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Foundation helps people struck by tragedy

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A new Livonia charity wants to help the city's police and firefighters do more than solve crimes and put out fires.

The Livonia First Responder Foundation will work to raise about \$100,000 per year with the goal that police and

firefighters can get even better at helping families and individuals after they've made arrests or toured through burnt homes.

That could mean new toys and clothing or help with medical and moving expenses for those stuck in the most unfortunate predicaments.

That was kind of the genesis of it,"

said Chuck Dardas, president and CEO of AlphaUSA, an engineering and product development based manufacturer in Livonia. "Our first responders — both police and fire - are very caring people. They're family people, just like we are."

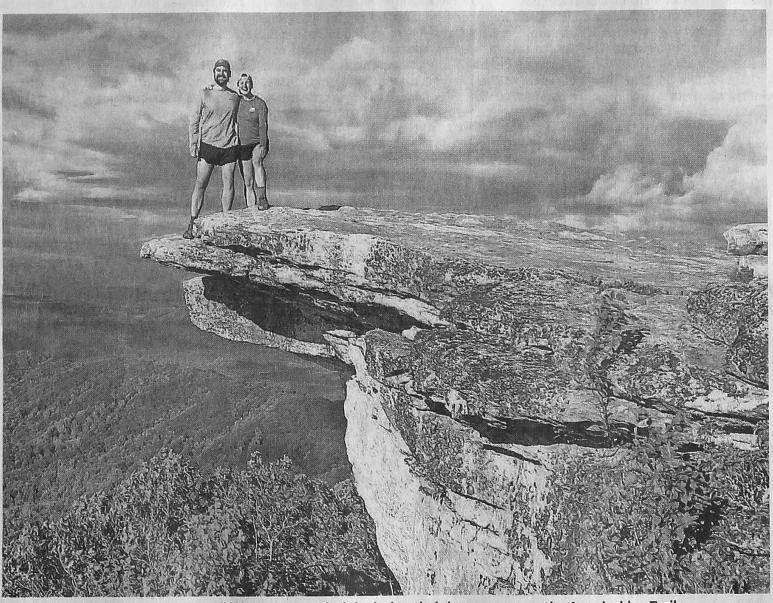
He approached Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid and Fire Chief David Heavener last fall with his idea for a new

foundation. They liked what they heard.

The chiefs have spoken publicly about the foundation having the potential to enhance the care and shelter they already work to provide.

"A lot of these families that we will deal with have truly lost everything and

See FOUNDATION, Page 2A



Kara and Nick Saur hang out on a cliff in southern Virginia during their honeymoon on the Appalachian Trail. COURTESY OF THE SAUR FAMILY

Couple takes 2,193-mile honeymoon hiking trip

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Four days after their April 2 wedding, Michigan residents Nick and Kara Saur were covering their skin with industrial-

strength bug repellent. The adventure-seeking newlyweds — Kara is a native of Canton and a 2011 graduate of Salem High School; Nick was born and raised in the Grand Rapids area — were preparing for a six-month, 2,193-mile journey on the Appalachian Trail.

"It started out as a joke, to be honest," Kara Saur said, as she and Nick neared the 1,300-mile mark of their journey July 8 somewhere in northwest New Jersey. "We thought, 'What if we did that? Wouldn't that be crazy?

"The more we talked about it, the more we thought, 'Well, why not?' We

See HONEYMOON, Page 3A

Farmington library hosts first of two listening sessions

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After about a year and a half of public criticism, the Farmington Community Library is listening.

Interim Director Kelley Siegrist is hosting two listening sessions, the first of which took place Monday. The public is invited to attend the second via Zoom at 6 p.m. July 19. People are encouraged to bring their questions and suggestions.

Attendees to the first meeting geared toward community leaders said they're happy to see library leadership listening to the community. Siegrist said the sessions will help develop the library's strategic planning.

"There's so much more transparency and openness going on, which I think is great," said Jeff Pavlik, owner of Sunflour Bakehaus in Farmington and a library advocate.

The meetings are happening nearly three months after the library board voted to place Director Riti Grover on administrative leave. The public had expressed distrust in Grover's leadership for over a year, a movement sparked by widespread staff furloughs and layoffs in the spring of 2020.

According to Siegrist, the library is actively hiring. Prior to the pandemic, the two branches had a combined 100 employees.

Now, that number is closer to 60.

"I'm going to move forward with staff input as much as I can," Siegrist said. "I feel like that wasn't happening in the past, and it is happening now."

Siegrist also said the library is

See LISTENING, Page 2A

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Land split proposed at potential marijuana business site in Westland

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Steps are underway to prepare a site in Westland for a marijuana facility, despite several lawsuits on the issue still in

A proposal to divide some vacant parcels along Cherry Hill west of Newburgh has been submitted to the city in preparation for a possible marijuana business on the property.

The move, which would divide the vacant parcels, is a precursor to anything being built on the property, said Mohamed Ayoub, the city's planning di-

"It does have to do directly with setting the stage for the site plan for the marijuana business, but the property owner wishes to do this regardless of whether the marijuana business moves forward or not," he said.

The split went before the city's planning commission during its meeting July 7 with the commission recommending the move. It now goes to city council for its review and determina-

The split was requested to change the size of the lots on the parcels to allow for a smaller detention system for the property, according to Curt Molino, a developer involved with the property.

"This is strictly about a lot split that ties into storm detention," Molino said. "If you have five acres or more, per Wayne County, you have to have a 100year detention system for stormwater, which limits the size of our building. If it's just under five acres, then it's a 10year storm detention area, which makes a huge difference in cost for develop-

What will end up on the site is still to be determined, though the current plans call for a marijuana business. The location was selected as one of several marijuana facilities allowed under the city's ordinance, which city council first allowed in 2019. Up to five marijuana retail operations are allowed under the current ordinance.

The city council selected several candidates to move forward in the application process earlier this year, though several lawsuits were then filed in opposition to that selection from companies that were not selected. Those cases remain in litigation in Wayne County's Third Circuit Court.

Such businesses are allowed under the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act, which was approved by Michigan voters in 2018.

Molino said even if a marijuana business does not eventually locate in that space, dividing the parcels is still an advantageous move for redevelopment.

"No matter what goes there, whether it's the cannabis industry or something else, it's still a better situation for the development," Molino said.

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

Storm damage shows need for financial disaster plan



Money Matters Guest columnist

As I write my column, Southeast Michigan is recovering from a storm that left many, including myself, without power. For most, the storm was an inconvenience.

That being said, it is a reminder that we all need to be prepared for the next disaster. If you had to leave your house with very short notice, would you be able to continue to handle your financial affairs? Before a disaster occurs, it is important to prepare yourself.

The key is to create a plan that fits you and your situation. The question to ask yourself is, if for whatever reason you did not have access to your home for a significant period, could you continue to manage your affairs without difficulty? That includes the mundane things such as paying bills and accessing your bank account, to such things as having the ability to file an insurance claim.

The majority of people forget about needing to file an insurance claim while navigating a disaster. To file a claim, you need to know who your policy is with, and the name of your agent if you use

In addition, in filing an insurance claim it's important to have some sort of inventory and accompanying documentation of your belongings. Remember, your homeowner's insurance policy doesn't just protect the home itself, but also what's inside.

Everyone needs a home inventory of everything that is owned inside the home. Whether it's appliances in the kitchen to furniture and TVs, everything should be inventoried. This also includes small-ticket, items, as they can become significant when combined.

I always recommend taking a video inventory of your home. In addition, particularly for more valuable items, videotaping receipts of appraisals can be helpful. Pictures can work as well. Whether you take videos or pictures, the key is to be able to access the information in case of a disaster.

Obviously, storing a backup in your home probably doesn't make sense. For many people, storing that information in the cloud is a reliable option.

In setting up your disaster plan, don't forget about legal documents that you may need access to. This would include wills, trusts, and medical and durable powers of attorney. These documents may be extremely important in times of a disaster and thus, you need to make sure that you have a plan in place to be able to access these documents.

