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Plymouth Twp. approves 369-unit project

Neighbors asked board to deny development

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A group of neighbors who live within a short walk of a planned 369-unit

apartment/townhouse development on about 34 acres of green space in Plymouth Township spent hundreds of hours researching the project, speaking at public meetings and pleading with

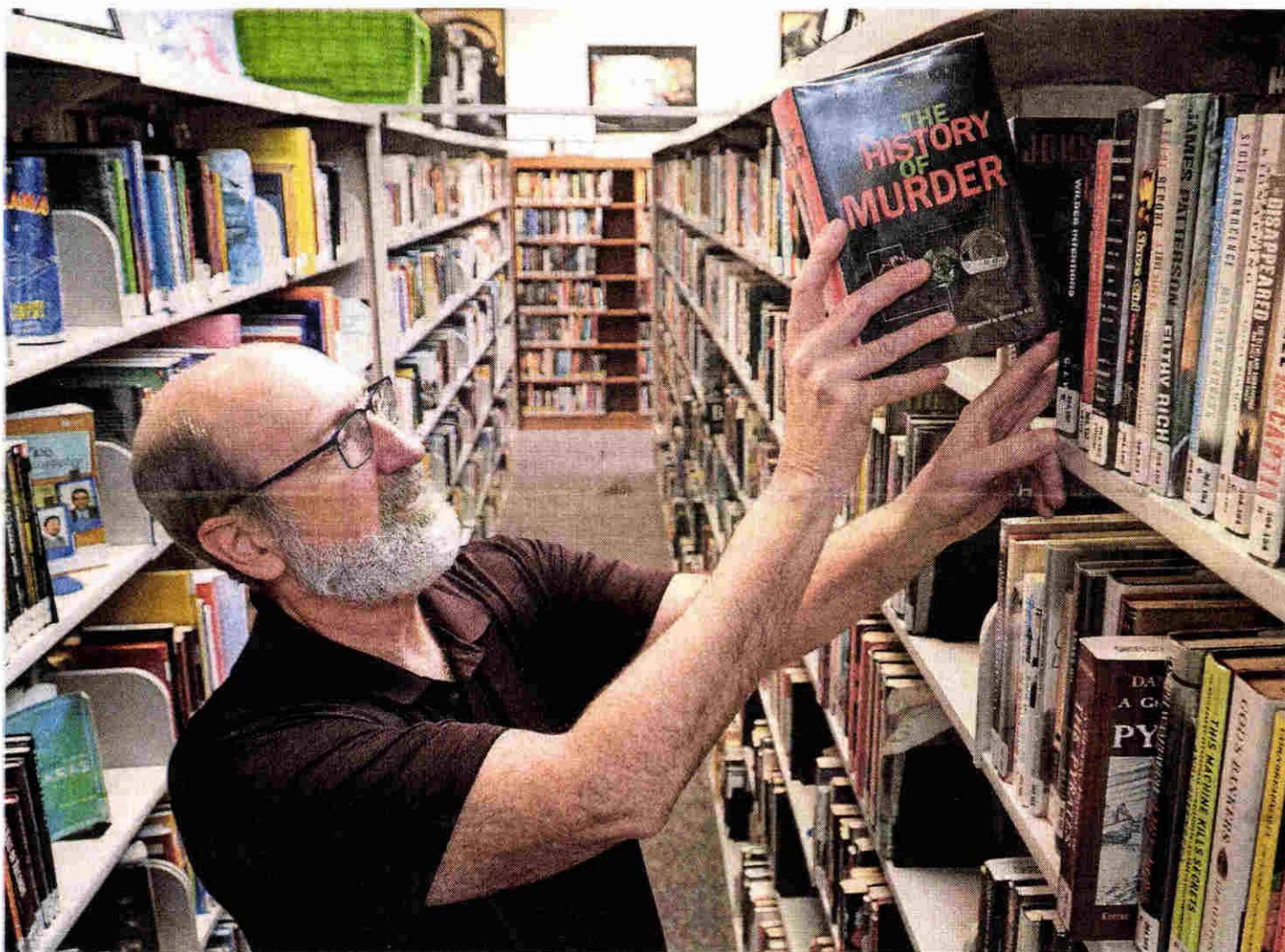
officials to deny the proposal.

Along with concerns of increased traffic in the area and the elimination of valued green space, residents asserted the development's density was not in harmony with the neighboring subdivisions, a conflict of PUD requirements.

Residents south of the proposed de-

velopment claim the increased volume of traffic generated by the new Amazon hub center on Haggerty Road and the imminent opening of a Henry Ford Health facility at the intersection of Haggerty and Ann Arbor roads — along

See **PROJECT**, Page 3A



Garden City Library Director James Lenze puts a book back on the shelf of the Maplewood Street branch April 20.

JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Lawsuit against Garden City library latest in troubled saga

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There seems to be one certainty in the Garden City Public Library's murky near future: it won't be part of the soon-to-be community center inside Schoolcraft College's Radcliff Center, which the city recently purchased to replace

the Maplewood Community Center.

Tangled in a legal battle with the library since October 2021, the city has no plans to bring the library along to the new facility when it closes Maplewood, where the library currently operates.

"I don't know why there would be," City Manager Doc Dougherty said. "That doesn't make any sense."

The two disputes are the latest events in what library officials describe as a longstanding cantankerous relationship between the two public services. Dougherty said he's confused as to why people think they have a poor relationship.

See **LAWSUIT**, Page 2A

FARMINGTON HILLS

Residents speak against temporary concrete plant

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Plans for a temporary concrete plant along Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills have created a dust-up with several neighbors.

The temporary plant would open in a vacant lot at 32680 Northwestern Highway to support concrete-laying repairs in the new Heritage Hill subdivision a few miles west.

But several people who live in the nearby condominiums and a senior facility spoke out against the plan at a recent planning commission meeting, saying it would negatively affect their way of life.

"We will all be directly affected if the cement plant moves in," said Seema Chackunkal, who lives in the nearby Country Glens condos. "We ask that the planning commission decline approval for this temporary cement batch plant."

The plant would be operated by Shelby Township-based Florence Cement and would wrap up no later than mid-October.

Steve Gregor with Florence Cement told the planning commission April 21 they looked across the city for a suitable location. He said they previously operated along Drake north of Grand River the last two years, though another temporary concrete plant will occupy that property this year.

Because of rules that prohibit the import and export of concrete from the city, Gregor said he looked all over to find a suitable space for the plant, including a location along Haggerty in nearby Commerce Township.

See **PLANT**, Page 2A

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Plant

Continued from Page 1A

However, because of those rules, he could not open a plant there for a project in Farmington Hills.

He said while he understood it would be a hassle, he said they would do everything they could to limit the impact on the surrounding area.

"We're construction. We're going to create dust, we're going to make noise," he said. "We're going to do everything we can so that we're not this disruptive force."

Mitigation efforts would include using water to curb dust particles at the site, as well as only allowing the plant to operate at certain times of day.

Ellen Byrne, executive director of Anthology of Farmington Hills senior living facility, said the plant would be front-facing to several elderly residents and impact their ability to grab fresh air in the warmer months.

"This is the only outdoor area for my memory care patients," she said. "I am all for progress and doing work, but it's too close to my seniors."

"I think this would be a big detriment to their life-style."

The planning commission voted unanimously to approve the plans to allow the temporary plant on the site during its meeting.

Commissioner Barry Brickner said he lives not far from the location where the concrete plant on Drake has been in recent years.

Originally believing it would cause a problem, he said he soon realized the plant was not as disruptive as he originally expected.

"I was concerned about the noise. I was concerned about the dust," Brickner said. "And I can tell you I didn't even know when they were operating."

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



Garden City librarian Kim Poma reads during an April 13 storytime event at the Maplewood library. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Lawsuit

Continued from Page 1A

"People say it's ongoing," he said. "I don't understand what's ongoing about anything."

Well, let's take a look.

A historically underfunded 'people's university'

In Library Director James Lenze's view, the problems started in 2006 when the city moved its library from a standalone building on Middlebelt Road to the Maplewood Center.

The cost-cutting measure decreased the size of the library by almost half — it went from a 12,000-square-foot facility to a 6,500-square-foot suite — and required the library to close for three months while it moved. Lenze said city leaders wanted to close the library and contract with Westland's library, but public outcry led the city to keep it going.

In 2011, the city was nearing a decision to nix the library due to financial struggles before residents stepped in again. This time, the library reopened as an independent, taxpayer-funded entity separate from the city government.

"Again, city council's decision was to close the library," Lenze said. "Residents demanded the city keep us open until a millage could be voted on. The millage passed, and the library reopened."

According to Paul Werhane, who's been on the library board since the 1980s, the library was never a priority as a city department.

"We were never more than 2 percent of the city's budget," he said.

Most recently in September 2021, city council voted to end the library's pension healthcare plan through the city, which affected one library retiree.

Dougherty and Mayor Randy Walker noted they weren't around for some of these decisions, which is true of the 2006 closing and anything earlier than 2019 for Dougherty. Lenze and some library board members, however, were around. They say the people may be different, but the sentiment remains.

