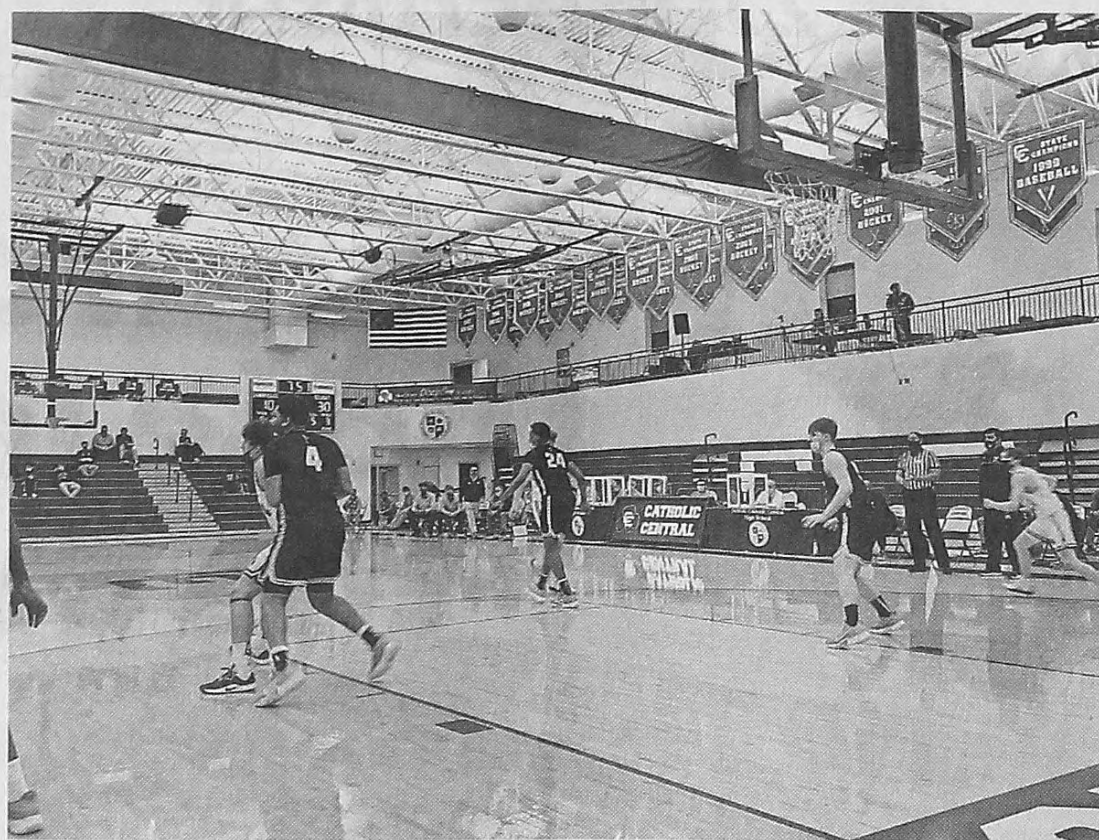
"Our immaturity and we let our foot off the gas," Brother Rice head coach Rick Palmer said. "And give credit to CC. This is a huge rivalry game and... it's shocking it took three halves of basketball to wake up. He's got injuries and all that, but that was the type of effort we kind of expect in this rivalry game."

But Brother Rice was short-handed as well.

In the final minute of Monday's practice heading into the CC game, senior forward Will Shannon — the Warriors' only senior in the starting lineup — suffered a right foot injury, something Palmer said he wouldn't know the severity of until the swelling subsides in a few days.

Facing the Shamrocks, Brother Rice started a lineup of four sophomores and freshman Keithan Gillmore.

In the first 16 minutes, the plan seemed to be working for the Warriors. Williams and Thomas combined for 28 first-half points. Brother Rice out-rebounded the Shamrocks, 28-11 in the



Brother Rice tries to set up an inbounds offensive play against Catholic Central.
COLIN GAY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

first half, including six offensive boards.

Catholic Central head coach Brandon Sinawi knew his team didn't come out to compete against Brother Rice that previous Saturday. So when he saw the same thing happen in the first half of the rematch — being without junior forward Cooper Craggs and junior guard/forward Kam Mayes — Sinawi made sure his message was clear.