Good luck!

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

Woman faces life-threatening injuries after I-275 rollover

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A high-speed rollover crash along Interstate 275 near Eight Mile Road left two people hospitalized and one with life-threatening injuries.

According to Michigan State Police troopers, an I-275 driver traveling at what they called "a high rate of speed" lost control of a vehicle at 12:15 a.m. July 14 and plunged into the median.

The vehicle continued speeding and then traveled up an embankment between northbound and southbound I-275 before it rolled over. A male and female were inside. The

male walked away and was found by Livonia first responders. He was taken to the hospital.

First responders had to cut the entrapped female from the crashed vehicle. She was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susan-

hometownlife.com

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Ex-firefighter charged with arson of own home

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A former Northville firefighter was arraigned on two felony arson charges in connection to a fire that destroyed

his home in Plymouth Township. Patrick Nolan, 40, is now residing at Wayne County Jail. He is expected to return to 35th District Court later in

He faces a charge of arson of an insured dwelling, which could mean life in prison if he is convicted, and a charge of second-degree arson, which could mean 20 years in prison.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has been investigating the Shefield Court fire with the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services' Fraud Investigation Unit.

According to Nessel's statement July 8, Plymouth Township police and fire were dispatched to Nolan's home early Jan. 1, 2019. The home was insured for loss caused by fire.

Their investigation revealed:

• Fire ignited in three unconnected areas: the master bedroom, a basement top of the basement stairs.

• The first material ignited was gaso-

An open flame ignited the gas va-

· A human caused the fire.

· Nolan's truck was parked at the residence less than two hours before a neighbor reported the fire.

"When one person tries to take advantage of insurance coverage through criminal acts, it affects all of us," Nessel

DIFS Director Anita Fox also issued a statement: "Insurance fraud costs all of us in the form of increased premiums."

She said anyone who suspects fraud storage room and a common hall at the in the insurance or financial services industries should report it online at Michigan.gov/ReportFraud2DIFS or call 877-999-6442.

> Nolan's bond was set at \$250,000. His attorney, Christopher Quinn II, declined to comment.

Listening

Continued from Page 1A

putting an added focus on outreach to children and seniors.

Megan Stryd, a library board member present at the first session, encouraged the public to reach out to the board and participate in its meetings.

"It really helps when people make public comment on what they want," she said. "There's a lot of comments that may have seemed like they went unheard, but they were heard."

Members of the public and Siegrist see the sessions as a step in the right direction, with several people saying they're looking forward to having "our library back."

"I'm hoping for a time where there's not so much division. I'm hoping for a time where there isn't a divided board," Siegrist said. "I think that time

People can learn more about the second listening session at farmlib. org.



Kelley Siegrist, interim director of the Farmington Community Library, works at the reference desk July 13. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Foundation

Continued from Page 1A

they're devastated," Heavener told Dan West, Livonia Chamber of Commerce president, during an interview on the commerce's CityScape pro-

Caid is leading the foundation as its committee chair. Other committee

members include Dardas, Heavener, West and Antoinette Johnston and Linda Nehasil, the widows of two fallen Livonia officers.

The group celebrated its first fundraiser July 5 at Larry Nehasil Park. An AlphaUSA employee won a new Yamaha V Star motorcycle in a raffle that raised

The city's police and fire unions, along with other first responder organizations, already had donated several

thousand dollars worth of seed money.

"It was very thoughtful right from the heart of the people that we're talking about," Dardas said. "We've had incred-

ible success right out of the box." He added that the next step is more planning and putting the structure to-

gether to disburse funds. Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

Videos show Canton police cruiser rollover

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The Canton Township police officer whose vehicle was smashed over while he was trying to get to an Interstate 275 rollover accident made it clear at the scene that he was OK.

"I'm fine. I'm fine. I'm good," he said in the video that the township released to Hometown Life after a Freedom of Information Act request.

Sirens are blaring. At least one horn is honking. There's radio traffic.

But the officer emphasized that he survived during that video that details the seconds before the crash before going motionless with nothing but shattered windshield, plastic bottles and other items that were tossed around in the June 10 multi-vehicle collision at Ford and Haggerty roads.

The township released two sets of incar video. Lasting more than two minutes, footage from the police vehicle that would crash at about 8 a.m. shows it traveling through one intersection with a green light and then approaching a second intersection with a red light.

For the second intersection, the officer has clearly activated a "rumbler siren," which are supposed to be more effective than regular sirens, especially in dense urban settings with lots of traffic.

But the second video, taken from a trailing police vehicle and lasting about 90 seconds, shows a car from an outer lane slipping past a car from the inner



A Canton police vehicle was involved in a crash while responding to a rollover.

COURTESY OF CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

lane and T-boning the police vehicle, which then hits another car waiting to make a left turn.

Any injuries were deemed minor, and the officer whose vehicle was struck is

back on duty, Police Chief Chad Baugh

"It's just amazing," said the chief. "We're just so fortunate. The outcome was as good as it gets."

Hometown Life requested an interview with the officer whose car rolled over. Baugh said officers crash their vehicles in the course of police work, and it's standard practice for them to not talk to the media because of potential litigation involving other drivers.

Baugh said the crash at the Ford and Haggerty roads intersection showed no evidence of ill intent. No charges are expected as a result of the collision that escaped tragedy, he confirmed.

Videos of the accident can be found online at HometownLife.com.

Honeymoon

Continued from Page 1A

don't own a house yet, we don't have kids yet. If we're ever going to do it, it had better be now."

So they went for it and couldn't be more happy – or sore.

"Every day we wake up with what is referred to as the hikers' hobble," Kara said. "It's kind of funny. Everybody gets out of their tents and walks a little stifflike."

Not the kind of stuff you see most mornings in Cancun.

For those of you who spent the week after your wedding on an all-inclusive cruise or in an exotic Caribbean resort, here's a summary of the Appalachian Trail: Saturated with breathtaking beauty, it's rugged, mountainous and unforgiving, with zero McDonald's drive-throughs, let alone coin-operated vending machines.

"Somebody we ran into put it perfectly: Hiking the trail is Type 2 fun," Kara said. "It's not Cedar Point fun. It's wake up and put on the same wet shoes and socks for the fifth straight day fun.

"Nick is a very positive person, thank goodness, because there have been days when I don't want to hike. ... There are days I'd just rather go spend the night in



Nick and Kara Saur have encountered breathtaking scenery throughout their journey on the Appalachian Trail.

COURTESY OF THE SAUR FAMILY

a hotel. But we've stayed true to the journey and we're actually keeping to a pretty good pace."

The Saurs said the average time it takes hikers to venture from the start of the trail in northern Georgia to its finish line in Maine is five to seven months.

"We're averaging about 14 miles per day, so we're on pace to finish in about five-and-a-half months, which, I guess, is a little better than average," Kara said.

When it comes to wildlife, the Saurs have seen it all.

"We've had three separate encounters with bears, which was pretty awesome, but I've never felt unsafe," Kara said. "We've seen two rattlesnakes and lots of other snakes, but only two that are venomous that we know of.

"We saw a porcupine recently and lots of newts. My favorite, though, is when we see snails. I have a greater appreciation now for creatures that carry their homes on their backs because that's what we do every day."

Eating is an adventure in itself, the Saurs have discovered. Nick has already lost 35 pounds since the day of the wedding.

"We eat junk food, total junk food," Kara said, laughing. "We eat a lot of candy. It's hard to eat fruits and vegetables because we try to keep our packs as light as we can so we can move faster and reduce back pain. We eat a lot of things that are fast and easy to cook on our little stove: ramen noodles, oatmeal.

"I even tried Spam for the first time and I liked it. I'm not sure if I liked it because I was really, really hungry or if it was actually good. We both have what they call hikers' hunger. We're hungry all the time. Since we're usually walking, our stomachs are like incinerators that burn off everything we eat."