"There's been an anti-library group in the city for years," Werhane said. "It's not a new thing."

Now, Garden City's library is supported by two millages — one for operations and one to fund a new facility. Each raises roughly \$500,000 a year. The library also has an elected board and is not a city department anymore.

But, Article 4, Section 8 of the city's code of ordinances still lists the library as a city department, even though the two split about a decade ago.

A dispute over the Maplewood Center and money

The library's lease at the Maplewood Center expires June 30, and it may not be renewed. Dougherty told Hometown Life on April 6 the city has no plans to continue leasing space to the library, and Lenze said he'd initially received no communication from the city regarding the lease.

After this report published May 4, Dougherty said he'd recently reached out to the library about a lease

extension. Lenze said that offer came May 5.

The lease is a major point of conflict for the two.

Garden City filed a lawsuit against the library in October 2021 seeking rental and administrative costs dating back six years, and the library recently filed a counter-complaint against the city claiming the city isn't fulfilling its duties as the library's fiscal agent. Dougherty said the debts go back further, but Michigan statute of limitations limit the city to six years.

As part of the lease and fiscal agency agreements between the two, Garden City should receive \$31,500 annually and can charge for services like snow removal if the library requests them. The documents state the library is also responsible for its share of Maplewood's electricity, water and other utility costs.

Due to the ongoing nature of the lawsuit, both parties declined to comment on specifics or disclose the exact amount the city claims the library owes. According to figures included in the city's lawsuit, Garden City seeks more than \$85,000 for various services for the library.

Walker said the lawsuit is less about hard feelings and more about the library's obligations. Legal action came after talks regarding finances between the two parties broke down and the library declined settling the conflict through arbitration.

"When they refused to go to arbitration, we felt we had nothing left to do but file a lawsuit," Walker said. "We are not trying to get rid of the library. We want the library to pay what they owe."

Library officials disagreed, stating there was no financial dispute until Dougherty started working in Garden City a few years ago. The fiscal agency agreement entitles the city to a detailed copy of the library's annual budget, where plans to pay fees to the city would be outlined.

"It all stems from the city manager having a different interpretation of these contracts than everyone else seems to have had over the last eight years," Lenze said.

Despite uncertain future, fears that library will close forever are unfounded

So, what now?

Dougherty and Walker floated the possibility of the library purchasing the Maplewood Center, of which the library now occupies about 15%, when it closes. Lenze said the library board does not seem open to purchasing Maplewood.

Lenze hopes that if the library needs to move, the city would extend a "courtesy" of allowing the city a few months to do so.

The library also owns the former Burger School site at Dillon Road and Beechwood Avenue to build a new facility. Dougherty and Walker both claimed the library also has money for a new building.

"They have their own money to go to build their own facility," Dougherty said.

That's not true quite yet.

The library's millage to build a new facility runs through 2029, at which point the library will have saved enough to pay for a new structure including the meeting space, study rooms, teen section and technology it doesn't have now.

But that's seven years away.

Lenze said one option is renting storefront space until then. But that would include another move, and closing temporarily. Lenze said costs associated with a move would likely further delay the eventual construction of a new facility, too. His preferred scenario is continuing to rent space at Maplewood.

Some residents have expressed fears in public meetings that the city will simply bolt the library shut and throw away the key.


"We have no ability to shut them down," Dougherty said.

And that's true.

The library is independent of Garden City. The city could make the library temporarily homeless, but it cannot close it forever.

"Right now we're hitting some bumps in the road, but we'll get through it," Lenze said. "Seven years sounds like a long time, but it will be there before you know it."

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Growing Home



Jay and Anna Steele (right) spearheaded an effort by residents north of the planned 369-unit apartment/townhouse development to nix the plans in favor of a less-dense development. Also pictured are Linda Manni (left), Leah Parent and three children who live in the affected neighborhoods. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Project

Continued from Page 1A

with the hundreds of residents who will be added if the development is approved — will turn their already lengthy efforts to turn onto Ann Arbor Road even more horrendous.

Opponents lost their battle April 26 when the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees voted 4-2 to approve the Toll Brothers' and Pomeroy Living's Plymouth Walk development, which will draw hundreds of new residents to the site of the former Wycoff Steel/Elks Lodge property.

Township Supervisor Kurt Heise, Clerk Jerry Vorva, and trustees Audrey Monaghan and Bob Doroshewitz cast yes votes, while trustees Chuck Curmi and John Stewart voted to deny.

The game-changer for Doroshewitz and Monaghan was the developers' willingness to spend \$1.8 million to pave the dirt roads and add sidewalks to Eastlawn subdivision, which is located just north of the planned development.

Initial plans for the development offered one exit/entrance at Ann Arbor Road. Fueled by projected traffic backups there, the plans were altered to include a north exit/entrance north of the property, leading directly to Eastlawn, which is one of the last subdivisions in the township without paved roads.

Doroshewitz was one of two planning commission members who voted against the plan earlier this year (it passed the planning commission 3-2).

"When I voted no, I kept circling back to (Eastlawn's) dirt roads," he said. "Since then, the developers have come up with some clever and creative steps to pave the subdivision's roads."

Monaghan said without the developers' financial assistance, homeowners who live in Eastlawn would have to pay up to \$35,000 apiece to have the roads paved in the subdivision, which has experienced declining property values, she said, "because nobody wants to live on a dirt road."

The development team could be reimbursed for their paving expenditures through a complicated Brownfield Redevelopment Authority tax plan that an attorney for the developers said was still in the early formation stages.

Soil studies commissioned by the developers revealed portions of the site is still contaminated from its Wycoff Steel days, forcing the necessity of a Brownfield-funded clean-up.

Stewart said the potential for 1,000 new residents living on the property doesn't make sense.

"It just doesn't fit," Stewart said. "We

need to listen to the neighbors on this and go back to the drawing board."

Opponents of the plan reiterated at meetings that they accept the land will be developed, explaining a less-dense development would be more in tune with the surrounding subdivisions.

Toll Brothers spokesperson Alex Martin said there is still a lot to do before the first shovel enters the ground, and that his firm and Pomeroy Living are looking forward to working with their future neighbors.

The next step includes refining details of the development, including traffic-calming efforts to ensure safe driving conditions on the spine road that will cut through the development from Ann Arbor Road to Eastlawn.

Among the traffic-calming options, township engineer Jeremy Schrot introduced, were speed bumps and 90-degree turns in the spine road.

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Recent business openings, closings in metro Detroit

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Another month, another new batch of business activity across metro Detroit.

Here is the latest group of businesses that opened or closed in recent weeks across the Hometown Life area, which includes the northwestern suburbs of Detroit.

Did we miss one? Have a business opening or closing soon? Let us know by emailing dveselenak@hometownlife.com.

Livonia

A handful of new restaurants joined the Livonia landscape in recent weeks.

One of the highest profile openings occupies a long-vacant bar and former comedy club. Punjab Indian Cuisine and The Celebration banquet center recently opened at 36071 Plymouth inside the former Kickers sports bar and Joey's Comedy Club.

A building that's been empty for several years after another restaurant that was originally planned for the property fell through, the new restaurant and banquet center boasts a completely new look.

A completely revamped interior includes a new banquet area capable of seating more than 250 people on the ground level and more intimate seating on the upper level, which houses the restaurant.

Another Asian restaurant also recently opened its doors, taking the place of another.

The Chopstix took over the space previously held by Saigon Boulevard. The Chopstix serves up dishes such as pho and sushi, the latter of which can be presented to guests dining in on one of several wooden ships.

Heading across the world culinary-wise, Mr. Miguel's Mexican Grille and Cantina replaced Richard's Family Restaurant at 39305 Plymouth Road.

Right on the border of Livonia and Plymouth Township, the restaurant is the third Mr. Miguel's to open in metro Detroit. Typical Mexican fare fills the menu, such as tacos, burritos and others.



Parakeets for sale at the Petsmart at 2197 N. Telegraph in Bloomfield Township.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



The Celebration's main banquet hall at its Plymouth Road location in Livonia.

Farmington

A well-known restaurant that closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has returned.

Browndog Barlor and Restaurant recently reopened its doors at 33314 Grand River after closing in 2020 due to a lack of staffing. It's brought back its well-known ice cream, as well as restaurant items like sandwiches and burgers. The bar has also reopened, serving up several drinks that were popular before the closure. It joins the Northville location, which also has a restaurant and bar.

Westland

Customers who typically get prescriptions filled at the CVS at Warren and Venoy now need to find a place to pick them up, as the pharmacy is closing its doors.

The business in the Hunter Park Plaza announced it was shutter its doors May 3, according to the company. The closure is a part of CVS's plan to hundreds of stores over the next few years.

South Lyon

Gone is a popular pottery studio in town, but its owners say plans are to bring the space back with new ownership.

Glazy Days Paint Your Own Pottery planned to close April 30 after its owners retired, according to the business's Facebook page. The shop at 22896 Pontiac Trail is expected to reopen under a different name with new owners.

Northville

Lama Ammouri noticed Northville did not have the type of boutique resale shop she enjoyed. So she decided to open her own. That resulted in the opening of The Posh Consignment, 426 S. Main St., early this year.

