

Novi News

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MENCOTTI LEADS GVSU TO ANOTHER STELLAR SEASON
SPORTS, B1

Capitol idea

Students from Janis Canady's fourth-grade media class at Novi Woods Elementary School were in Lansing recently to present at the MACUL Student Technology Showcase.

Canady and her students, Katherine Chen, Nick Lindberg, Ava Mandhare and Joey Saeli, were at the state Capitol Dec. 7, along with state Sen. Mike Kowal and state Rep. Kathy Crawford.

Patient safety

The Economic Alliance for Michigan announced three Michigan residents are recipients of the 2017 Bruce Bradley Fellowship, awarded by The Leapfrog Group, a national watchdog group for patient safety and hospital quality.

Those awarded the fellowship are Bret Jackson, president at Economic Alliance for Michigan; Jonathan So, senior director of health care at Detroit Regional Chamber; and Terrisca Des Jardins, administrative director at Physician Organization of Michigan ACO.

Pierce named new fire marshal

The Novi Public Safety Administration announced this week Fire Protection Officer Kevin Pierce has been named the department's new fire marshal.

Pierce, who has been serving as the acting fire marshal for the last several weeks, has exhibited leadership throughout his career and earned the selection following a rigorous promotional process, officials said. He replaces Fire Marshal Joe Shelton, who retired in August after a 31-year career with the Novi Fire Department.

"We are extremely proud of the hard work and dedication Kevin has exhibited and what he has accomplished so far in his career," Director of Public Safety David E. Molloy said. "The fire marshal is a crucial leadership position in our public safety team and works closely with the community and economic devel-

opment departments to provide opportunities for growth in the city with an emphasis on safety."

Pierce started his career in Novi in December 1997 as a paid-on-call firefighter and was promoted to full-time fire protection officer in February 2000. He is a National Fire Protection Association and State Certified Fire Inspector I & II, Plan Examiner and State Fire Officer I, II & III.

Pierce's recognition includes the Medal of Valor award for rescuing a victim from a structure fire, two Lifesaving Awards involving cardiac arrest victims, five letters of commendation and a merit citation for fire inspections/prevention in 2011. He also received the Employee of the Month in July 2012.

For more information about the Novi Fire Department, go to cityofnovi.org.



Novi Fire Marshal Kevin Pierce stands with Director of EMS Jeff Johnson and Director of Public Safety David E. Molloy.



Northville's Lisa Harthun's team is the D-Funk Allstars, playing against the Detroit Pistoffs.

SUBURBAN WOMEN ARE 'DERBY STRONG'

Jill Halpin
Correspondent

Northville resident Lisa Harthun is "derby strong."

It is a term she uses to describe not only the physical, but also the mental, strength she has developed as a member of the "D-Funk All-stars," a local roller derby team that is part of the Detroit Roller Derby League.

Since joining the league just two years ago, the 48-year old Harthun has gained an increased resilience that carries through both on and off the derby track.

"Roller derby has shown me that I can push myself to accomplish a great deal more than I ever thought possible. A few years ago, I never would have thought that I would call myself an athlete," said Harthun, who had never participated in a contact sport prior to joining the roller derby league.

Roller derby is a fast-paced contact team sport that requires speed, strategy and athleticism, according to the Women's Flat Track Derby Association, governing body of the sport. Played on a flat track, it can be done on any flat surface that is suitable for skating, such as roller rinks, basketball courts, parking lots — even airplane hangars.



JOSH KAHL

Roller derby is pretty athletic, as evidenced by a recent women's game.

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Northville Fire Department tips for seasonal safety

The Christmas season brings the hustle and bustle of shopping and gatherings with family and friends, but also an increased likelihood of home fires and other household dangers. The Northville Township Fire Department is offering tips to help residents stay safe.

Christmas trees, especially real trees, can pose a fire hazard if not selected, decorated and cared for properly. Christmas tree fires, though not common, tend to be more serious, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, the nation's fire departments responded to an average of 210 home fires that started with Christmas trees each year from 2010-14. Each year, those fires together caused an average of six deaths, 16 injuries and \$16.2 million in direct property damage.

In order to safely enjoy a Christmas tree in the home:

- » Choose a freshly cut tree.
- » Keep it watered regularly.
- » Use only tree lights that have the approval of a recognized testing agency, like Underwrit-

ers Laboratories.

» Always turn off the lights before leaving the house or going to bed.

» Dry trees ignite quickly and burn fast, so remove them from your home right after Christmas.

The winter season also warrants making sure there are working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in the home. The falling temperatures lead to the increased use of furnaces, water heaters and fireplaces, all common causes of fires and carbon monoxide emergencies.

Having carbon monoxide alarms in the home is a must. Working carbon monoxide alarms will sound to alert a home's occupants when dangerous levels of carbon monoxide are present and will give people

time to seek fresh air and call 9-1-1.

Remember also to clean the clothes dryer, water heater and furnace vents regularly and have those appliances serviced by qualified professionals. Also, make sure fireplaces are working properly, as they are one of the leading sources of hazardous carbon monoxide levels.

Prepare for the upcoming season by following this checklist:

- » Install a smoke alarm in every bedroom, in the hallway outside each room and on every floor.
- » Install a carbon monoxide alarm on every floor of the home.
- » Replace smoke alarms that are 10 years old or older.
- » Change the batteries in both smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

at least every year.

» Develop and practice a home emergency escape plan.

» Clean the oven before preparing big holiday meals.

» Keep the Christmas tree watered and away from open flames.

» Don't overload electrical outlets or power strips with holiday lights.

» Keep candles away from anything that can burn, including holiday decorations.

» Keep portable heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn. Only use UL-listed heaters and those with tip-over protection.

» Have the chimney cleaned and inspected before it's used and also periodically throughout the year. Creosote buildup is the leading cause of chimney fires.

» Have the furnace

inspected and serviced annually.

» Clean your dryer, water heater and furnace vents regularly. Animals may seek refuge in the warm vents and cause carbon monoxide and fire incidents.

The department also asks that residents assist others who may not be able to clear the snow from their sidewalks, driveways and fire hydrants.

As Advanced Life Support providers, Northville Township's firefighter-paramedics know that every second counts in both fire and medical emergencies, so please make sure that your home is accessible at all times.

Call the fire department at 248-348-5807 or go to www.northvillemich.com/fire for more information.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

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Winter weather presents challenges

Snow days. Just two little words. Yet those two words create a sense of anticipation among Novi Community School District students that is almost unrivaled in its intensity. When the first flakes of snow begin to fall, our students suddenly become very interested in the Weather Channel, Accuweather and their smart phone weather application. Our students start to study weather patterns, upper level wind directions, barometric pressure and the water temperature of the Great Lakes.