The Saurs have been blessed by their experiences with trail magic and trail angels, Kara said.

"Trail magic is when a road crosses the trail and people who live in nearby towns (trail angels) show up and cook hot dogs for the hikers, give us Gatorade, coffee," she said. "The level of generosity true strangers have shown us has been amazing."

Every day has delivered highlights, Kara acknowledged, but one milestone has taken the cake so far.

"For me, it was the day we hit 1,000 miles on the trail," she said. "That was a pretty emotional experience for me because, just looking at a map and thinking, 'Wow, we really walked 1,000 miles!' That was a cool moment. It made this whole experience feel real."

Once they reach the end of the trail in mid-September, the Saurs will return to Grand Rapids where they will continue their professions — Nick is an engineer whose company allowed him to take a leave; Kara is a nurse who will be seeking employment — and start planning for their next adventure ... or not.

"One thing this entire experience has taught us is how much we miss home, our family and friends," Kara said. "That said, this entire journey has been incredible.

"The experience of a lifetime, for

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



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Brothers from Livonia set to earn every possible Boy Scout merit badge

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Woodworking, Plumbing, Gardening, Journalism. Camping.

These are just a few of the topics George and Andrew Atala learned about the last few years in achieving a pretty rare feat: the two Livonia boys have or are about to earn every single Boy Scouts of America merit badge possible.

"Scouts always gives you a lot of things to learn, a lot of different skills," Andrew said. "Ever since I earned my first merit badge, I always wanted to learn more. And you think, 'This one's cool,' and you do it. And there's a cooler one and a cooler one until, like, you do them all, like I did."

The two, members of Troop 755 in Northville, set out to each earn all of the 137 merit badges offered by the organization. The badges have several requirements for Scouts to complete and cover a myriad of subjects.

The organization requires Scouts earn 21 merit badges to earn the highest award in Scouting, the Eagle Scout award. Both boys have already earned their Eagle award, with Andrew doing his project at St. Edith Catholic Church in Livonia and George donating duffel bags to foster children in Detroit.

George, 16, earned his last badge earlier this year while Andrew, 14, is on the last requirements on his last badge, which he expects to earn this month. Both boys will have completed the same badge for their final one: Bugling.

"You have to learn 10 songs. You have to learn how to play it," George said. "Basically, you're learning how to play an instrument. And obviously people take lessons for that. I was on YouTube all day."

Once George earned that final badge, he said he realized how valuable earning more badges could be, especially to help prepare him for adulthood.

"Once I got that amount, I just learned so much from doing so little (of the) merit badges and it just felt so great," George said. "Like you just scratch the surface of literally 137 differ-



Andrew Atala, right, talks about earning more than 100 Boy Scout merit badges as his brothers George, center, and Matthew listen. The siblings want to earn every possible Scouting merit badge. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ent topics and you can really see what you enjoy."

The Boy Scouts of America said it doesn't keep track of how many Scouts earn every merit badge it offers, but provided some related statistics regarding how many badges were earned in the

Badges that could be earned at home did especially well - a time period where many Scouts did their badge work at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic - with badges like Family Life and Personal Fitness being atop the list of most badges earned.

With in-person meetings limited, working with counselors became a new challenge to navigate. Instead of the brothers - both Detroit Catholic Central High School students - meeting with merit badge counselors in person,

others to discuss their progress.

The pandemic ended up having a bit of an upside when it came to earning merit badges, Andrew said - the brothers were able to connect with people in places they normally wouldn't.

"It was more diverse because we could talk to people in different states as well," Andrew said. "So I thought that was pretty cool as well."

Scouting has become a family affair for the Atalas. Their father, Bassel Atala, serves as an assistant Scoutmaster in their troop, and younger brother Matthew has begun his journey in Scouts as

So far, he's earned 10 and hopes to keep going, especially after seeing the things his older brothers have done.

"I want to follow them because when I saw the pictures of them whitewater there were a lot of Zoom meetings with rafting and going on these crazy adven-

tures, and them smiling all the time, it was just like, 'Wow, that is so cool, I want to also do that," Matthew said.

Andrew said the first badge he earned, First Aid, is a demonstration of how important the skills learned for a merit badge can be. He used those skills to save someone's life when attending St. Edith Catholic Church in Livonia, helping a fellow parishioner until first responders could arrive.

Having those skills, he said, is crucial. And completing a merit badge to learn those skills helped him save that person's life.

"It's not just a merit badge," Andrew said. "It's more of a life lesson rather than just a badge."

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



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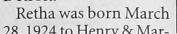
CANTON - Canton Attorney, died July 7, 2021. Funeral services were held. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

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Retha Gravel

Retha Maryanne Gravel (ne Bergman) 97 years old, passed away, Sunday, June 6, 2021 at the Elmcroft Assisted Living Facility, Brownstown Township. Formerly resided in Farmington Hills, Roseville, Sterling Heights and Detroit.



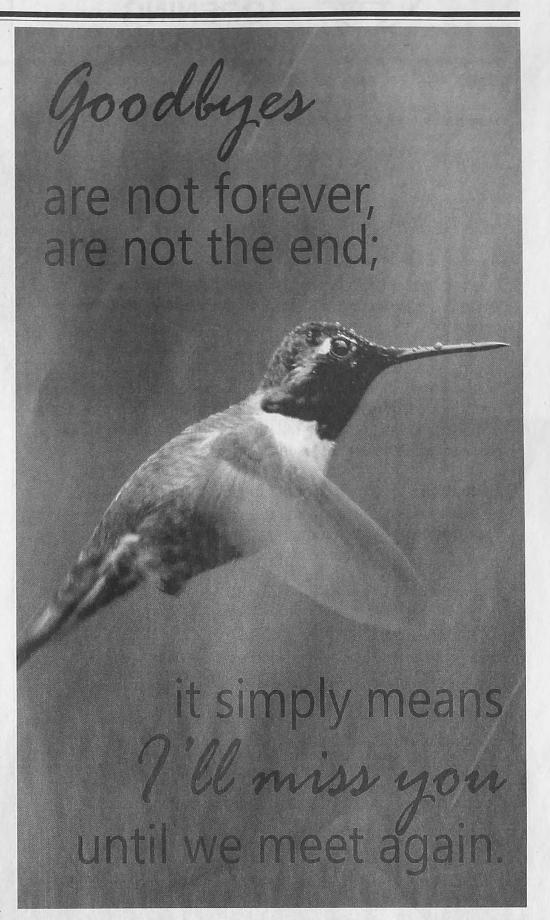
28, 1924 to Henry & Margaret Bergman (ne Brenner) in Pigeon. When Retha was 2 years old, the family moved to Sebewaing, Michigan. Retha left at age 16 for work in Detroit, which included being a "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII working at the Packard plant. After the war, she met her husband, Philip. They were married in 1947. Retha spent her life raising her family and working at the Radio Cab Company. Retha and Phil loved camping, which took them to Mexico, Alaska and throughout the 50 states. Also important to her was her volunteer work at Truth Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church and Prince of Peace Lutheran, where she loved singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school and volunteering where needed. After retirement, Retha and Phil were snowbirds traveling to Weslaco, Texas, where they both volunteered their time in the elementary school helping kids learn to read and write.

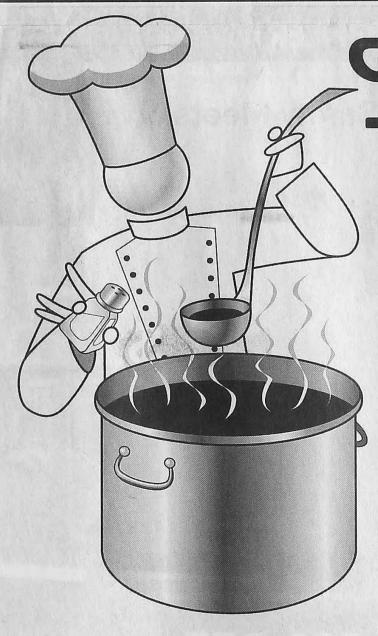
Retha is survived by her children, Philip (Christine & Kristopher), Dennis (Cathy, Christina, Diana & Steven), Janis (Ralph, Jeff, Melissa & Christopher) and Wendy (Rick, Rachel & Jordan) and many great grand-children, nieces and nephews.