"We had a nice, friendly conversation at halftime and got them going, fired them up, let them know what we are capable of doing if they actually came out and played with some pride," Sinawi said. "And they did that."

After Williams opened the third quarter with a jumper, extending Brother Rice's lead to 30, Catholic Central be-

gan to chip away.

The Shamrocks recorded a 7-0 run before the Warriors could score another basket, hitting four 3-pointers by four different scorers to cut the deficit to seven points.

Along with Lewless, who Sinawi called a "special player" as a freshman, the head coach said Brady Hower stepped up big late in the second quarter and in the third quarter, making key plays in transition and on offense to bring the Shamrocks back to within striking distance.

Lewless finished with 25 points — 18 coming in the final 16 minutes — while Landon Lodato finished with 11 and TJ Nadeau, who came off the bench and scored eight points in the third quarter,

scored 10 for the Shamrocks.

Catholic Central outscored the Warriors, 41-21, in the second half.

"I've had teams that have been in this position before... that went to the final four," Sinawi said. "We're going to get going at the right time, I have full confidence in that. The guys love each other, we're out there fighting for each other every day in practice. There's no doubt in that locker room, no one is pointing any fingers. They are owning up to things."

"We're going to be trialed and tested with the competition we play and we're going to be better for it come March and early April."

In the fourth quarter Brother Rice kept Catholic Central at bay, recording three 3-pointers, including a dagger late by guard freshman Xavier Bowman to seal the victory.

Williams led the team with 22 points, hitting four 3-pointers, while Thomas added 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Moving forward, Williams said Brother Rice can't come out of the locker room at halftime lackadaisical.

Instead, it's pedal to the floor until time expires.

"We can't come out with no defense, no energy," Williams said. "They came out with a lot of energy, came to play in the second half. We just have to come out ready to play."

Palmer will need a full 32 minutes from his players Saturday when the Warriors face undefeated Orchard Lake St. Mary's on the road.

"We played a full game Saturday and 14 great minutes tonight," Palmer said. "When we get away from that, what happened can happen."

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

Pinckney's Beckwith pulls off rare dual-sport combo

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH.

Some sports just seem to pair up nicely.

Soccer players, particularly midfielders, tend to be good cross country runners.

Track and field offers an opportunity for football players to showcase their athletic ability, whether it's as a sprinter, jumper or thrower.

It seems every good diver comes from a gymnastics background.

For some reason, hockey players make good golfers. Maybe it's all the down time during the summer.

But try to find a football offensive lineman who is also a state-qualifying swimmer.

It would be a difficult task, but not impossible.

That rare two-sport combination exists in the person of Pinckney's Alex Beckwith, a 6-foot-2, 220-pound senior.

Beckwith is an offensive lineman who will continue his football career at Lawrence Tech University after making second-team All-Livingston County in the fall. He was a state qualifier in the 50-yard freestyle last season.

Beckwith said he hasn't run across anyone else who has played offensive line and qualified for the state swim meet. Veteran Pinckney coach Laura Eibler has never coached an athlete with Beckwith's combination of skill sets. Football coach Rod Beaton doesn't recall coaching a lineman who also swims.

"He's a big boy," Eibler said. "He's always been big. He's a hard worker. Probably out of all the swimmers I've had, he's probably grown the most as far as work ethic."

"One of the hardest things when they play football is you're trying to build



Pinckney High School's Alex Beckwith swims laps with teammates during a workout Feb. 22. PHOTOS BY GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

body mass and be strong, as opposed to a swimmer, who has to have those long, lean muscles. But he's doing it and working hard."

Brighton's JD Ham was a notable athlete who starred in football and swimming, but the 2015 graduate had more of a classic swimmer's build as a defensive back and wide receiver in football. Ham swam at Grand Valley State University.

"Coach Eibler does such a great job getting her kids in the weight room," Beaton said. "You could definitely see the benefits and payoffs for him. Being a football player, he was able to continue to lift and do those things during the swim season, which was awesome. He's just a super humble kid, works so hard. He's just a good overall athlete; you can see it. He can jump out of the pool and jump onto the football field and back into the pool."