For me, winter weather brings challenges.

When the forecast calls for the potential of heavy snow, our district takes center stage. For several years, the Novi Community School Dis-



Steve Matthews

GUEST COLUMNIST

What Michigan superintendents know is ... we are going to have cold, snowy and difficult weather during the winter.

trict has coordinated the winter weather call among several Oakland County school districts. Steve Barr, assistant superintendent of business and operations, has organized this call that brings together Oakland County superintendents and a weather service.

Just after the snow has begun and several hours before the snow has ended, the superintendents convene to discuss possible options. The weather service summarizes what has happened already and then gives us the forecast

for the next several hours.

The superintendents then spend time discussing what they anticipate doing if the snow continues. No one wants to be the first superintendent to suggest that they will be closing school.

Most often, this early call leads to additional calls throughout the evening and early morning hours. Weather forecasts can be fickle. Superintendents who have been through many winters before all have stories about when they made the call to close school and no snow came or, just as bad, when they did not make the call, everyone trekked to school and then lots of snow came.

What Michigan superintendents know is that because we live in Michigan, we are going to have cold, snowy and difficult weather during the winter. We recognize our responsibility to ensure that students are not put at risk. We understand that we need to make student safety in the winter a priority. But we also know that students need to be in school — even during the winter.

Because we live in

Michigan, students will have to wait for buses in cold weather or walk to school when there is snow on the ground. We cannot stop school because winter arrives.

When I contemplate closing school because of inclement weather, several factors are considered. Can we safely transport students in this weather? Can buses safely navigate neighborhoods? Will sidewalks be clear for students who walk to school? Can staff safely travel from their homes to school?

Our goal is to inform parents, students and staff as early as possible, so plans can be made. Sometimes we get lucky and can make the call the night before. Sometimes we cannot and we call early in the morning. I appreciate the patience of our parents, staff and students as I work with other Oakland County superintendents to make good decisions during the winter.

Steve M. Matthews, Ed.D., is superintendent of the Novi Community School District. He can be reached at smatthews@novischools.net.

Novi resident named as one of Make-A-Wish's new officers

Make-A-Wish® Michigan announced the organization's volunteer Board of Directors' officers for the 2017 fiscal year:

Chairman: Rob Casalo of Novi is regional CEO and president of St. Joseph Mercy Health System.

Vice chair: Kenneth Stanecki of Northville is CFO of TEAM Schostak Family Restaurants.

Secretary: Denise Beauoin of Livonia is director of Customer

Engagement for Trinity Health.

Treasurer: Cindy Van Gelderen of Grand Rapids is chairperson of the Accounting Department at Aquinas College.

One new individual was also elected to the organization's volunteer Board of Directors: Mike Lomonaco, director of Marketing and Communications for Open Systems Technologies.

Since 1984, Make-A-Wish Michigan has granted more than 8,500

wishes to Michigan children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Based in Brighton and with an office in Grand Rapids, Make-A-Wish Michigan is funded through community support. 80 percent of each dollar spent directly benefits the Michigan wish-granting program.

For more information, go to www.michigan-wish.org.

* Styles pictured may vary at locations due to availability/inventory. Pictured Top to Bottom: D&D Bicycles and Hockey, Orin Jewelers, Starring "the Gallery"

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Stop shouting! Let's try to help people achieve

The Food Bank Council of Michigan is tasked with creating food security for all of our residents. We base our initiatives on data from our own studies in conjunction with Grand Valley State University and the recently initiated Self Sufficiency Study at the University of Washington. These reports help us define reality for those who deal with the toxic stress of hunger on a regular basis in our state.

As I examine the data from these highly respected studies and the "boots on the ground" reports from more than 2,900 agencies that our seven regional food banks distribute food through, I perceive there to be three distinct groups that comprise the population we serve.

First, there is the generationally impoverished, who live below the national poverty level.



Phillip Knight
GUEST COLUMNIST

Second, there is the working poor, who are trapped between minimum and moderate wage. They fall off the benefits cliff and are ineligible for any assistance, yet always have more money than money. They are trapped ... forced to make choices between food and other necessities for their families. Third, there is the underemployed, who have faced a difficulty in their life and need short-term, temporary help in order to rebound.

Confucius said, "In a country well-governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of."

I sense that the cul-

ture of America is at war with itself and attempts to grow, develop and yet preserve its soul. America, in its essence, values people, rich or poor. The divides, prejudices and bias we have developed on our own. While America's history is rooted in the Christian heritage, all faiths command benevolence to the poor.

What do we do with the first group, the generationally impoverished?

Morally, ethically, spiritually and civically, I believe we have a responsibility to ensure they have access to a regular supply of healthy, nutritious foods. I am certain that just because someone is poor does not mean they have to be hungry. After all, Michigan is the second most diverse agricultural state in the country. Food is a part of the solution to hunger, but it is not an answer unto itself.

The second group, the working poor who are trapped by circumstances, choices and despair, is a group I am convinced we can help if we could talk. Could we have conversations about livable wage, extension of benefits to reward those who are working to help themselves rather than dropping them off the benefits cliff?

Department of Health and Human Services studies conclude that once a worker reaches \$11.50 per hour, they fall off the benefits cliff and are no longer eligible for any assistance. The trap is sprung and they must struggle to increase their wages to \$17.50 per hour in order to be at the same level they were prior to \$11.50. Despair kicks in when they were making \$11 per hour and on benefits!

Our current set-up

devalues work. Our system traps the people who are striving to survive and have a vision for their future.

Can we talk about how we structure the benefits to reward work? Can we discuss how we help people keep and leverage benefits so they can accumulate some wealth and, thereby, not need assistance any longer?

As people who work go up the wage scale, they have a steady climb out of the valley of despair. When they become ineligible for any benefits, however, it is an immediate drop-off; there is no gradual descent. Could we talk about creating gradual slopes on both ends of this valley of despair?

Our third group of underemployed needs a little help and not for a very long time. Can we structure a program that addresses their needs? I think we can and know

we can impact this group immediately. The food banks and our network are the ones standing in the gap for these folks. They are ineligible for assistance, but we are able to provide the necessary temporary relief they need.

I will echo President John F. Kennedy when he said, "I look forward to a great future for America — a future in which our country will match its military strength with our moral restraint, its wealth with our wisdom, its power with our purpose."

I look forward to a day in the near future when those of us in leadership, public or private, profit or charity, can sit together, talk and find a solution to this stubborn — yet solvable — problem of hunger in Michigan.