Retha is preceded in death by her husband Philip, and all of her siblings, Bertha, Erich, Margaretha, Reinhold, Hilbert, Leona, Walter, Henry, Raymond, Frederick and Theodore.

Memorial donations are welcome to either her church, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Farmington Hills, MI), or the family church of Immanuel Lutheran Church (Sebewaing, MI) or the Dementia Society of America.







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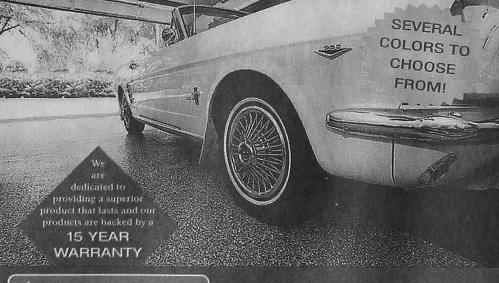
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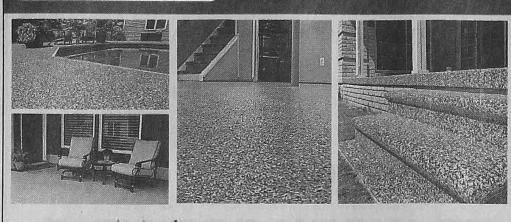
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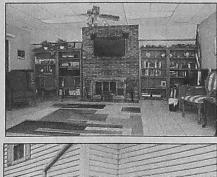
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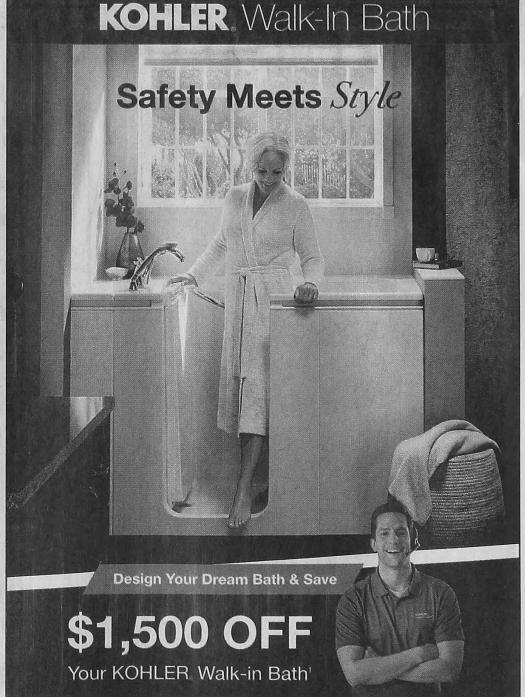
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USA TODAY SPORTS

SPORTS

Cranbrook football taps former college coach to lead Cranes

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Yes, Nick LaFontaine went to Wesleyan University and now coaches football. No, he admits he's not New England Patriots head coach and Wesleyan graduate Bill Belichick.

"I'm not quite in that class, but I'm getting there," LaFontaine said with a laugh.

That doesn't mean LaFontaine doesn't know what he's doing. He's been coaching football for the past 20 years, starting his career by bouncing around six different college programs in 11 years before finding a home at college

prep school Trinity-Pawling in Pawling, New York, for the past nine as a head coach.

To LaFontaine, football is more than just a game. It's a vehicle to keep students motivated to learn and love everything about the sport. The sport itself, he feels, is impactful.

No program knows how impactful a football head coach can be than Cranbrook Kingswood.

The Cranes football program lost former head coach Ben Jones, who died after being involved in a four-car crash Aug. 19, 2020.

Unable to play a football game until

See COACH, Page 2B



Nick LaFontaine will join Cranbrook Kingswood as its next football coach this fall. COURTESY OF NICK LAFONTAINE



Gerald Greener rakes the batters' box of Plymouth's Don Massey Field in the rain on July 12, 2021. JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

At 84, he's the longtime prep man at Plymouth's Don Massey Field

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Steve Anderson hasn't needed to question whether Don Massey Field would be ready for softball on a given day in the past 20 years.

The City of Plymouth's recreation director knows it's something most peo-

ple take for granted, walking up to a field with the chalk lines already made up, the warning track already dragged and the dugouts already swept.

"The little detail things, most people don't really see," Anderson said. "They just walk up to the diamond and think the elves came at night and did it and walked away. They don't see the time and the attention to detail that really

goes into that stuff."

This attention to detail is the reason why Gerald Greener has a job.

The 84-year-old drives to Plymouth each day games are scheduled, knowing what is expected out of a softball field. He grew up playing the game himself, playing 20 years in a modified fast-pitch softball league. Greener knows how things are supposed to look, even if it

takes a bit of extra time.

But time is something that Greener has. Time is the reason he took the job in the first place.

Years ago, Greener was a toolmaker, owning his own business for 15 years. But in the last years of his business, his wife was sick, first beating breast can-

See ANDERSON, Page 2B

Livonia Churchill football resets identity in July workouts

Colin Gay

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Livonia Churchill head football coach Bill DeFillippo had to make an adjustment on the fly. Green patches on the weather radar kept the Chargers off the field Monday evening, originally scheduled to practice against Seaholm to help learn how to defend an option-based offense. Instead, the head coach kept his players in the weight room and in the gym, focus-

ing on offensive installation.

That was just fine for DeFillippo and the rest of the Churchill coaching staff. This is what July is supposed to look like. It was back to normal again.

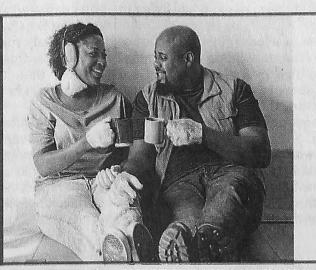
"Our big thing is trying to get back to where we need to be in terms of doing all the little things," the Churchill head coach said. "We still have a bit of a CO-VID hangover of things that we kind of let slide last year because of everything that was going on. We need to get all of

See CHURCHILL, Page 2B

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Hartland kicker commits to LSU

Bill Khan

Livingston Daily USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nathan Dibert of Hartland dreamed of becoming a college football kicker ever since his eighth-grade coaches suggested he had that potential.

But even his dreams weren't as grand as his reality.

Dibert's stock skyrocketed after his performance at a kicking showcase on May 16, attracting the interest of some of the nation's top program.

The recruiting process ended when he accepted a scholarship offer to Louisiana State University, which won the national championship just two years

"It's just so crazy I even have the opportunity to go here," Dibert said.

Dibert chose LSU from among a who's who of college football teams. He had a preferred walk-on offer from Michigan and was in contact with Wisconsin, Texas A&M and Cincinnati.

He never imagined having such opportunities even two months ago.

"Before the big boom happened, I was looking at maybe MAC schools at most, maybe even Division II schools," Dibert said. "I wasn't really thinking about Powers 5s until after this hap-

Dibert won the field goal and kickoff competition at the Kohl's Kicking, Punting and Long Snapping Midwest Showcase Camp, earning a No. 2 national ranking. He made 24 of 25 field goals during one stretch.

That's when everything changed.

"All the schools just started blowing up my phone," Dibert said. "They wanted me to go down there and perform and showcase my talent."

Dibert was at a camp at the University of Texas when he received a call from Greg McMahon, the special teams coordinator at LSU.

"He asked me to come down and perform, because some of the coaches from the different programs who rank kickers, punters and snappers called him and told him I'm really good and they should look at me," Dibert said. "We called up, switched the flights, went to Baton Rouge and I did a workout."