"Of course I wouldn't go anywhere else to open," said Ammouri, a Northville resident. "I'm also a big resale shopper myself."

The shop sells many types of women's items, including purses, clothing and more. She said the shop sells its items on consignment at a higher rate than other shops.

The shop occupies two stories on the outskirts of downtown. It is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. More information can be found at poshconsignmentboutiques.com.

Bloomfield Township

Telegraph Road has gone to the dogs. And cats. And birds. And chinchillas.

PetSmart has opened a new pet supplies store at 2197 N. Telegraph in Bloomfield Township. A location for all pet-related items, the store includes the a self-service dog wash station, a full-service grooming salon, a dog training space and more. The store is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. More information can be found at petsmart.com.

Also open in recent months in Bloomfield Township is Maple Eye Care and Eyewear. An optometry practice run by Brother Rice High School alumnus Dr. Kevin Semma, the office is located at 3683 W. Maple on the southeast corner of Lahser Road.

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Farmers market season underway in metro Detroit

Philip Allmen Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Farmers market season is here with most area farmers markets having started in the beginning of May.

Shoppers of fresh produce, Michigan-made products, crafts and more can find a farmers market fairly close by just about any day of the week.

Here are some of the nearby farmers markets in metro Detroit:

The **Belleville Farmers Market** runs 4-7:30 p.m. Mondays at 396 Main St., starting in June. Visit www.belleville-centralbusinesscommunity.com to learn more.

The **Oakland County Farmers Market** runs 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 2350 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford. Go online for more information at www.oakgov.com/parks.

The **City of Walled Lake Farmers Market** runs 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at 1499 E. West Maple Road. Find the market on Facebook.

The **Wayne Open-Air Market** runs 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays at 3144 S. Wayne Road, starting May 25. Learn more at notredamehall.com.

The **MSU Tollgate Farm Farmers Market** runs 4:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at 28115 Meadowbrook Road in Novi. Visit tollgate.msu.edu to learn more.

The **Inkster Farmers Market** runs 4-7 p.m. Wednesdays at 27020 Michigan Avenue. Find more on the market on Facebook.

The **Northville Farmers Market** runs 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday on S. Center Street. Visit northville.org for more information.

The **Westland Farmers and Artisans Market** runs 3-7 p.m. Thursdays at 1901 N. Carlson St. Visit www.westland-farmersmarket.com to learn more.

The **Milford Farmers Market** runs 3-8 p.m. Thursdays at 115 E. Liberty St. in Milford. Visit www.milfordfarmers-market.org for more information.

The **Troy Farmers Market** runs 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3179 Livernois, starting in June. Go to www.troy.mi.gov/farmersmarket for more information.

The **Dixboro Farmers Market** runs 3-6 p.m. Fridays at 5221 Church Road in Superior Township. Visit

Geraniums for sale at the Northville Farmers Market. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

farmersmarket.org for more information.

The **Romulus Farmers Market** runs 5-9 p.m. Fridays, June-August at 11111 Hunt St. Visit cityofromulusgov.com for more.

Brightmoor Artisans Farmers' Market runs 4-7 p.m. Fridays at 22735 Fenkell Avenue, starting in June. Visit brightmoorartisans.org/whatwedo/cafe-market for more.

The **Farmington Farmers and Artisans Market** runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at 33113 Grand River Ave. Visit www.farmingtonfarmersmarket.com to learn more.

The **South Lyon Farmers Market** runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at 110 W. Liberty St. in South Lyon. Visit www.southlyonfarmersmarket.org for

more information.

The **Plymouth Farmers Market** runs 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays at 736 Penniman Ave. Visit www.plymouth-chamber.org to learn more.

The **Highland Farmers Market** runs 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at the corner of Milford and Ruggles roads, starting in June. Visit www.highlandfarmmarket.com for more.

Livonia Farmers' Market at The Wilson Barn runs July to October on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit www.wilsonbarn.com for more information.

The **Brighton Farmers Market** runs 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at 200 North 1st St. Find the market on Facebook for more information.

Birmingham Farmers Market runs

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 660 N. Old Woodward Avenue. Visit www.allinbirmingham.com to learn more.

The **Hartland Farmers Market** runs 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays at 10400 Highland Road. Find more on the market on Facebook.

Canton Farmers Market runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays at 500 Ridge Road. Visit cantonfun.org for more information.

Redford Township Market at the Marquee runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays at 15145 Beech Daly, starting in June.

The *Michigan Farmers Market Association* maintains a list of farmers markets throughout Michigan. Visit mifma.org for a full list.

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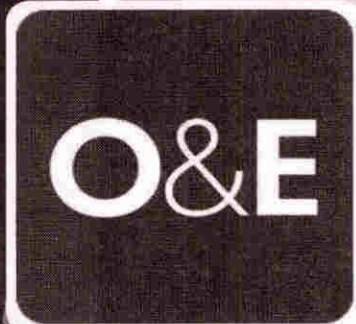
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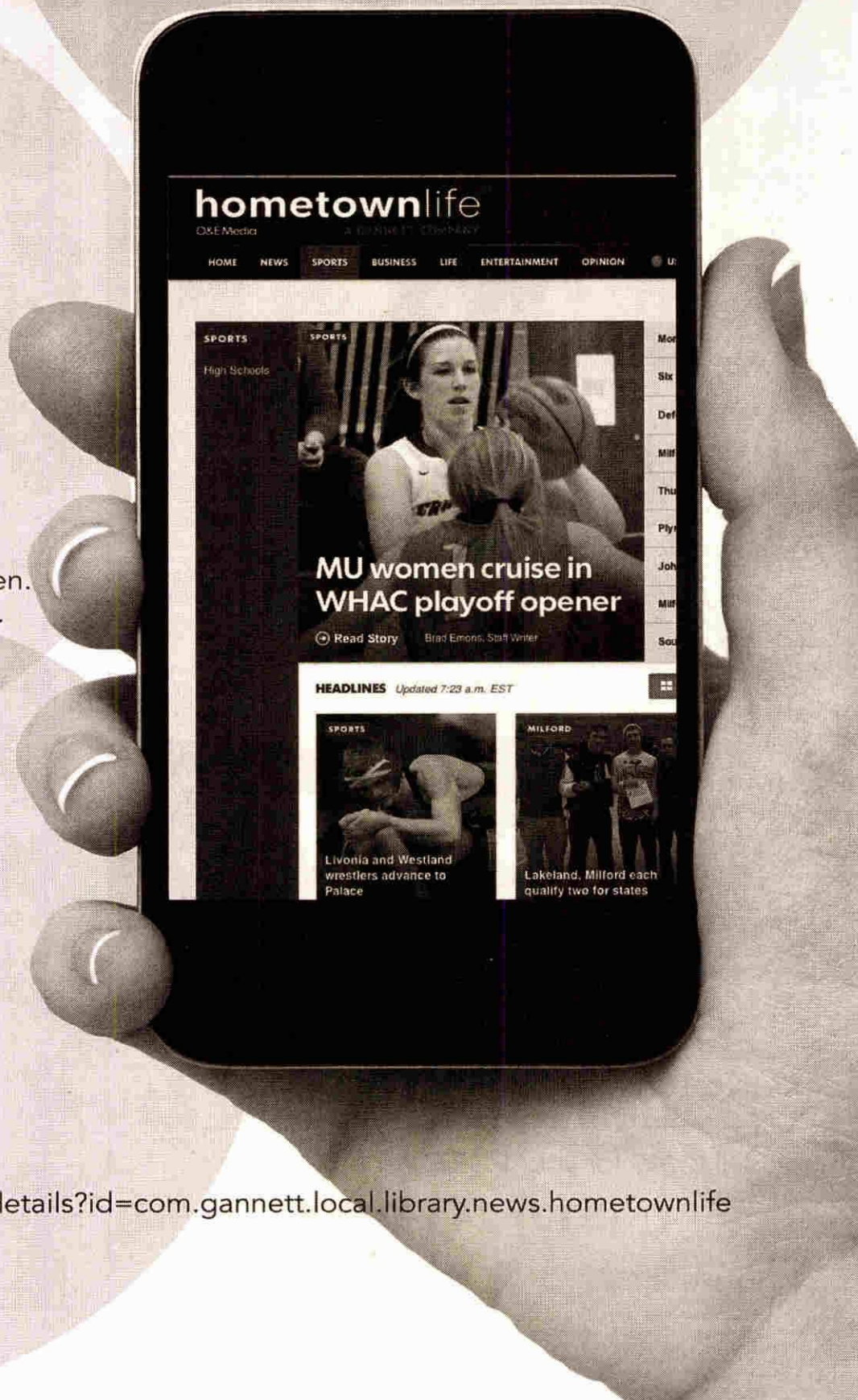
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Novi High students destroy cars to address mental health stressors

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi teenagers have a lot on their minds.

On Friday morning, a jumble of troubles were written in black marker on four white junker vehicles in the parking lot of Novi High School, revealing dozens of stressors.