Dr. Phillip Knight is executive director of the Food Bank Council of Michigan.

Time running out for end-of-year items

The time for procrastination is over. If you plan to make any financial moves before the end of the year, the time is now. You no longer have any time to delay and, in fact, for certain transactions, it already may be too late. If you're doing any end-of-the-year moves for tax reasons, it is important to keep in mind that you don't want to let the tax tail wag the dog. You don't want to do anything for tax reasons and tax reasons alone; the transaction should also make good economic sense. One of those transactions that can save you in taxes and, at the same time, be a good economic move is a Roth IRA conversion.

I've talked about this many times in the past, but Roth IRAs are some-



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

thing that more and more people should be exploring. The benefit of a Roth IRA is the fact the money grows tax-free, as opposed to tax-deferred in a traditional IRA. In addition, Roth IRAs are not subject to the minimum required distribution. Therefore, you can let the money grow tax-free for as long as you choose.

There is always confusion about who is eligible for a Roth IRA conversion and the simple answer is, anyone is eligible. If you have a traditional IRA, you can convert it to a Roth IRA. The one exception deals with

those of you who are over 70½ and are taking minimum required distributions. You cannot convert your minimum required distributions, but you can convert anything above and beyond that. If you haven't looked at your tax situation to see if a Roth IRA conversion makes sense, you should do so immediately.

For those who are working, you may have a flexible spending plan at work and, in many of those plans, if you don't use the money before the end of the year, you lose it. Therefore, if you have one of those plans, you should make sure to use the money before the end of the year. Most plans are very flexible and you have a whole variety of items you can use your plan for. Whether it's

visiting the doctor or even buying prescription sunglasses, you want to make sure you use the money before it's too late. As a side note, many plans do allow a grace period, so you don't necessarily lose the money if you don't spend it by the end of the year. I recommend you talk to your plan administrator so you know exactly what type of plan you have.

For those who are generous in nature and make charitable contributions, if you want to deduct your contribution on your 2016 tax return, the contributions have to be made before the end of the year. Remember, in making charitable contributions, even though writing a check is the easiest way, it may not be the best way. Par-

ticularly, for those of you who have appreciated securities; in other words stocks or mutual funds where you have a gain, there is a double tax benefit by contributing those shares. When you contribute appreciated securities to a charity, you avoid paying capital gains tax on those shares. In addition, your contribution is the fair market value of the securities. Most charities accept appreciated securities, but the transaction must be completed before the end of the year. You have no time to delay.

A couple of notes about donating appreciated securities. First, you don't have to worry that somehow the charity will have to pay tax or something of that nature. Charities will sell the stock or mutual fund and there will be no tax consequences. Second, you do not want to donate

securities that you have a loss in. In those situations, it would be much better to sell the investment and then contribute the cash, so you can write off your losses.

Many tax advisers recommend you accelerate your deductions into the current year; that strategy doesn't work for everyone. With all tax situations, you need to look at your individual circumstances and make sure it makes sense for you. If you're not going to itemize your deductions this year, then accelerating your deductions doesn't make sense. The bottom line, whenever it comes to taxes, you need to look at your own individual situation.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Northville Jazz @ The Point series kicks off Dec. 21

Catching live music in downtown Northville can be challenging, but a new five-show jazz series at the Tipping Point Theatre should help cure those blues, organizers say.

Jazz @ The Point is the second series at the TPT produced by 2 Stones Events following the successful Kittens & Crooners earlier this year. Three of those four shows sold out and the fourth was just shy of a full house.

"That series did so well that we decided to add a fifth show to this new series," said Whitney McClellan-Stone, president of 2SE. "And while Kittens & Crooners focused on jazz vocalists and standards, we've expanded to include bebop, jump blues, Latin jazz and swing."

Jazz @ The Point kicks off with a special holiday show Wednesday, Dec. 21, featuring Aguanko's Latin Jazz Christmas in Havana, followed by four Saturday shows: Nicole New Quartet (Jan. 7); Ben Sharkey (March 11); Hughes-Smith Quintet (May 6); and The Millionaires (July 8).

"This venue, which only seats between 105 and 120, is perfect for live jazz," said McClellan-Stone, whose company has been booking the musicians for Northville's annual Arts & Acts for many years. "The acoustics are great, there are no bad seats or obstructed views and, unlike a typical bar or club, there are no distracting televisions or people talking loudly."

Jazz @ The Point shows are all about a great night out featuring live jazz.

"The musicians bring their 'A' game," McClellan-Stone said. "They know everyone's eyes and ears are directly focused on the performance. Short of having



Performing July 8 will be The Millionaires.

them play in your living room, you're not going to get a more intimate setting."

Each event includes a wine-tasting and appetizers at 7 p.m., followed by a two-set concert 8-10 p.m.

Unlike Kittens & Crooners, there will be no alcohol for sale for Jazz @ The Point due to licensing and insurance costs. McClellan-Stone said that a survey taken by attendees of the first series indicated that alcohol was not a key factor for the vast majority of them; quality live music was the main reason.

"There's no doubt that 2 Stones Events knows great music and brings top-notch entertainment to everything they produce," said James Kuhl, the TPT's artistic director.

Good for Northville

Surveys also showed that 25 percent of those who went to the first series had never before been to the Tipping Point, which has been a destination for live theater for 10 years in Northville. But programs like

this aren't just bringing new people through the TPT's doors — they're bringing new people to downtown Northville, said Dan Ferrara, TPT development director.

"It was only natural to expand into live music to continue to provide our community with quality opportunities for entertainment close to home," Ferrara said. "Sometimes, you hear people say there's not much to do in Northville after dark. I hope they start looking to Tipping Point and a few of the restaurants in town that are really trying hard to bring nightlife entertainment year-round."

Once again, Financial Architects Inc., based in Farmington Hills, is on board as the series' present sponsor. "Jazz @ The Point is a great opportunity to show our passion for live music, the community and the chance to share the experience with our valued clients," said Chris Cousins of Financial Architects Inc.

Cousins' firm, McClellan-Stone noted, formed a partnership with 2SE that is crucial to Jazz @

The Point and helps keep the level of musicianship presented very high.

Tickets, now on sale, are \$30 per show. TPT season-ticket holders get a 10-percent discount; anyone purchasing the entire five-show series before Dec. 21 also receives a 10-percent discount. Purchases can be made by phone (248-347-003); at the box office (361 E. Cady Street, Northville) between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 6:30-10 p.m. Friday; or online at <http://tinyurl.com/jf927yz>.