Suddenly, Dibert was auditioning for a scholarship to one of the top college football programs in the nation.

"I was perfect on field goals, perfect on kickoffs," he said. "He just put me in different spots and charted me from the 23-yard line all the way back to the 50yard line. They're trying to test my strengths, where I could kick and how accurate I am. It was a tryout for a scholarship."

Dibert received the scholarship offer about a week-and-a-half later. After considering the opportunity for three days with his family, he accepted.

"I had no idea that would be on my radar," he said. "I never thought LSU would be on my table. I didn't think they were open."

Dibert is a life-long soccer player who started playing football in eighth grade at the urging of his friends. He played multiple positions in addition to kick-

He has been on Hartland's varsity team since his freshman year. When he showed potential, Dibert began working

with Kyle Brindza, a former NFL and Notre Dame kicker who played for Plymouth High School.

"He's been helping me the last few years to develop me into what I am today," Dibert said. "A year ago, I was thinking Division II, possibly MAC schools. With him helping me, I can develop myself into a Power 5 athlete. It's been a surreal thing I've been going through."

Dibert had three field goals last season, with a long of 47 yards against Sa-

He put 17 of 28 kickoffs into the end

"I didn't have a lot of field goal opportunities last year," Dibert said. "It sounds like this year it's going to be used a lot more, especially with the holder we've got. Brad Sollom has been my holder since sophomore year. The snapper is locked in and ready for everything. The special teams unit will be really good this year."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.

Coach

Continued from Page 1B

Oct. 3 due to school rules associated with COVID-19, Cranbrook Kingswood lost each of its five games in the 2021 season under Athletic Director and interim head coach Stephen Graf, including its first-round playoff game against Madison Heights Lamphere.

In 2021, LaFontaine will try and pick up and continue to build on the foundation Jones left, accepting the head coaching role starting this fall.

Since taking the job, LaFontaine said he's been in meetings with coaches, players and parents, learning about and embracing Jones' mantra of "Get to."

"This to me is a great foundation that he's built," LaFontaine said. "To me, I want to kind of build upon that. I also told them I need to earn that. 'You don't know me and that's OK and we're going to get to know each other. But I'm going to work hard and try to prepare and do the best I can so I can earn that place.'

"We've been working since I got

'Guys, why not?

LaFontaine arrived at Cranbrook for his first minicamp as head coach simply excited to be on a football field.

While the Cranes played five games during the 2020-21 school year, Trinity-Pawling School did not, leaving LaFontaine without a chance to coach a football game in more than a year. But his first impression of Cranbrook was a group that wanted to be successful and just play football.

"The kids there, they were just ready for it. They were just ready to be coached," LaFontaine said. "They want to excel, they want to be good, they want to be competitive. That part of it was energizing for me as a coach."

The Cranes newest hire knows how hard football is. He describes it as a grind, primarily using specialized drills and practice methods to hone skills for the game instead of actually playing the game itself.

"It's a lot of preparation for one day of payoff," LaFontaine said. "Then hopefully, you put in all that work just to have the opportunity to try and win. Being at this level, younger kids, it's like, 'Well, I

did all the work so I should win.' You do all the work to have a chance to win, not that you're guaranteed to win."

After the first week of mini camp practices, this is something the Cranes players have begun to embrace, teaming up together and flooding social media with pictures of workouts and training sessions, preparing for the upcoming grind together.

To LaFontaine, this is why football is so important. It's a part of these students' educations at Cranbrook.

"They are going to learn a lot about themselves, they are going to learn a lot about what they are capable of," LaFontaine said. "Some hard lessons - especially the lessons they had to learn from this past year - that they will build on the rest of their lives and take into whatever they go into."

LaFontaine doesn't view his newest head coaching job as a short-term step for a long-term goal. For him, he's looking to settle and build something at Cranbrook: taking a job as a math teacher within the school along with enrolling his two children at Brookside Elementary.

LaFontaine said this is the start of the

rebuilding process for the Cranes football program, hoping to recruit players indirectly by the culture he creates in and around the football program - caring for the players and challenging them on and off the football field.

But heading into his first season, La-Fontaine has no preconceived notions. He knows it's a great school, and that's it. The rest is a learning process he gets to be a part of.

"The good and the bad of it is, everybody's got a blank slate. You always have a blank slate with me. But the bad of it is, if you think you proved yourself, well guess what: there's no starters right now," LaFontaine said. "Everybody's on the same level.

"That, to me, translates to the product we put on the field and the competitiveness of the team we will have is like, 'Guys, why not?"

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.

Anderson

Continued from Page 1B

cer before falling to emphysema.

Greener was tired, burnt out. He needed to do something different. He quit his job, selling the building his shop

"I don't regret it," Greener said. "If my wife was still around, I'd probably still have my business. I enjoyed it, I did well in it, but it was just something that I did for two years where I was going every day, whether I was going to the hospital, doctor's office, whatever."

While retired, Greener was not done. He wanted to find something, to find purpose again.

He turned back to one thing that gave him life as a kid: sports.

Greener grew up with six siblings five brothers and one sister, who, he said, was the best athlete of the bunch.

Each found their place in sports.

None of us were anything great, but we all enjoyed ourselves," Greener said.

Greener found his way onto the first Detroit Catholic Central hockey team in 1952 as a student at U-D Jesuit, playing with a group that was unaffiliated with the school. He also found himself playing flag football when he was in the

But what Greener remembers most are the baseball games on an empty lot on the corner of Puritan Avenue and Oldfield Street in Southfield, digging out an impromptu baseball field that became his home base for many summers.

"Us kids that played there, when we became 16, just about all of us had junker cars, and you could go down there any night in the summertime, and you would find 20 kids playing ball," he said. "It was a place we all congregated and hung around after. We would have bonfires and, as we got to be 20, drank a few

Greener eventually found his way 2021 season could be his "swan song," into the American Legion Baseball league, playing with former Major League Baseball players Milt Pappas and Al Moran, a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central. He later joined modified fastpitch softball leagues with his two sons, most of which are defunct around the Livonia and Plymouth area.

Instead of playing himself, Greener watches his two grandsons - Luke and Cam Greener - play baseball, both having played for Livonia Churchill. But if Gerald Greener had a choice, he would be the person out there on the diamond.

"If my legs were good, I'd still be playing," he said. "It's just competition. That's all. No matter what you play, it's competitive, isn't it? I like to play ball and I like to go to the bar and have a few beers. It's all part of the game. It's kept me out of trouble."

Coming out of his 21st season working for Plymouth, Greener does not know what's next. He admits that the knowing that next year he turns 85. But he also knows he wants to con-

tinue working until he's not capable to anymore. Greener can't just sit around and do nothing.

Greener's focus is not on the long term. It's on the day-to-day: making up the chalk lines, dragging the warning track, sweeping the dugouts.

He's doing the little things most people don't really see.

"The day that I can't do something, I'm going to be hurting, if I have to sit in a chair," Greener said. "I don't want to do that. I don't think that's how life should

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

Churchill

Continued from Page 1B

our guys back to normal."

Even through the COVID-19 pandemic, Churchill showed what it could do on the football field.

The Chargers finished second in the KLAA East behind Belleville in 2020-21, losing two regular-season games before a seven-point loss to Oak Park in the regional final, losing the lead with 41 seconds left in the game to end the season.

"The big thing was that we kept tackling all the things that were in our way," Churchill senior wide receiver Bailey Brooks said. "All the adversity, we just kept tackling and beating it every single time. It was like we were steamrolling; we were moving. We had all the momentum and then just to get chopped off on the last play of the game was like, 'Ah, this is terrible."

But Brooks' focus isn't on what could have been against Oak Park in January. Everything that's passed is in the past, he said. It's time to build a new story.

And Churchill has the personnel to build something special.