Many lamented AP classes, school start times, sports drills, homework and cafeteria food — “those dry chicken sandwiches.”

Others went far beyond school-related problems, including “my parent’s cancer,” “having a better father,” racism, sexual assault, self-hatred and loneliness.

“Is it that hard to just be nice?” asked another.

Students gathered in the parking lot and watched as GLR Advanced Recycling workers using heavy equipment moved the car to a compactor and crushed it.

The event, “Crushing the Stigma” capped off a week of activities promoting mental health awareness.

Junior Alex Daniel wrote multiple messages on the cars, including “AP tests,” “college applications,” and “Michigan weather.”

While he said he hadn’t been through “anything too bad,” Daniel believes opening the conversation around mental health is important, particularly with the competitive culture at Novi High School.

“You may feel like there are things you can’t talk about or have to keep hidden,” he said. “But people are willing to talk to you and you can come forward and get the help you need.”

“There is no need to hide and be afraid of dealing with your problems alone.”



Molly Hearsch and Lisa Hoy, Novi High School seniors, read messages on a vehicle that was crushed during a mental health awareness event at the school April 29. PHOTOS BY SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Neha Chinimilli, a senior on the Novi Student Mental Health Committee said Friday’s visual representation of many students’ stressors getting crushed was a sign of solidarity.

“I personally struggle with depression and anxiety, and I have gotten support outside school with that. But not everybody does,” she noted. “This shows that there is a lot of support in our school.”

“Mental health shouldn’t be stigmatized or something you’re afraid to talk about. It’s ok to ask for help.”

This is the fifth year Novi has participated in the “You Matter” campaign, said Principal Nicole Carter, after a survey of students and parents overwhelmingly showed that mental health was the #1 concern in the school community.

Counselor Sarah Lephart said the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated anxiety in students, but she has also observed an increase in stress resulting from social media, particularly as teenagers struggle with expectations and compar-



The finished product during Novi High School’s Crush the Stigma event.



Students wrote about their struggles on vehicles that were later crushed.



Some comic relief adorned the cars amid heavier messages.

isons to peers.

“I tell kids high school is a great time to learn who you are, explore different areas of interest, celebrate your successes and don’t compare yourself to others,” she said. “We all have things we’re good at, and high school is a great time to learn where your strengths are.”

Parents can help their children by en-

couraging them to try new things while assuring them that it’s ok to fail, and, she adds, by simply listening.

Chinimilli agrees.

“It’s important to not suffer in silence.”

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



White Castle at 24000 Schoolcraft in Redford recently underwent renovations to modernize its exterior and interior. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Grab a slider at Redford’s newly-renovated White Castle

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

White Castle is back.

The slider fast-food restaurant at 24000 Schoolcraft in Redford Township reopened after three months of renovation work.

The entire dining room has been redone, complete with new floors, ceiling and tables.

During the project, the drive-thru was closed for a month, the dining room for a month, and the entire restaurant for a month for work. It reopened May 3.

“... We think we’re going to be waiting on more people, so we want customers in and out as fast possible,” said Cheryl Collier, a district manager with White Castle who oversees several restaurants in metro Detroit.

Hungry guests have been waiting for the reopening for weeks, Collier said. Many drivers would find their way into the parking lot expecting to order some chicken rings, only to find it empty.

“They go around the cones, thinking that we’re open, they’ll sit in the drive-thru and we have to say, ‘We’re not open yet,’” she said.

Other area White Castle restaurants are due for some upgrades next year, including the one at Eight Mile and Grand River in Farmington Hills and the one at Nine Mile and Telegraph in Southfield, Collier said.

Redford Township Supervisor Pat McRae attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and said he appreciated the company’s investment.

“It’s great to have a business like White Castle that we’ve known since we were kids that is here in Redford Township and it’s successful all around the state,” he said. “To have this building, which is beautiful, clean and finished and continue to serve everybody in Redford Township and everybody going on the freeway back here.”

The renovation also came with a sizable donation: the restaurant presented Maggie Varney with a check for more than \$20,000 to benefit Maggie’s Wigs 4 Kids, a Roseville-based organization that provides wigs for children in need of them.

Varney said the relationship has been ongoing for about 15 years, after she first reached out to the company.

“They have sponsored hundreds and hundreds of our children by providing wigs,” she said. “In the middle of this pandemic, the fact that they were able to raise that kind of money is unbelievable.”

“That shows their commitment to Wigs 4 Kids.”

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

Obituaries

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Joyce Lydia Kasper

LIVONIA - Joyce Lydia Kasper, age 88, of Livonia, Michigan passed away on Friday, May 6, 2022.

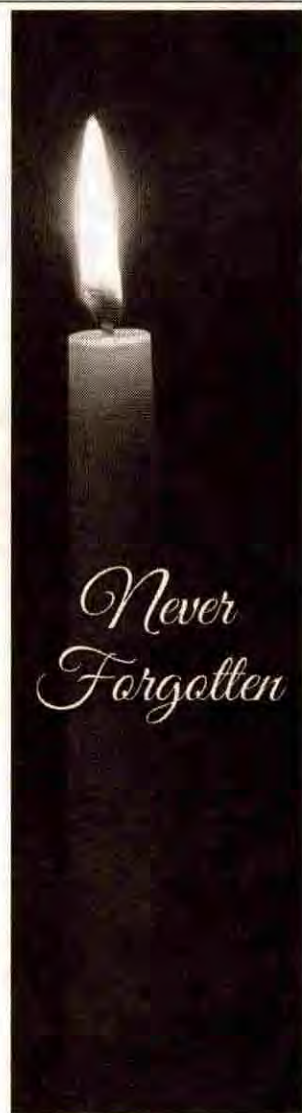
Beloved wife of the late Frank for 62 wonderful years. Loving mother of Brian (Barbara) Kasper, Phil (Kelly) Kasper and Kevin Kasper. Proud grandma to Ben Kasper, Katie (Corey) Redman, Emily Kasper and great grandma of Nathan. Dear sister of the late Roy (Lori) Kubicki, Carol (late John) Wiggers and Arlene (Bob) Hayden. Adoring aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Joyce was a lifelong educator in Dearborn Public Schools. She attended Madonna University and received her Master’s degree from Eastern Michigan University. Joyce enjoyed her retirement as she visited Arizona during the winter months. She loved spending time at the family property, reading, playing cards, and watching the Tigers. Joyce was highly independent and will be remembered locally as the “Scrubbie Lady” at the Livonia Senior Center where she would sell her crocheted scrubbies.

A Memorial Gathering for Joyce will be held Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 10am with a Celebration of Life beginning at 1pm at Harry J Will Funeral Home, Livonia. A Luncheon will follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Angela Hospice or the Spina Bifida Association

Harry J Will Funeral Homes



Westland man faces charges of homicide, torture in wife's death

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Westland man faces homicide and torture charges after allegedly stabbing his wife with a pair of scissors.

William Scott Grant, 49, was arraigned May 6 on allegations that he killed his wife, Sarah, 45.

He faces two homicide counts, including one in the first degree, and one felony count of torture with the intent to cause cruel or extreme pain. If found guilty, he faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Police said they were called to the 32600 block of Judy Drive the night of May 3 because of a possible homicide.

They found Sarah Grant dead in the garage with multiple lacerations across her body.

Wayne County prosecutors said the husband was gone when police arrived. Investigating police arrested him soon after.

Sarah Grant was a medical receptionist who worked in Livonia, according to an internet search.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com.

Canton to offer free training on handling workplace violence

Courtesy of Canton Township

On May 17, the Canton Public Safety Department and Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) are hosting two free training sessions open to the public at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The first session, held 9 a.m. to noon, is "Active Shooter Survival: What is your Plan?"

This training will help individuals develop strategies to prepare for, react to, and try to survive active shooter and workplace violence incidents.

The second session, held 1-4 p.m., is "Implementing Your Threat Assessment/Workplace Violence Prevention Program."

This training is aimed at employers seeking to implement strategies to assess potentially aggressive people and mitigate harm and prevent workplace violence.

To register for these free training sessions, visit www.cantonpublicsafety.org. For additional information, email Canton Emergency Manager William Hayes at william.hayes@canton-mi.org.

At graduation time, gifts of continuing education are best



Money Matters
Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

High school graduation season is here. Some graduates will continue their formal education by enrolling in college, while others will enter the workforce. I congratulate all the graduates and their families for a job well done. The last few years have been difficult.

Whether a graduate is going to college or not, it is important that the high school graduate dedicate themselves to continuing their education. Graduates must realize that we live in a world that is ever-changing, and it is important to constantly re-educate yourself and update your skills. We no longer compete for jobs with just our neighboring states. We compete with talent across the globe.

Education doesn't initially have to be at a university; it could be a community college or even a trade school. If you do not want to be locked into a low-paying job for the rest of your career, you must invest in yourself and pursue some sort of continuing education.

We all know that education is expensive. If you are considering a gift for a high school graduate, I suggest donat-



By considering the gift of an education, not only are you helping the high school graduate with their future education needs, but you're also making a statement that it is important that they continue to educate themselves. GETTY IMAGES

ing money into a 529 plan such as the Michigan Education Savings Plan (www.misaves.com). Most people think that 529 must be used for college, but that is not the case. The money can be used for most forms of continuing education.

