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LOCAL NEWS, 10A

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Four arrested after shooting

One person injured in altercation last weekend

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

An altercation inside a Westland home last weekend led to shots being fired and criminal charges.

Westland police say they responded to an altercation at about 11 p.m. Jan. 5 at a residence in the 1700 block of Ackley. The altercation stemmed from a "mutual female acquaintance" inside the home, which led to a shooting.

Sgt. Robert Wilkie of the Westland



Nelson Willhite Wilson

Police Department said one of the individuals suffered a minor gunshot wound and was treated at a local hospital before being released back into police custody.

Police say three individuals were arrested as a result of the incident: Kori Willhite, 24, of Garden City; Joseph Nelson, 28, of Westland and Michael Wilson, 39, of Detroit. Police say another in-

dividual, a woman, was arrested, but posted bond and had not been arraigned. Police declined to release her name and any charges against her.

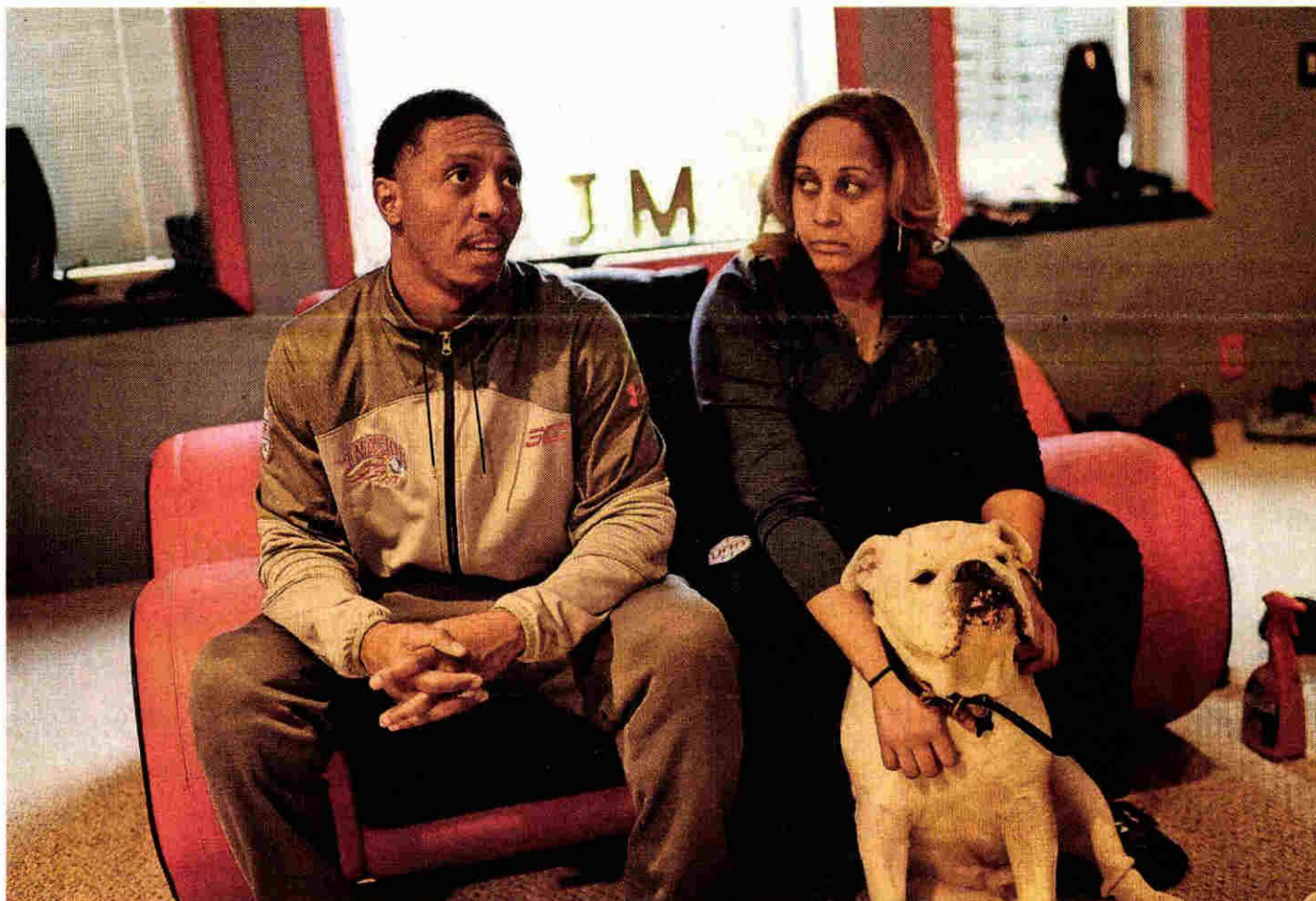
Nelson was charged with assault with intent to commit murder, assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and felony firearm. He was arraigned Monday before 18th District Judge Sanda Cicirelli and was given a bond of \$150,000 cash or surety. He's due back in court Jan. 18 for a probable cause conference. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison.

Wilson was charged with one count of carrying a concealed weapon and was also arraigned Monday. He was given a

bond of \$5,000/10 percent and is due back Jan. 18 for his next court hearing. If convicted, he faces up to five years in prison.

Willhite was arraigned recently on two misdemeanor charges: disguising her identification and possession of improper prescription drugs. She was given a bond of \$50,000/10 percent and will return to court Jan. 16. She faces a maximum of 93 days in jail, the maximum for a misdemeanor conviction.

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Jarvis and June Mitchell of Garden City talk about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the realities of life in 2018 for African Americans. Sitting in on the discussion is the family's English bulldog, Chauncey (named after former Detroit Pistons star Chauncey Billups). TOM BEAUDOIN

LIVIN' THE DREAM?

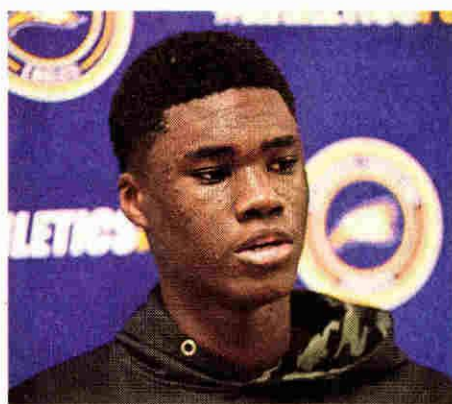
Local couple say MLK would be 'flabbergasted' at today's society

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Some sidewalks in the peaceful Garden City neighborhood where Jarvis and June Mitchell live were covered with snow and ice.

But there could have been egg shells on the pavement, under their boots, for all that African Americans still have to endure in 2018.

"He'd be flabbergasted," June Mitchell said, about how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — whose life will be celebrated across the country Monday — might react to all the negative headlines.



Maximus Okolo's parents moved to Michigan from Nigeria. He said he does not feel racial tension at his school, Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton. TOM BEAUDOIN

There's nationwide protests fueled by racism, stemming from Colin Kaepernick taking a knee during the na-

Inside

Brother Rice tennis star making strides
Sports, 1B

tional anthem to protest what he called oppression of black people.

There still is at least one restaurant, the Mitchells said they experienced, where black kids are turned away from getting a drink of water, albeit in West Virginia.

And, on the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it seems as though all the societal gains enjoyed by African Americans — largely thanks to what King and many others experienced in the 1950s and 1960s — are slowly slipping.

In Michigan, the number of hate crimes jumped 29.1 percent (from 309

See MLK DAY, Page 12A

Aubree's will open Westland location in spring

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Haggerty Road has one less restaurant as 2018 began earlier this month.

Aubree's Pizzeria and Grill, 20420 Haggerty, in Northville Township, closed New Year's Eve after more than eight years in business at that location.

The restaurant's ownership came to the conclusion late last year the eatery would close before its lease was up and announced it to the staff just after Christmas, company president Andrew French said.

"Our lease was coming to an end, so we had to make a decision," French said. "It made sense for us to find another opportunity."

French said the restaurant saw a major dip in business during the 2016 construction of Interstate of 275 throughout Livonia, Farmington Hills and Novi. It never did recover well enough after the freeway reopened, he said, and cited the changes happening in that part of Haggerty. Coupled with the recent move of Trader Joe's a mile south along Haggerty, the Ann Arbor-

See AUBREE'S, Page 2A



A rendering of the new Aubree's Pizzeria and Grill coming to the former Ruby Tuesday. The other area location in Northville Township closed New Year's Eve. AUBREE'S

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Volume 53 | No. 70
Home delivery pricing inside
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Duggan appeals to NAIAS visitors

Mayor says they should check out city's revival

Eric D. Lawrence
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan wants visitors to this year's North American International Auto Show to look beyond new cars, trucks and SUVs.

He also wants them to experience firsthand the growth in downtown and Midtown that has changed the international narrative about Detroit from urban decline to comeback city.

"I just hope when people come down to the auto show, they also find at least one more place to visit, because you can't believe how fast the city's coming back," Duggan said Monday during a tour of Cobo Center. "This is a chance for



Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, left, looks out as Ron Stallworth of Fiat Chrysler discusses their display during a tour of the 2018 North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center on Monday. MANDI WRIGHT/DETROIT FREE PRESS

us to show off what's going on in the city, and the thing I hear (from people about the show) is, 'I was just here a year ago, and I can't believe how much has changed.'"

The show's media preview is less than one week away, starting on Sunday, and the show is open to the public Jan. 20-28. As a showcase for more than 750 vehicles from automakers from around the world, the North American International Auto Show annually attracts large numbers of journalists, industry insiders and regular visitors and this year is expected to be no different.

"We have more than 800,000 people visit the auto show every year. That's well over a \$400 million impact on the city, and, as you know, a few years ago,

people would drive down, park in the Cobo structure, see the show and leave. What we've seen the last couple of years is people visiting the restaurants, visiting the shops, enjoying the city of Detroit," Duggan said. "I hope we get a little bit of warm weather, but it's a really important time for the city."

This year's show will also be an important time for automakers, with several major unveilings planned, such as a new Ram 1500 pickup and refreshed Jeep Cherokee. General Motors is also expected to make news with details about its new Chevrolet Silverado.

The exhibits were still very much under construction during Duggan's tour, and vehicles were not yet in place, but work has been going on for months. It

sets up a frenetic last week for the approximately 1,500 workers putting it all together, but it's a pace that is familiar to anyone who has been involved with the show in past years.

Claude Molinari, general manager of Cobo, said the vast majority of the work has been completed and that he is "100 percent certain" construction will be finished on time.

Visitors to this year's show will notice a few changes, both to the exhibits and to the retail offerings. General Motors plans to offer a virtual reality "ride," which it is calling its Virtual Dynamics Lab. The ride will take 12 riders at a time through various settings, including vehicle testing.

On the retail end, Pure Detroit will take over space previously occupied by The Detroit Shoppe. Molinari said Pure Detroit, which markets Detroit-focused merchandise, will stay on permanently at Cobo, offering tours from the location.

Behind the Pure Detroit store is a black-and-white, wall-size piece of art that Molinari said will provide visitors a unique place to shoot photos for their social media accounts.

Cobo is also hosting an art installation that will not be available during this year's auto show, but should be ready for unveiling in the spring, Molinari said. That piece, a fresco by artist Hubert Massey, will hang in the Cobo ballroom's "prefunction area."

hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by
Observer & Eccentric Media

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Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50
\$104 per 12 months home delivery

Home Delivery:

Customer Service: 866-887-2737
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m. to noon
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Aubree's

Continued from Page 1A

based company decided closing the restaurant made the most sense.

Employees at the business were offered opportunities at other Aubree's locations in southeast Michigan, including at restaurants in South Lyon or Ypsilanti, French said. Aubree's has nine restaurants across Michigan, from Adrian to Marquette.

Coming to Westland

With the Northville restaurant

closed, the pizza company now looks to opening another restaurant in western Wayne County later this winter. French said a new Aubree's will open in February or March in Westland at the former Ruby Tuesday restaurant at 37300 Warren, which closed in 2016.

French said work on securing the Westland location, which is about 1,100 square feet smaller than the Northville Township restaurant, began about a year ago. Work is currently being done to capture Aubree's spirit in the building, which French said should fit nicely in that corridor of Westland.

While some restaurant staff could potentially come from the closed Northville Township location, French said the

company expects it will hire between 30 and 50 people to work at the new restaurant.

Coming just months after another Michigan restaurant, Anna's House, opened across the street, French said Aubree's will fit in nicely at Warren and Newburgh.

"There's a lot going on in Westland," French said. "We really believe our casual dining, pizza and beer really fits with the personality of that community."

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CAPA Performing Arts Camp allows students to gain hands-on experience in their area of interest: theater, vocal or dance. LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CAPA presents arts camp for performers

The Creative and Performing Arts program at Churchill High School is calling for all students in grades 4-8 who are interested in exploring theater, dance or vocal music.

A special CAPA Performing Arts Camp has everything a future star performer would want to discover. The camp will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at Madonna University's Lyric Theatre (due to Churchill High School's theater being under construction). The cost is \$25 and includes classes, snack and a camp T-shirt.

Hosted by CAPA program staff and current students, the camp allows students to gain hands-on experience in their area of interest - theater, vocal or dance. There will be a performance for



The CAPA program is an educational opportunity that's available to all qualifying high school students in the Livonia Public Schools district. LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

parents and family at 3 p.m.

Eighth-grade students may use CAPA camp participation as their audition for acceptance into the CAPA program in fall 2018. The CAPA program is available to all qualifying high school students in the Livonia Public Schools district who wish to experience an intense and disciplined study of the arts.

To register for the CAPA camp, go to www.livoniapublicschools.org and go to Churchill's webpage, then click on Teacher Pages and select Ms. Hillman's webpage to find "Arts Camp" application. Registration deadline is Jan. 28. To request an application to be emailed to you, email Hillman at ahillman@livoniapublicschools.org.

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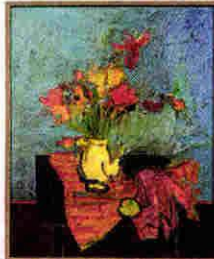
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Salvation Army still seeking donations

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit is \$860,000 away from its 2017 Red Kettle fundraising goal of \$7.85 million. The nonprofit organization is asking metro Detroiters to donate through Jan. 31, the campaign's official end date. While residents have been generous in supporting the annual fundraiser, The Salvation Army is encouraging donors to make a contribution to ensure it can continue to deliver vital programs and services throughout 2018.

Funds raised during The Salvation Army's red kettle campaign help provide critical social services and programs for local families and individuals in times of need 365 days a year in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, including educational and outdoor programs for youth, a legal aid clinic and drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs. Red Kettle donations also help ensure The Salvation Army can continue providing nearly 2.6 million meals and more than 663,000 nights of shelter each year.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign:

- Go to www.salmich.org
- Text SALMICH to 41444 to donate via mobile phone
- Call 877-SAL-MICH
- Send a check or money order, made payable to The Salvation Army, to: 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075

For more information about The Salvation Army, call 877-SAL-MICH or go to www.salmich.org.

ZEAL EMPLOYEES MAKE HOLIDAY DONATIONS



Some 170 employees in 26 departments of the Zeal Credit Union participated in what they called the "Zeal the Love" challenge this holiday season. Zeal allocated \$250 to each department, totaling \$6,500, to brighten the holiday season for those in need. Zeal staff managed to almost double that amount by holding their own fundraisers and making personal contributions, turning Zeal's \$6,500 contribution into nearly \$12,000 in donations for 21 charities. Charities that received help included the Methodist Children's Home Society, Angel House, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Livonia Police and Fire Departments, Wayne County Family Center in Westland, Taylor Animal Shelter, Volunteers of America - Adopt a Family, Last Day Dog Rescue, Child Family Services of Michigan - Operation Good Cheer, Melvindale Housing Commission, Ronald McDonald House, Detroit Rescue Mission, COTS Homeless Shelter, VFW - VA Hospital Veterans, Mittens for Detroit, Cass Community Social Services, Rivergate Healthcare Center, Westland Goodfellows - Adopt a Family and a Zeal member in need. For more information about Zeal Credit Union, go to www.ZealCreditUnion.org or call 800-321-8570.

ZEAL CREDIT UNION

WESTLAND LIBRARY EVENTS

Job Seekers Lab

When: 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18 and 25, and 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22 and 29

Details: Do you need help filing for unemployment, creating an email address or searching job boards and websites? We can help.

Hot Reads for Cold Nights

When: Each Monday, through Feb. 19

Details: Win a prize for what you're already doing - reading. For the time period, fill out a raffle slip for each book, eBook or audiobook you read or listen to. Each week, you'll be entered to win a prize.

Intro to Microsoft Word

When: 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16

Details: This class requires basic computer knowledge and the ability to use a mouse. Registration encouraged.

Non-Fiction Book Club

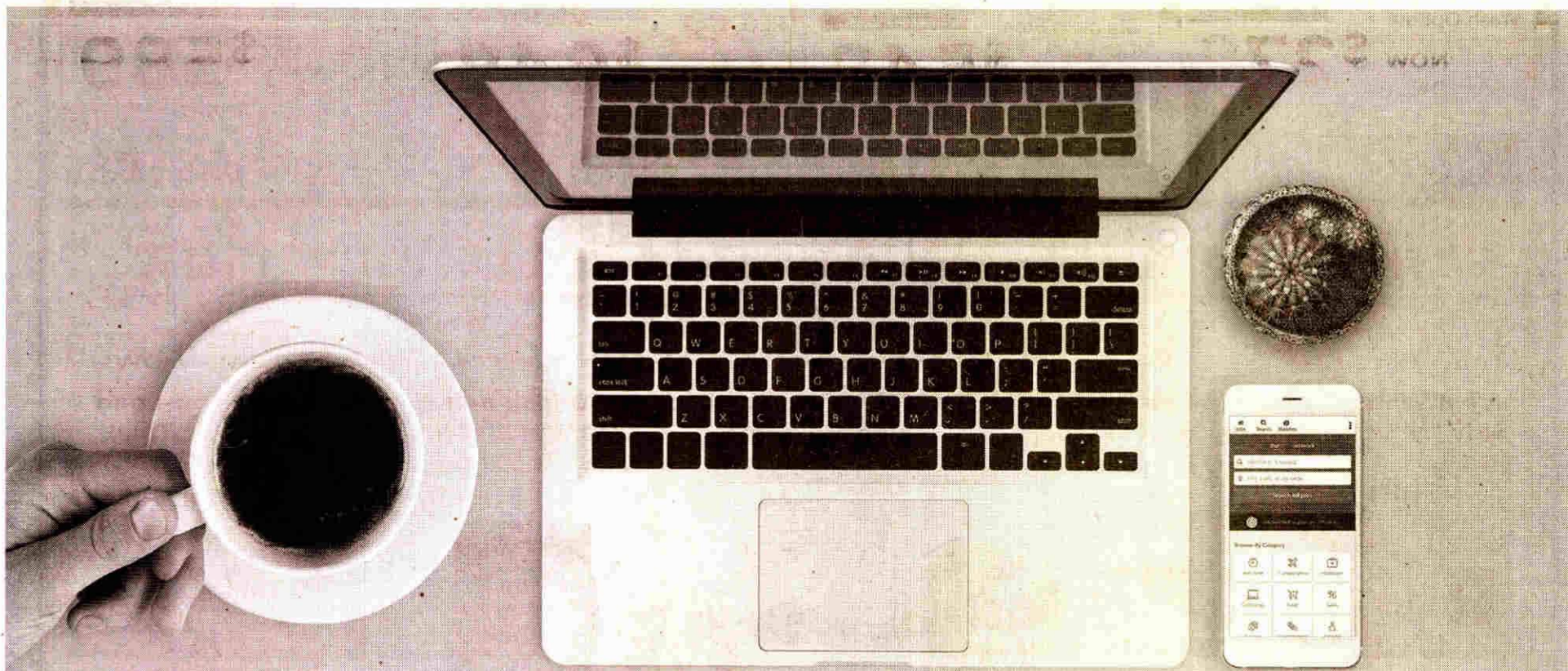
When: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17

Details: Please join us this month for a discussion of "Stiff: The Curious Life of Human Cadavers" by Mary Roach.