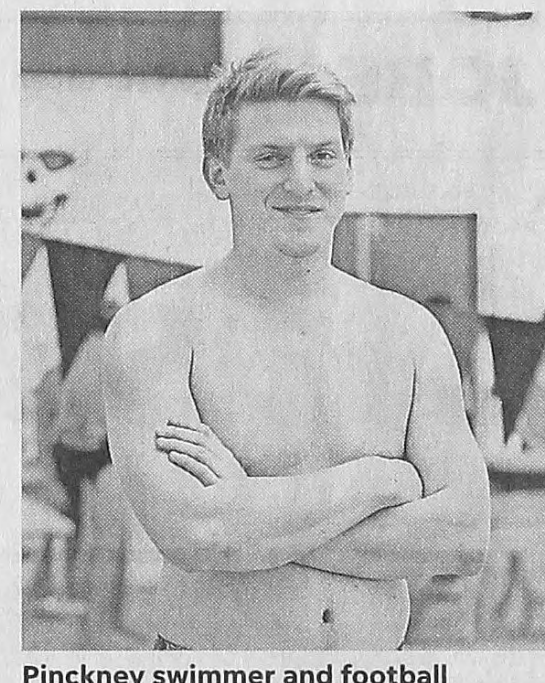
Unlike many of his swimming peers, Beckwith is not a year-round swimmer. He swims only during the high school season, which makes his accomplishments even more remarkable. He qualified for the state Division 2 meet last year with a time of 22.61 seconds in the 50.

"As soon as football season is over, I get right back into the pool and get ready for my swim season," Beckwith said. "It's definitely refreshing. It helps prepare you and not get overloaded with one sport for a long period of time."

Beckwith has been swimming for 14 years, because it was the first sport he tried in which he had some success.

He didn't step onto a football field until he was a freshman in high school after some intense lobbying by Beaton.

"The great head coach, Mr. Beaton, had been beginning me, begging my



Pinckney swimmer and football offensive lineman Alex Beckwith prepares for swim practice.

parents," Beckwith said. "Finally, I asked my parents and they said, 'Yeah, sure.' It boiled down to me just giving it a shot, seeing if I could play football, because I always wanted to play football. It ended up just sticking."

Beckwith missed Pinckney's first two meets of the season because of contract tracing at school before winning the 50 and 100 in his first meet back. He lowered his times to 22.97 in the 50 and 51.82 in the 100 in a quad Saturday at Brighton.

Having chosen to play football in college, there's a sense of purpose for Beckwith as his competitive swimming days are winding down.

"It's definitely making me push myself a lot harder than I would have if this wasn't my last season doing this sport," he said.

Basketball

Continued from Page 1B

But after a Lakeland layup by junior Caleb Zurek tied the game at 32, South Lyon East stepped up offensively.

The Cougars recorded an 11-0 run, with eight points coming from senior guard Adam Trent, to give them a 43-32 lead.

Bird says South Lyon East's success starts on defense, something the Cougars showed in the third quarter: recording four steals along with two offensive rebounds to go with 21 points.

"It really all starts on defense because if we get rebounds, we're picking

up the tempo," Bird said. "Once we get the tempo up, then we really start to feel it."

"That just controls the game for us." But Lakeland began to chip away, with the help of Andrew Turnquist.

Trailing by 11 points in the third quarter, the sophomore forward grabbed an offensive board and hit a 3 to bring the deficit back into single digits. He added another layup before scoring Lakeland's first six points in the fourth quarter, keeping the Cougars' lead at eight points.

"We challenged Andrew today, every second he's out there, give us that max effort. I think he did a tremendous job of doing that," Lakeland head coach Ron Thompson said of Turnquist, who led

the team with 17 points, five rebounds and a steal. "He rebounded the ball really well, he attacked the basket. He kind of showed off what he can do."

Five points by Zurek at the free-throw line late in the fourth quarter cut Lakeland's deficit to three points, but four makes by Bird at the line for the Cougars secured the victory.

The South Lyon senior guard finished with 22 points, including 18 points in the second half, along with four steals and three rebounds. Trent finished the day with 13 points, including two 3-point makes.

"It's incredible to have a senior guard like Bryce, but it's even better when you have five senior guards," Levin said. "We're so loaded at guard and they are

all experienced... They've had some hurdles and they've learned. They know how to close out a game now."