Aguanko – Dec. 21

Aguanko's first recording, "Elemental," released in 2013, was on the Jazzweek national charts for 32 weeks. Its second release, "Invisible" from 2015, was on the charts for 20 weeks. The latest release, "Latin Jazz Christmas in Havana," creatively turns Christmas standards into traditional Cuban music jewels.

Conga player and composer Alberto Nacif and the superlative musicians who make up the sizzling Latin jazz septet Aguanko are working on a new Latin jazz recording which will be available in spring 2017. This recording will feature the core group, along with guest artists from the incredibly rich Detroit and Ann Arbor area jazz scene, performing original music that will further the trajectory of this exciting group.

These tasteful musicians' interpretation of Alberto Nacif's original music is evocative, sensual and true to its Cuban roots. Aguanko has received local and national attention and its live concerts have dazzled capacity crowds at the multiple venues where the group has performed. It also offers educational lecture-demonstrations and instructional seminars.

Nicole New Quartet – Jan. 7

The 28-year-old Detroit is a passionate and provocative singer, alluring crowds with her sensitivity and soulfulness as one of Detroit's premier bandleaders. Her eclectic style of singing, drawing from her early influences of performing jazz, pop, opera and musical theater, has transformed into a sound all her own. She is making a lasting impression at performance venues all over Michigan and beyond, wowing fans with her rich tone and rhythmic phrasing, in venues such as The Jazz Cafe at Music Hall, Cliff Bell's, London Chop House, Steinway Jazz Cafe and, most recently, with the Midland Symphony.

"I like music that moves me, taking songs we all know and love, giving them new life and perhaps new meaning," she said.

Ben Sharkey – March 8

With performances that have been viewed more than five million times on YouTube alone, Ben Sharkey has been delighting fans worldwide with his romantic style and velvet vocals



The Hughes-Smith Quintet will perform May 6.



The Nicole New Quartet is scheduled for Jan. 7.



Ben Sharkey will perform March 8.



Aguanko will perform Dec. 21.

on old swing and jazz standards that would make Ol' Blue Eyes himself green with envy. Sharkey's original compositions bear his soul and tug at the listener's heart strings.

His striking good looks and impassioned music makes him a creative tour de force. Although often compared to contemporaries like Michael Bubl , Sharkey is actually more closely comparable to Mel Torme and Harry Connick Jr. with his intimate interpretations of jazz classics and ability to make them sound fresh and new. His elegant renditions of the music of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Bobby Darin (along with many others) are both powerful and personal. His original music (available on iTunes) is heartfelt and instantly catching.

Hughes-Smith Quintet – May 6

Modern bebop from Detroit featuring Jimmy Smith on trumpet, James Hughes on saxophones, Phil Kelly on piano, Takashi Iio on bass and Nate Winn on drums. They play original tunes with purpose. Each member of the band is a full-time professional musician in the Detroit scene. Smith and Hughes have been freelancing for the past 18 years, always the sidemen,

never the leaders — until now.

They were running unique but parallel paths in the music business and found themselves on the same gigs in fall 2012. Both wanted to record their original tunes and share their music, when it dawned on them: collaborate! So they agreed to share the burden of getting something started from the ground up and within a month they were rehearsing for an album, "From Here On Out" (2013), and released their second, "Ever Up & Onward," in 2015.

The Millionaires – July 8

The Millionaires are a Detroit-based band, specializing in swing, jump blues, rhythm and blues and Latin jazz. The immediate origin of the band can be traced to the mid-1990s and a rehearsal-only project that eventually became a performing group known as The Magnificent Seven. By the end of the decade, the band had recorded its "Keep A Dollar In Your Pocket" release and settled into its new persona as The Millionaires.

Today, The Millionaires remain dedicated to that cause, dedicated to playing live music that gets fingers snapping and toes tapping — in short, dance music!



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What makes a community unique? What allows a community to stay vibrant? The backbone is a diverse offering of locally owned and operated store fronts and restaurants. Nothing is quite as disheartening as going through a town and seeing empty store fronts on Main Street, only to find a brand new strip filled with national chain stores out by the highway. When our downtowns are filled with local vendors and restaurants, there is a feeling of life ... of growth ... of security.

We see the vibrancy of a community with the rebirth of the farmers markets, where locals sell handmade goods and veggies they grew nearby. Each week, we get to know each other better and form deep ties with our neighborhood. As a third-generation business owner, I have made



Joe Legato
GUEST COLUMNIST

some close bonds with my customers over the years. They know my family story; they even bring presents for my kids around the holidays.

There are several nationwide surveys that have studied the economic effects of small business on a community vs. the effects of national chains. Many of these studies show us when \$100 is spent at a local business, about \$45 of that initial amount stays within that local economy. When the national chains are examined, it is found that only \$23 stays in the local economy. If you take that same \$100 and spend it online, virtually nothing stays in the local economy.

Our local businesses

can put so much back into the community because this is where we operate. Our accountants are just up the street, our employees live nearby, we invest with local media for marketing and support our neighborhood Little League teams.

When you shop local, you can typically expect to have a higher level of service from that retailer or a dining experience that is totally unique. For example, often when you come in for an appliance part at my store, we will walk through the replacement to make sure it is a repair you want to tackle. Or when you need to purchase a new appliance, we listen first to your needs and then address your wants. This ensures we find the right fit for you and not just push a product because that is what we want to sell. With every sale, we strive for excel-

lence because there is a name and a family attached to our store. Our integrity is on the line with every person who walks through the door.

So why buy local this year for the holidays? The answer is simple. You, as the consumer, have the power to make your community strong. With this power comes the ability to encourage new growth, creativity and develop a vibrancy that attracts new families to the neighborhood.

So this year, please consider getting your meats from your local butcher, buy your rolls from the neighborhood bakery (get yourself a sweet treat, too) and check local shops for that unique item that would be great for your Uncle Bob that he would truly appreciate. It is these types of simple actions that every day make the world a better place. Shop local. Support your community.

Joe Legato is third-generation owner of Bill & Rod's Appliance and Mattress in Livonia and a graduate of Northwood University.



FILE PHOTO

Legislation is working its way through Lansing that would require the state to notify local officials if another shutdown of a facility, like Ashley Court, were to take place.

Bill passed in response to Ashley Court closure

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com

New legislation would require the state to notify local officials if another emergency shutdown of a facility takes place, such as what happened at Livonia's Ashley Court facility earlier this year.

The changes, proposed by state Rep. Laura Cox, R-Livonia, is an amendment to other language that just changed some wording in previous legislation. The new changes would require the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to notify either the local clerk or the local fire chief of the municipality where the shut-down facility is located.

"It just makes sense, especially in communities that are so densely populated like ours," Cox said. "We want to make sure those situations can be mitigated."