Friday Night Movie

When: 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19

Details: Join us for a Friday night movie. Snacks/refreshments are provided - donations accepted and appreciated.



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Coyote sightings spur warning

Residents told to protect pets following dog attack

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Coyote sightings are increasing in southeast Michigan, prompting Canton police to warn residents to protect their pets in a community where deadly attacks have occurred.

One Canton couple told a television station that their Jack Russell was killed by a coyote last week when they let it outside to use the bathroom. That attack comes after a Canton man's pet dog, a bichon frise, was killed in March 2016, when a coyote attacked it in a backyard that wasn't fenced in.

Patty Esselink, the Canton Police Department's community relations officer, said coyote sightings typically spike this time of year through March, during their breeding season.

"With snow on the ground, it's harder for them to find food, so it's bringing them out into the public more," she said.

Esselink said most coyote sightings in Canton have occurred west of Sheldon Road, in areas that are less populated. The latest incident was reported near Denton and Cherry Hill.

Canton police heard about the incident even though no official report had been filed as of Jan. 9.

"They just left the dog out for a minute," Deputy Police Director Chad Baugh said. "It's sad."

Esselink urged residents not to leave their pets unattended outside, especially if they are small.

"Keep close to your pets and don't just let them out your back door to roam on their own," she said. "Coyotes do feed on small prey."

According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, coyotes have migrated into urban and suburban areas across Michigan and are most likely to be spotted from mid-January through March. They are active day and night, but their peak activity is usually at sunrise and sunset.

Authorities say coyotes can be difficult to distinguish from a medium-sized German shepherd dog, especially from a



Coyote sightings are on the rise, prompting a warning from Canton police to protect small pets. FILE PHOTO

distance. However, officials say the size and weight of coyotes are often overestimated because their long fur masks a bone structure that is slightly smaller than most domestic dogs.

When running, coyotes carry their tail below the level of their backs.

In a statement issued last week, Canton police noted that coyotes in urban areas are drawn to garbage, garden vegetables and pet foods. They are considered opportunistic and will prey on small dogs and cats.

However, authorities say, coyotes have an instinctive fear of people and rarely attack humans.

Canton police urge the following measures to avoid conflict with a

coyote:

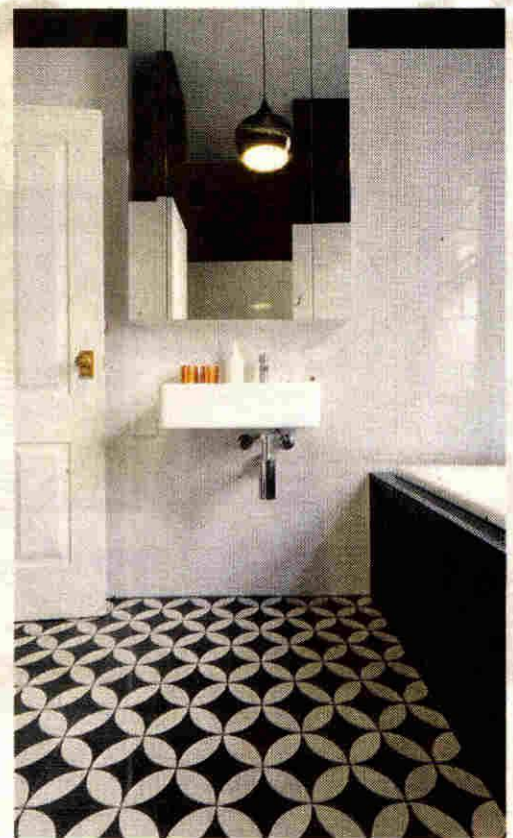
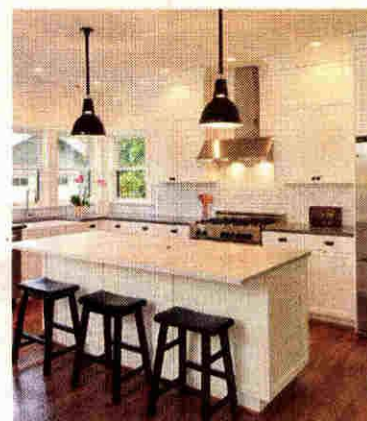
- » Never approach or touch a coyote.
- » Never intentionally feed one.
- » Eliminate all outside food sources, especially pet food.
- » Put garbage out the morning of pickup, rather than the night before.
- » Clear out wood and brush piles; they are a habitat for mice and may attract coyotes.
- » Do not allow pets to roam free when coyotes are present. Consider keeping pets indoors or accompany them outside, especially from dusk until dawn.

Officials say coyotes shouldn't automatically be considered cause for concern, but Esselink urged caution.

"If residents feel they are in danger of a coyote or if they observe a coyote in obvious distress, they should contact the police department," she said. "Otherwise, residents are encouraged to follow the tips provided to minimize interaction with wildlife."

Police said residents who have ongoing nuisance issues with wildlife are encouraged to contact Varmint Police, a private wildlife management company the township uses, at 734-729-0858 or at <http://www.varmintpolice.com>. Other private companies operate in southeast Michigan, as well.

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WESTLAND POLICE BRIEFS

Vehicles rummaged through

Westland police were called Dec. 25 to a residence in the 29000 block of Malvern on the report of vehicles that had been broken into.

The resident said someone entered his vehicles sometime earlier that morning and went through them. It appeared a pair of sunglasses was missing from one of the vehicles. Both cars were unlocked at the time and the victim said he did not know of any suspects.

Purse stolen from car

A resident who lives in the 700 block of Henry Ruff filed a police report Dec. 18 to report her purse had been taken.

She said the car was left unlocked and her purse appeared missing when she went out to her vehicle. She canceled her credit cards and advised her bank of the incident. No suspect information was available.

Package of candles stolen

A resident who lives in the 30000 block of Warren came into the police station Dec. 22 to report the theft of a package earlier in the month.

She told police a package containing candles were delivered Dec. 12 to her

apartment. She said she never received the package and believes it was taken by someone from her doorstep.

Vehicle window shattered

Police were called Dec. 23 to Red Robin, 36350 Warren, on the report of some damage done to a vehicle.

The victim said he parked his vehicle near the road before going inside to eat. When he came out, he found a back window on the car had a hole in the center. When he opened the door, the window completely shattered. Police observed nothing appeared missing from inside the vehicle.

Brick thrown through window

Police were called Dec. 24 to the 35000 block of Farragut on the report of some damage done to the residence.

The victim said a landscape brick was thrown through the front window of the home while she was inside. Police spoke to a neighbor, who said they saw a vehicle parked just west of the home for a little bit. The car then moved and a female got out and walked to the front of the residence before running back to the car.

— By David Veselenak

WAYNE POLICE BRIEFS

Fraud reported

An employee at Drew's Cool Cutz Barbershop, 3025 S. Wayne, filed a report with Wayne police Jan. 6 to report a fraud call they received.

They said they received a call from someone claiming to be from DTE Energy and said it needed nearly \$500 in payments within the hour or the power to the business would be turned off. The victim went to Walgreen's and put the money on a MoneyPak card, the only way the suspect would accept the money. The victim later filed a police report regarding the scam.

ID theft

A resident who lives in the 4400 block of Venoy filed a police report Dec. 31 regarding some unemployment benefits turned in under his name.

He said someone in human resources at his company in Westland contacted him and said his information had been used to file for unemployment benefits. He said he was the third person at his company that had happened to and that he was advised to file a report in his home city.

— By David Veselenak

LIVONIA POLICE BRIEFS

Purse taken from shopper

A shopper at the Salvation Army store, 33600 Plymouth, came into the Livonia police station Jan. 6 to report her purse had been stolen while shopping.

She told police she had it hanging on her walker while going through the aisles of the store. She said another woman bumped into her a few times at the store, then she later discovered the purse missing.

Jacket taken at gym

Police were called Monday to LA Fitness, 30273 Plymouth, on the report of a stolen jacket from the locker room.

The victim said he arrived at the gym and hung up the jacket in the locker room before working out. Later, he saw

someone wearing his jacket at the gym. He went back to the locker room and found his jacket missing. It had his keys in the pocket, though a manager said someone had turned in his keys.

Wheels, tires taken

Police were dispatched Monday morning to a residence in the 34700 block of Haldane on the report of some stolen wheels and tires.

The resident told police the vehicle was parked in the driveway overnight and had all four wheels on it the previous evening. She came back to the car the next morning and found all four missing. No suspect information was available.

— By David Veselenak

Attention Back Pain and Sciatica Sufferers!



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- Do you have pain when you sit for long periods or drive?
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- Does your back ever "go out" if you move the wrong way?
- Are you afraid your pain will get worse if you don't do anything about it?

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Testimonial: Debra Says: I was in tremendous pain in my back until I came to Mehul for treatment, I was having hard time getting in and out of car, wake up with pain and stiffness, and cannot walk longer. Everything seems to be getting back to normal after treatment, I started feeling whole again and I'm grateful for this place.

Hello,

Back pain and sciatica can completely ruin your life... I've seen it many times.

- ✓ It can make you lean on the shopping cart when walking through the grocery store (how embarrassing)...
- ✓ It can take your focus away from enjoying your life...like spending time with your children or grandchildren...
- ✓ It can mess up your work or force you to do a job you don't want to do...
- ✓ It can ruin your travel plans...
- ✓ And it can take away your ability to live life...having to rely on others... or to wait for you to sit down for a minute.

And less movement and enjoying of life can lead to depression, increased stress and a sedentary lifestyle (mostly sitting...not moving much) which leads to bigger health problems...and life problems.

We are Sciatica and Lower Back Specialists at ALLY PHYSICAL THERAPY, we've helped 100's of people from right here in Livonia, MI...and the rest of Wayne County...who have suffered needlessly with lower back pain and sciatica...it's our specialty.

So by request, I'm hosting a Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop here at ALLY PHYSICAL THERAPY ON 10TH February 2018 at 32858 5 mile Rd, Livonia, MI-48154 at 10:30am – 11:30am.

If you're confused about what to do and looking for answers, here's some of what you'll learn:

- ✓ The Biggest #1 Mistake back pain and sciatica sufferers make which actually stops them from healing...
- ✓ The 3 Most Common Causes of Lower Back Pain and Sciatica...
- ✓ A Sure-Fire Way to Pick the Right Treatment for the Cause of Your Pain (and save you a ton of time and money)
- ✓ How a problem in your back can cause pain, numbness or tingling in your leg...
- ✓ What successful treatment and permanent relief looks like without the side effects of medications, injections or surgery.

How Do I Register for the Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop?

Call our office to register at **734-525-3000** talk to Jessica or Nancy and reserve your spot today!!!!When you register, we will mail you The Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Worksheet which you will bring with you to the event.

We only have 15 seats available for the event...and this will be going out in our Newsletter and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Ally-Physical-Therapy>).

So if you would like to attend, be sure to register now...
Call 734-525-3000.

How Much Is It to Attend? The Event is Free to attend.

As a Special Bonus...the first 10 people to call, register and attend for the event will receive 15 min one on one time to discuss with Physical Therapist regarding their low Back Pain (to be scheduled on different day).

All 15 attendees for the Sciatica and Lower Back Pain Workshop will receive a Special Report: "The Top 10 Burning Questions for Sciatica". Looking forward to seeing you there on 10th February 2018 at 10:30am.

Dr. Mehul Vaidya, PT, DPT.

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River bug hunters get fast cash

Pollution watchdog monitoring Rouge River gets \$22K in donations, funds vital for efforts

Bill Laitner
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A last-minute funding shortfall of \$30,000 surfaced in late November and threatened to deep-six a key activity on the Rouge River — bug hunts.

Despite the flippant sound of that, the bug hunts are vital for monitoring pollution threats, according to the nonprofit Friends of the Rouge.

Happily, after Friends of the Rouge launched online crowdfunding, donations of more than \$22,000 flowed from individuals, a foundation, a solid-waste company and Washtenaw County.

The cash came just in time for Friends of the Rouge to announce last week that the nonprofit group can resume its annual bug collection this month, although it will keep seeking more money to support bug hunts this spring and fall.

That means volunteers with Friends of the Rouge can rejoin a region-wide bug collection that's also planned for the same day — Jan. 20 — on the Huron and Clinton river systems, in nine counties altogether across southeast Michigan. The collection will involve hundreds of volunteers, like Carl Clark of Farmington Hills, who loves fly fishing and said he gained insights into outsmarting fish as well as a greater concern for the health of rivers by volunteering for the bug hunts over the last five years.

"Actually, the Rouge runs right in my backyard," Clark said. He got involved by taking a class from Friends of the Rouge, hoping to learn more about the appearance of insects that look to fish like, well, a burger with everything.

"That helped me when I go fishing because I can look at the bugs in the river and then I pick a fly that looks like that," Clark said.

Apart from tweaking his angling chops, the class got Clark "wrapped up in the whole bug hunt," he said.

Since then, he's become a team lead-



Volunteers with Friends of the Rouge collect samples in the 2017 spring bug hunt in a Rouge River tributary. FRIENDS OF THE ROUGE

er, "so I actually go into the river with a net and I scoop up material from the bottom, the sides, the bank — wherever the bugs are hanging out," Clark said. He deposits his finds onshore in bins that a team of four to six other volunteers sorts through before the collections ultimately are analyzed by scientists at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, he said.

For the annual winter hunts each January, "the weather can be brutal, but everybody shows up — whole families — and nobody complains. I see kids doing this and enjoying it," he said.

Friends of the Rouge has spent decades trying to revive the health of what arguably has been Michigan's most polluted river — the Rouge — synonymous with heavy industry and the legendary Ford factory named after it. The bug hunts are part of that. Would-be volunteers can learn how to help by visiting www.therouge.org and scrolling down to click on "River Monitoring."

The group's volunteer coordinator, Sally Petrella, said the term "bug hunts" — even though she uses it — doesn't do justice to the importance of collecting stoneflies, other insects and tiny crea-

tures that live on river bottoms and in stream banks.

The analysis of the collections, done three times a year, is essential for determining whether the water quality is improving or is newly threatened by key pollutants such as storm water running off pavement with residues of motor oil and other contaminants, pet wastes swept into sewers by heavy rains, and the liquified flow of landscapers' weed-and-feed after it's dissolved by rain and lawn sprinklers. The official name of the bug hunts connotes the underlying science: Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Program. (The "benthic" zone is the lowest area of a body of water.)

To fill the funding gap, individuals donors gave \$3,300 through a CrowdRise internet campaign, Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission provided \$2,200, the solid-waste company Waste Management donated \$1,000 through an expedited grant, and the Erb Family Foundation gave \$5,000, Petrella said.

She's hoping to raise another \$12,000 to reinstate the annual spring and fall bug hunts on the Rouge River "at a bare

bones level," Petrella said.

The Royal Oak-based Erb Family Foundation, named after a family that once owned lumberyards throughout the Midwest, has been a strong supporter of water-quality efforts throughout Michigan.

Its donations to the Friends of the Rouge over the last nine years total \$931,000, said Jodee Raines, vice president of programs at the foundation.

The foundation gives away nearly \$12 million a year and about 40% of that goes to aiding the Great Lakes and associated inland bodies of water, Raines said. The bug hunts are an important indicator of whether the residents of southeast Michigan are helping — or hurting — the quality of the water around them, she said.

"I cannot stress enough the impact that everyday actions by everyday individuals have on our Great Lakes.

"How we treat the land in our own backyards affects our local waterways, and our local waterways are the feeders to our Great Lakes," she said.