By considering the gift of an education, not only are you helping the high school graduate with their future needs,

you're also making a statement that it is important that they continue to educate themselves.

I always encourage parents of high school graduates to establish a 529 plan for them and let family and friends know about it so they can contribute to it if they choose. I believe the gift of an education goes a lot farther than giving the graduate a gift card or cash that will

be quickly forgotten.

I recognize that a high school graduate will not be thrilled to receive a contribution to a 529 plan. However, whether the graduate is thrilled should not be the criteria. Use your gift to make a statement, and I believe a gift of an education makes the statement that you believe education is important to their future, which it is.

There are many 529 plans to consider. I strongly recommend the Michigan Education Savings Plan because of its flexibility, performance and low cost. In order to have the lowest cost possible, make sure you purchase directly through the Michigan Education Savings Plan, as opposed to going through a financial salesperson, where you will pay higher fees.

Congratulations again to all high school seniors and their families. I wish you the best of luck for your future and I encourage you to learn about personal financial planning. Regardless of how much money you make, if you don't know how to take care of it, you're going to have problems. Dedicate yourself to obtaining the skills needed so you can be a good steward of your money.

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

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Wayne County COVID-19 cases and deaths tracker

Mike Stucka
USA TODAY NETWORK

New coronavirus cases leaped in Michigan in the week ending Sunday, rising 30.8% as 18,945 cases were reported. The previous week had 14,482 new cases of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Michigan ranked 17th among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the latest week coronavirus cases in the United States increased 33.2% from the week before, with 501,037 cases reported. With 3% of the country's population, Michigan had 3.78% of the country's cases in the last week. Across the country, 43 states had more cases in the latest week than they did in the week before.

Wayne County reported 4,124 cases and 13 deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 3,399 cases and 18 deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 410,889 cases and 7,953 deaths.

Oakland County reported 3,341 cases and eight deaths in the latest week. A week earlier, it had reported 2,771 cases and eight deaths. Throughout the pandemic it has reported 296,058 cases and 3,845 deaths.

Within Michigan, the worst weekly outbreaks on a per-person basis were in Washtenaw County with 398 cases per 100,000 per week; Oakland County with 266; and Keweenaw County with 236. The Centers for Disease Control says high levels of community transmission begin at 100 cases per 100,000 per week.

Adding the most new cases overall were Wayne County, with 4,124 cases; Oakland County, with 3,341 cases; and Macomb County, with 2,017. Weekly case counts rose in 75 counties from the previous week. The worst increases from the prior week's pace were in Wayne, Oakland and Kent counties.

Michigan ranked 35th among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 67% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 77.7%, a USA TODAY analysis of CDC data shows. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which are the most used in the



Kites soar at the Rockport Kite Festival on April 30. The festival returned after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

ASHLEE BURNS/USA TODAY NETWORK

United States, require two doses administered a few weeks apart.

In the week ending Wednesday, Michigan reported administering another 89,246 vaccine doses, including 9,262 first doses. In the previous week, the state administered 77,455 vaccine doses, including 6,524 first doses. In all, Michigan reported it has administered 15,906,503 total doses.

Across Michigan, cases fell in seven counties, with the best declines in Luce County, with 6 cases from 12 a week earlier; in Dickinson County, with 35 cases from 40; and in Mecosta County, with 31 cases from 35.

In Michigan, 62 people were reported dead of COVID-19 in the week ending Sunday. In the week before that, 67 people were reported dead.

A total of 2,444,891 people in Michigan have tested positive for the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and

36,064 people have died from the disease, Johns Hopkins University data shows. In the United States 81,863,725 people have tested positive and 997,526 people have died.

Note: In the Johns Hopkins University coronavirus data, cases and deaths for the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Federal Correctional Institution separately from Michigan counties.

Michigan's COVID-19 hospital admissions rising

USA TODAY analyzed federal hospital data as of Sunday, May 8.

Likely COVID patients admitted in the state:

- Last week: 1,133
- The week before that: 915
- Four weeks ago: 605

Likely COVID patients admitted in

the nation:

- Last week: 45,875
- The week before that: 42,092
- Four weeks ago: 37,354

Hospitals in 36 states reported more COVID-19 patients than a week earlier, while hospitals in 32 states had more COVID-19 patients in intensive-care beds. Hospitals in 35 states admitted more COVID-19 patients in the latest week than a week prior, the USA TODAY analysis of U.S. Health and Human Services data shows.

The USA TODAY Network is publishing localized versions of this story on its news sites across the country, generated with data from Johns Hopkins University and the Centers for Disease Control. If you have questions about the data or the story, contact Mike Stucka at mstucka@gannett.com.

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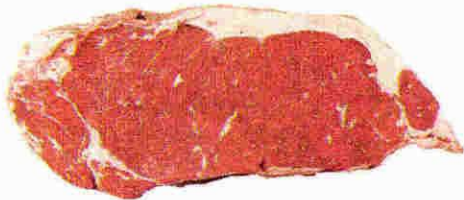
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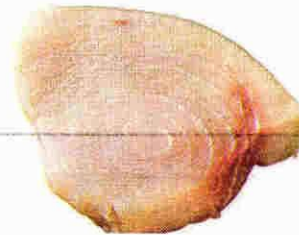
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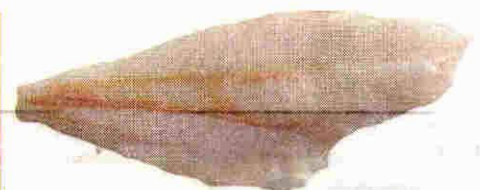
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WILD CAUGHT
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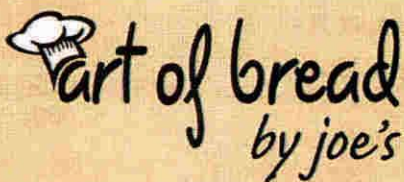
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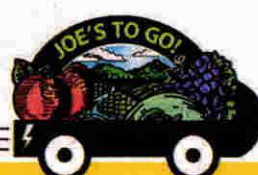
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SPORTS

John Glenn hires next program builder

White Lake Whiteford's Jason Mensing to be football coach

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It's been almost 10 years since Westland John Glenn has had a winning football season.

And it's been a lot — A LOT — longer since the Rockets have been a winning program.

You know what type of program that is. One graduating class goes off to college, another freshmen class enters the fray. The wins continue. The excellence remains. League titles are won. Playoff runs are made.

Great programs are like a well-oiled machine. Like your trusty lawnmower. Every year you break it out of the barn,

give it a tune-up and then proceed to have a seamless mowing season with little hiccups.

That used to be John Glenn.

But the Rockets had just two seasons like that after legendary coach Chuck Gordon retired in 2003.

See COACH, Page 2B



John Glenn recently hired White Lake Whiteford's Jason Mensing to become its next football coach. COURTESY

GIRLS SOCCER



Northville's Addie Saline (left) battles White Lake Lakeland's Amy Palaian for possession during a game May 7. BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

No. 3 Northville finds winning recipe

Brandon Folsom Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Let's make it make sense, shall we? The Northville girls soccer team did not return any all-state players this spring.

What's more, the Mustangs brought in a new coach, one who has jumbled up the roster by having players switch positions, even benching some returning starters for backups.

And also sprinkle in the fact they play in one of the toughest leagues in the state, the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, which currently has four teams ranked in Division 1, including defending state champion Hartland.

That sounds like the recipe for a bona fide rebuild project, for sure, right? Well, actually, Northville is far, far from that.

Right now, it's, one, undefeated, two, on a collision course with Salem and

Hartland to see who is going to win the KLA West and, three, ranked third in the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association's most recent poll.

Exactly which recipe book is the Mustangs following right now? Because this isn't your typical cookie-cutter rebuild.

"Is there a recipe?!" first-year coach Jeannine Reddy asked with a smile. "I don't know?!"

Yes, that's right. The Mustangs' new

coach is that Reddy. You know the one who has spent the past 18 years roaming the sidelines at Canton, from the club and travel ranks up to the varsity level.

The same Reddy who took the Chiefs to the 2016 state championship.

If you've got to replace a caliber of a coach like Eric Brucker, who led the Mustangs to a 2014 state title, you might want to go out and get one like her.

See NORTHVILLE, Page 2B



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Northville

Continued from Page 1B

She's been to the big game before, too.

"They've welcomed me here, and they've been great," Reddy said following Saturday's 4-0 victory over White Lake Lakeland. "I was just worried about coming in and being new and wondering how they'd adjust to having things done a little differently than what they were used to last year.

"I've got people in new positions. Some girls who didn't play high school (because they were on spring club teams) have come back to play their senior year, which was nice. And they all have the same goal, and that's to play on June 18. That's kind of my goal every year."

Worry no more, coach.

Northville (10-0-3) is winning the games it's supposed to and, unpredictable spring weather be damned, salvaging ties as it needs to as well.

So how are the Mustangs doing it?

It's not the formations, nor is it how the team has structured its lineup.