DeFillippo will lead a large group of seniors that come into the 2021 season as three-year starters, including Brooks, running back and linebacker Boston Clegg Jr. and cornerback and wide receiver Joshua Brown.

Senior quarterback Taj Williams is also set to play a major role in Churchill's game plan, returning to the team after playing one season while living in Georgia.

In these sessions prior to the start of August camp, DeFillippo said he's expecting a high level of leadership from each of those players, whether it's vocal or just setting the tone of daily development for each of the younger players in

Even with the experience, the head coach said he's not one to bring up expectations for this group, especially this early in the year. It's more of a focus on mastering the little things so the big picture can take care of itself.

"Each team is different too," DeFillippo said. "Even though we have a lot of third-year guys coming back, we lost a lot of good players, lost a lot of leadership off last year's group. Every team becomes its own little identity."

The weight room and workout time before the season ramps up in August is a time for culture building, Brooks said, molding that identity through the shared grind as a team.

However, Brooks, who's brother Gavin graduated after starting at quarterback for the Chargers in 2019 and 2020, knows that experience can bring a sense of false confidence, a premature satisfaction that Churchill has success wrapped up before it even touches the

"We definitely have the confidence like we've been here. We know we can do it; we know that we're a good football team," Brooks said. "We just can't let it go too far, act like we can roll out our helmets and win games."

To DeFillippo and those that have

been through a football offseason before, that's why these July sessions are so important.

It's important to be in the weight room. It's important to go through offensive plays slowly and methodically in an empty basketball gym, recreating something that, in just over a month's time, the Chargers will be expected to

Churchill knows it has the potential to make history for Livonia football. It's working now to be able to get to that

"We have such experienced players now. We've been here. A heartbreaking loss last year and the year before that, so we are just trying to get past that hump and make it all the way," Clegg said. "But this team is really talented, so we can get there."

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.

Obstacle course

MHSAA's executive director Uyl navigated pandemic to play every season this year

Mick McCabe Special to Hometown Life USA TODAY NETWORK

nder normal circumstances, there would have been no reason for Mark Uyl to rush home from Sault Ste. Marie and his in-laws' 50th wedding anniversary celebration to return to McLane Stadium on the Michigan State campus just to catch the ending of a high school baseball game.

But we haven't had normal circumstances in well over a year and a couple of weeks ago Uyl wanted to be there to experience The End. • It was the end to the most tumultuous athletic school year in over 100 years.

It was a school year that weighed heavily on Uyl, the third-year executive director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and his family.

And when you add the final four months of the previous school year, well, this was something no one could have seen coming ... and something no one wants to experience again.

It was a year in which athletes, coaches, parents and fans took to several forms of social media to express their frustration and anger, and quite often rage, over the state of high school athletics in Michigan during the worldwide pandemic.

The target of that, more often than not, was Uyl.

"One of the lessons of COVID, whether it was through a political prism or an athletic prism or a social media prism, you have to blame somebody," Uyl said. "When we had to make some decisions based on the government regulations that were in place at the time, that's the way it goes — you were going to get blamed."

Being the target of blame is one thing, but too many people out there, including coaches, made it personal with attacks on Uyl and his family members.

Uyl, 47, has a background in officiating and was one of the top umpires in all of college baseball, twice working the College World Series. He says that prepared him to be able to handle a lot of the criticism.

But it probably didn't prepare his children for what they were reading on social media.

"If you want to go after me, that's one thing, but when you start attacking my kids online," he said. "There were a lot of lessons learned in our house. It was tough when you saw a couple of teenage kids who had to grow up a little bit faster than they should have, just because they would see that and read that garbage every single day."

'The invisible enemy'

In March 2020, COVID-19 was gaining steam and the number of cases in Michigan and around the country rapidly rose. Suddenly, the state's high school tournaments were in danger of being halted.

Finally, on Thursday, March 12, the MHSAA ruled that all playoff action was being suspended and would be resumed in short order.

"We had to pause it and most people thought two or three weeks later and that's immediately how you started to think," said Uyl. "Going back, to those 16 months, I don't think any of us could imagine it going where it did."

imagine it going where it did."

It went into a bottomless abyss.

In stopping all MHSAA activity, Uyl intentionally used the world "paused," not "canceled" because he had every intention of completing the playoffs.

After all, only the championship meet in boys swimming remained and hockey was heading into its final weekend of tournament play. Girls basketball was set to play the regional finals while boys basketball was a week behind at the district final level.

But that hope endedApril 2 when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered the schools closed for the rest of the school

No school, no sports.

"That decision," Uyl said, "gave us no decision."

The gravity of this was not lost on Uyl. For the first time since 1943, there would be no high school basketball state

champions.

"In less than three weeks," he said,
"this invisible enemy — the virus — had

done what a war around the world had done about 80 years earlier."

While the premature ending of the winter sports season was devastating to the athletes and their parents and the abolishing of the spring season was cruel, at least it was sudden and done within a few days.

What came next became a seemingly never-ending emotional roller coaster for everyone involved in Michigan high school athletics.

'Let Them Play'

Once the previous school year's athletics were canceled, Uyl and his staff began compiling "what-if" scenarios they presented to the MHSAA's representative council at its June meeting.

Uyl and the staff began thinking outside the box. Actually, they were thinking outside of outside of the box. They even devised, at least in theory, a way to play a season of football even if the governor and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services put the kibosh to a fall season.

"In the back of our mind, as quickly as everything had gone bad, we were hopeful that things could make an equal turn in the other direction," Uyl said. "It was all about the summer and what fall sports would look like. As we were sitting there in May, I don't think anybody wouldn't have imagined that things wouldn't have been somewhat back to normal by August."

Summer workout for fall sports began June 15 and it was as if there was a huge sigh of relief from all corners of the state

The MHSAA shared with the governor's office a plan that would phase-in all sports. At a June 30 press conference, Whitmer gave the MHSAA authority to flip the seasons, mentioning that she preferred a spring football season as opposed to trying to play in the fall.

As the summer wore on, the MHSAA realized it would be difficult in most parts of the state to play a meaningful football season in the spring and it would be downright impossible in the Upper Peninsula.

The MHSAA announced July 18 that if there was going to be a football season in the coming academic year it would be in the fall.

Fall football practice began on time, Aug. 15, but was stopped four days later with an executive order that refused to allow volleyball players and swimmers to enter school buildings and prevented contact football practices.

It appeared that members of the MDHHS saw players in football helmets and shoulder pads and assumed full-scale contact practices were under way, which was not accurate.

Behind the scenes, there was absolutely no direct contact with the governor and only limited access to people in her office as well with the MDHHS.

Uyl was rapidly losing his patience with the situation, especially when outside groups not associated with high schools were beginning to form football and volleyball leagues where the bottom line was making money off these kids.

"We asked a pretty pointed question," Uyl said. "How in the world are these folks allowed to do this when we're not? What that really did was start the conversation and created the opportunity for us to go back and get football restarted in the fall."

Opening weekend for football was supposed to be Aug. 28-29, but instead people held a "Let Them Play" rally at the Capitol in Lansing.

Pictures of players, coaches and parents and standing shoulder-to-shoulder with very few masks in sight did not go over well in the governor's office nor with the MDHHS and almost ended any hope of a season.

A glimmer of hope

While cross-country, girls golf and boys soccer were under way, Uyl became increasingly aggressive in attempting to get football, volleyball and girls swimming started.

"We were pressing the issue on a daily basis," Uyl said. "You looked at our case counts and numbers back in late August and early September and other states around us were all playing and there really wasn't a real reason why we couldn't do fall sports in the fall.

"We thought there was a way forward and do it safely. That was a tight needle to thread, but one we thought could be done."

The MHSAA received the OK to begin the abbreviated football season on Sept. 18. Teams were permitted to play a six-



West Bloomfield running back Mekhi Elam runs past Davison defensive back Payton Pizzala during the second half of the MHSAA Division 1 final at Ford Field, Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021. JUNFU HAN, DETROIT FREE PRESS

game regular season, but a week was added to the playoff format, which for the first time, included every team in the state, as opposed to the 256 in a normal playoff field.