With the run South Lyon East has been on this season in the LVC — winning six-of-seven matchups with the only loss being by one point in overtime — the Cougars are confident heading into the bookend of the regular season.

But the approach for Levin's team is simple, especially with eight seniors: play with relentless effort, contagious positivity and with the mindset of "We." "As long as we focus on those three things," Levin said, "then the basketball comes easy."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17.

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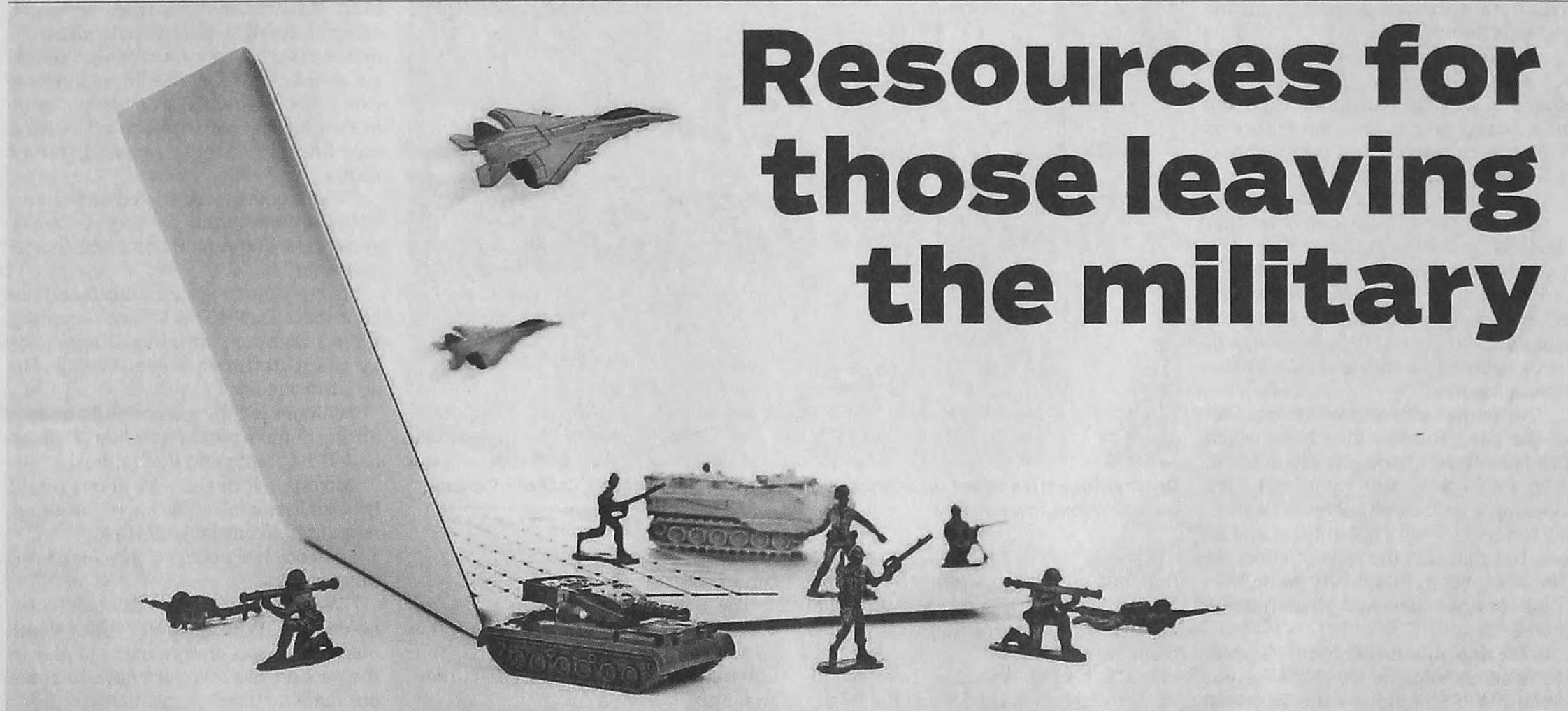
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Resources for those leaving the military



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If you've recently been discharged from the military, or are about to be, your service and experience will set you apart from other job seekers: 17% of job postings on ZipRecruiter specifically request veterans to apply, and the number of postings we see on the site that call out "military experience" continues to grow.