The legislation is a result of the shutdown of Ashley Court, 32406 Seven Mile in Livonia, which took place in May. The state ordered an emergency shutdown of the assisted living facility, requiring all its residents to evacuate the premises within a six-hour window. The closure caused some chaos in the area, drawing in Livonia public safety officials to help manage traffic as people came to pick up their loved ones and move

them to a new facility. Several residents were transported to other facilities by the Livonia Fire Department.

The day after, several local officials, as well as Cox, held a press conference regarding the shutdown. There, she expressed concern over the lack of notification over the shutdown then.

The bill was approved unanimously by the state House of Representatives and was set for a Senate hearing Wednesday morning. Cox said she was hopeful it would be passed through the Senate's Families, Seniors and Human Services Committee as well as the full Senate before heading to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk during the lame-duck legislative session.

Since the shutdown, the facility on Seven Mile east of Farmington Road has remained quiet, though a white banner has been put up this fall concealing the name of the former adult foster care facility. As of last week, there was no license on file with LARA to operate and house residents at the facility.

Notifying local officials, including safety officials, is a move that can help answer some questions, especially if surrounding residents have questions about a shutdown.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com

Autographed Trump necktie is prized possession for family

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

Kim Harber has a Donald Trump story that will literally have you in knots.

About six years ago, the Plymouth Township woman went to New York with a friend for a vacation weekend. They were strolling around Manhattan when they found themselves standing in front of Trump Tower.

"I wanted to buy something for my husband, so we went inside to see what we could find," she said.

It didn't take long before the two women came across a collection of Trump ties. Harber picked one out and took it to a salesperson — who told her Donald Trump himself was going to be in the building later that day and that he might be willing to autograph the necktie.

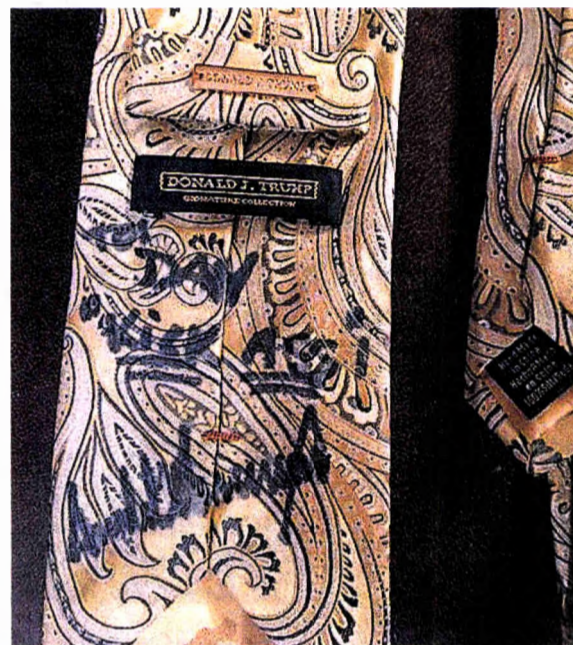
The two women returned to the store later that evening, where an autographed tie was waiting for Harber.

"I looked at the front of the tie, turned it around and, on the back, it was signed: 'To Dan, kick ass, Donald Trump.' I loved it and my husband did, too, when I gave it to him," she said of the tie.

Mind you, this was back in 2010. Harber had no idea the man who signed her husband's necktie would one day become the nation's president. Her husband, Dan Harber, a local cardiologist, continues to wear the tie frequently — especially on Election Day.

"It's a prized possession," Harber said. "It's been a great conversation with his patients ... my kids both think we should frame it and hang it on the wall."

Harber said her en-



Donald Trump autographed this necktie in 2010 for a Plymouth Township resident.

tire family supports Trump and hopes he has a successful presidency.

"All four of us voted for Mr. Trump," she said. "We were surprised and elated he won. The tie is just icing on the cake."

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BENEFIT CONCERT

Date/Time: Sunday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m.

Details: The Michigan Philharmonic performs its Holiday Pops Concert at Northville Christian Assembly. The concert benefits Northville Civic Concern.

Tickets are \$20; get them at eventbrite.com or ncalife.com. Northville Christian Assembly is located at 41355 Six Mile. For more information, call 248-348-9030.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 17, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Details: What organizers are billing the "biggest Christmas party in Northville" takes place at Ward Church. Jingle Jam can best be described as an indoor Christmas carnival that takes place in the church's massive hallways. In addition there are three theatre productions at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. More details can be found at <http://www.jinglejamparty.com>.

EVENINGS IN THE GARDEN

Dates/Time: Thursdays, Jan. 26, March 2 and March 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Details: MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center — at 12 Mile and Meadowbrook Road in Novi — is the setting for a new season of Evenings in the Garden classes this winter. Three speakers — Janet Macunovich on Jan. 26, Dr. Tony Reznicek on March 2, and Dr. Norm Lownds on March 30 — will share their wisdom and experience.

The cost of each class is \$20 and supports further adult education programming at MSU Tollgate. For more information and to register, visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/evenings17win/>



Santa at Maybury

Santa and his elves will visit with children at Maybury Farm from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 17-18. Santa will be waiting to meet with kids of all ages on his antique sleigh in the Welcome Center. Children can bring their wish list and sit with Santa on his sleigh while parents and grandparents take photos. Admission is just a smile and a small donation. All donations help to care for the animals at Maybury Farm throughout the winter. Maybury Farm is located at 50165 Eight Mile Road, between Beck and Napier. For more information, go to www.northvillecommunityfoundation.org, call 248-374-0200 or find Maybury Farm on Facebook.

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SUNDAY

NOV. 27
DEC. 4
DEC. 11
DEC. 18

NOON
TIL
3PM

Location

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Novi Town Center
Novi, Michigan



NOVITOWNCENTER.COM



Finding Dani: Missing woman's family, friends gather

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

More than a week after her daughter disappeared, Ann Stislicki cloaked herself in the warmth and comfort of friends and family on a cold night in Southfield and made something of a surprising request.

"I would love to hear some laughter," she told a crowd of a couple of hundred people gathered Saturday evening for a candlelight vigil in honor of her daughter Danielle, last seen leaving this same complex more than a week earlier.

The details haven't changed: Danielle Stislicki, a 28-year-old Farmington Hills resident, was last seen around 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, leaving the Met Life Office building on Telegraph, north of 10 Mile, in Southfield. Her car, a 2015 Jeep Renegade, was found in front of her apartment building in the Independence Green Apartment Complex on Lincoln Court around 6 p.m. the next day.

Police called her disappearance "out of character and a concern to the family and police." They are asking the public for help with:

» Anyone who may have observed Stislicki and/or her vehicle leaving the Met Life office building/parking lot Dec. 2.