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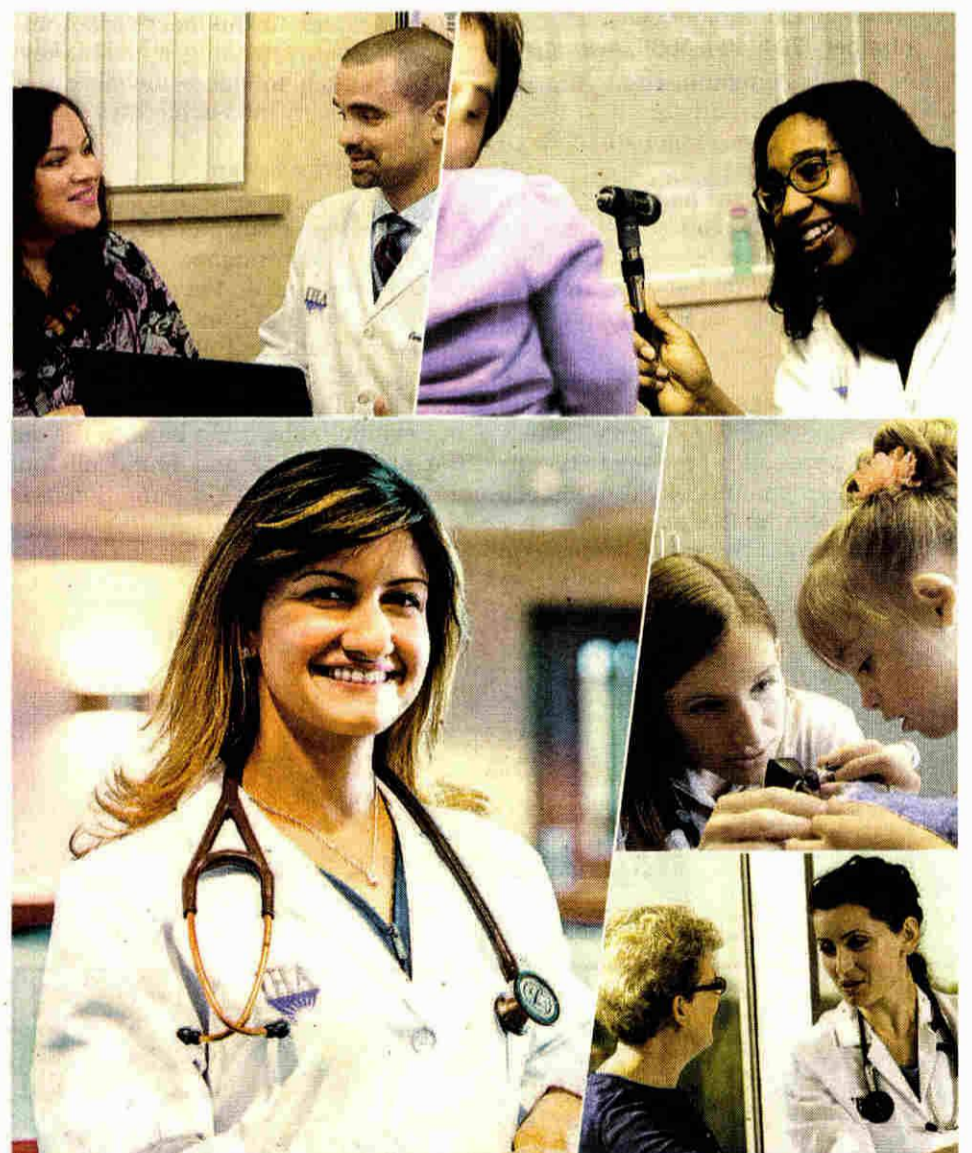
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"Macbeth" will be performed Feb. 16-25 at Barefoot Theatre's new location in Livonia.

Barefoot Theatre moving to Livonia

Barefoot Productions Theatre has announced its relocation to Livonia, at 33735 Five Mile Road. Its grand opening in the new space is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 16, with local playwright Kirk A. Haas's adaptation of "Macbeth."

The theater's website (www.justgobarefoot.com) and phone number (734-404-6889) will stay the same.

Barefoot Theatre produced more than 75 shows at its previous location, 240 N. Main Street, in Plymouth.

Show times for "Macbeth" are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16-25.

Tickets are \$17 for seniors and students and \$19 for adults and are available on the theatre's website. Group sales of 10 or more for \$12 are available by calling the call box office.

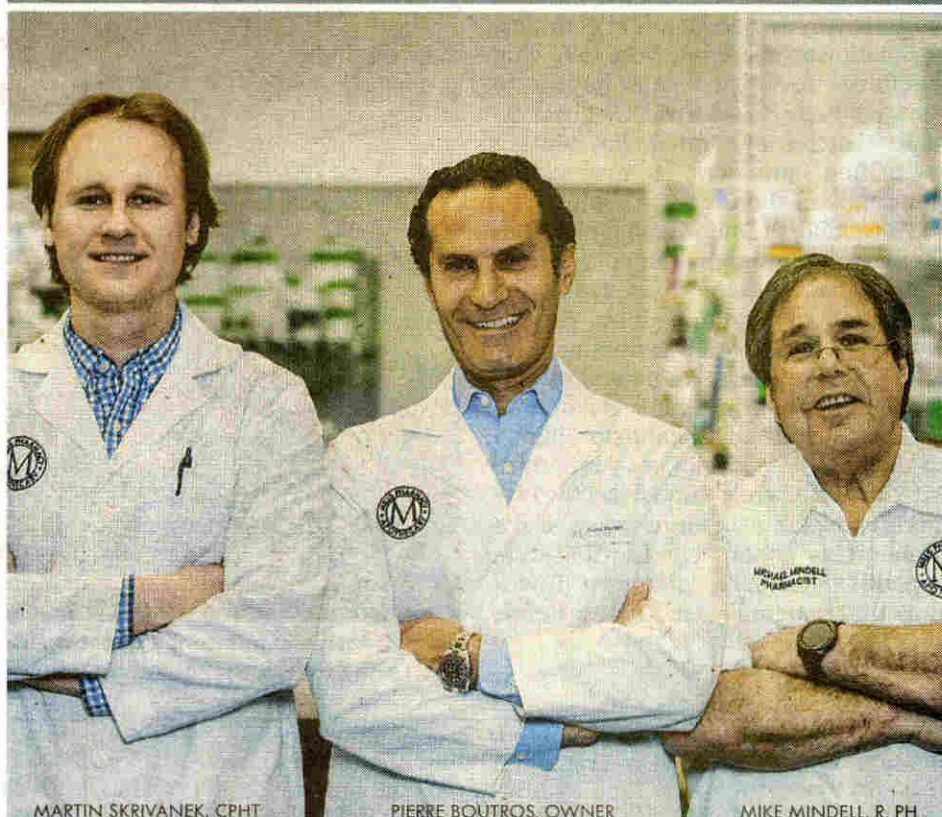
WISH YOU WERE HERE



Nancy Bank of Livonia brought along her Observer when she visited her son, Stephen Bank, of St. Joseph while Stephen was on assignment for Whirlpool in Wroclaw, Poland. This photo was taken in front of the Hala Ludowa (People's Hall). If you take the Observer on a trip, email a photo to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com (and be sure to identify everyone in the photo).

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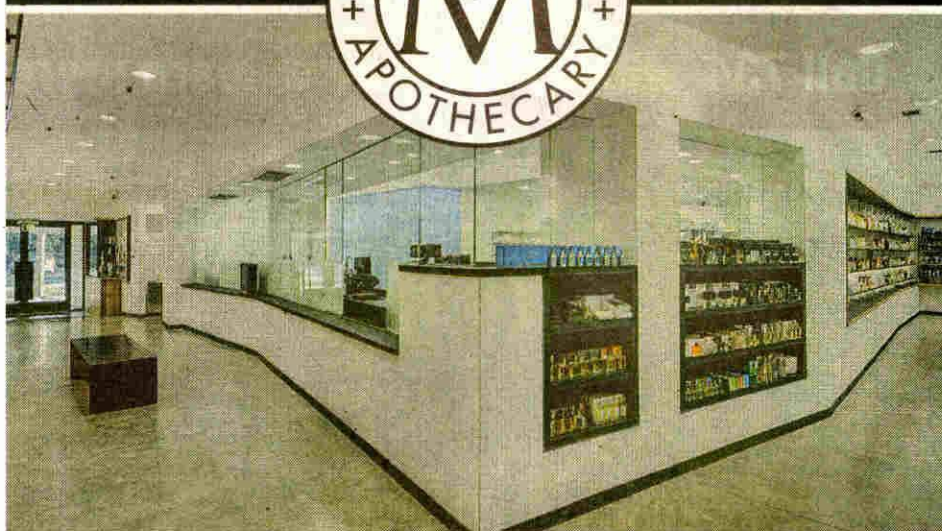
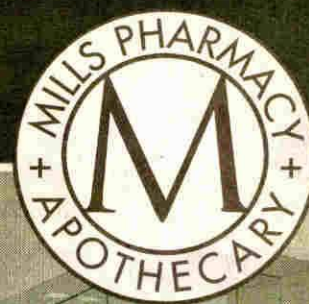
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11th District candidates line up with Trump in GOP forum

Matt Jachman
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

"Experience matters," Kerry Bentivolio said Monday night as a forum for six Republican congressional candidates got underway in Novi.

Two hours later, voters at the Emagine theater at Fountain Walk agreed.

Bentivolio, a former U.S. House of Representatives member from the 11th District, which covers large swaths of western Wayne and Oakland counties, narrowly won the straw vote following the forum for Republicans hoping to succeed Rep. David Trott, R-Birmingham. An attorney, Trott is not seeking re-election after two terms in the House.

Bentivolio, of Milford, who has been a soldier, autoworker, reindeer farmer and teacher, garnered 54 votes in the straw poll to 51 for Andrew "Rocky" Raczowski of Troy, a businessman, retired U.S. Army Reserves lieutenant colonel and former Michigan legislator.

Lena Epstein of Bloomfield Hills, a co-owner of Vesco Oil Corp., was third with 45 votes, while Kurt Heise, the Plymouth Township supervisor and also a former state legislator, and current state Rep. Kint Kesto, R-Commerce Township, took just four each. Kristine Bonds



Kerry Bentivolio answers a question. Behind him (from left) are Rocky Raczowski, Klint Kesto, Kristine Bonds, Kurt Heise and Lena Epstein. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See FORUM, Page 11A

City of Livonia - 12/04/2017 1,838th Regular Meeting Synopsis
Present: Jolly, White, Bahr, Meakin, Kritzman, Brosnan, and McIntyre.
Absent: None.
#386-17 Approving minutes of the 1,837th Regular Meeting of the Council - November 13, 2017.
Items were received and filed for the information of the City Council.
#387-17 Waiving sidewalk requirement at 15401 Loveland Street.
#388-17 Authorizing purchase of one (1) Power Pro XT Ambulance Cot and five (5) Power Load Ambulance Cot Loading Systems.
#389-17 Authorizing purchase of one (1) Ambulance on a 2017 Freight Liner M2 Chassis.
#390-17 Authorizing purchase of two vehicles for Fire Department Administration.
#391-17 Approving purchase of a vehicle/rescue extrication tool from sole source.
#392-17 Authorizing purchase of two Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators.
#393-17 Authorizing purchase of one Air Compressor.
#394-17 Authorizing purchase of one 15" Drum-Style Chipper.
#395-17 Accepting the bid of Alta Equipment Company for purchase of one Asphalt Paver.
#396-17 Accepting bid of Bidigare Contractors, Inc., for the installation of grease traps at Fire Station #6 and Fire Station #3.
#397-17 Approving Waiver Petition 2017-09-02-11 to operate a martial arts and yoga studio at 12924 Farmington Road.
#398-17 Approving the Brownfield Plan for the former Farmer Jack Supermarket property.
#399-17 Approving the Development and Reimbursement Agreement, pursuant to the Brownfield Plan for the property located at 29601, 29659 and 29701 Seven Mile Road.
First Reading was given to an ordinance amending Sections 030 and 040, to Title 2, Chapter 84 (Primary and Regular Elections) of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended.
First Reading, Second Reading and Roll Call Vote (7-0) was given to an ordinance amending Section 35 of the Zoning Map of the City of Livonia and Amending Article III of Ordinance No. 543, as amended, known and cited as "The City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance" by adding Section 3, thereto. (Petition 2017-07-01-04)
#400-17 Approving the Assessment Roll for the Mystic Creek Site Condominiums.
#401-17 Authorizing additional appropriation and expenditure for the Eight Mile Road and Seven Mile Road improvements, not to exceed \$47,524.58. (CR 299-16)
#402-17 Accepting a Grant of Easement, for a 12-foot wide public easement in connection with the development of a new water main. (Tax ID No. 46-056-99-0030-004)
#403-17 Scheduling a closed Committee of the Whole re: City of Livonia v Christopher Martin.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
Full text of the official minutes is available in the Office of the City Clerk.
Susan M. Nash
Livonia City Clerk

Publish: January 14, 2018

LO-000037565 3x5

City of Livonia - 11/13/2017 1,837th Regular Meeting Synopsis
Present: Brosnan, Jolly, White, Bahr, Meakin, Kritzman, and McIntyre.
Absent: None.
#369-17 Approving minutes of the 1,836th Regular Meeting of the Council - November 1, 2017.
#370-17 Renaming the Livonia City Council Chambers after Gerald Joseph Taylor.
Items were received and filed for the information of the City Council.
#371-17 Approving appointment of Janice N. Centers, to Zoning Board of Appeals.
#372-17 Accepting quote for telephone system, replacement/upgrade.
#373-17 Approving the job level and classification adjustments, as well as wage increases, for various recreation center jobs, in accordance with the State of Michigan minimum wage increase.
#374-17 Approving the Livonia Police Officers Association (LPOA) Contract Agreement.
#375-17 Authorizing Fiore Enterprises, LLC, and Stante Excavating, to provide snow removal services for City streets during the 2017-2018 snow season, as authorized.
#376-17 Authorizing the emergency purchase of one (1) camera truck controller.
#377-17 Accepting the bid of Johnson Controls, Inc., for upgrading of current Building Automation/Energy Management System for the City of Livonia buildings.
#378-17 Approving the 2018 Road Repair Program.
#379-17 Amending contract with Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc., for design and construction engineering services for the 2018 Concrete Road Program.
#380-17 Approving the 2018 City Council Meeting Schedule, subject to change with notice.
Second Reading and Roll Call Vote (7-0) was given to an ordinance amending Section 050, to Title 9, Chapter 32 (Alcoholic Liquor) of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended.
Vice-President Kritzman stepped down at 7:12pm to avoid any conflict of interest.
#381-17 Amending contract with Orchard, Hiltz and McClement Advisors, to provide design engineering services for the 2018 Asphalt Road Program.
Vice-President Kritzman returned to the podium at 7:13 p.m.
#382-17 Repealing and rescinding Council Resolution 268-17.
#383-17 Approving an amendment to the plans to develop a Planned Residential Development (Bishop Estates) at 28200 Lyndon Avenue, subject to conditions. (Petition 2017-06-02-08)
#384-17 Approving Petition 2017-09-08-09, to develop a site condominium (Baci's Estates) consisting of four (4) detached single-family homes at 10014 Levan Road, subject to conditions.
#385-17 Accepting Grant of Easement for a 10-foot easement for road purposes, as part of the Amrhein Road/Newburgh Road Improvement Project.
Meeting Adjourned at 7:19 p.m.
Full text of the official minutes is available in the Office of the City Clerk.
Susan M. Nash
Livonia City Clerk

Publish: January 14, 2018

LO-000037564 3x5

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Forum

Continued from Page 10A

of West Bloomfield, a business owner and the daughter of legendary local television anchorman Bill Bonds, won two votes.

The forum, sponsored by the Michigan Conservative Coalition, drew a standing-room-only crowd to the Emagine's largest theater, which has 346 seats.

The candidates all expressed a degree of support for many of the policies and practices of President Donald Trump, from his insistence on a wall between the U.S. and Mexico to his sometimes-controversial use of Twitter.

"I think we get through the fake news and the fake media with them (the tweets)," said Kesto, a former Wayne County assistant prosecutor. "I say he keeps doing it."

"I think it's genius," said Bentivolio, who served in the House in 2013-14 before being beaten by Trott in the Republican primary. "A lot of people think it's un-presidential, but the media treats him un-presidential."

Only Heise distanced himself at all from Trump's tweets, saying, "It's certainly his way of going over the heads of the media to get his message out." The tweets, Heise continued, need to be translated into policy.

Trump was very much on the minds of the candidates as they worked to prove their Republican bona fides.

Epstein, who declared Trump "the best president in American history," touted her involvement in his 2016 campaign, during which she was a Michigan co-chair. "It was very, very important to be loud and proud and early in support of him," she said.

All six said they'd support funding a wall on the southern border, all disavowed Sharia law, an Islamic religious code that some fear could be implemented in the U.S., and none would agree that human activity has anything to do with climate change.

Answers to the climate change question prompted moderator Terry "Thayrone X" Hughes, a local radio show host, to call out mockingly: "Security! They're all deniers. They're all deniers. Take them away for re-education."

Candidates also agreed the U.S. should adopt more stringent vetting of refugees, with some suggesting refugee resettlement in the U.S. should be ended altogether.

"We cannot be everything to everyone. We just can't," Bonds said.

"Refugee assistance program works best when we help the refugees in their own country," Raczkowski said.

Bonds, who only recently announced her decision to run, focused repeatedly on the U.S. opioid addiction crisis, which, she said, claimed a son's life in 2013.

Responding to a question about the Affordable Care Act, which she said she'd want to repeal, Bonds turned her answer into a plea for helping addicts.

"We are in the center of the worst opioid epidemic in the history of this country," she said, adding she finds it "unbelievable" that there's no consensus about how to help uninsured people who need drug treatment.

Bentivolio painted himself as a "regular guy" who wants to continue serving the budget-cutting, small-government movement that he championed when in the House. A federal government shutdown, the possibility of which looms this month, wouldn't bother him, he said (and essential services are kept, he added).

"I don't see a problem, because less government is actually good," he said.

Kesto and Heise both emphasized their time as state legislators. Kesto said he is working on asset forfeiture reform and welfare reform, while Heise, who served in the Michigan House from 2011 until late 2016, said he was part of a government that turned Michigan's economy and state budget around after the Great Recession.