In addition to posting

your resume and searching for roles on ZipRecruiter, here are some other job search resources available to veterans.

1. SkillBridge

The Career Skills Programs, or SkillBridge, enables separating military members to receive industry training, apprenticeships or internships during the last six months of their service. The program provides members

of the military the opportunity to get hands-on experience while still earning a military salary. Learn more about SkillBridge at dodskillbridge.usalearning.gov.

2. Transition Assistance Program

The Transition Assistance Program was developed by seven government departments and agencies to help with the transition to civilian life. Their employees

are dedicated to making sure that military veterans have jobs once they have completed their service.

They provide workshops, courses, apprenticeships and resources, which you can learn about at dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap.

3. Departments of Defense and Labor

There are many other resources provided by the

Department of Defense and the Department of Labor, aimed at helping translate military courses and experiences into in-demand job skills in the civilian world.

Many of the trainings, on-the-job qualifications, special assignments, detachments and deployments you've completed will have given you skills that employers value.

Find out more at Military.com and CareerOnestop.org.

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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Plates, e.g.
- 6 "Star Wars" villain — the Hutt
- 11 Longtime fashion mag
- 16 "Got it!"
- 19 Muslim god
- 20 Has left the office, say
- 21 Bilbao locale
- 22 "Whether — nobler ..."
- 23 Sudden-death extra in a golf tournament
- 25 Supermodel Klum
- 26 Hi-fi platters
- 27 Cook gently
- 28 Behave obsequiously
- 31 Secretive U.S. org.
- 32 Redding of song
- 36 Opp. of horizontal
- 37 Film preview
- 38 Sort who's at hand whenever needed
- 42 Part of a hunting outfit
- 43 Lucy of "Kung Fu Panda"
- 44 French painter Rosa
- 45 Narcissists
- 48 Bone: Prefix
- 50 Insult, informally
- 51 YWCA part
- 54 Yule, briefly
- 57 Small Vlasic offering
- 63 Domestic
- 67 Explorer Ericson
- 68 Glossy surface
- 69 "As above," in a footnote
- 70 Morning joe, maybe
- 75 Tear to bits
- 76 Gambols
- 78 Inventory
- 79 Board, as a ship
- 81 One who's distraught with feelings
- 86 1/16 ounce
- 87 Perfectly
- 88 "— aboard!"
- 90 Baker's unit
- 94 Pec-building exercises
- 98 Tilling tools, to Brits
- 101 King, in Caen
- 102 Old Peruvian
- 103 Connections making people feel close
- 108 Big name in hygiene products

Super Crossword

STICKY SITUATIONS

- 7 Volcano stuff
- 8 Startling cry
- 9 Light source in a socket
- 10 Had dinner at a friend's house, e.g.
- 11 Note equivalent to 66-Down
- 12 Not necessarily against
- 13 Spoke
- 14 In the — of (during)
- 15 In readiness
- 16 Map-filled references
- 17 Most with it
- 18 Alleges
- 24 Ice-cream alternative, for short
- 29 "Scream" director
- 30 Sitarist
- 33 Weight unit
- 34 With a sharp picture, briefly
- 35 Shrek creator
- 38 "Gigli" co-star, familiarly
- 39 Certain nuclear weapon, for short
- 40 "Be silent!"
- 41 Adolescent
- 46 Country's econ. measure
- 47 Suffix of medical conditions
- 49 Free (from)
- 51 Plump bird
- 52 "— From Muskogee" (1969 hit)
- 53 Annoys
- 55 Circle part
- 56 Ionian, e.g.
- 58 Upper crust
- 59 Purity of a color
- 60 Razor-sharp
- 61 Advanced
- 62 Lead-in to skeleton
- 63 Give a job to
- 64 Former Laker Lamar
- 65 Office letter
- 66 Note equivalent to 11-Down
- 71 Do a tax task
- 72 J.D. Salinger title girl
- 73 "— be my pleasure"
- 74 Baby of a boomer
- 77 In — (as first found)
- 80 Big name in beer brewing
- 82 "Alley —!"
- 83 Condé —
- 84 Mall lure
- 85 Spill clumsily
- 89 Guitar's kin
- 91 Con artists
- 92 Abridge
- 93 Took cover
- 94 Patchy horse
- 95 Vague
- 96 Plague
- 97 Fit as a fiddle
- 98 Sound of falling hail
- 99 F-J link
- 100 One of two in "crocodile"
- 104 Wading birds
- 105 R&B singer — Badu
- 106 — Mahal
- 107 Accuses
- 109 PLO head Mahmoud
- 110 Brimless cap
- 115 "The Godfather" score composer Nino
- 116 Some med. scans
- 118 All-night bash
- 119 Comic Laurel
- 123 Eon subunit
- 124 Bonn article
- 125 TSA requests