» Anyone who may have observed Stislicki and/or her vehicle arriving at her residence between 5 p.m. Dec. 2 and 6 p.m. Dec. 3.

» Anyone who may have observed her any time between 5 p.m. Dec. 2 and 6 p.m. Dec. 3, when her car was located.

» Anyone who may have seen or found a Samsung Galaxy Core Prime cellphone in a rose-colored case and key chain with a charm and two keys.

But Saturday's vigil wasn't about the details of the case, as Ann Stislicki made clear from the



A couple of hundred friends and family took part Saturday in a candlelight vigil for missing Farmington Hills resident Danielle Stislicki.

BRAD KADRICH

outset.

"I'm not here to talk about the investigation or what is happening with that," she said. "(The vigil) is about people comforting each other and helping (Danielle) to come home. This is not a solemn event. It's a joyous event. It's important we focus on the unity of everyone who is gathered here to keep the light of Danielle shining."

The response to Danielle's disappearance has been amazing. A GoFundMe page was set up to establish a reward for information leading to her whereabouts. It started with a modest \$10,000 goal; the total reward is more than \$120,000 and climbing.

Family members talked Saturday about how important a role

social media — Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat — has played in keeping Danielle's story alive and visitors to the vigil were urged to take a few moments to tweet or Snapchat about the event, using the hashtags #finddani and #lightthewayfordani.

West Bloomfield resident Elizabeth Knight called the week since Danielle's disappearance "kind of a crazy week" and said Saturday's gathering was about "people being here to support the family."

"It's hard when someone you care about ... you don't know if they're safe," said Knight, who is Danielle's cousin. "We've been trying to do as much as we can through social media and traditional media, to keep her



Parents Richard and Ann Stislicki welcomed the crowd to the vigil. Said Richard: "We want everyone to know this light is not only for Danielle, but it's for all those who are missing."

BRAD KADRICH

story out there. We hope someone has seen her and it's just a matter of getting to the right person."

In some ways, the vigil resembled any other. The Rev. Jamey Authier, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Shelby Township, offered prayers and scripture readings. Parents Ann and Richard Stislicki ad-

ressed the crowd, candles were lit and tears were shed.

In other ways, it was more upbeat. Chris Paliewicz, Danielle's uncle, played an upbeat version of "This Little Light of Mine" and got the crowd to join in interactively.

"This isn't a typical candlelight vigil song, but Danielle isn't a typical girl," Paliewicz said

to the crowd, inducing some of that laughter Ann Stislicki wanted to hear. "I think she would love this."

Cousin Mason Paliewicz agreed, pointing out that Danielle was pretty much always smiling.

"Danielle is always upbeat and happy," Mason said. "She's definitely had her share of problems, like everyone has, but she's always been able to keep a smile on her face."

Ann Stislicki acknowledged how difficult the week has been, but was determined not to dwell on it, at least not at the vigil. She said she's found tremendous support from many sources, often right when she needed it.

"When you become weak and don't think you can push on any farther, there's someone there, there's a Facebook post or a message," Ann said. "There's someone who's saying, 'We're going to help you.'"

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14 new bills introduced, but no chance of passage

Kathleen Gray
Detroit Free Press Lansing Bureau

Because of rules established in the Legislature, new bills had to be taken up in the House or Senate last week in order for them to have any chance of passage before the legislative session ends today.

Even though there is no chance of getting the bills passed, lawmakers still introduced 14 bills that will die by year-end. They can be reintroduced next year. Included on the list are more rights for crime victims and new rules on property condemnation.

House bills

HB 6098-6100: Impose requirement to evaluate government property condemnation and takings on the state Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and impose court costs and attorney fees on state agencies that violate policy. Sponsor: Rep. Ray Franz, R-Onekama.

HB 6101-6102: Establish Michigan crime-survivor trauma-recovery centers. Sponsors: Reps. Martin Howrylak, R-Troy and Robert Kosowski, D-Westland.

HB 6103: Modify the permissible uses for the crime victim's rights fund. Sponsor: Rep. Hank Vaupel, R-Handy Township.

HB 6104-6107: Re-



The state Capitol is all lit up for the holidays. The legislative session ends today. Bills introduced last week can be reintroduced next year.

KATHLEEN GRAY | DETROIT FREE PRESS

quire hospitals, emergency medical personnel, law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, judges and state Department of Health and Human Services to provide crime victim survivors with certain information. Sponsors: Reps. Frank Liberati, D-Allen Park; Clint Kesto, R-Commerce Township; Harvey Santana, D-Detroit, and Peter Lucido, R-Shelby Township.

HB 6108: Modify the license eligibility for insurance providers. Sponsor: Rep. Brandt Iden, R-Kalamazoo.

HB 6109-6110: Create

a division and commission on behavioral health for people who are deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing. Sponsors: Reps. Phil Phelps, D-Flushing and Martin Howrylak, R-Troy.

HB 6111: Establish the definition of consent in the crime against elderly people. Sponsor: Rep. Lauren Plawewski, D-Deerborn Heights.

Senate bills

SB 1188: Provide exemptions from vehicle weight limits for natural gas vehicles. Sponsor: Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba.

Sugar Rush a new sweet treat in Farmington

Maria Taylor
Correspondent

Farmington's new retro candy store is tucked away at the back of the Village Mall.

But it's not hard to find if you follow your nose.

"We could smell the sugar from the Civic (Theatre)," Farmington resident Karla Aren said. She stopped on Saturday, along with her husband and teenage daughter, after hearing about the new store — Sugar Rush — on the Grow Farmington Facebook page.

Aren left the store with Red Hots, Lemonheads and Ice Cubes. "My boyfriend used to get me these all the time, with a Big Gulp," she said. "This is great — we need a little candy store in Farmington."

Colin Ayres is the owner of Sugar Rush. "We specialize in old-fashioned candy," he said.

Look around the store and it's a haven of throw-back treats. Squirrels, Mary Janes, Cow Tales, Bit-O-Honey, Chuckles. Iridescent gumballs, shimmering pink, purple and yellow behind glass cases. (They're really popular for weddings, Ayres said.) Looking for a sugar high? There's cotton candy and a Pixy Stix maker. And, for chocolate lovers, there are Bun Bars and Lindt truffles.

Sugar Rush in Farmington is Ayres' third candy store location. The first one opened 17 years ago, in downtown Clawson.

For Ayers, who lives in Warren, it was a case of being in the right place at the right time. "I was out in Berkley, having lunch with a friend, and we saw an open storefront," Ayres said. The two started talking about what they'd open if they had that space. She mentioned a coffee shop.