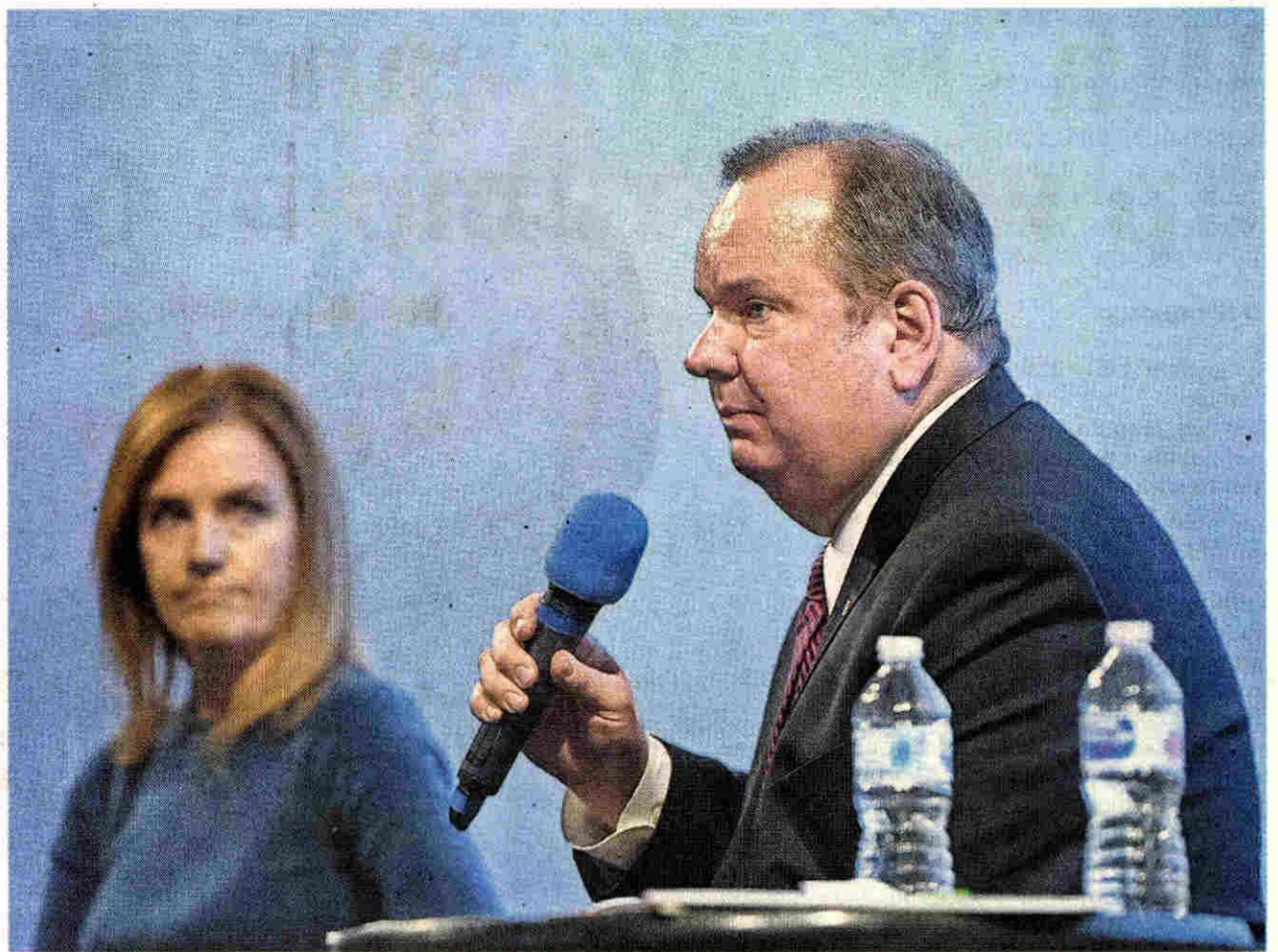
"We're holding government accountable and draining the swamp," Kesto said.

"These are very serious times. ... We need serious people," Heise said. "This is no place for on-the-job training."

Raczkowski also mentioned his experience in the state Legislature and his service as a military leader and made an impassioned plea for getting money out of political campaigns.

"No one will buy this district. No Democrat, no one. It belongs to the people," he said.

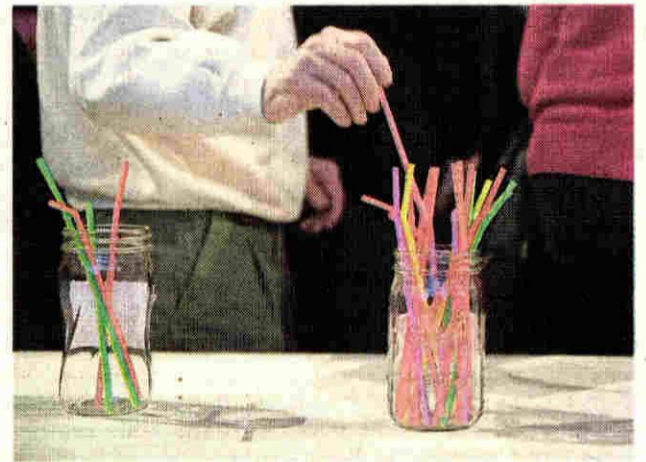
The 11th District includes much of northwest Wayne County and central and southeast Oakland County, including the communities of Livonia, Plymouth and Northville, Canton, Plymouth and Northville town-



Kurt Heise answers a question. At left is Kristine Bonds. BILL BRÉSLEL | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The audience responds to candidates. BILL BRÉSLEL | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

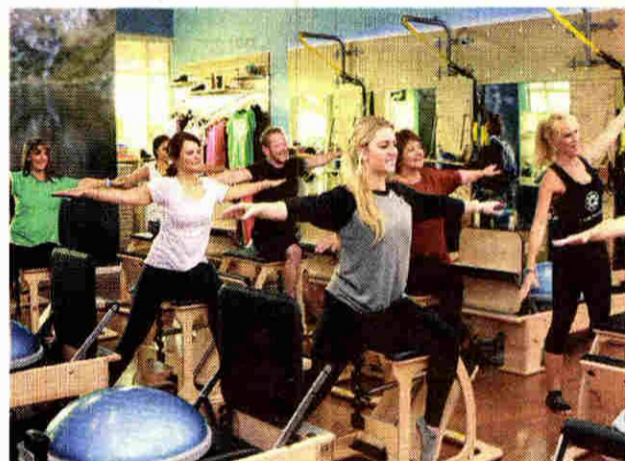


Audience members participated in a straw poll. BILL BRÉSLEL | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ships, Novi, Farmington, Birmingham and Troy. The Democrats running in the district are state Rep. Tim Greimel of Auburn Hills, Birmingham businessman Suneel Gupta, Birmingham lawyer Daniel Haberman, Haley Stevens of Rochester Hills, the former chief of staff for the U.S. Treasury Department's auto task force, and Fayrouz Saad of Northville, a former

staffer in the Department of Homeland Security. The primary election is Tuesday, Aug. 7.

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MLK Day

Continued from Page 1A

to 399) from 2015 to 2016 — compared to the 4.6-percent increase nationally, according to data released by the FBI. Michigan ranks fourth nationally in reporting of hate crimes.

Daily reality

Racism still exists, although not as in classic brick-through-the-window fashion. It could be as subtle as a coach telling his predominantly white team not to shake black hands after a game.

"It's a reality as far as these kids are concerned," said Jarvis Mitchell, 39, head coach of Wayne Memorial's varsity girls basketball team. "A lot of them are just trying to make it day by day. So whether or not they know Martin Luther King or not, it won't affect them trying to feed themselves at 6 o'clock at night."

"As much as we would like to say it's important to know history, important to know the freedom and who fought for you. Of course it's disappointing, but sometimes you have to synchronize yourself with the parallels of what they're really going through in life."

Changing hearts

The Mitchells *do* love where they live (which, according to the 2016 U.S. census, has a black population of about 3 percent), having moved last summer from Detroit. The neighborhood is quiet, other families welcoming.

Even their English bulldog Chauncey (named after ex-Pistons great Billups) gets along famously with the collie who lives next door.

"It's been really quiet. It's been what you aspire to have," Jarvis Mitchell said.

His wife June, 33, a teacher at Ecorse High School and her husband's assistant coach, said they "love it out here, it's quiet. We have land. It's close to the gym. Stuff is within walking distance."

That doesn't mean the American Dream is alive and well for them and many other young minority couples.

"I'll be honest, this thing is bigger than a person, this thing is bigger than a march," Jarvis said. "This won't be able to change until the aggressor changes. Because no matter how much good I talk or how beneficial the march becomes, I can't extract that hate from a person that's been taught to hate. It doesn't matter."

Today's reality wouldn't sit well with King himself had the Baptist minister lived to see his 89th birthday Monday, in the couple's opinion. "There'd be a march, for sure," June said with a nod.

Color blind

Canton, which in 2016 had an African-American population of around 9 percent, is where Maximus Okolo lives with parents Frank and Elizabeth Okolo, both from Nigeria.

Frank Okolo came to the United States in the 1980s, got his college education, then returned to Nigeria, where he met Elizabeth. He brought his bride to America and settled in suburban Detroit.

Maximus Okolo, 17, a senior at Plymouth Christian Academy (where he is the lone black member on the varsity boys basketball team), is thankful for what King stood for and how he paved the way for his parents to start a life here.

"I feel like Martin Luther King, his birthday, all he did, was truly an inspiration," Okolo said. "Him allowing me to come to a school like this is really moti-



Taking a stroll down their street in Garden City are Jarvis and June Mitchell. They moved to the Wayne County suburb from Detroit last summer. It's so far proving to be a smooth transition. TOM BEAUDOIN

vation. To see what he can do and what he has done, it really drives me to try to do bigger things so I can change the people around me and how people think."

At Plymouth Christian, both in the classroom and gym, things are not viewed through a prism.

"If you would come from the outside, you would see, 'Oh, he's one of the very few black kids,'" Okolo said. "But when I came here, once I started to know everyone, no one really sees color, because we're all friends and brothers. Even my coach (Matt Windle), he refers to me as his brother in Christ. So color's really not a thing here."

Okolo, the youngest of four children, said the attitude of acceptance that King touted is the main reason he and his siblings were able to grow up and get educated and potentially have opportunities to prosper in the United States.

"Honestly, I feel like if it wasn't for people in America, my dad wouldn't be able to come here," he said. "People that gave him a chance are white individuals. Martin Luther King, obviously, influenced those people to come and try to help the people in Nigeria to come to America. They were trying to make a difference in people like my dad's life."

Backing Kaepernick

Jarvis Mitchell thinks King would have backed Kaepernick in his national anthem protest. Would the civil rights champion of "I Have A Dream" fame have taken a knee?

"Doubtful," Jarvis said. "He would have reasoned with Kaepernick to stand up. He just wanted equality — and everyone to get along."

Something that King would have liked is the brutal honesty — delivered with compassion and backed by knowledge — the Mitchells show as they try to help young people understand what life is like for them in 2018.

Whether in the classroom, the gymnasium or during a car ride (Jarvis said he routinely drives his players home after practice), it's about turning the other cheek when a slight is made.

Reject hatred

They talk about the unfairness of life

in America, but not to get back at anybody. Instead, the Mitchells want them to maintain love-filled hearts and reject hating or being haters.

That can be easy to say, hard to do. Consider the recent episode where another team walked off the floor following a game without attempting to shake the hands of Wayne Memorial players.

That slight of basic sportsmanship was the topic of a Zebras' team meeting a couple of days later.

Mitchell merely wanted to talk to them about it as a "teachable moment." He could have made a stink about it, but decided not to.

"I explained to them this is what you're going to encounter, these are some of the things you need to brace for and not react to," Jarvis said. "I could have reacted extremely negative. And it could have been eye for an eye and I could have had just cause, because it's not only an embarrassment, but it's an antagonizing thing."

He added that a high school basketball game really isn't all that important in the grand scheme of things.

"The picture is much bigger," Jarvis said. "I want my kids to be leaders and of substance."

'Role' with it

Because young people often mirror the world they see, the Mitchells underscored why they must continue to be the best people and role models they can possibly be.

"We all have our faults, we all have our disagreements," June said. "But the biggest thing is, no matter how we feel, we have to still make sure we're teaching our kids the right thing."

"Because our feelings, our emotions, our passion is going to come through."

To that end, their job as coaches and educators is never done.

"Sometimes it's going to look different types of ways to different people," she said. "But we have to make sure at the end of the day, we're still teachers. Just because you don't have a pen and a pad and you're not doing algebra on the board, doesn't mean you're not a teacher."



Plymouth Christian Academy senior Maximus Okolo (middle) goes up for a layup during a game against Dearborn Divine Child. TOM BEAUDOIN

Break the cycle

As daunting a task as breaking the cycle of injustice might be, a good starting point is children being exposed to good words and good deeds early in life and modeling those as they grow into adolescence — and finding a way to ward off societal poison when it inevitably comes.

That's where the Mitchells of the world can make a difference.

"Me and my wife, we are part of kids' lives every day," Jarvis said. "So we know our influence is just as important as a lot of their parents. ... They (children) need to mimic. I've been coaching girls basketball for 15-16 years. They've never seen me put a cigarette to my mouth. They've never seen me put a bottle of liquor to my mouth."

"We have to be extremely image-conscious. That's teaching — we're teaching 24 hours a day."

Keep the faith

Okolo added that positive change can happen for future generations. Young African Americans must decide to get educated, have strong faith and not lose the desire to step up and step out of any traps in which they might find themselves.

"If you're getting good grades, there's really nothing that can hold you back, in my opinion," Okolo said. "If you're doing what you have to do, it will carry you."

For those not in the best of situations, whether from a community or education standpoint, there remains hope.

"If you were in a low-income neighborhood, obviously, there's going to be traps you can fall into or ruts," Okolo said. "But I say stay focused on the goal, have a goal to further yourself that you want to achieve. If you really want the goal you can shoot for, you can get it, if you let nothing hold you back."

As for King's message taking root, even decades later, it all starts from within. And from having faith in God's plan.

"I use God as a support system," Okolo said. "I know even if something happens, I know God has me. Or if something happens, I know it's for a reason."

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2018 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY EVENTS

Area Martin Luther King Jr. Day events. All events are Monday, Jan. 15, unless otherwise noted.

MLK Day at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

A full day of celebration including musical performances, arts and crafts, children's workshops, storytelling, video tributes, displays of MLK and Coretta Scott King artifacts, the openings of two new exhibitions - *I found god in myself: a celebration of Dr. Ntozake Shange's for colored girls...* and *Untitled: Art from Detroit's Collections*.

Time: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. go to <http://thewright.org/> for more information. Event is free with museum admission: \$8, ages 13-61; \$5, ages 3-12; free ages 2 and under.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Henry Ford Museum

Celebrate MLK's life with live music, hands-on activities and crafts.

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Event is free go to <https://www.thehenryford.org/> for more information.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Detroit Institute of Arts

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.: In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, create pam-

phlet-stitch notebooks, one to be donated to a local school and one for yourself 3 p.m.: Watch the 1970s documentary "King: A Filmed Record ... Montgomery to Memphis."

Cost: Free with museum admission: free for Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, free, kids ages 5 and under and members; others: \$14 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$8 for college students, \$6 for ages 6-17. Go to <https://www.dia.org/events> for more information.

Martin Luther King Day Celebration at the Farmington Community Library

Full day of events scheduled in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. go to <http://www.farmlib.org/> for more information.

MLK Day Baldwin Public Library

Miz Rosie entertains kids of all ages by bringing Rosa Parks and her story to life — all in celebration of MLK Day. Registration required at www.baldwinlib.org

Time: 3-4 p.m., free
26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Breakfast

The Race Relations & Diversity Task Force celebrates its 31 years, with the 25th Anniversary of their Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast at The Community House in Birmingham.

Time: 8:30-10:30 a.m. The event cost is \$40 adults; \$20 for students. For more info or to buy tickets go to www.tchserver.org.

Canton Celebrates Dr. King at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill

This tribute, titled *Canton Celebrates Dr. King*, celebrates his legacy with music, keynote presentations, a punch social and more.

Time: 6 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person or one canned food donation. Go to www.cantonvillagetheater.org for more information.

Westland MLK celebration

The city of Westland's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration will take place at Westland City Hall with Huel Perkins of Fox 2 as the keynote speaker. The day begins with the annual Freedom Walk with the celebration to follow.

Time: Doors open at 8 a.m. with walk beginning at 9 a.m. followed by ceremony 10 a.m., free. Go to www.cityofwestland.com for more information.

MLK March on Main in Milford

The 12th annual march put on by the Huron Valley Martin Luther King Day Committee takes place Sunday, Jan. 14, at the Prospect Hill Shopping Center at Highland Avenue and Summit Street. After the march concludes, there will be a musical performance at the SHAC, 125 S. Main, as well as other entertainment, the announcement of winners in the art competition and information on other community services events in the area.

Time: Lineup for the march starts at 12:15 and the ceremony commences at 1 p.m. with a brief presentation and national anthem. Free. For more information, go to hvmlkday.org.

Southfield MLK Peace Walk Celebration

The walk will depart from Hope United, 26275 Northwestern Highway in Southfield, at 9:30 a.m., followed by an 11 a.m. program at the Southfield Pavilion in the Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen Road. WXYZ-TV news anchor Malcom Maddox will serve as the master of ceremonies. Free

For more information, call the MLK Task Force hotline at 248-924-9MLK or visit www.mlktaskforce.org. Free

Obituaries

TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Blecker, Lois Ann	-	Dearborn	11-Dec	-
*MacInnis (nee Northrup), Beverly Marie	70	Englewood, FL	06-Jan	Farley Funeral Home
*Mills, Jane Buell (nee Eckenrode)	-	Tampa, FL	04-Oct	-

* Additional information in display obituaries

Obituaries appear in print and online at www.legacy.com/obituaries/HometownLife

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

Andrew C. Claps

LIVONIA - Passed away on January 7, 2018, after a nine-month battle with glioblastoma. Born March 16, 1967, in Queens, New York, Andrew lived in Michigan for more than 20 years. His overwhelming passion in life was music--listening to it, reading about it, and talking to others about it--and he was also an audiophile interested in assembling the best possible stereo equipment with which to play that music, including his favorite bands, Badfinger, Thin Lizzy, and Fleetwood Mac. He was fascinated by the ocean--his favorite movie was Jaws, and his favorite book was 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea--and he loved horror movies. Andrew was a true people person who enjoyed talking to anyone about anything, and was always cracking jokes to make someone smile. He handled his illness with a grace that left a lasting impression on his friends, family, and the many medical professionals he interacted with. He is survived by his wife, Ellice Engdahl; his cat, Tunksies; close family in Michigan and Florida; and extended family and friends around the country. Donations may be made in Andy's memory to the Michigan Humane Society.



Lois Wall

PLYMOUTH - Lois was born in Cincinnati Ohio and passed away at home in on December 29, 2017 at age 88. Lois is survived by her husband of 62 years Raymond Wall and her 4 children Mary Beth Adyniec, Charlotte Gralinski, John Wall and Ellen Towers along with 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Lois graduated from Good Samaritan Hospital as a registered nurse. Later in life Lois spent much of her time traveling the world and volunteering. She worked with women prisoners and was a reading tutor for school children. Lois influenced many young people's lives through her volunteer efforts.

A celebration mass is planned for 10:00 AM February 3, 2018 at St. Kenneth's Catholic Church.

Donations should be made to Samaritan Hospital Foundation www.trihealth.com/foundations/good-samaritan-hospital-foundation/ Or Homefull <http://www.homefull.org/>



A loving tribute

Lois Ann Blecker

DEARBORN - born August 6, 1926, daughter of Harold F. Wilson and Grace Lucille (Thompson) Wilson, mother of Charles W. Goode, passed away December 11, 2017. She is survived by her son, nieces, and nephews.

Ann graduated from Cooley HS, and attributed her feisty demeanor to having grown up during the Depression. She loved music; singing and playing 1950's show tunes. Ann married William Blecker in 1959, and cared for William and their five boys. Annie was a superb actor, often performing at Greenfield Village on stage and in historical vignettes.