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
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120												122	123	124	125				
126						127													129
130						131													133

SUDOKU

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

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!

COLOR IT ...

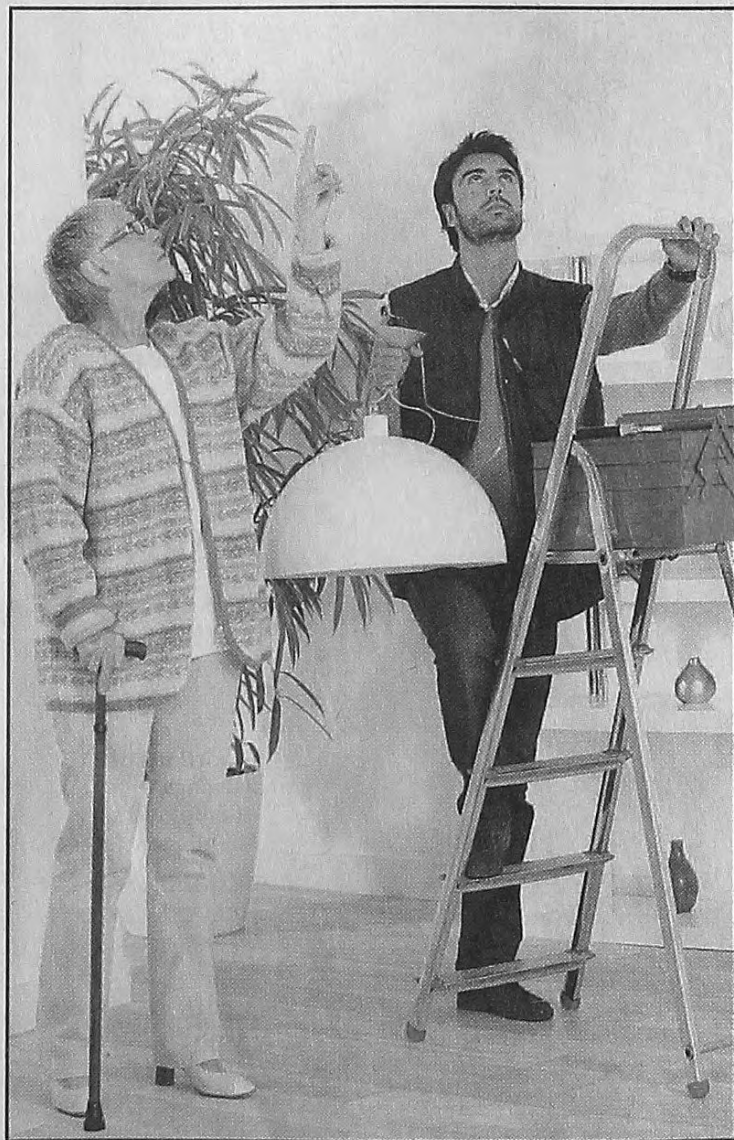
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

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

- AMBER
- AUBURN
- AVOCADO
- AZURE
- BEIGE
- BLACK
- BLUE
- BROWN
- BURGUNDY
- CERISE
- CHARCOAL
- COPPER
- CREAM
- CRIMSON
- FAWN
- GOLD
- GREEN
- GREY
- IVORY
- JADE
- KHAKI
- LEMON
- LILAC
- MAGENTA
- MAUVE
- MULBERRY
- MUSTARD
- NAVY
- OCHRE
- ORANGE
- PEACH
- PINK
- PURPLE
- RED
- ROSE
- SALMON
- SCARLET
- SILVER
- SLATE
- TAN
- TEAL
- TERRACOTTA
- TURQUOISE
- VERMILION
- VIOLET
- WHITE
- WINE
- YELLOW