Sugar Rush owner Colin Ayres helps customers Michelle and Alex Clarke.

MARIA TAYLOR

Ayres said that was great, but there ought to be something for the kids, too — like a candy counter with toys and treats.

When they got back to his friend's house, there in the mailbox was a catalog for novelty toys. Ayres said it was like a sign. "I said, 'I'm going to open it — I'm doing it,'" he said.

And open it he did. True to his inspiration, the Clawson store stocked a mix of old-fashioned candy and retro novelty toys. "It was a blast," he said. "At that time, there were no other candy stores (in the area). We grew up with them and then they kind of disappeared."

The store in Clawson lasted about 3½ years. After that, he moved it to St. Clair Shores, working on and off in various management positions between times. But St.

Clair Shores wasn't an idea location, he said, because it wasn't in a downtown. So when he was in Farmington visiting a friend and saw a "for rent" sign at the Village Mall, he called the number and leased the space.

Sugar Rush opened the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Since then, Ayres said he's had a steady stream of visitors. "I'm already getting the same amount of people here as I did in St. Clair, when I spent \$1,000 on advertising," he said. He chalks that up to being in a downtown with lots of people walking by.

Alex and Michelle Clarke of Farmington Hills dropped in and bought a whole box of Chuckles minis — they're only 25 cents each — and a Charleston Chew bar. "They're hard to find in strawberry and chocolate," Michelle said.

Perusing the store, Alex noticed some Warhead-flavored candy canes. Ayres said sour candy is a real hit with today's younger crowd. "There ought to be a Warhead Challenge, like the Ice Bucket Challenge," he said, with a laugh. He said he gets a lot of teenage foot traffic from PLUS Skateboarding and he thinks they'll like the new candy he's ordered: Toxic Waste, which he said tastes "like Warheads, but worse."

For those who like their candy sweet, not sour, Ayres said his top sellers are classic candy dots (the store's logo) and Nik-L-Nips, the wax bottles filled with fruity syrup. Black licorice is also really popular, he said — and not just among the older crowd. "I had a girl come in, maybe 18 or 20 years old, who's been in Europe a couple years," he said.

"She learned to like black licorice because it's very prominent over there."

Ayres keeps a notebook on the counter, next to the orange buckets on hand for candy collecting. If there's a specific kind of candy you're looking for, you can write it down with your name and number and he'll order it for you.

"If everybody likes it, I'll carry it," he said. That was the case with Idaho Spuds in Clawson, where folks couldn't get enough of the cocoa-flavored, chocolate- and coconut-coated marshmallow candies.

Those might show up in Farmington, too, because Ayers is planning to bring in a bunch of regional specialties, like Cherry Mash (cherry fondant covered in chocolate and crushed nuts) and Valomilk (chocolate cup with marshmallow cream).

In the middle of the room is a big dispenser with little candies like Tootsie Rolls. Everything in it is eight pieces for a quarter. That way, Ayers said, kids can come in and get a treat with their pocket change.

But make no mistake, he said: No matter your age, you're always a kid when you're in a candy shop. "People always say the kids love this the most. I say, 'Don't kid yourselves. The adults love it just as much,'" he said. "You can't come in and not have fun. It's just a fun business."

Sugar Rush is located at the back of the Village Mall at 33335 Grand River, by the parking lot on the Farmington Road side. It's open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday and Monday throughout the holiday season, with hours changing in January.

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USA TODAY NETWORK INVESTIGATION

Dangerous drinking water afflicts rural US

Broken system puts millions of Americans at risk with poisoned or untested water

Laura Ungar and Mark Nichols
USA TODAY

RANGER, Texas - The leaders of this former oil boomtown never gave 2-year-old Adam Walton a chance to avoid the poison.

It came in city water, delivered to his family's tap through pipes nearly a century old. For almost a year, the little boy bathed in lead-tainted water and ate food cooked in it. As he grew into a toddler — a time when he should have been learning to talk — he drank tap water containing a toxin known to ravage a child's developing brain.

Adam's parents didn't know about the danger until this fall. Officials at City Hall knew long before then, according to local and state records. So did state and federal government regulators who are paid to make sure drinking water in Texas and across the nation is clean. Ranger and Texas officials were aware of a citywide lead problem for two years — one the city still hasn't fixed and one the Waltons first learned about in a September letter to residents. The city and state even knew, from recent tests, that water in the Walton family's cramped, one-bedroom rental house near the railroad tracks was carrying sky-high levels of lead.

Destiny and John Walton got their first inkling of a problem when blood tests in June detected high levels of lead in their son's growing body. They first learned that their tap water contained lead — about 28 times the federal limit — when a USA TODAY Network reporter told them in early November.

Millions of Americans face similar risks because the nation's drinking-water enforcement system doesn't make small utilities play by the same safety rules as everyone else, a USA TODAY Network investigation has found.

Tiny utilities — those serving a few thousand people or less — don't have to treat water to prevent lead contamination until after lead is found. Even when they skip safety tests or fail to treat water after they find lead, federal and state regulators often do not force them to comply with the law.

USA TODAY Network journalists spent 2016 reviewing millions of records from the Environmental Protection Agency and all 50 states, visiting small communities across the country and interviewing more than 120 people stuck using untested or lead-tainted tap water.