It's all about the chemistry.

Reddy has come in and made each girl, from the top goal scorer to the last player off the bench, felt like they belong on the varsity, which is saying something because she has a staggering 24 players on the roster.

"Honestly, I think it's that she's just given everybody a chance," said junior Reese Cassie, a second-year player who booted in a pair of goals vs. Lakeland. "I feel like it's giving people who usually sit on the bench in most games a chance to make an impact on the field. I feel like she's had an influence on the team in the sense of including everyone.

"Everybody this year has just been so close and so encouraging. If you're on the bench, you're cheering your heart out for everyone on the field. And I think that's been, honestly, the biggest impact on our success this year. We all just encourage each other to push the farthest we can go and be the best we can be."

Northville has 11 seniors, including Emily Takahashi and Lauren Moraitis, a pair of career club players who wanted to finish their final spring of high school as Mustangs.

Three of the seven juniors already have varsity experience, which includes Cassie, Ana Murillo and Grace Koski, who scored a goal off a corner kick on Saturday.

Caroline Meloche, who pushed in the game's final goal, is a sophomore who is also a returner.

That's a lot of experience the squad's brought back.

"I think all 24 girls on the team serve a really good purpose and balance each other out," Reddy said. "I have a good starting group. I have 11 seniors who are seasoned players. Coming in new, it was very difficult for me to figure out the re-



Northville's Emily Takahashi makes a play against White Lake Lakeland's Winter Runyan during a game May 7.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON FOLSOM/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Northville's Emily Takahashi (right) moves the ball past White Lake Lakeland's Zeena Ahmed.

turning players from last year. I wanted to come in with a clean slate.

"I came in trying to figure out what I was looking for so it could benefit them the best. Obviously, coming in new like that, we were probably going to do something that wasn't going on last

year. Someone who maybe started last year is not starting this year. To them, that's upsetting, but I had to look at it with a clean slate. I had to come in and tell them that this is what I see and this is what best helps this team to get us where we want to be, and that's obviously states."

Northville doesn't have an easy road ahead. There's a chance it could suffer its first loss. Especially with half of its division also in its district to begin the Michigan High School Athletic Association tournament.

But it has Hartland, which currently has two losses in the division, coming up, and it's never easy to face the defending state champions, regardless of which players the Eagles graduated from a year ago.

And, most importantly, many fans are looking forward to the Mustangs' rematch with Salem on May 19.

Northville currently sits at 8-0-2 in the West, while the Rocks are 7-0-3. The two played to a 1-1 tie on April 25.

A winner should determine the divi-

sion champion.

And let's not forget that Salem is one of Reddy's park rivals from her Canton days.

"It's a struggle for me, going back there and playing against Canton, Salem and Plymouth," Reddy said. "That's the rivalry I just came from, and it's almost a rivalry again for me.

"Coming out of that last Salem game, they felt like they left the game knowing they wanted to win it. And they have every opportunity to do so this time. It's a big, big game for us."

When asked what Reddy did with all of her old Canton gear, she said it's "all in garbage bags."

That was an obvious joke because her husband, Jimmy, is still the boys basketball coach at Canton. She'll always be a supporter of her old school, aside from cheering on her husband's team.

She might have had to put away her Chiefs' gameday attire, but Northville is happy she kept out her recipe book because, for right now, the Mustangs are cooking.

Coach

Continued from Page 1B

Since then, they've made the playoffs only three times — four, if you count the COVID-19-shortened season where the Michigan High School Athletic Association allowed every team in the state to play a postseason game.

No coach has been able to establish a similar foundation there since Gordon, the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Famer who won 211 games with the Rockets from 1977 to 2003, good enough to put him on the MHSAA's all-time coaching wins leaderboard, left the Westland area and returned home to Central Lake.

That ugly storm cloud hanging over the program should dissipate this coming fall, however.

Last week, Wayne-Westland Community Schools announced it has hired Jason Mensing as John Glenn's newest coach, as he replaces Calvin Griggs, who had a 4-12 record after two seasons leading the team.

Yeah, the Rockets have probably made the biggest hire of the football off-season.

If you're a true high school football fan, you know just who Mensing is.

If you're just a local Rockets fan, listen up because you're going to want to get to know this guy.

Mensing comes to John Glenn after building Ottawa Lake Whiteford into an absolute powerhouse over the past 10 years.

The Bobcats went 93-24 with no losing seasons under his leadership. He took them to back-to-back Division 8 state championships in 2016 and 2017, which included them beating Saginaw Nouvel 42-21 to win the school's first state championship in football ever in



Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Famer and former John Glenn coach Chuck Gordon addresses the audience during the 68th annual Petoskey High School Varsity Awards Banquet. FILE

2017. The Bobcats also won five district titles, four league championships and made four final-four appearances with him on the sidelines.

Now he steps down from his roles as athletic director, football coach and director of student advancement at Whiteford Agricultural Schools to take over the Rockets, who are in dire need of structure and stability.

John Glenn needed someone who could rebuild its football program. Now it has a proven program builder.

"I'm a spiritual man, so when I'm called to do something that I feel like I can help with and make an impact, I have to pursue it," Mensing, 44, told Hometown Life. "I believe that John Glenn football is going to be very successful. There is some history here from years ago. After studying the film, I feel like this is a place where, if we can get the right coaching staff in place and can commit to the cause, we're going to have an opportunity to build something great

here."

And the naysayers might say, "Yeah, but he's only coached at the D-8 level. That's not really big-boy football."

Actually, prior to Whiteford, Mensing spent three years at Owosso, back when it was a D-2 school, and another four seasons at Tecumseh, aside from stops at both Addison and Grayling.

Mensing knows how to coach big-boy football. He's game-planned against the top recruits in the state. He's won games against state powerhouses.

"We played in the Big 9 back when I was at Owosso, and back then, we played against the top Flint area schools, and it was very competitive," Mensing said. "It was also a lot of fun. I've had experience in that type of environment before, but there is a lot of difference. Ultimately, the things that really lead to a successful program are people sharing a common vision, regardless of size and situation. If you can get a collective pool of people together who care about each other and have a common vision, you can be successful."

Still, it's going to be an uphill battle for Mensing to quickly turn around John Glenn.

College football recruiting factories Belleville and Dearborn Fordson are still in its division of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

Livonia Franklin just went to the D-2 state semifinal.

Livonia Churchill is bringing back several studs from its near-KLAA championship team.

Ar'Jon Thompson is still one of the best players in the state and should lead Livonia Stevenson to wins this fall.

If Mensing can start with beating rival Wayne Memorial on regular basis, as it has for the past 15 seasons, that's a solid start for the program. But it needs to be beating the likes of Dearborn or a few of the Livonia schools before it re-

turns the program to the caliber it once was under Gordon.

"No. 1, everything we do has got to be about growth," Mensing said. "Where we're at today, we've got to try to grow a bit by tomorrow. We need to focus on the results as much as we can. We've got to be hyper-focused and have a collective growth on our team. Culturally, we'll do things significantly different than they have been doing in the past here as far as the day-to-day operations.

"We have to develop relationships so there's trust in those things we're doing as a program. Over the next month, I want to generate as much interest in the school as I can and find young people who want to participate in the program. We'll start with installation in the summer. At the end of the summer, we'll see where we're at. ... I've got into situations where I thought it was a five-year rebuilding process, and, suddenly, it was a one-year process. It's hard to predict where we'll be at. But what I'm going to sell is that we're building trust in one another and a common vision."

Mensing enters his new gig at John Glenn with a 171-73 career record.

He's anywhere from four to eight seasons away from surpassing Gordon on the wins leaderboard, should things go well while leading the Rockets.

That's actually great news to Gordon, who wrote to Hometown Life about his excitement for John Glenn's new coaching hire.

"He's fired up, and I think he's a great hire," Gordon wrote in an email. "Yes, he's got a battle on his hands. But he's ready."

The best way to return the program to Gordon's level of success? Hire a guy Gordon approves of.

Brandon Folsom covers high school sports in metro Detroit for Hometown Life. Follow him on Twitter @folsom-brandonj.

Making a splash

Kensington Metropark hosting HS rowing teams

Sophia Lada Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

For Kit Bennett, joining the rowing team at his middle school in southwest London, England, led to a lifelong passion that is now paying off with opportunities for rowing teams in Michigan, and across the Midwest.

The Kathryn Bennett Race Course at Maple Beach in Milford's Kensington Metropark hosted its first race April 23. The course is named for Kit Bennett's wife because, he said, she has been supportive of his commitment to coaching rowing.

"Outside of getting married and having children, this is probably my most proud moment," Kit Bennett, 37, said.

That sense of accomplishment extends to the student rowers who took part in the race. Matthew Sept, a senior at Skyline High School in Ann Arbor, said the April 23 regatta was, "a lot of fun."

The region needed a race course

When Bennett moved to the United States in 2006, he already had several years of coaching experience. However, while he was working at Skyline High School in Ann Arbor, he realized most races were taking place out of state, often in Ohio.

Five years ago, Bennett came up with the idea of setting up a rowing course at Kensington Metropark.