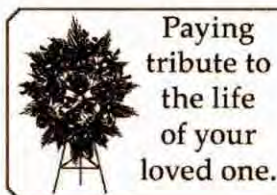
Ann worked for Detroit Edison; retiring in 1996. She also served at WSU, interacting with medical students in the role of "patient." Annie stipulated that her body should go to the Wayne Medical School. She is there now, posthumously continuing to inform the public. Ann will be missed by family and friends.



David Sigmond Erdody

NORTHVILLE - A loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather and father-in-law passed away Jan 8, 2018 at the age of 92. Beloved husband of Helen for 61 years. Loving father of Elizabeth (Kevin) Martin. Proud Papa of Danny, Christopher, and Jonathan Martin. An Army Air Force Veteran during WWII and Korean Wars. There was a Memorial service held on Sat, Jan 13, 2018 at Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia. For more info, please visit www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

Harry J Will Funeral Homes



Beverly Marie MacInnis (nee Northrup)

ENGLEWOOD, FL - Beverly "Bev" Marie MacInnis (nee Northrup) passed away on January 6, 2018 in Englewood, FL (winter residence) due to complications of pneumonia. She was 70. Bev was born on February 13, 1947, in Detroit, MI to her parents, Arthur and Noreen Northrup. She followed her twin sister into the family, and preceded her brother Tom (Nadine). She graduated from Detroit Rosary Highschool in 1965. Bev married John A. MacInnis in 1970. The MacInnis' moved to Canton, MI where she proudly raised three children, Shawn (Mindy), Mark, and Katie, and worked for an automotive company. The family enjoyed spending summers in McKinley, MI where Bev was often found relaxing at her favorite spot near the Au Sable River. Bev retired in 2007, and she and John were able to spend more time at their winter home. She then enjoyed spending her summers in Michigan and winters in Florida. She was an active member at the Holiday Estates I & II (Englewood, FL) clubhouse where she enjoyed volunteering for events, meeting members, and could always be counted on to bring a pot of chili. Beloved wife of John, loving mother of Shawn (Mindy), Mark, and Katie. Proud Grandmother of Lilly and Keyton. Dear twin sister of Sr. Barbara Northrup, IHM and brother Thomas (Nadine). Sister-in-law of Leo and Barbara MacInnis and Aunt of Kenny. Memorial services to be held in Englewood, FL on January 21st from 11 - 1 at Holiday Estates I & II Club House (1445 Seagull Dr.) and summer 2018 in Pickney, MI.



Dorothy Jean Trent

REDFORD - Dorothy Jean Trent was born November 14, 1932 and passed away surrounded by family at the age of 85 on January 9, 2018. Dorothy was born in Seattle, Washington, the daughter of Charles and Emeline Trent. The family lived in Oklahoma and Texas, but much of her early life was centered around her grandmother's farm in Winfield, Kansas which she considered home. She graduated from Ottawa University in Kansas in 1953 and then moved to Michigan where she began her career as a teacher, working in Farmington schools and then at Highland Park High School. She earned her Master's degree in music education from Wayne State University in 1969. She was a founding member of Victory Christian School in Detroit and also served as the Director from 1974 - 1985. She taught for 8 years overseas at the Seoul Foreign School in South Korea from 1986 - 1994. She loved to travel and took many trips with family and friends to places around the globe. Dorothy was an organist and choir director for 60 years and served in several church communities, most recently at Emmanuel Lutheran Church from 1994 - 2014. She taught piano lessons for many years. She had many interests and hobbies and was active in book clubs, a piano group and was a member of the Detroit Lutheran Singers. She was a volunteer at the Detroit Symphony in her retirement. Dorothy is survived by her daughters, Diane Gamble (Richard), Jane Reitman (Tim), Marge Feucht and Kathy Nordby (Tony) and her brother Donald Trent (Betty). She was preceded in death by her loving sister Kathryn Walls (Jim). She was grandmother to Ryan Gamble (Victoria), Mara Hayashi (Kenji), Cory Reitman, Molly Reitman, Nick Feucht, Michael Nordby and Erin Nordby. She was great-grandmother to Ryleigh Gamble and Emily Hayashi. Memorial service at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile Road in Livonia on Sunday January 14 at 3:00 pm with reception to follow. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Heifer International or Habitat for Humanity.



Jane Buell (nee Eckenrode) Mills

TAMPA, FL - formerly of Birmingham, died peacefully in her sleep on October 4, 2017. She was born to the late John Eckenrode (Helen) and Theresa Harris, January 19, 1929 in Detroit, MI.

A resident of Birmingham for 70 plus years, she graduated from Michigan State University in 1950 making the dean's list as an all-A student in addition to being voted one of the "50" most outstanding graduates as only a two year student. She received her BA degree in education and would continue on as an elementary teacher in Bloomfield Hills and Royal Oak for the next six years.

During her years of raising children, she modeled and did commentary work for various stores. Also during this time, she began volunteer work at Children's Hospital of Michigan, thus beginning her love for helping kids in need. From then on, Jane worked tirelessly on charitable events raising millions of dollars not only for Children's Hospital, but also for Variety, The Children's Charity. She sat on countless Boards, i.e. as a Trustee for Children's Hospital for over 20 years, Gold Heart Ball Chairmen for Variety as well as Board of Director, Vice-President and first woman President of Variety in 1996, the first in their 65 year history. She served on various other Executive and Finance Committees as well.

In 1977, Jane entered the real estate business, and joined Weir, Manuel, Snyder and Ranke thus beginning her extensive and successful real estate career. Known as the "Hat Lady", she became a top selling realtor in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area and was named by her peers Realtor Associate of the Year in 1989. She had a strong passion for the industry as she felt she could really help people in the area or relocating to Michigan since she



had lived in Birmingham her entire life. She worked hard and many long hours during her career as well as serving on a number of Boards with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Board of Realtors and in 1977, she was the first recipient of the Community Service Award presented by the Birmingham, Bloomfield, Rochester, South Oakland County Associate of Realtors.

In 1958, Jane married Webster and together they raised six children. They enjoyed family time as well as time spent alone traveling, dancing, playing tennis or golf and attending charitable events.

In 1999, Jane became a widow and two years later met another wonderful man, Emmett Mills. They, too, would spend the next few years traveling and enjoying time with each other and their families. Upon Emmett's death in 2005, Jane would spend a few more years in the Birmingham area and then move to Tampa, FL to live out her remaining years. She leaves behind her children, Webster, Jr., Mardi, Mike, Robin Whaley (John), Scott (Cindy) and Beth Johnstone, as well as 12 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents and step-mother (Helen), brother Jack and his wife, Marilyn, daughters-in law Alice (Webb), Pam (Mike) and son-in-law Jeff (Beth Johnstone).

Jane was not only a loving daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and friend, but she never took life for granted and felt it her calling to give back to those whose lives she could make a difference in. She felt very strongly about this quote "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say "I gave everything you gave me."

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Children's Hospital of Michigan or Variety, The Children's Charity.

A Celebration of Life will be held January 20, 2018 at 10:30 AM the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham.

AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com. Items must be received at least two weeks prior to the event.

Westland MLK celebration

Huel Perkins, lead anchor at WJBK-TV (Channel 2), will deliver the keynote address at the city of Westland's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ceremony on Monday, Jan. 15. Participants are asked to gather at Westland City Hall, 36300 Warren Road, beginning at 8:30 a.m. From there, participants will be shuttled to the Westland Public Library for the Freedom Walk, which will begin at 9 a.m. The Freedom Walk will symbolize all of those who marched with Dr. King over 50 years ago.

The short walk will end at Westland City Hall. City hall doors will open beginning at 8 a.m. The ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m., will include messages from Mayor William Wild and other state and local elected officials. Light refreshments will be provided by the Westland Police Community Partnership Committee.

Livonia Historical Society program

The Livonia Historical Society will present a Power Point program on "Aviation Pioneers: They Put America in the Air" at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, given by Russ Dor'e, historical speaker. There is no admission fee.

The program is at the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead, Livonia's Historical Park, off Newburgh Road, just South of Eight Mile Road. The parking lot is to the right as you enter and in front of the house. For more information, call Barbara Mansfield at 734-464-0450.

Biblical Greek class

Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church, 29125 Six Mile Rd., Livonia will host a class on the basics of the ancient Greek language from 10:30 a.m. to noon each Saturday, Jan. 13 to March 24.

The class will cover the basics of the ancient Greek language used in the Septuagint and New Testament, including the Greek alphabet, pronunciation, accents, nouns, definite articles, pronouns, present tense verbs, adjectives and prepositional phrases. Cost is \$24 for the textbook "A Primer of Biblical Greek" by N. Clayton Croy. Students

must pre-register to ensure the correct number of textbooks are ordered.

Contact the Rev. Joseph Marquis at 734-522-3166 for more information and to register.

Classes at St. Michael

St. Michael's, 11441 Hubbard Road, in Livonia will present several classes. For more information, contact the parish office at 734-261-1455, ext. 200, or go to www.livoniastmichael.org.

» "Calling Them Home," for all parents, grandparents, siblings and others who are interested in helping loved ones find their way home to the church in which they were raised. Four-week series meeting each Wednesday, through Jan. 31, in the cafeteria.

» Revelation Bible Study continues 7-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month in the school cafeteria. The series is taught by Michigan Catholic columnist Gary Michuta.

St. Michael open house

St. Michael Catholic School, 11311 Hubbard Street, in Livonia invites the public to its open house 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28. You will have the opportunity to speak with both teachers and students, ask questions and tour the facility.

St. Michael is a MANS Accredited School of Distinction and a Michigan Green School. For more information, call 734-261-1455, ext. 225, or go to www.livoniastmichael.org/sms.

Livonia Town Hall speakers

The Livonia Town Hall announces the speakers for its 54th season:

Jan. 17. Chuck Underwood is one of the researchers who did a comprehensive study in the field of generational dynamics and strategies. He is the creator and host of the National-television PBS series which presents life stories of the Silent Boomer, Gen X, and Millennial generations from each era and what the future holds in store for them.

Tickets are \$150 for the season which includes lunch and lecture or \$180 for priority seating. Single seats are available for \$55. Programs are held at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Cultural Center 18100 Merriman Road, Livonia. Call 734-751-1898 for tickets between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

St. Mary Mercy weight management classes

St. Mary Mercy Livonia will host a weight management program titled Weigh Your Options. Classes are scheduled for 2:30-4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, and 6:30-8 p.m. both Thursday, March 22, and Thursday, May 24.

Registered dietitians will provide attendees with information to help individuals begin a weight loss program. Attendees will learn about successful weight management programs, where to find reliable resources and healthy activities in the community and what is needed to create a healthy lifestyle. Participants will learn how to read food labels, write SMART goals and how to determine their healthiest weight.

The class will take place in St. Mary Mercy's Classroom 10, 36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia, accessed from the South Entrance. There is a \$5 fee for this class and registration is required. Register online at www.stmarymercy.org and click on "Classes and Events."

Livonia Towne Club meetings

Livonia Towne Club, a nonprofit women's organization that brings together women for social interaction, meets the fourth Thursday of each month from September through May (except in November and December, when it's the second Thursday).

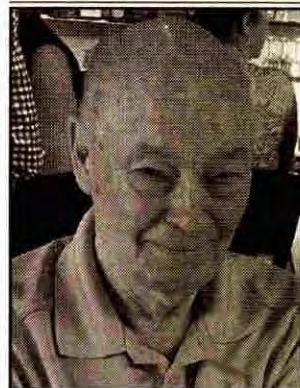
The program for Jan. 25 will be speaker Barbara McQuade, former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. Call Vicki at 734-591-3254 for more information.

Livonia Neighbors and Friends

Livonia Neighbors and Friends, a women's club, is open to women who live/work in Livonia and its surrounding communities. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, September through May. Special activity groups meet year-round.

For more information, go to <http://livonianighborsandfriends.tripod.com>.

Obituaries



Virginia Ruth Horvath

BLOOMFIELD HILLS - Virginia Ruth Horvath (1921-2018), wife of the late Z. Louis Horvath, succumbed to respiratory illness on Jan. 3 in Fort Collins, Colorado. She is survived by her children Nancy, Janice, Mark and John, and grandchildren Ryan, Lisa, Mian, Jae, and Sarah. Born in Caro and raised in Redford, she lived most of her life in Bloomfield Hills and Waterford. A graduate of the University of Michigan, she was a housekeeper, school teacher, and school counselor. She loved people, animals, and the outdoors. A private, family service will be held at a later date. Donations to The Nature Conservancy, 800-628-6860, <https://www.nature.org/>

Raymond Custer

DALE, PA - Raymond Elmer Custer, Age 94, passed away January 4, 2018. He was born in Dale, PA to Elmer and Helen Custer and later married Eugenia L. Wallace. Raymond was a POW in WWII then worked as an electrical engineer for Lockheed Martin at NASA.

Loving father of Gregg (Debbie) and the late Jay (Cathy), proud grandfather of 6, and beloved great grandfather of seven.

A burial will take place on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 11am at Grandview Cemetery in Johnstown, PA.



May you find comfort in family and friends

Martin J. Kennedy

LIVONIA - Martin J. Kennedy Age 81, December 31, 2017, of Livonia. Beloved husband of Annette (nee Bozek). Loving father of Martin "M.J.", Karin (Loren) Hoffmann and Melissa Piotrowski. Dearest Pa of Rebecca and Leah. Dear brother in law of Denise Rosenbaum. Uncle of David and Eric. A Private Service will be held. Memorials may be directed to the Lustgarten Foundation (Pancreatic Cancer Research, www.lustgarten.org). Please share a memory of Martin at www.cremationmichigan.com.



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Man pays for goods with funny money

Online transaction meet-up goes awry

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Livonia police are recommending residents use its facilities for completing online transactions after a sale last weekend resulted in the passing of some counterfeit currency.

Police were called the evening of Jan. 6 to the Wine Palace, 13971 Middlebelt, on the report of some counterfeit currency that had been introduced into a sales transaction. Police arrived and spoke to the victim, who said he had listed an Xbox One, a controller and some Call of Duty games for sale on the website LetGo. A deal was arranged with a potential buyer and they agreed to meet at the liquor store, just north of Interstate 96.

The suspect arrived in a silver 2011 Chevrolet Cruze and exchanged four \$50 bills for the gaming console, controller and video games. When the victim felt the bills in his hands, he got concerned they were counterfeit and asked if the man would be willing to go in the store to check their authenticity. The man agreed and the two went inside and spoke to the clerk working at the time.

The clerk checked one of the bills

and determined it was real, then providing the men with change for it. After the bill was checked, the suspect left the store. The victim, still unsure about the other three bills, asked to have them checked as well. The clerk told him the store would not accept them, believing they were counterfeit.

Another individual with the victim was in the car at the time and came into the store. He told the clerk they owed them \$150 as they were "ripped off" on Wine Palace property and that the police department would reimburse them. The clerk said he would not do that and the men left the store and headed to the police department to file a report.

After further inspection by police, it was determined that all four bills had the same serial number. They were confiscated and placed into evidence.

The incident is just one of many that's taken place in Livonia over the last few years involving incidents during online transaction meet-ups. Livonia police advise residents selling or buying items through websites such as LetGo and Craigslist that the meet-up can take place at the police station, 15050 Farmington.

There, officers can check to determine if an item is stolen by running it in their system. This service is free and provided to Livonia residents only.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

Good questions and good advice on financial matters



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest columnist

Q: Last year, after being married for about 12 years, I was divorced. I never had to take control of my own finances, so it's been a learning process. One thing I have learned is that I need to watch my spending whenever I can. That's why I'm writing to you. I remember a couple of years ago, you wrote a column about how you can have your tax return prepared for free. I'm curious if you could still do that today. My next question deals with wills. When I go online, I see lots of places to get free wills and I don't trust them. Is there a place that I can go to get a free will? You should know I have no children and very little in the way of assets. I also have a power of attorney and medical power of attorney from the state of Michigan.

A: You may not have a lot of experience in handling your personal finances, but you have identified the key to keeping your financial house in order and that is to control spending. I always tell people it's never what you make, it's what you save.

Yes, there is a place you can go to have your tax return prepared for free. The IRS has a program known as free file that allows you to use software from a variety of independent tax preparation companies for free. The IRS has offered this program for a number of years and it is something that more and more Americans ought to take advantage of. The software is from well-known tax preparation companies such as H&R Block and TurboTax. Basically, it is the same software you can buy at the store, but through the IRS it's free.

I know what you're thinking: there must be a gimmick since it's offered by the IRS. There is no gimmick and it

works. There is one caveat — this program is for people who make \$66,000 a year or less. If you make more than that, you're not eligible. In addition, the only way to access this program is directly through the IRS website. All you need to do is go to www.irs.gov/freefile.

The will I would recommend for you would be the Michigan Statutory Will. The Michigan Statutory Will is a fill-in-the-blank will that has been authorized by the state of Michigan. It is very simple to complete and I think it would effectively cover your needs. You can download a copy at Bloom Asset Management Forms or you can get one directly at <http://www.michbar.org/generalinfo/libraries/wills>.

I think it is wonderful that you already have powers of attorney. Now, with your will, it will put you in very good shape with regard to your estate planning needs. One additional document I would recommend is what I call a document locator. You should have a road map for your loved ones so they know where to locate your assets, important legal documents, passwords and user names for your online activity, as well as any other important information the family may need in closing up your affairs. It is important that, if something happens to you, someone that you trust and have confidence in will know where your document locator is and will be able to access it.

Looking for ways to save money and to be more efficient with our resources is something we should all dedicate ourselves to. If you can save on legal fees by using the Michigan Statutory Will or save on accounting fees by taking advantage of the IRS free file, I say, why not?

Good luck!

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

CITY OF LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 502 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 2006, as amended, and Articles XIX and XXIII of Ordinance #543, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Livonia, as amended, the City Planning Commission of the City of Livonia will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, in the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the following items:

Petition 2017-12-02-16 submitted by The Health & Fortune, L.L.C. requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 11.03(u) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to operate a massage establishment (Wu Xing Acupressure Massage) within the Laurel Park Place Mall at 37700 Six Mile Road, Suite H640, located on the northwest corner of Six Mile and Newburgh Roads in the Southeast ¼ of Section 7.

Petition 2017-12-02-17 submitted by United Motor Lines requesting waiver use approval pursuant to Section 16.11(b) of the City of Livonia Zoning Ordinance #543, as amended, to develop and operate an outdoor storage yard for semi-trucks and semi-trailers at 11777 Globe Road, located on the west side of Globe Road between Plymouth and Amrhein Roads in the Southwest ¼ of Section 29.