But after the first three rounds of the football state playoffs the world stood still on Nov. 16 when Whitmer stopped all athletics, suspending seasons until Dec. 8.

"Of the really dark days over the last 16 months, Nov. 16 sticks out as one of the darkest," Uyl said. "We were so close. We had three weeks left of football; we were literally in our last week for volleyball and our girls swimmers and divers, were down to literally one day."

A 12-day extension was added to the Dec. 8 date and it appeared the governor was ignoring the MHSAA's data of playing safely.

"There was just not much optimism because the case counts in November and early December were at the worst they had ever been — far worse than they were in August," Uyl said. "It was really difficult, especially those first couple of weeks of December to find really much hope or much optimism."

Finally, a pilot rapid testing testing program for players and coaches across the state was put in place and football games resumed Jan. 9 and volleyball and girls swimming finished their seasons. A week later the football semifinals were held. Both weeks required games being played outdoors and the regional finals were held under what only could be termed astonishingly good weather for January.

More than just football

The fall season was completed at Ford Field the weekend of Jan. 22-23, but Uyl and his staffers had to move quickly to get indoor winter seasons up and running, once again battling the powers in Lansing.

A week following the football finals, winter sports were still in a holding pattern after Whitmer had declared the first day of competition to be Feb. 21.

In the meantime, Robert Gordon resigned as director of the MDHHS and

was replaced by Elizabeth Hertel.
Suddenly, the MHSAA had an open
line of communication with the

MDHHS.

But Uyl couldn't understand why they had to wait so long to begin winter

competition because positive test rate numbers had dropped by half.

Basketball coaches, in the meantime were not-so-quietly losing their minds.

Basketball coaches, in the meantime were not-so-quietly losing their minds. Some demanded that Uyl disregard the executive orders, which in Michigan carry the weight of law, and begin the season immediately.

Others flat out declared that Uyl cared only about finishing the football playoffs because his son, Grant, was an all-stater at eventual Division 3 champion DeWitt.

The day of the DeWitt-River Rouge state championship game, Birmingham Brother Rice basketball coach Rick Palmer tweeted: "I hope river rouge wins by 1,000 today."

Uyl would have found that laughable had it not involved his son.

"What was crazy was that the attacks, especially toward Grant," Uyl said. "People didn't realize he's a threesport kid. So all of the talk that it was only about the fall sports, there could not have been anything further from the truth."

By the way, Uyl's wife, Marcy, has been a girls basketball coach for 27 years now so there was no way he could possibly overlook the basketball season, which start date was moved up two weeks.

But that didn't stop the nonstop attacks coming from coaches and fans who had no idea how hard Uyl was trying to get winter sports going.

"Adversity and crisis really brings out

a lot of times people's true colors," Uyl said. "We had all that noise on the social media, but what it really taught me was that at the end of the day you've got to do what's right based on the information you have and as long as you're making decisions based on those things, you get pretty good at blocking out all the outside noise.

"We just tried to hang in there a day at a time."

The real hero

All of that sounds nice, but no matter how hard he tried, Uyl couldn't block it out, even when the season began.

Add that to the understanding that Whitmer was not opposed to stopping seasons on a moment's notice and Uyl kept waiting for the other shoe to drop.

"Every day you just held your breath," he said. "You didn't know what the next day would bring."

The next day followed many sleepless nights. Uyl was managing only three to four hours of sleep a night, constantly worrying about possible scenarios that would halt the seasons and bring back chaos.

At least he didn't have to go far to find a dependable sounding board.

"My wife, Marcy, is my hero," he said, his voice cracking with emotion. "Without her, none of this would have happened this year. Having somebody at home that isn't just your wife, but somebody who has coached as long as she has. She was able to bring some real perspective and some real clarity to things.

"I don't know how I would have managed both the professional part during the day and the personal part at night and the weekends without her. I will forever be grateful."

Uyl also relied on Grant, also an outstanding hockey and baseball player and recently enrolled at the Air Force Academy where he will play football.

"We would talk a lot because he was really good at giving that perspective of — in November — a fall kid who was stuck on pause," Uyl said. "But in the next sentence he could also tell me what it was like as a winter athlete. He could also give me that input on being a pretty good baseball kid who lost his entire last season."

While Grant was able to play all three sports and Marcy was able to coach, neither of them were paramount in Uyl's mind when it came to beginning and finishing three separate sports seasons this school year.

You see, Uyl was and still is absolutely haunted by the way the 2019-20 sports season ended.

"Really, it was the kids of the Class of 2020," he said. "I'm telling ya, that was the push each and every day to go in and figure out a way to get it done."

That is why Uyl raced back to East Lansing to watch Kalamazoo Hackett record the final out of its 9-2 Division 4 victory over Marine City Cardinal Mooney.

Not only did he want to see the third and final sports season completed, he wanted to be around his staff.

"Our staff is completely worn out," he said. "This is going back to last August. You want to talk about a daily grind of challenges and problems. The whole time you're holding your breath not knowing if tomorrow is going to be the next crisis."

Finally, Uyl and his staff had outrun every potential crisis and the most difficult year in high school athletics had been completed.

"I was able to go have a few post tournament drinks with our staff and just be able to revel in relief at the Harrison Roadhouse," Uyl said. "It was just neat to share that with our staff because they had worked awfully hard to get over the finish line."

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ACROSS 1 Really ruffle

6 Bozo

9 They may fly at half-mast

14 "- Mia" (Abba hit) 19 São

20 Sway to and 21 TV's Greene

or Michaels 22 Ovine sign 23 S

26 Asinine 27 "- -Dick" 28 - - Ball

29 2007 Disney princess 31 Add a letter before that to spell ...

37 Above, to bards 38 "How dumb of me!"

39 Fearless 40 Orbit, e.g. 42 Foliage unit

45 "The Zoo Story" playwright

Edward 50 Bozo 52 Add a letter before that to

spell .. 57 Close amigo 59 Really ruffle

60 Wet-weather 109 Alveolar trill, headgear

61 Hay fever speech explosion 110 Tofu source, 62 Former Israeli to Brits PM Golda

111 Long stretch 64 Big fusses 112 Perfect little 66 Capitol's top kid 67 Add a letter 113 Add a letter before that to before that to

spell ... spell ... 71 "I know! Pick 120 Gettysburg

75 Two before X 122 Stanley Cup 76 Deadly 80 Fruity, sourish 123 In snazzy clothes

dessert **82** The Cowboys, on 125 Tabby cries a sports ticker 126 Dems' rival

83 Falsify 85 Add a letter before that to spell ... 89 Pear, apple

and quince 90 Main artery 91 Essen "a" 44 In the manner 92 He married

Lucy 94 Moor growth 95 Tennis great Jennifer 99 Young -

(toddlers) 101 '60s Pontiac muscle car 102 Add a letter before that to

spell ...

victor George 74 Novelist Jaffe 121 C-3PO, e.g.