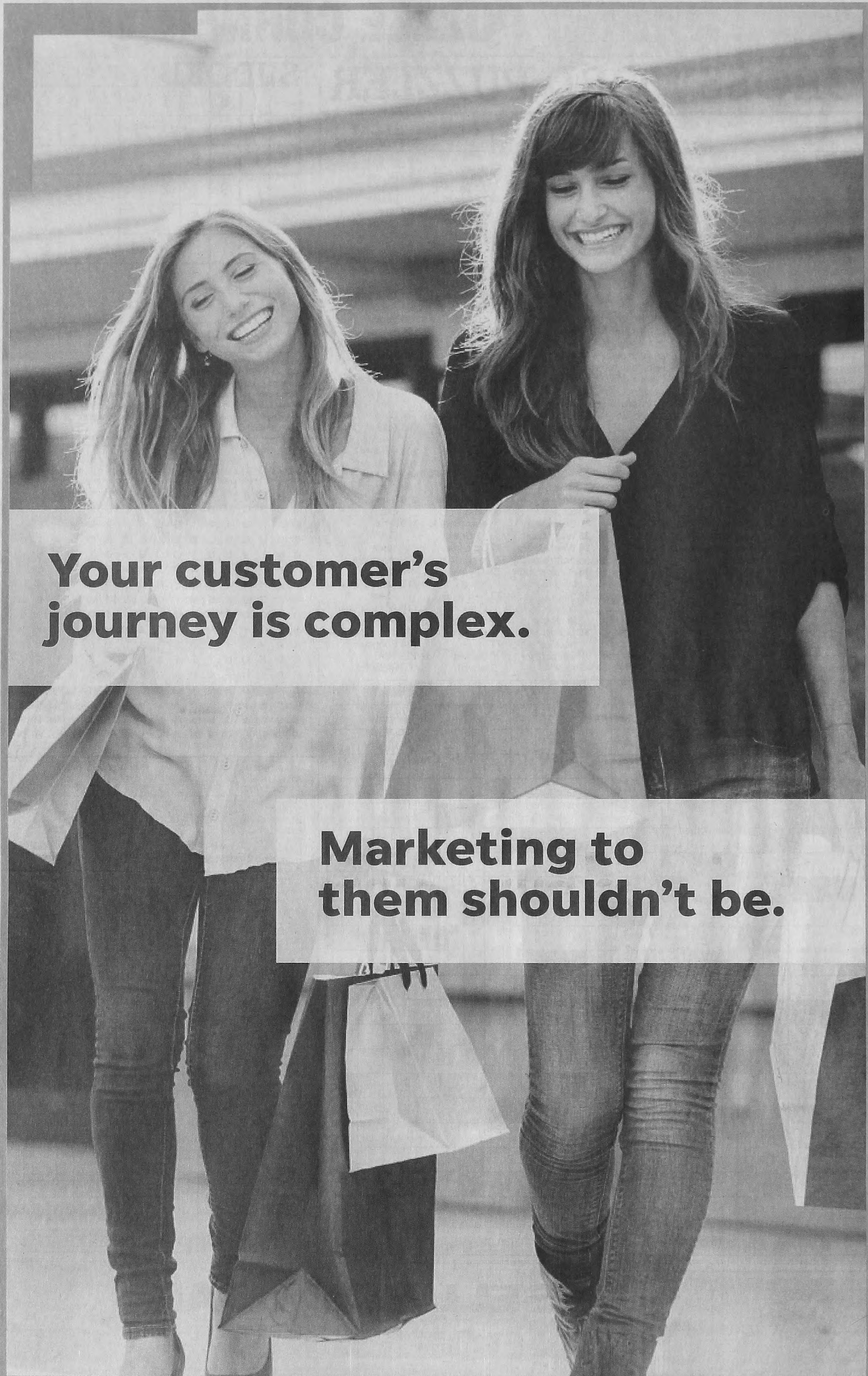
ANSWER KEY

For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or smcclellan@michigan.com.



- SELL YOUR CAR**
- ADOPT A PET**
- GET A JOB**
- FIND A HOUSE**
- BUY A BOAT**
- FIND A TREASURE**
- GET A MASSAGE**
- HIRE A HANDYMAN**

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