The above-mentioned petitions will be on file in the City Planning Commission office, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan, during the period of five (5) days immediately preceding the scheduled public hearing and may be examined during normal working hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Ian Wilshaw, Chairman
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: January 14, 2018

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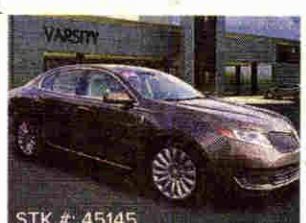
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Sports

BOYS HOCKEY

Birmingham off to terrific start

Unified squad unbeaten after first 13 games

Marty Budner
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

There are some pretty cool things going on with the Birmingham Unified boys hockey team.

The Kings are undefeated after their first 13 games with a 12-0-1 record, including a victory in their own Thanksgiving tournament. The only blemish is a 2-2 tie with L'Anse Creuse North in

mid-December. It is one of the best starts in the program's 26-year history.

The early-season success has certainly made for some entertaining evenings at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, which serves as home rink. The team is winning and the student section has been very vocal and supportive.

Even Birmingham's youth hockey players are taking a keen interest, as they were Tuesday when they stood by the boards and fist-bumped their heroes who were skating onto the ice for an OAA game against Oxford-Avondale.

See **KINGS**, Page 4B



Birmingham Unified's Charlie Michaud (left) and Lucas Bayagich get the puck past the Oxford-Avondale goalie. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWN LIFE.COM

TALKING MLK DAY



Birmingham Brother Rice junior Jarreau Campbell works on a backhand shot during a practice at Bloomfield Tennis & Fitness. TOM BEAUDOIN

COOL PERSPECTIVE

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Jarreau Campbell stands out in more ways than one with the Birmingham Brother Rice varsity boys tennis team.

Unquestionably, the 16-year-old Campbell is a treat to behold on the court — he flies around with grace and power.

The junior is so accurate he probably could rip a backhand through a tiny

School, friends, family, tennis are components to Brother Rice tennis player's calm outlook

portal if it meant points for the Warriors. He reached the state semifinals at No. 1 singles and is a tennis finalist in the inaugural Detroit Free Press Awards.

Campbell, whose dad was a professional tennis player, also is the only African-American player on the Brother Rice roster. His estimated his school has a black population of around 5 percent.

It doesn't bother him. In fact, life is as tranquil as can be with the team, in the classroom and the Bloomfield Hills neighborhood he lives in with parents Steve (a Detroit Catholic Central alum)

See **CAMPBELL**, Page 2B

BOYS BASKETBALL

Quinn's big game downs Eagles

Livonian's 30 points spark Divine Child

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

With a handful of Plymouth residents on the roster, Tuesday's boys basketball game at Plymouth Christian Academy might have felt like a home game for Dearborn Divine Child.

But it was a Livonian, 6-6 senior forward Quinn Blair, who did major damage to the host Eagles as Divine Child cruised to a 62-41 victory.

Despite playing with an uncomfortable knee brace, Blair scored 30 points and was a force at both ends of the floor.

"It was about Week 8 in football," Blair said, recalling how he injured his right knee. "I landed on it weird, smacked it on the side of the turf and had a partially torn PCL. I went to rehab for it."

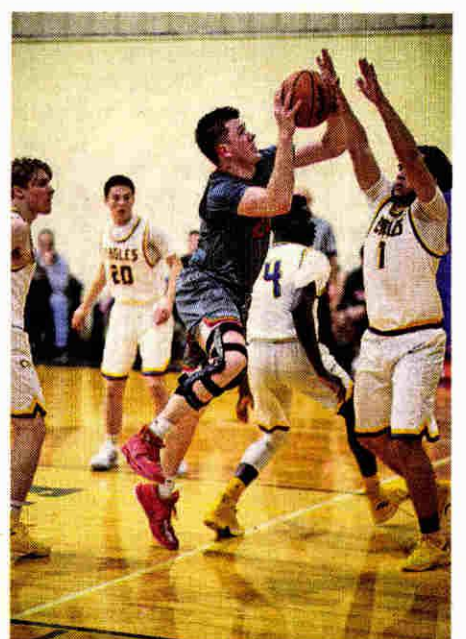
"Unfortunately, I got to wear this brace for a little while. It's kind of bulky and it's not fun to wear, but I'm thankful to be out here playing and it wasn't too serious."

As for how Blair clipped the Eagles with an impressive array of treys, layups and nifty short shots taken from inside the paint, he credited Falcons head coach Mac Horvath and team-



Blair

See **QUINN**, Page 4B



Plymouth Christian's James Fadden (right) goes up in a bid to stop a drive by Dearborn Divine Child's Quinn Blair. TOM BEAUDOIN

COLLEGE RECRUITING

Martinez looking forward to Lindenwood career

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

As a young girl, Kayla Martinez loved playing hockey just for the fun of it.

Then she realized the sport could mean a lot more to her future and started digging her skate blades harder into the ice.

"When I was younger, I didn't think it would take me this far, especially play-

ing house hockey," said the 17-year-old Martinez, who plays on the blue line for the Honeybaked 19-Under Tier 1 girls team that plays out of Suburban Ice Farmington Hills. "I just never thought that far down the line."

"But once I came to AAA, having older friends who started this process a little bit earlier than I did, that really opened me up to, 'Hey, I can actually go somewhere with this, I can



Martinez

get some college paid for and I can continue playing."

Martinez, part of a bonafide hockey family and a senior at Livonia Stevenson, will get to live the college hockey dream after signing to play for Lindenwood University, an NCAA Division I women's hockey program in St. Charles, Mo.

See **MARTINEZ**, Page 2B

BOY BASKETBALL

Groves sizzles at line in close win

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Marc West will tell you any high school team shooting at least 70 percent from the free-throw line will have a chance to win most any game. The Birmingham Groves boys basketball head coach watched his team shoot free throws at a sizzling 90 percent Jan. 5 against Rochester Hills Stoney Creek and it resulted in a satisfying 56-51 triumph.

The Falcons were a solid 20-of-22 from the line, led by senior Mitchell Pitts's near-perfect 15-of-16 performance en route to a game-high 27 points. By contrast, the visiting Cougars shot 50 percent (12-of-24) and were forced to settle for the five-point defeat.

The win lifted Groves to 4-1 overall and 2-0 in the OAA White Division. Stoney Creek fell to 3-3 and 1-1.

"Stoney Creek is a great team, they're very well-coached and we know that any time we play that team, it's going to be a battle," West said. "To get this one and get to 2-0 in the league and win those first two on your home court is big.

"I expected this type of game from them and they play hard," he added. "It's a game that, at the end, it's whatever team is going to hit those free throws and make those plays at the end and I think our guys stepped up to do that."

Stoney Creek head coach Steve Hargrove acknowledged free throws were the difference.

"They did a good job of penetrating our gaps and putting us at a disadvantage and we just can't afford to put teams at the free-throw line," Hargrove said. "They punished us when the got there. I was pretty happy with our floor game, for the most part. I thought we battled and played tough.

"We've been struggling at the line this year and that's something we have to fix," he added. "We're a team right now that, if we're making free throws, we're 6-0. Instead, we're 3-3. Five of our six games have been tight and been decided by free throws."

Down to the wire

The game featured five ties and six lead changes and neither team had more than a seven-point lead.

Stoney Creek scored first on a layup by senior Nate Davis and then Pitts registered a conventional three-point play with a layup and free throw. Senior Spencer Tredwell and Pitts followed with long-distance treys that put Groves up with the game's largest lead, 9-2.

Stoney Creek, playing without starting senior Mike Melargani, who is out for most of the season with a severe ankle sprain suffered in a recent game, battled back and held a 14-13 lead after the opening quarter. Groves outscored Stoney Creek by two points in the second quarter to take a 27-26 halftime lead.

Each team scored seven third-quarter points and were tied 40-40 with 5:27 left in the fourth quarter, when Stoney Creek called timeout. Groves went on to score the next five points and never trailed again, outscoring Stoney Creek by a 16-11 margin to win the game.

The Falcons got key buckets by Tredwell and senior Cristion Williams in the final minutes. Pitts then closed it out by canning four consecutive free throws. The second-year varsity veteran made 7-of-8 free throws in that deciding five-

minute stretch.

"Every single day in practice, we do this drill where we have to make five free throws to close out practice and I take those free throws seriously and I try to make all five," said Pitts, who's shooting 84 percent from the line for the season. "So that prepares me for the game. This is the most I've been to the free-throw line and this is the best I've shot. When I go to the line, my idea is to knock down both and get back on defense.

"This is the best game of my high school career," he added. "I felt good knowing we were going to have a good supporting section and that's why I tried to play my best game and I was able to. We have the best fans."

Pitts led Groves with three two-point field goals, two treys and the 15 free throws. Senior guard Offie Rashed also hit double figures for the Falcons with 12 points and junior forward Roger Motley was next with eight.

Davis led Stoney Creek with 22 points, while senior Andrew Carson had 10. Junior Josh Johnson nearly hit double figures with nine points.

mbudner@hometownlife.com

Campbell

Continued from Page 1B

and Tracey Campbell.

"The team is probably the best part of Brother Rice to me," Campbell said before Wednesday's practice session at Bloomfield Tennis & Fitness. "We do a lot of unity dinners, a lot of team bonding.

"Usually after every single practice, most of the team, we go to (sandwich shop) Jersey Mike's or something like that to get food. ... I don't think anyone feels left out."

A question for MLK

That would be a reason for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to smile, had he lived to see his 89th birthday Jan. 15 (when this year's national holiday is observed).

Campbell also smiled when talking about King and his legacy, stressing that the civil rights leader — who was assassinated in 1968 — resonates with his age group.

"I think his message still definitely connects with a lot of people," Campbell said. "And I think my generation still recognizes him as a very important fig-

ure in the country and how things shifted."

If Campbell could spend a minute with King, he'd ask him "maybe just how he was so calm about everything, always so peaceful. I'd probably ask him how he was so mentally tough and calm."

Maintaining an even-keel attitude in the crazy world of 2018 is sometimes easier said than done, but Campbell strives to do just that.

Having a rock-solid family sets the tone, with strong values and good education among other important components.

"I always lived in a great community with good friends, good family," Campbell said. "We love it here a lot. And it's probably just surrounding yourself with the right people, you know?"

"Going to Brother Rice was a good decision, surrounding yourself with a lot of good kids, coming from good families."

Do your best

Yet he understands that not all African Americans can live in an upscale community and attend a private Catholic high school. That shouldn't keep those perhaps less fortunate than he is



Campbell

from taking stock in their situation and working to make it better.

For them, taking school seriously and taking advantage of any athletic endeavors might be a good place to start.

"I would say that just whatever situation you're in, education-wise, to do the best that you can in that situation," Campbell said. "And especially if you play a sport, to try and excel as much as you can in that sport."

"You never know how far that sport could take you or how far your education could take you."

Campbell is on that path to achievement, with a 3.7 grade-point average and college aspirations to go along with his prep tennis stardom.

He is thoughtful in conversation and relishes the chance to discuss U.S. history, including King's lasting legacy, in high school classes.

"We get to really reflect on all the issues, current and past events," Campbell said. "Really get to see what happened and, obviously, where things were wrong, where things were right, that kind of thing."

Empathy — and tennis — help

Meanwhile, whether or not the on-again, off-again world of racial tolerance ever settles down, Campbell knows he can only try to be a peace-loving person with empathy for what others might be experiencing.

He shares that advice. "The one thing that could help keep everyone on the same page would be just realizing that everyone's kind of doing their best in whatever situation they're in," he said. "Definitely seeing things from the perspective of other people is very important, in any situation in life."

Campbell seems to be as on target with his thoughts about the world as he is with a laser shot over the net.

And for him, having tennis in his arsenal — not to mention a former pro player at home willing to talk about his swing — is pretty comforting during seemingly rare times when he is stressed.

"Tennis is like high-speed chess almost. You have to be very mentally tough and strong on the court," Campbell said. "Regardless of adversity."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Twitter: @TimSmith_Sports

Martinez

Continued from Page 1B

According to Martinez, who wears jersey No. 99 as a shout-out to her mom (Janine Martinez), gave an assist to friend and former Honeybaked teammate Taylor Girard for the decision to go to Lindenwood. Girard, a forward, is a sophomore for the Lady Lions.

"When they first started talking to me, they went to her because we played in the same organization," Martinez said. "They were, like, 'Taylor, do you know this Kayla Martinez girl?' She was, like, 'Yeah, she's really good, she's really nice, you guys should start scouting her.' And it just progressed from there."

Familiar feeling

Then came a campus visit and nothing changed her opinion.

"When it came down to looking at different schools, I looked at a ton of D-I, D-III schools just to see what I liked," Martinez said. "Lindenwood just stuck out to me, because it's very much like this area. It just felt like home."

"I know one of the girls there right now (Girard), actually, so getting to stay with her and know what she likes about being down there really drew me to the school. That I have someone there to kind of fall back on really comforted me."

She might have a comfort zone and friends ready for her at Lindenwood, but College Hockey America opponents won't be too happy to go up against her during games.

"My style of play has changed a little bit over the last few years," Martinez said. "I used to be a stay-at-home defenseman that really liked to hold back and have that mentality of, 'You're not going to score on me.'"

"Over the last few years I feel I've changed, because my coaches (including Lyle Phair of Honeybaked) want me



Stickhandling for her Honeybaked 19U Tier 1 girls hockey team is Kayla Martinez.

to start playing more offensive defense. I feel I've developed into that, which has also helped me, because that's what my college coaches want me to play like. They want someone who can jump up in the play and get that going."

It should come as no surprise that Martinez will keep playing hockey at the next level. She was bitten by the hockey bug at about age 3 and soon started playing for the Flames at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

"Then I went to Livonia (house program at Eddie Edgar and Devonaire arenas) until I was 10 years old and came here (Suburban Ice)," Martinez said. "I don't know ... my parents got me into skating and it took off from there. Skating came very easily to me. I feel like that was a huge benefit."

"And with that, all the other skills just came along and developed over the years."

Ready to help

Another interest of Kayla Martinez's is helping younger girls who are cutting their hockey teeth. During the summer months, when not entrenched in personal training (she works out five times a week during the summer), she'll find time to be a mentor.



Stevenson senior Kayla Martinez signed to play women's hockey at Division I Lindenwood University.

Perhaps influencing her to go in that direction are parents Janine and Gus, longtime youth coaches in Livonia.

In fact, Janine Martinez recently launched Livonia United, a first-year high school girls hockey team that includes players from Churchill, Franklin and Stevenson.

"When I coach younger players or when I'm, like, mentoring them," Kayla said, "I just say make sure you have your skating technique down because if you have it down, you can save the most amount of energy and go the longest distance."

"I always emphasize skating when I'm helping out other players."

Martinez said she also emphasizes something else: Have a plan and stick to it.

"Especially for younger girls, just realize that no matter where you start, you can always make something out of it, if you really set your mind to it," she said, before jumping onto the ice for a Honeybaked practice. "As cliché as it sounds, once you set yourself to do something, just keep working hard for it."

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THE MARTINEZ FILE

Who: Kayla Martinez, 17, senior at Livonia Stevenson and a defenseman for the Honeybaked 19-Under Tier 1 girls hockey team based out of Suburban Ice Farmington Hills.

What: Martinez recently signed her national letter of intent to play NCAA Division I women's hockey at Lindenwood University, located in St. Charles, Mo. She will compete in the the College Hockey America conference.

Ice time: She spent her hockey formative years playing for the Farmington Hills Flames, house teams located at Livonia's Eddie Edgar Arena and Devonaire Arena, the Icebreakers, a Tier 2 travel program located at Suburban Ice; and since age 10 with Honeybaked Tier 1, including the 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U teams.

All in the family: Her dad, Gus, was an assistant coach on Kayla's teams from mini mites through her time with the Honeybaked Tier 1 16U team. Two sisters also play hockey. Corrin, 15, a Stevenson sophomore, plays for Livonia United; Kirsten, 13, a student at Holmes Middle School, plays for Honeybaked 14U Tier II. Mom, Janine, is a college hockey referee who coaches Livonia United, a new girls high school team.

Numbers game: Martinez wears jersey No. 99, but not to honor NHL Hall of Fame player Wayne Gretzky. Instead, it's an homage to her mom.

"It was my mom's number," Kayla said. "She likes it, that I've just carried it on through pretty much my whole youth career."

Miscellaneous: She lives in Livonia with her family. Owner of a 3.5 grade-point average, her college plans include studying for a degree in sports medicine.

KLAA ROUNDUP

Plymouth girls cagers snap skid against Allen Park

Coaches and team representatives are invited to send game information and story tips to LIV-sports@hometownlife.com. Game information will be accepted up to 24 hours after the game ends.

Girls basketball

PLYMOUTH 65, ALLEN PARK 36: Chantal LeDoux and Ella Riley both scored 13 points as the Wildcats (4-3) snapped a three-game losing streak with a non-conference win Jan. 4 over the host Jaguars (1-4).

Sydney McCaig chipped in 12 points for Plymouth, which led 36-16 at half-time and 52-29 after three quarters.

Grace Kubik scored a game-high 20 for Allen Park.

"We've had a great week of practice," Plymouth coach Ryan Ballard said. "It certainly showed tonight with our effort and execution. Angela Schmidt (six points) and Audrey Kananen (six points) provided us with some key minutes and made a lot of plays that do not show up in the box score."

Boys hockey

STEVENSON 7, SALEM 2: The No. 2 team in Division 2, Livonia Stevenson, raced out to a 6-0 lead Saturday and coasted to this KLAA Black Division victory at Redford Ice Arena.

Cole Parkhurst scored twice for the Spartans, while Julian Decina tallied one goal and three assists. Also helping the Stevenson cause with one goal each were Jake Beaune (also two assists), Austin Adamic, Vinny Decina and Jayden Spears.

For Salem, Garrett Christie and Alex Schaumburger scored. Chipping in with assists were Sean McCormack, Tyler German and Colin Goleniak.

Making 21 stops for Stevenson was the winning netminder, Will Tragge. Finishing up between the pipes in the third period was Eric Polzin. Rocks' goalie Austin Goleniak took the defeat.

SALINE 4, CHURCHILL 3: A three-goal second period by the host Hornets proved too much in this Saturday non-conference matchup at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

The Chargers were led by Conor Burnette and Carter Swider, who each chipped in with a goal and an assist. Churchill's third goal was registered by Seth Kucharzyk. For Saline, Connor Wright and Brendan Murphy each tallied a goal and an assist.

PLYMOUTH 3, SOO 0: On Saturday in Sault Ste. Marie, the Wildcats blanked the hosts behind a 14-save shutout performance by junior goalie Josh Montroy.