> 124 Media biggie 127 Bergen

dummy Mortimer DOWN 1 Rival of

FedEx

2 With 6-Down, yield a profit 3 Hot stretch 4 Macaroni shape

5 "Such a pity" 6 See 2-Down 7 Popped up 8 Two-pronged vehicle

9 Well-spoken 10 E-giggle 11 Dog's yap

12 Wildebeest as in Spanish 13 Composer Prokofiev

14 En -(as one)

15 1989 Disney princess 16 Metric "thousandth"

17 - Yello (soft drink) 18 Thus far 24 Germ killer in

a can

25 Connery of film 30 "- be an honor"

31 Subjects 32 In direct confrontation 33 "Trauma: Life (old TLC

34 Guzzled, e.g. 35 III-gotten gains 36 Shimmery gem

series)

41 Bride-tobe's clothing drawer 43 Lumberjack, at times

45 Nickname of Onassis 46 Phyllis' last name on the old sitcom

"Phyllis"

12

47 -- -chic (hippieinspired

fashion) 48 Mild cheese 49 Italy's Villa ď-

51 Brand of tea 53 Jacob of social reform 54 Part of ETA 55 "No -!"

("Sure thing!") 56 Studio tripods 58 Old-time actress **Dolores**

> 63 Water quality org. 64 Onetime ring king

65 Longtime soap actress Hall 68 Movie mogul Marcus

69 Bird beak 70 Tonto player Johnny

71 Gymnast Korbut 72 Seat of Hawaii County

73 Sharif of "Che!" 77 Uniform liquid suspension

78 Zend- -(Zoroastrian scripture)

79 Rent check collector 81 Org. with

putters 82 Levi's fabric 84 Subject 86 Univ.

division 87 Hidden mike 88 Uplifting

spiritually

93 Like King Atahualpa 95 Movie dancer Charisse

96 Aviation branch of the military 97 Great traits

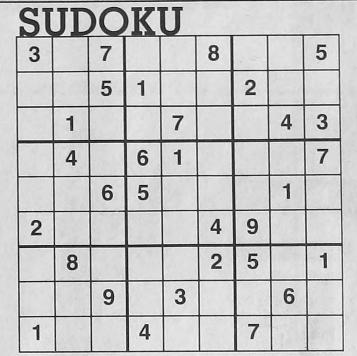
98 Traffic noise 100 Yam units 102 Intense ache 103 Real introvert

104 Tank slime 105 Vehicles near igloos 106 Tennis great

Monica 107 Cantina chip 108 Grown gal 114 Boot part 115 "Vice" airer 116 Dejected

117 Swiss peak

118 Env. insert 119 Guitarist Barrett 16 17



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!

FAIRYTALES

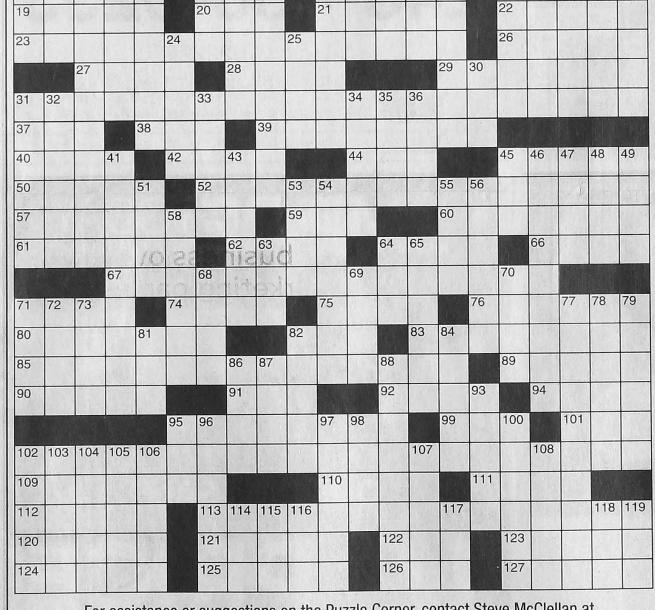
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them. CSPELLEGENDGRIMMS CHARMGPPCEGDB IEOGOILZTYR TBMTXGQR YR AEOSELI NI 0 E O D LRNABLAE HEOSCRRUBDEOM NTGOOSMYEOQU RWRRNARGRCXA NREELFIIEGR IWOODSNEWFM MOLSPRITEOO WHDTS AZ 1 CGOBL INHHEN A GBEAUTYEUGTE WNEEUQCRQSISKM

FQDKWITCHTTNAIGO

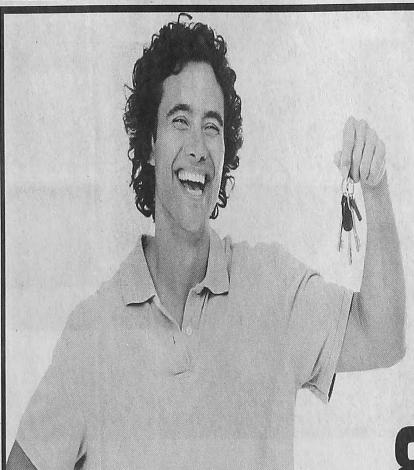
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ANSWER KEY

6	8	7	9	9	Þ	3	2	L
2	9	Þ	L	3	8	6	G	7
L	3	9	2	6	L	7	8	9
9	g	6	t	8	3	L	7	2
b	Ţ	8	7	2	g	9	3	6
7	5	3	6	L	9	8	Þ	9
3	t	9	g	7	6	7	ŀ	8
8	7	2	3	9	L	g	6	t
S	6	L	8	t	2	1	9	3



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



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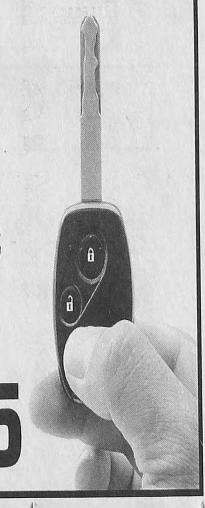
WITCH WIZARD

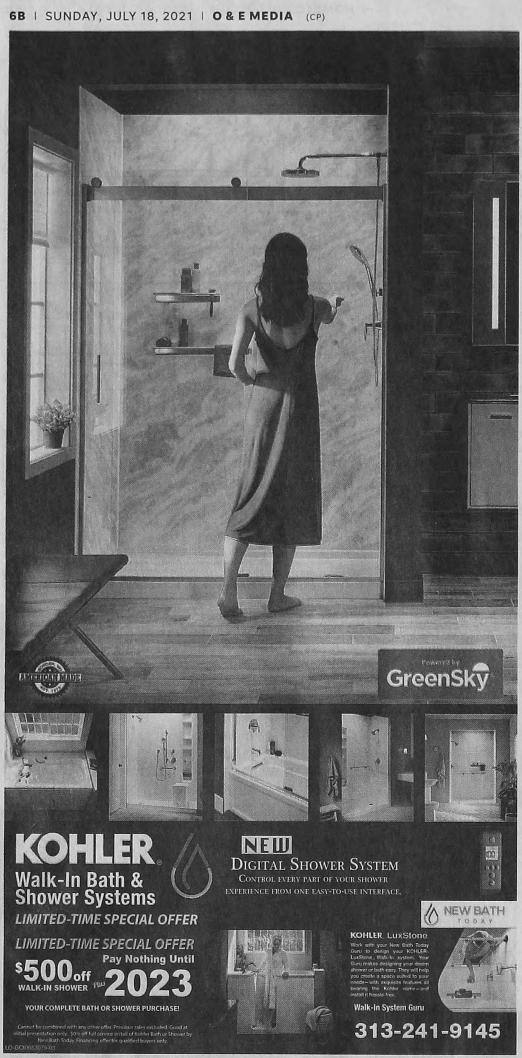
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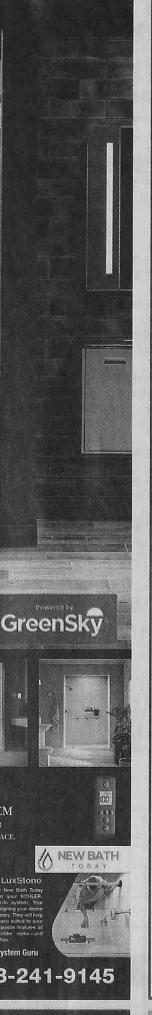
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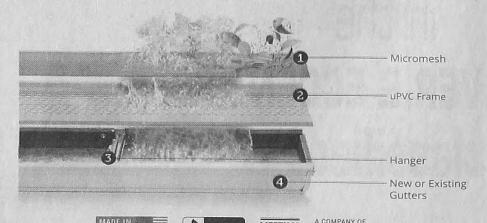
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