"The region needs a race course," Bennett said at the time.

He spent several years raising money and coordinating with Kensington Metropark to make the course a reality.

Now, the course is in the process of hosting regattas on five weekends this spring:

- April 23, Mitten Series 1
- April 30, Mitten Series 2
- May 7, Mitten Series 3

- May 13-15, Midwest Scholastic Championships
- May 20-21, State Championships

The April 23 regatta featured teams from 16 high schools in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania. Each regatta starts about 8 a.m. and concludes about 2 p.m.

The regatta winners get a gold, silver or bronze medals for each member of the boat. The top three teams in each event at the Midwest Scholastic Championships will qualify for nationals.

When it comes to high school rowing, there are no particular characteristics a person needs to join a team, they just have to be, "willing to work hard and push yourself," Bennett said.

Once rowers get to the collegiate level, though, it's typically important to have long, strong legs, Bennett pointed out.

See ROWING, Page 5B



The Kathryn Bennett Race Course at Maple Beach in Milford's Kensington Metropark hosted its first race April 23. During each race, eight teams row at a time. PHOTOS BY SOPHIA LADA/LIVINGSTON DAILY



Several trucks with large trailers attached hold the racing boats until they're ready to be carried by the team to the water.

Michigan's key needs in football recruiting

Michael Cohen Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Beginning April 15, members of the Michigan coaching staff spread from Ann Arbor to high schools across the country for the spring evaluation period on this year's recruiting calendar. It's a six-week sprint during which Jim Harbaugh and his assistants lay the groundwork for a series of official visits in June that will go a long way toward shaping their future classes.

The program's on-field success last fall created an aptly timed wave of momentum that coincided with the early signing period in December. The Wolverines snagged last-minute commitments from a trio of four-star prospects — edge rusher Derrick Moore, safety Keon Sabb and wide receiver Darrius Clemons — all of whom finished among U-M's five highest-rated signees.

The 22-member class was especially heavy on receiving options (three wide-outs, two tight ends) and in the secondary (three cornerbacks, three safeties) as Michigan's retooled coaching staff addressed areas of the program well-suited for injections of talent.

With a 12th-ranked recruiting haul in their pocket, Harbaugh and his assistants are back on the road searching for players. Here's a look at several position groups worthy of reinforcement in the 2023 class (18th nationally) and beyond:

Running back

Potential losses: Blake Corum (junior); Leon Franklin (senior)

Michigan is in an interesting spot following the departure of Hassan Haskins, who ran for 1,327 yards, 20 touchdowns and more first downs (103) than any tailback in the country. The remaining one-two punch of Corum and Donovan Edwards is among the most talented duos anywhere in college football but still lacks the sheer force offered by Haskins. Harbaugh's decision to try linebacker Kalel Mullings at running back this spring reflects the ongoing search for a power runner who would complete the trio. Given the relatively short shelf life of tailbacks in the NFL, there's a chance Corum could leave U-M early if he puts together another season like his



Defensive end Taylor Upshaw during the Michigan spring game April 2. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

952-yard, 11-touchdown campaign in 2021 — and doing so would leave the Wolverines very thin at the position. Michigan signed three-star tailback CJ Stokes as part of its 2022 class and has a pair of verbal commitments from running backs Benjamin Hall (three stars) and Cole Kabana (four stars) in 2023, but the latter is considered more of a rusher/receiver hybrid. With a program legend in Mike Hart leading the room and an offensive line coach serving as co-offensive coordinator in Sherrone Moore, the Wolverines should be courting some of the best backs in the country.

Offensive line

Potential losses: Karsen Barnhart (senior); Trente Jones (senior); Olu Oluwatimi (graduate); Zak Zinter (junior);

Ryan Hayes (graduate); Trevor Keegan (senior)

A group that won the Joe Moore Award for the best offensive line in the country said goodbye to sixth-year center Andrew Vastardis and right tackle Andrew Stueber while retaining the other three starters. Vastardis was quickly replaced through the transfer portal when the Wolverines signed Oluwatimi from Virginia, while Jones emerged as the heir apparent at right tackle. But next year's turnover figures to be more widespread. Four of Michigan's five starters will be seniors or graduate students and the only younger lineman — Zinter — is believed by his coaches to be an NFL-caliber player, meaning there's a chance he could leave early after a standout season. The 2022 recruiting class included three mountainous offensive tackles in Andrew

Gentry (6-foot-8, 310 pounds); Alessandro Lorenzetti (6-6, 285 pounds) and Connor Jones (6-7, 285 pounds) who will need time to adjust to Division I pass rushers. That is especially true for Gentry, who was a top-100 player in 2020 before embarking on a two-year religious mission. The Wolverines are involved with several highly rated offensive line prospects for 2023 including five-star tackle Kady Proctor (6-7, 330 pounds), five-star tackle Samson Okunlola (6-6, 295 pounds) and four-star tackle Cayden Green (6-5, 310 pounds).

Inside linebacker

Potential losses: Michael Barrett (graduate)

This is less about who Michigan might lose than it is the need for better talent at the position. A year ago, Barrett was unseated by sophomore Nikhai Hill-Green during camp for a starting role alongside veteran Josh Ross. Then Hill-Green was unseated by true freshman Junior Colson partway through the year due to problems in coverage, an issue shared by Ross and exploited by Rutgers, Nebraska and Georgia. After earning freshman All-America honors last season, Colson is expected to be one of the standout performers for new defensive coordinator Jesse Minter. But what type of support he'll have from his fellow inside linebackers is unknown. The 2022 class included four-star prospect Jimmy Rolder, three-star prospect Micah Pollard and three-star prospect Deuce Spurlock, but none of those players enrolled early to participate in spring practices and will get their first taste of college football in August. One of the more important recruiting battles to watch involves 2023 four-star linebacker Raylen Wilson, who gave a verbal commitment to U-M in December but is still heavily pursued by some of the best programs in the country. Reports from recruiting websites indicate Florida and Georgia are nudging Wilson, a top-100 player nationally on 247Sports and the No. 5 overall linebacker. Keeping Wilson in the class should be one of Minter's highest priorities.

See RECRUITING, Page 5B

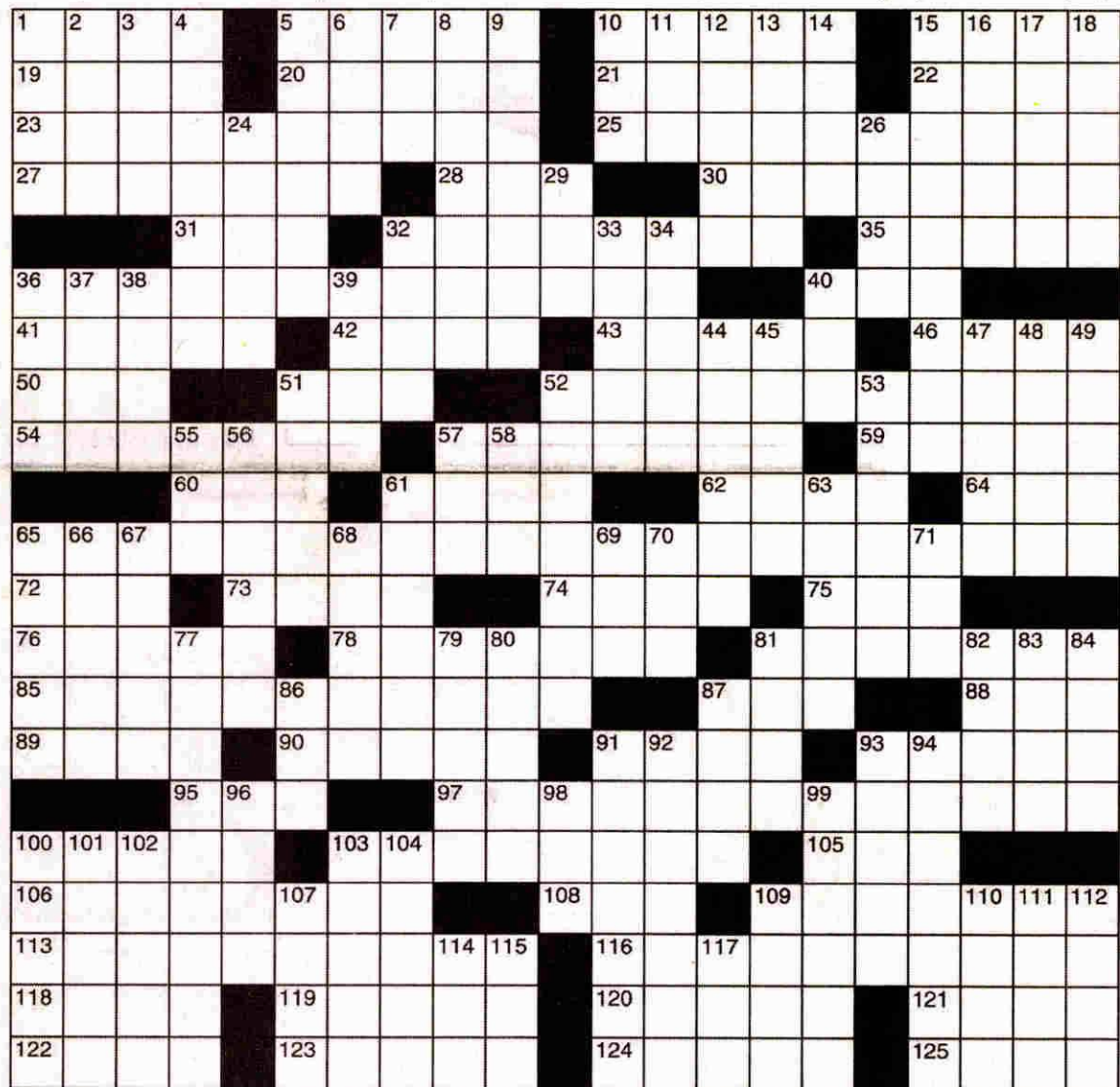
THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