Scoring goals for Plymouth were Jacob Back, Tim Baldwin and Jack VanDenBeurgeury (who also had an assist). Single assists were picked up by Nathan Stoneburg, Shane Aigner, Tommy Casari and Jake Blake.

SALEM 2-1 UP NORTH: The Salem Rocks won two of three games over a three-day span in Traverse City.

On Dec. 28, Salem lost 7-5 to Saginaw Heritage at Centre Ice Arena, despite Colin Goleniak's hat trick.

But the Rocks bounced back on Dec. 29 with a 5-4 win over Bay Reps and capped off the annual trip on Dec. 30, with a 5-1 victory over Midland.

Against Bay Reps, the Rocks received

single goals from Garrett Christie, Alex Schaumburger, Tyler German, Dante Douthe and Devan Grayshaw. Splitting time between the pipes were goalies Austin Goleniak and Max Van Wert.

Salem then posted the win over Midland, sparked by multi-point games by Tyler German (two goals), Schaumburger (goal, assist) and Colin Goleniak (goal, assist). Adding a single goal was Anthony Gattoni.

Wrestling

FRANKLIN STRONG: Livonia Franklin had strong showings over the long holiday break, with a pair of second-place finishes and one championship in three tournaments.

The Patriots went second at the Pinckey team tourney and followed up by winning the 27-team Salem Elks Invitational. Franklin (14-3) then had a second-place finish at the Melvindale tourney.

Coach David Chiola listed the following wrestlers as starting off on the right foot this season: Jager Kwiatkowski (12-4), Russ Rusnell (24-3), Howie Whitaker (18-9), Johnny DiPonio (26-2), Marino DiPonio (19-3), Erick Reaves (21-7), Emmanuel Willie (15-1) and Jake Swirple (24-4).

"We're starting to jell together as a team," Chiola noted. "Some guys have a ton of varsity experience and some are wrestling varsity for the first time. There are also a few weights where we alternate kids. Some weights we have pretty good depth, but other weights we have none."

"Coming out of the break I'm just going to look for each wrestler to improve

individually so the team as a whole can improve. The postseason will be here before we know it."

SALEM SIXTH: Salem placed sixth out of 18 teams Jan. 6 at the 43rd annual Dave Elliot Invitational at Clinton High School.

Leading the Rocks was heavyweight Jake Giorgi, with a second-place medal. Placing third were Mason Opie (112), JaQuan Baker (152); in fifth place was Ali Kobeissi (135); both Collin Schultz (119) and Dom Valdivia (145) came in sixth.

"Jake Giorgi has been a hammer for us all year and lost to a tough kid in the finals," coach Jeremy Henderson said.

"JaQuan Baker had a good day as well taking third, and the only way to place high in these tournaments is to wrestle back from losses and we had quite a few take 5th and 6th which is good."

"Everyone won at least a match today and that does your team well when it comes to team points."

Gymnastics

ROCKFORD INVITE: Canton (134.575 points) placed fifth Jan. 6 at the 14-team Rockford Invitational. Taking the top spot was Rockford, with 142.975 points.

Zoe Graves led the Chiefs with Division 1 scores of 9.025 on floor exercise (first), 8.75 on balance beam (second) and 34.125 in the all-around (second). Meanwhile, Rachel Socha (8.775 on vault, 8.75 on balance beam), Nehal Harish (8.525 on vault), Bree Kalinsky (8.45 on floor), Katherine Najduk (8.45 on vault) and Annika Wang (8.45 on beam) had solid showings.

MacDonald lands job with United Shore baseball league

Bloomfield Hills native Scott MacDonald has landed a new job.

MacDonald was recently named the United Shore Professional Baseball League's vice president of marketing and public relations. He will oversee all of the USPBL's marketing and communications initiatives.

"As we continue to progress as a professional baseball league, we wanted to add an executive with leadership and baseball experience, which Scott certainly has," said USPBL owner and CEO Andy Appleby, a resident of Bloomfield Township. "He has an



MacDonald

extensive background in communications and marketing at some outstanding institutions across the country and we are excited that he will be a key part of our team as we prepare for another outstanding season in 2018."

MacDonald heads to the USPBL after a long tenure at Oakland University, where he most recently served as the associate athletics director for public relations. He led the university's athletic communications, marketing, broadcasting and video services programs.

MacDonald began his duties Jan. 2.

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PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



TREVOR DEGROOT

SWIMMING SENIOR
NORTHVILLE MUSTANGS

Northville senior boys swimmer Trevor DeGroot did what he does best to win the Hometown Life Prep Athlete of the Week poll for the week ending Dec. 15. He finished strong to outlast staunch competition. Such was the case both in the pool and in the poll -- DeGroot tallied 6,957 votes, more than 49 percent of the total 14,121 votes cast. DeGroot's main competition entering the final "lap" was Canton senior girls basketball player Carli Vaughan (6,021 votes, 42.6 percent). In third place was Livonia Franklin senior boys basketball player Mark Mettie (1,009 votes, 7.15 percent).

WHAT HE DID: The Mustang won the poll thanks to a big-time effort Dec. 12 against defending Division 1 champion Birmingham Brother Rice. He swept the 200- and 500-yard freestyles in 1:48.49 and 4:59.34, respectively, to spark the fifth-ranked Mustangs to a 94-91 victory over the Warriors, ranked No. 3 in the state. "For the past three years we didn't beat Brother Rice so I was pretty excited heading

into this one," DeGroot said. "I really tried to focus in on those races and we just had a great team effort all-around." DeGroot said he "just felt good, felt loose in the water. I felt like I had pretty good turns."

PERSPECTIVE: Northville coach Rich Bennetts also stressed to the Mustangs not to get too wrapped up in defeating Brother Rice. "Coach Bennetts told us at the end of the meet that it was an awesome win," DeGroot said.



TO VOTE FOR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK, GO TO WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM/SPORTS

PREP ROUNDUP

Mercy rips Regina; Groves tops Rochester

Girls basketball

MERCY 51, REGINA 31: Mercy defeated Regina Jan. 5 to win for the seventh time in eight games. The Marlins led 15-3 after one quarter and 26-11 by halftime. They outscored the visiting Saddlelites by a 25-20 second-half margin. "We got off to a good start and played a great first quarter to take a nice lead," said Mercy head coach Garry Morris. "We were a little sluggish in the third quarter and then we played a nice fourth quarter." Mercy had three double-digit scorers in Jenna Schluter (14), Julia Bishop (10) and Bella Dugas (10). Alexis Roberts added eight points. Riley Eobowski paced Regina with 10 points. Mercy is 4-1 in the Catholic League Central Division. Regina is 1-5 and 1-4.

GROVES 43, ROCHESTER 24: Birmingham Groves hiked its overall record to 6-2(2-1 in OAA White Division play) Jan. 4 with this 19-point victory over visiting Rochester. Sha Carter paced the Groves offense with a game-high 13 points. Mia Yarberry, Sacha Tyler and Lauren Palmer each registered six points for the winners. Kayla Nelson contributed five points. Rochester did not have one player reach double figures.

MERCY 39, SALEM 28: After a close first half, Mercy had a big third quarter to begin the 2018 portion of its season with this 11-point non-league triumph. Salem led 8-7 after the opening quarter and Mercy led 20-18 at halftime. The Marlins put the game away with a 12-4 third-quarter scoring advantage. "I thought there was a bit of rust on our part since we hadn't played a game since Dec. 15," said Mercy head coach Garry Morris. "I thought we played a good third quarter. It was a good game for us since we played every body and started off the new year with a win." Freshman guard Alexis Roberts led the balanced Marlins scoring with eight points. Freshman Julia Bishop, junior Isabelle Miner and senior Bella Dugas netted seven points each while freshman Ellie Tisko contributed six.

COUNTRY DAY 79, BISHOP HARTLEY 60: The teams were separated by just four points, 26-22, after one quarter of play in this high-scoring Roundball Classic game played at Detroit Northwestern over the holidays. However, Country Day used a whopping 25-7 second-quarter scoring outburst to take control and eventually defeat its Columbus (Ohio)-based foe by 19 points. The Yellowjackets had five players reach

double figures -- Kaela Webb (19), Jasmine Powell (19), Adrienne Folks (18), Maxine Moore (13) and Maddie Novak (10). Bishop Hartley's Kennedy Taylor led all scorers with 28 points. Country Day raised its record to 4-1.

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL 45, NORTH FARMINGTON 37: In the Motor City Roundball Classic on Dec. 29, North Farmington fell behind early and never caught up. Sam Cherney led the way with 11 points, eight blocks and eight rebounds. Maya Kelly added 10 points and five rebounds. Khyra King-Ealy (nine points) and Molly Simpson (six points) also contributed to the victory.

Boys basketball

NORTH FARMINGTON 49, CINCINNATI WITHROW 41: Donny Dreshaj hit for a double-double (18 points, 10 rebounds) in this holiday tournament game Dec. 27 at Detroit Renaissance High School. Kevin Edwards added seven points for the Raiders.

FERNDALE 73, HARRISON 64: Harrison had three players reach double figures Jan. 5, but it wasn't enough to get past Ferndale in OAA Blue Division action. "We had too many forced turnovers and we also shot 15-of-29 from the free-

throw line," said Harrison head coach Jarrell Hogan. "It's hard to win any game with those types of stats." Sophomore Eddie Lenton led Harrison with 15 points, nine rebounds and two blocked shots. Senior point guard Sean Nelson, Jr. (10 points, four assists, two steals) and senior Tre Walker (12 points) also had strong games.

Boys hockey

BROTHER RICE 6, DE LA SALLE 1: Dominic DiPonio scored two goals and added an assist Jan. 5 in leading Rice to this five-goal victory over Warren De La Salle at Oak Park Arena. Rice's other goals were netted by Garrett Moore, Chris Andoni, Joe Serra and Nick Marone. De La Salle's Jared LaRue ruined Rice goalie Joe Valascho's shutout bid by scoring the Pilots' only goal.

BROTHER RICE 3, PORT HURON NORTHERN 2 (OT): Chris Andoni netted an unassisted shorthanded goal late in the overtime Jan. 4 to slip past Port Huron Northern. Conor Cadieux (Nick Marone, Luke Halpin) and Ethan Nystrom (unassisted) scored Rice's regulation-time goals. Chris Cook tended goal for Brother Rice.

Kings

Continued from Page 1B

"This has been a lot of fun," said senior captain Jack Muir, in his third varsity season. "We have a big student section and having all of our friends here to support us has meant a lot. And we've been playing really well, so it's been a lot of fun."

"Our coach has put a good system into place. We are all buying into it and everyone is chipping in," he added. "I expected a good season, because we were getting some good new players, but 12-0-1 has definitely exceeded my expectations. Hopefully, we can just keep it going."

'Haven't won anything yet'

While all the exuberance and positive outcomes are providing great vibes, third-year head coach Steve Kruk provides the voice of reason. Kruk is encouraged by the way his team is working hard and buying into his system, but cautions the Kings have not won anything yet.

"There are no secrets at this point. I knew, just on paper coming in, that I was happy with our product," said Kruk, who coached BU's junior varsity team for five years before taking over as head coach. "But if you told me we'd be 12-0-1 after 13 games, I don't know if any coach would have said that."

"There's a lot of buzz about this team this year and we don't want to let anyone down. The student section is buying in, we have more fans and the community seems to have rallied around us. It's a great time to be a part of the program."

"But we can't get complacent. We can't get comfortable. Just going about our business and having a routine is not good enough, because when you go down the stretch and are competing for

a division title and you're competing in state playoff games, it's a dogfight every single night."

"Listen, as much success as we've had the first half of the year, I want people to understand we haven't won anything yet," he added. "We haven't won a thing and that's always been our message to our players. This is just a start. Now granted, I'm thrilled with the start, but it means nothing."

An offensive machine

Birmingham Unified has been a balanced offensive machine through its first 13 games.

The Kings have outscored the opposition by a whopping 81-35 margin, including 19 goals in their last two games. They have six players — the equivalent of two entire lines — averaging more than a point a game. Eight different players scored in Tuesday's 10-2 mercy-rule victory over Oxford-Avondale.

That offense is led by senior forward and alternate captain Matt Bachand with 23 points (11 goals, 12 assists). However, Muir (11 goals, 11 assists) and junior Will Sanders (eight goals, 14 assists) are right behind.

Senior Charlie Michaud (11 goals, nine assists), in his first year of high school hockey after playing previous winters with his junior team, junior Andrew Beggs (12 goals eight assists) and senior alternate captain David Breaugh (seven goals, 10 assists) are BU's other double-digit point scorers.

BU's other seniors are alternate captain Greg Gibson, Brian Paswater, Michael Homer and Dave Hamilton.

"We are definitely very offensively gifted. And we have some defensemen who can create offense," Kruk said. "Our speed and our ability to get pucks to the opponents' net quickly is a definite strength."

"I think our system, the way we play, is a very aggressive, a very north-style

of hockey. I think a lot of times, we find ourselves having pucks 200 feet away from our net. And when you have pucks 200 feet away from your net, typically that's a good recipe for success."

"That's one reason for our success. And I think No. 2 is we have great leadership," he added. "I just don't mean the kids who are wearing the letter. I mean our kids are vocal, they lead by example and I think this is the best leadership core we've had since I've been with the program."

The defense is anchored by starting goalie Gabe Barish, a junior in his second year as a starter who owns a 2.69 goals-against average. Sophomore Sean Piotrowicz got the start and win Tuesday against Oxford-Avondale.

"Gabe Barish has been outstanding," Kruk said. "He is the ultimate competitor. He enjoys winning and hates losing. He hates pucks going in behind him."

"One of the things we've stressed to our goalies this year is just be better than the guy who is 200 feet down the ice from you," he added. "Don't overvalue your save percentage. Don't overvalue your goals-against average. Just be better than the guy across from you."

Big goals lie ahead

BU's regular-season goal is to win its first OAA White Division championship in Kruk's eight years with the program. The Kings currently lead the division with a 5-0 record for 10 points, two points ahead of Clarkston. The Kings defeated Clarkston last month, 7-4, and were scheduled to play them Saturday in Birmingham.

Birmingham Unified placed second in the White Division last year, losing the title in the last game of the season.

"We probably moved down to the White four or five years ago and, since I've been down here, I don't think we've won the division and this is probably our first realistic chance to do that,"

Kruk said. "And if we have aspirations to get back into the OAA Red, you have to win the OAA White."

"That's why our No. 1 goal is to win the division," he added. "It's not just showing up and winning. Our guys have bought into a culture. They truly care. They come to practice every day and want to get better. They are not forced-anything."

Birmingham Unified hopes to end the season strong and make an impact in the Division 1 state tournament. The Kings have never won a regional championship. To do so this year, it would have to most likely get past traditional state power Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, owner of 17 state championships in its illustrious history.

"We have high goals for our team and, I've been saying this since Halloween time, we want to win a division and go deeper in the playoffs," said Kruk, whose record in his two previous years as head coach is a combined 23-25-3. "Both years that I've coached varsity, we were done in our first pre-regional game."

"For me, if we win 24, 25 games, that's terrific. But if you're sitting on your coach at the end of February, what's it really for? So we have goals to go a lot deeper into the playoffs this year and so far we are proving we can compete with some of the top teams in the state."

"But there are expectations and there are standards and there are things you have to hold yourselves to," he added. "We like the fact we're being talked about very highly, but we also know that a lot more responsibility comes with it as well."

"All four lines are playing well, the goalie is playing well and we just have to keep doing what we are doing," Muir said. "We just have to keep playing as a team."

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Quinn

Continued from Page 1B

mates.

"My outside shot wasn't falling, but (Horvath) was drawing up some good plays, the guys were getting me the ball," Blair said. "I got the best teammates in the world. They know to give it to me if I'm on and I like to facilitate it to them as well."

"I'm thankful the shots went in, but most importantly, we won the game. That's what I care about."

According to Horvath, whose Class B team improved to 5-3 with the non-conference win over the Class D Eagles, his power forward did much more than score points by the bushel.

"He really set the tone defensively," Horvath said. "When he worked hard defensively, it got his offense going."

PCA head coach Matt Windle acknowledged his team (2-4) just didn't have a good response to what Blair and the rest of the Falcons were doing — Divine Child broke out to a 9-0 lead in the opening two minutes and maintained leads of 19-10 after one, 32-22 at halftime and 45-29 after three.

"We knew who (Blair) was and that

he's got a Division I offer at William & Mary," Windle said. "We didn't do a great job of helping our teammates who were guarding Quinn. We didn't have great help-side, we didn't have great deny."

Following are several other takeaways:

SLOW STARTS HURT

There have been a few times this season where PCA got out to terrible starts and Tuesday's game was the latest.

"We were down nine or 10 going into halftime and, if we take away that run to start, it's a different ballgame, a different mentality," Malcolm said.

WELCOME BACK

Divine Child's roster included five Plymouth residents: seniors Jake Pappas and Nicholas Seurnyck and juniors Parker LePage, Kyle Gurney and Aeron Latham. Out of that group, LePage was most dangerous with 13 points. Chipping in 12 points was junior guard Cameron Urbanick.

OFF THE MARK

Plymouth Christian was hampered by some inconsistent shooting from behind the 3-point arc, making just three triples all night. Two of those were from senior guard/forward Matt Malcolm,

who earlier this season tallied the 1,000th point of his PCA career. The other trey was scored by senior guard Levi Yakuber.

Malcolm and Yakuber were the top scorers for the Eagles, with 14 and 13 points, respectively.

Helping the PCA cause with six points was senior guard Phillip Morby, while 6-5 senior forward Maximus Okolo scored four.

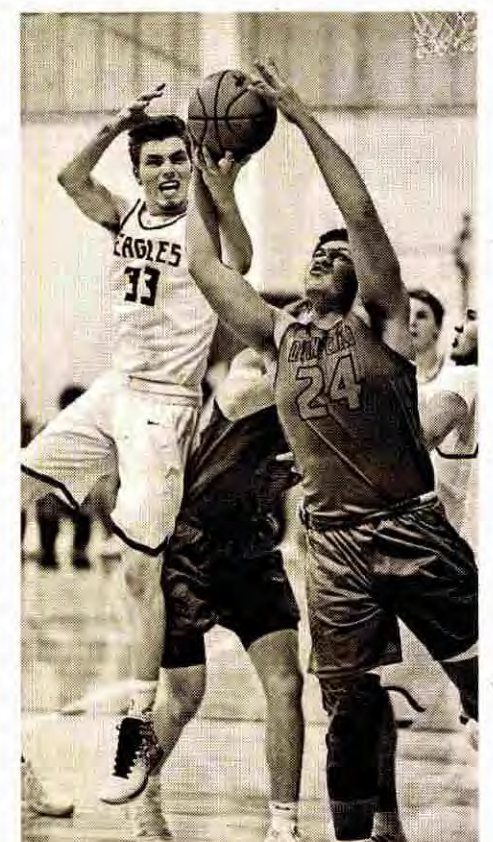
SHRUG IT OFF

Windle (also PCA athletic director) said there is a method to his scheduling madness; so far this year, the Eagles have only played two Class D opponents.