PUTTING ON A GOOD FACE

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 51 "Viva — Vegas" | 95 Mem. of the family | DOWN | 38 Dryer fluff | 82 —-chic |
| 1 Very little bit | 52 Base coat on a wall, maybe | 97 Annotation in the text of Christian scripture | 1 Not definite | 39 Actor McGregor | 83 Pivot point |
| 5 Large Indian city | 54 Is a little too fond of | 100 Server overseer, informally | 2 "Rolie Polie —" (kids' book) | 40 Fuel additive brand | 84 Fishing sticks |
| 10 Discover by chance | 57 Rest on top of | 103 Convention speeches | 3 Sour | 44 Strong ill will | 86 Devils' org. |
| 15 Elegant | 59 Writer Nin | 105 "... flaw — feature?" | 4 Refrain from drinking | 45 Dutch artist Jan | 87 Dirt Devils, e.g., in brief |
| 19 Liposuction target | 60 Prefix with conscious | 106 Mixed with cognac, e.g. | 5 Patted lightly | 47 Certain Arab | 91 Nissan car models |
| 20 Take out — (borrow cash) | 61 Dock | 108 Flip (out) | 6 Fanning of "Teen Spirit" | 48 State Farm alternative | 92 Reason for extra innings |
| 21 Journalist — Rogers St. Johns | 62 Honey liquor | 109 Clip out | 7 Baseball's Gehrig | 49 Fiery crime | 93 Get — on reality |
| 22 Actor Cronyn | 64 Cpl., e.g. | 113 Something cast at sunset | 8 Welds influence | 51 Spa sponge | 94 Ceiling coat |
| 23 Initial impression | 65 Big grant-giving group | 116 What you have passed when you figure out this puzzle's theme? | 9 Occupy | 52 Actress Valerie of "Lenny" | 96 Terminates |
| 25 Printer cartridge contents | 72 Totally | 118 Hydroxyl compound | 10 TV's Linden | 53 Storm-finding systems | 98 Arrow shooter |
| 27 Still in the future | 73 Granny | 119 Cooling, as champagne | 11 Lupino or Tarbell | 55 Cartoon cry | 99 Short-horned grasshopper |
| 28 Harsh review | 74 Dog food brand | 120 French gal pals | 12 Actress Thompson of "Creed" | 56 Act starter | 100 Differently — (other-skilled) |
| 30 Admit defeat | 75 Places with lots of IVs | 121 To be, to Livy | 13 Brand of fake 69-Down | 57 Qatar export | 101 Pilotless craft |
| 31 Wonder | 76 Mental picture | 122 Really resist | 14 — a one (zero) | 58 Letter #22 | 102 Lead-in to "the cloth" or "the hour" |
| 32 Like bedroom communities | 78 Dictators | 123 Former quarterback Rodney | 15 Go through the motions | 61 Take selfish advantage of | 103 Cartoonist Bill |
| 35 Partners of 84-Down | 81 Row of PC-screen buttons | 124 French governing body | 16 1/16 pound | 63 "It's —!" ("You're on!") | 104 Comic and actor Murphy |
| 36 Metal sleeve in an engine's piston | 85 Cabaret where the cancan originated | 125 Letters after pis | 17 Aroma | 65 "Darkman" director Sam | 107 Breakfast chain, in brief |
| 40 Slide down a slope | 87 Kilmer of "Tombstone" | | 18 — "Johnny!" | 66 Actor Edward James — | 109 "I — bad moon rising" |
| 41 Cuts of pork | 88 Kitchen utensil brand | | 24 Small cities | 67 Santa — | 110 Meeting period, slangily |
| 42 Disney who drew | 89 "Little" actress Rae | | 26 Ankara native | 68 — nous | 111 — buco (veal dish) |
| 43 Toot one's own horn | 90 Decorative tattoo dye | | 29 Convent sister | 69 Liposuction target | 112 Map nos. |
| 46 Gaius' garb | 91 Very little | | 32 Span. women | 70 Mantra words | 114 Tenth mo. |
| 50 Rand of objectivism | 93 Garden pest | | 33 Steel support for concrete | 71 "For shame!" | 115 Very little |
| | | | 34 Grill | 77 In a harshly bright way | 117 Cousins, e.g. |
| | | | 36 Dressed (in) | 79 Pass quickly on foot | |
| | | | 37 "Around-the-world" toy | 80 "To repeat ..." | |
| | | | | 81 Unveiling cry | |

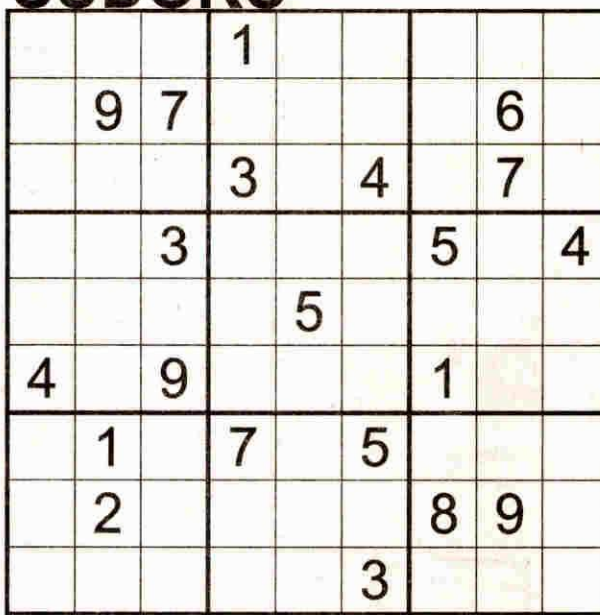


#2,090

Average time of solution: 67 minutes

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

SUDOKU



Here's How It Works:

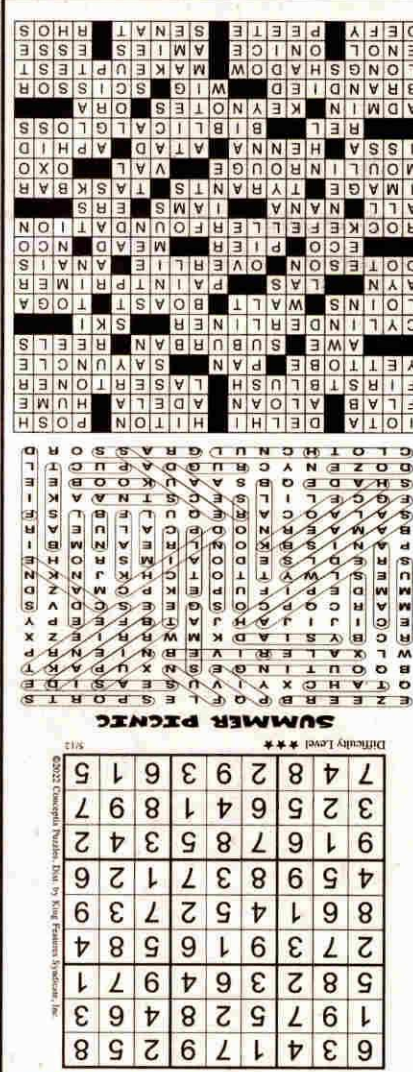
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SUMMER PICNIC

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



- ANTS
- APPLE
- BASKET
- BEACH
- BIRDS
- BLANKET
- BOOK
- BREAD
- BREEZE
- BUN
- CAKE
- CAMERA
- CHAT
- CHILD
- CLOTH
- CRICKET
- CUP
- DAISY
- DOZE
- FAMILY
- FIELD
- FLASK
- FORK
- FRIENDS
- FUN
- GAMES
- GLASS
- GRASS
- KNIFE
- LEMONADE
- LUNCH
- MEAL
- OUTDOORS
- OUTING
- PIE
- PLATE
- READ
- RELAX
- RIVER
- RUG
- SANDWICH
- SAUCE
- SEASIDE
- SHADE
- SPOON
- SPORTS
- SUMMER
- SUN
- TREES
- TRIP



SELL YOUR

- car
- tickets
- antiques
- motorcycle
- computer
- boat
- sports equipment
- instrument
- jewelry
- furniture

FIND YOUR

- dream job
- next pet
- collectible
- boat
- great guitar
- camera
- dining room
- sports tickets
- garage sale
- new home

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