"We could easily be 4-2," Windle said. "We've only played two Class D schools this year. We played Southfield Christian, which is the No. 1 team in Class D, and we played Lansing Christian, who we lost in the regional final last year. We beat them this year."

"We're playing these December, early January games tough for a reason, to prepare for March. We believe we're a top five Class D team in the state."

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Battling for a rebound are Plymouth Christian's Matt Malcolm (left) and Divine Child's Aeron Latham. TOM BEAUDOIN

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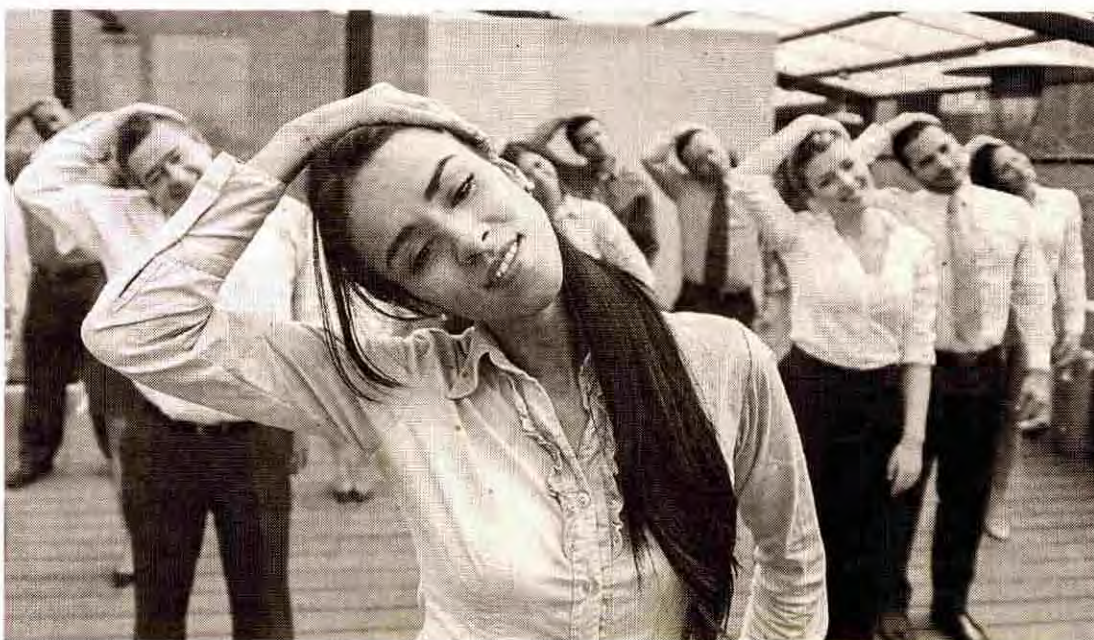
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How exercise can boost work performance

BY ERIC TITNER
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

We're all familiar with the obvious benefits of exercise — regular physical activity can keep us looking and feeling fit and healthy, increase our energy levels and confidence and help us maintain high levels of self-esteem. Staying active can also help us fight off a wealth of potentially life-threatening illnesses.

If you're still not sold, perhaps this will help seal the deal — exercise helps fuel and maintain a healthy body, and it can actually improve your ability to think and retain information.



GETTY IMAGES

a brain benefit regardless of when you decide to exercise, the most promising results typically occur when you do your workout before or even during a cognitive task.

Another big question you might be wondering about is how much exercise you should do in order to receive a cognitive benefit. The same Harvard Medical School report suggests that "standard recommendations advise half an hour of moderate physical activity most days of the week, or 150 minutes a week."

If you're worried that you're simply too busy to exercise or find the very idea of exercise daunting, a great way to take a step forward toward a regular active lifestyle is to start small. Try taking a brief yet brisk walk for 10 to 15 minutes each day, and gradually increase your workout in both length and intensity as time passes.

Now that you know all about the many benefits that exercise will bring to your life, put the excuses aside and get up and get moving toward your successful future!

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

WHAT EXERCISE DOES
 Recent studies have shown the following cognitive benefits of exercise:

Boosts brainpower: If you're looking to take your brain's ability to the next level, you can't do much better than regular exercise. Studies have shown that exercise can actually increase the volume of key areas in your brain.

Enhances thinking ability: Regular workouts will help kick away the dreaded "brain fog" that keeps you from thinking clearly and keep your mind and thoughts razor

sharp all day long.
Helps you process and remember new information more effectively: If you're trying to acquire a new skill or task, like learning a new language or tackling a new job responsibility, combining it with regular exercise can help. New research suggests that physical activity can increase the size of the medial temporal and prefrontal cortex of your brain, key areas that regulate and control thinking and memory, so you'll be able to master that new skill faster.

Improves ability on cognitive tasks: Do you have

an important test for work or school coming up? Whatever your mental goals are, exercise will help you succeed on all sorts of cognitive tasks that test your intelligence and brainpower.

Keeps away the negatives: Regular exercise will help keep your mood positive and upbeat, help you achieve more restful sleep at night and help reduce anxiety and stress, ensuring your brain works at its best.

WHEN, WHAT AND HOW MUCH?
 Now that you know it works,

let's explore how you can make it work for you.

Although there's some debate regarding the type of exercise that best serves to promote brain function, according to a recent article by Harvard Medical School, "researchers found that regular aerobic exercise, the kind that gets your heart and your sweat glands pumping, appears to boost the size of the hippocampus, the brain area involved in verbal memory and learning. Resistance training, balance and muscle toning exercises did not have the same results."

Research also suggests that although you'll receive

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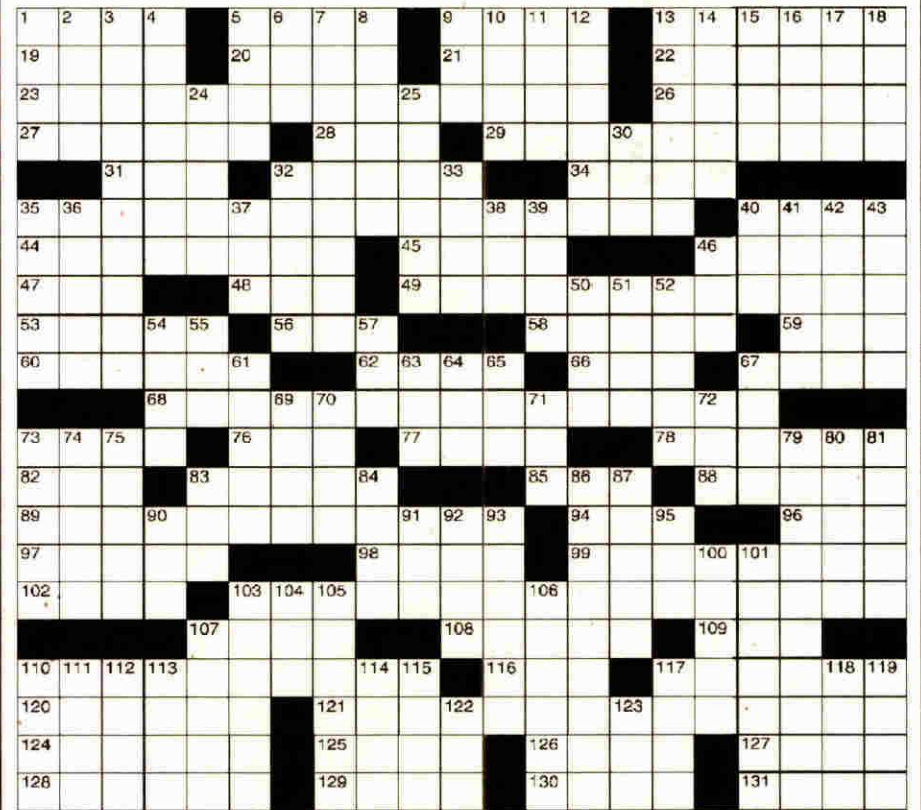
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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Opera start
 - 5 "Yes, yes, Juan!"
 - 9 Take — (taste some)
 - 13 Cheeky type
 - 19 Road, in German
 - 20 Foretoken
 - 21 Lovett of country
 - 22 No longer surprised by
 - 23 Ram forcefully?
 - 26 Frito Lay chip
 - 27 December mall hires
 - 28 Teary
 - 29 Greeting sent by a cosmetics company?
 - 31 "Agnus —"
 - 32 Cache
 - 34 Southeast Kansas city
 - 35 Where loils of mail delivers scuba-diver?
 - 40 Not at all nigh
 - 44 Most robust
 - 45 Kazan of film directing
 - 46 Hilo "hello"
 - 47 In days past
 - 48 "Lo-o-vely!"
 - 49 Set crossword hints to music?
 - 53 Prefix with pathology
 - 56 The Big Apple, briefly
 - 58 Fissile rock
 - 59 Midday sleep
 - 60 Divide by type
 - 62 Contract out
 - 66 TV title alien
 - 67 Water whirl
 - 68 Required maintenance items?
 - 73 Face cover
 - 76 From — Z
 - 77 Big fair
 - 78 Character
 - 83 Prologue
 - 85 Upsilon's follower
 - 88 Qdoba treats
 - 89 Inelegant five-member band?
 - 94 66-Across et al.
 - 96 Salt's "help"
 - 97 Muslim palace arca
 - 98 Haul around
 - 99 Number of magazine subscribers, e.g.
 - 102 Writer Haley
 - 103 Long to look at a periodic table?
 - 107 Feng —
 - 108 Poetry Muse
 - 109 White-haired
 - 110 Library cubicle in which Cheblis is served?
 - 116 Jackie O's "O"
 - 117 New York state prison
 - 120 Is wild for
 - 121 Writes hacky computer programs?
 - 124 Chemist's "I"
 - 125 Nursing school subj.
 - 126 Bit of help
 - 127 In awe
 - 128 Naval units
 - 129 Car-lot sticker abbr.
 - 130 Barley brews
 - 131 Guru's discipline
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Essential
 - 2 "Fame" star Irene
 - 3 Very loud
 - 4 Alternatively
 - 5 — chef
 - 6 Unruly kid
 - 7 Fit for sailing
 - 8 Ready to be driven
 - 9 Puglist
 - 10 Muhammad
 - 11 1942 role for Ingrid
 - 12 "The Dick Van Dyke Show" surname
 - 13 Ballet dancer Nureyev
 - 14 "Sitting on —..." ("Mrs. Robinson" lyric)
 - 15 Blood bank fluids
 - 16 Nero's 404
 - 17 Quintillith: Prefix
 - 18 "Crazy" bird
 - 24 Aristotle's land
 - 25 Eagles' nests
 - 30 Female deer
 - 32 Is sporting
 - 33 Hoagie shop
 - 35 Its capital is Accra
 - 36 Is very angry
 - 37 Co. kahuna
 - 38 — Tin Tin
 - 39 Tally cloths
 - 40 Exclusively
 - 41 Fan across
 - 42 In the future
 - 43 Harsh-toned
 - 46 Top gun
 - 50 Spicy cuisine
 - 51 Stop moving
 - 52 Pixieish
 - 54 Stone
 - 55 — pro nobis
 - 57 Amigo of Fidel
 - 61 Sedative drug, informally
 - 63 Berg stuff
 - 64 Stout of mysteries
 - 65 Seer's skill
 - 67 This, to Pedro
 - 69 Dying rebuke
 - 70 "Me neither"
 - 71 Sponge up
 - 72 Scarf down
 - 73 Coffee flavor
 - 74 Auditory
 - 75 Rubberneck
 - 79 West Coast coll. in La Jolla
 - 80 Her's perch
 - 81 Swirl letters
 - 83 Suffix with 90-Down
 - 84 Being aired, in a way
 - 86 Like religious dissenters
 - 87 Writer Calvino
 - 90 Gender
 - 91 Tip of a sock
 - 92 Suffix with major
 - 93 Azadi Tower locale
 - 95 Holy Fr. woman
 - 100 Ham it up
 - 101 City-circling route
 - 103 Goes after
 - 104 1921 Karel Capek play
 - 105 Stability-improving auto part
 - 106 Vocalist Kill
 - 107 Hound's trail
 - 110 Homeless kid
 - 111 Sacred cow
 - 112 Center point
 - 113 The "E" of HOMES
 - 114 Practically forever
 - 115 Jet name
 - 117 Gets the total
 - 118 Stop up
 - 119 Kelp, e.g.
 - 122 Brand of motor oil
 - 123 A single



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

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

CREATIVE CRAFTING WORD SEARCH

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

- ACRYLIC
- ADHESIVE
- AIRBRUSH
- BEADWORK
- BLADES
- CALLIGRAPHY
- CANVAS
- CHARCOAL
- CLAY
- CLOTH
- CUTTING
- DECORATIONS
- EASEL
- EMBROIDERY
- FABRIC
- FLOSS
- FOLIAGE
- FRAMING
- GLUES
- JEWELRY
- JOURNAL
- KNITTING
- KNOTS
- MAT
- MOLD
- PAINT
- PASTELS
- PENCILS
- POTTERY
- RUSTIC
- SCRAPBOOK
- SEWING
- STICKERS
- WAX
- WOOD
- YARNS

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

Crossword Answers

ACTIL SISI ASIP RASCAL
BAHN OMENLYLE USEDTC
CPUSHPAGAINSTBORITC
SIANTASWEHCARDFAVON
SIBELI HCAHUILOLA
GPLATCARRILBEEFAPAR
HAMUTSIFIAALLOHA
AGO OOH SINGTHECLUES
NEUHO NYC SHSHALENAP
ABSORHILTRALLFOODY
MARENCESSITIEH
MASKATC EXPO NATURE
OUTINTHO PHITACUS
CFASSQUINTETETS SOS
HAREM TOTERATEBASE
ALEX CRAVETELEMENTS
ENUTIGRATFOLDA
WINECARRILARIILIBA
ADORESDOESNTCODWELL
JOBINE ANATHANDASOR
FLICITS MSRPPALES YOGA

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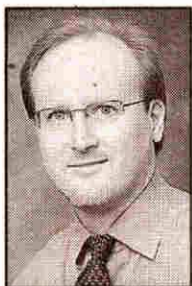
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Car Report

INFINITI MAKES TIMELY LAUNCH OF QX80 SUV, TRYING TO DIFFERENTIATE BY FOCUSING ON FANTASTIC SEATING



By Dale Buss

Infiniti is bidding to continue its strong 2017 sales performance into the new year with a marketing campaign for a timely upgrade to its big QX80 SUV.

Overhauls of large, luxury utility vehicles are busting out all over—Lincoln's Navigator and Lexus's extended RX among them—to take advantage of the robust U.S. market for SUVs in an era of reasonable gasoline prices, a growing economy, and a millennial generation that is forming families and in need for more spacious vehicles.

On the mainstream side, Subaru and Volkswagen are bringing out entirely new vehicles that meet the seven-passenger criterion. So the timing for Infiniti's best-ever version of its QX80 large SUV couldn't be better. And to distinguish the new

QX80 in a segment with growing competition, the Nissan-owned luxury brand has decided to select a particular feature for "Thrones," its first national U.S. TV campaign—its sumptuous seats.

Infiniti has been doing well in the US, through November 2017 selling 14% more vehicles compared with a year earlier. Part of the gain can be attributed to some new products, but also Infiniti seems to have sharpened its brand image more these days than in quite some time. It's readily identifiable again even in an increasingly competitive luxury-car set in the US market.

It's already looking ahead to the North American International Auto Show by teasing a new concept car coming to Detroit, along with its Spring 2018 QX50.

But first, the QX80 new year's "Thrones" campaign, about which I spoke with Phil O'Connor, Infiniti's director of marketing communications and media, about the value proposition and messaging for Infiniti these days:

Infiniti has a lot of momentum



these days. What are you seeing in the U.S. luxury auto sector right now?

The market growth has slowed down, but it's still at a very healthy level. We're still very bullish. We've been among the fastest-growing luxury brands in the last year and moving forward we think that things are only going to get better with a slew of new products. We launched a new Q50 in the fall; now we have the new QX80; and in 2018, there will be the all-new QX50, which will be a compact, five-seat CUV.

What are you trying to accomplish with this QX80 campaign?

With regard to the QX80 we're always trying to do a couple of things. We're trying to launch a new product, in this case a flagship SUV, and do it in a very bold, Infiniti way. We're also always looking to build momentum around our umbrella brand of Infiniti. We're 30 years in the market but relatively new compared with some competitors so we're still trying to clarify what that brand stands for. The best opportunity to do that is when we have new product launch.

How does that approach fit

"Thrones"?

At Infiniti we talk about being "human, daring and forward." We're in touch with our consumers and we're an emotional brand. We're forward-looking, not rooted in the past, and we're daring in that we're trying to make bold moves.

If you look at this spot specifically, in this segment things like cargo and carrying capacity are table stakes. But with QX80 we've got a few things that we believe set us apart: luxuriousness and detail in interior and the styling.

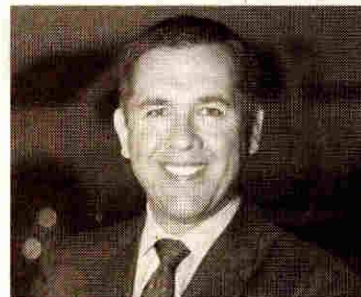
So we wanted to make a statement about those things that differentiate us in an Infiniti way. The spot is talking about the history of thrones and is a nod to human history, and plays on that in an interesting way by making the point that the interior of the QX80 is a luxurious space for a large number of people. This will comfortably seat a large number of people.

There are at least seven seats with the option of a second-row bench seat, which makes it eight. That's one of the reasons why in the end of the spot we have the cast get into the interior, because you can see six

adults. We want to communicate that the third row is a real place to sit, not just a place to put young children.

Customer experience has become a huge focus, especially for luxury brands. What has Infiniti been doing in that regard?

When you look at the progress that Infiniti dealers have made in customer satisfaction, we're among the leaders in every metric. That's a really important part of our success: As we broaden our portfolio and bring customers back for repeat purchases, they're getting the kind service that the luxury buyer expects.



Infiniti's Phil O'Connor



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