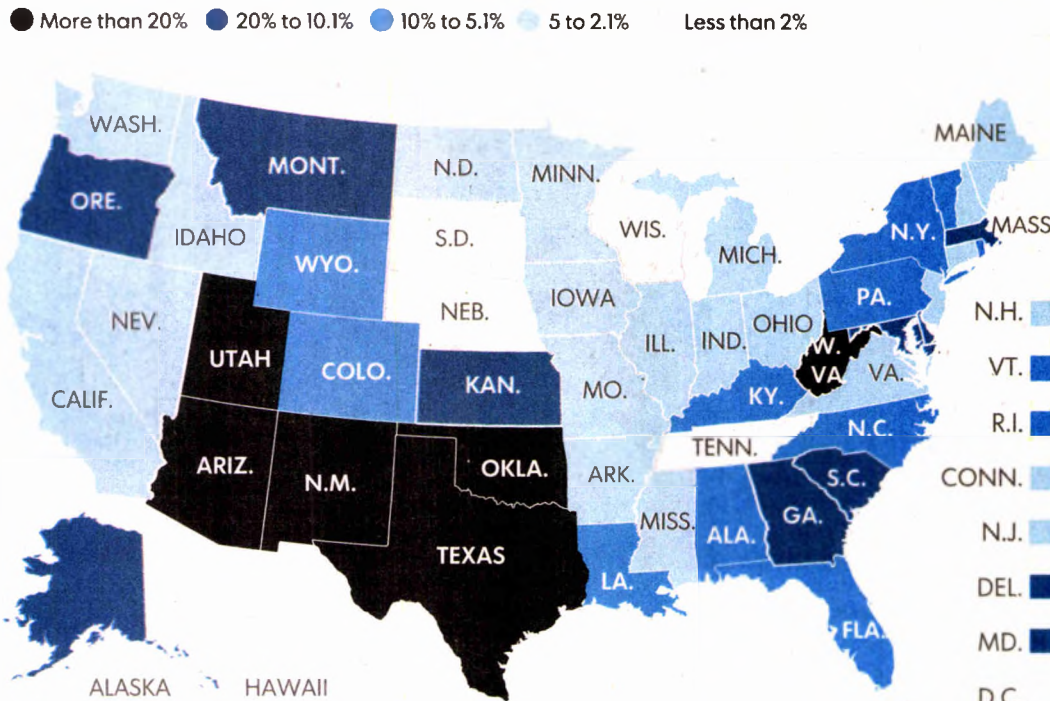
The investigation found: » About 100,000 people get their drinking water from utilities that discovered high lead but failed to treat the water to remove it. Dozens of utilities took more than a year to formulate a treatment plan and even longer to begin treatment.

» Some 4 million Americans get water from small operators who skipped required tests or did not conduct the tests properly, violating a cornerstone of federal safe drinking water laws. The testing is required because, without it, utilities, regulators and people drinking the water can't know if it's safe. In more than 2,000 communities, lead tests were skipped at least twice. Hundreds repeatedly failed to properly test for five or more years.

» About 850 small water utilities with a documented history of lead contamination

CUSTOMERS DRAWING WATER FROM UTILITIES WITH FAILED LEAD TESTS

Percentage of each state's small water-utility customers who draw water from a system that has failed to properly test for lead since 2010:



SOURCE EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System database reports, Q3, 2016. ISABELLA LUCY, USA TODAY



Adam Walton, 2, has high levels of lead in his blood and lives in a house in Ranger, Texas, where the water tested high for lead. LAURA UNGAR, USA TODAY

— places where state and federal regulators are supposed to pay extra attention — failed to properly test for lead at least once since 2010.

This two-tiered system exists in both law and practice. State and federal water-safety officials told USA TODAY Network reporters that regulators are more lenient with small water systems because they lack resources, deeming some lost causes when they don't have the money, expertise or motivation to fix problems. The nation's Safe Drinking Water Act allows less-trained, often amateur, people to operate tiny water systems even though the risks for people drinking the water are the same.

Officials in West Virginia, for example, labeled more than a dozen systems "orphans" because they didn't have owners or operators. Enforcement efforts for those utilities amounted to little more than a continuous stream of warning letters as utilities failed to test year after year. All the while, residents continued drinking untested — and potentially contaminated — water.

"At the end of the day, it creates two universes of people," said water expert Yanna Lambrinidou, an affiliate faculty member at Virginia Tech.

"One is the universe of people who are somewhat protected from lead... Then we have those people served by small water systems, who are treated by the regulations as second-class citizens."

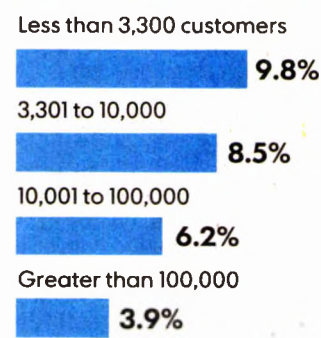
All of this endangers millions of people across the country, mostly in remote and rural communities. Utilities like East Mooringsport Water, serving part of a town of about 800 people, where drinking water went untested for more than five years. Or Coal Mountain, W.Va., a remote 118-person outpost where a retired coal miner pours bleach into untested water at the system's wellhead in hope of keeping it clean. Or Orange Center School outside Fresno, Calif., where for more than a decade regulators let about 320 grade-school kids drink water that had tested high for lead.

Individually, the communities served by small utilities seem tiny. But together, the number of people getting lead-contaminated drinking water, or water not properly tested for lead, since 2010 is about 5 million.

Virginia Tech's Marc Edwards, one of the nation's top experts on lead in drinking water who helped identify the crisis in Flint, Mich., laments that people in America's forgot-

TINY UTILITIES, BIG PROBLEMS

Percentage of customers with lead in their drinking water by utility size. (Testing done January 2010 to June 2016)



SOURCE EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System database reports, Q3, 2016. ISABELLA LUCY, USA TODAY

"Some days, it's more brown than green. It smells sort of like a sewer. We don't even give the dogs tap water."

Vietnam veteran Bill Brister

ten places — rural outposts, post-industrial communities and poor towns — are most at risk from the dangers of lead exposure, such as irreversible brain damage, lowered IQ, behavioral problems and language delays.

Edwards said the effects of lead poisoning could make it even more difficult for families in these communities to climb out of poverty. "I'm worried about their kids," he said. "The risk of permanent harm here is horrifying. These are America's children."

The Waltons fear lead has already harmed their son. At an age when other kids use dozens of words, Adam says just three: "mama," "dada" and "no." Destiny and John wish they would have known about the lead earlier so they could have protected him.

"What's going to happen if my son's lead levels keep rising? What if the kid next door gets way sicker than my son? What's Ranger going to do then?" Destiny asked. "They've known about it for years now. ... Are they going to fix it?"

'Tiny Flint'

Perhaps the best illustration of what can happen when everything breaks down at once is Ranger, where high lead and government inaction have converged in a pervasive contamination problem experts

compared to a "tiny Flint."

Ranger's water system dates to the city's heyday nearly 100 years ago, when the discovery of oil attracted a population that historians say reached 30,000. Ranger is now a barren place with 2,500 people, abandoned buildings and a lonely Main Street where a mural of a steer-wrangling cowboy near an oil well fades away like the city.

With ever-shrinking tax rolls and median household income at about half the national average, there's little money to shore up a decaying infrastructure. Leaks spring daily.

Many residents rely on bottled water. They've heard through the grapevine that the city's water might be unhealthy. They can see for themselves it's not clean. While lead is colorless and odorless, algae in the water is not.

"Some days, it's more brown than green. It smells sort of like a sewer," said Vietnam veteran Bill Brister, who spends about \$70 a month on bottled water. "We don't even give the dogs tap water."

Three years ago, the city found excessive levels of copper. Nine months after that, three of 20 sites tested over the limit of 15 parts per billion of lead. Under federal law, both required immediate action, but documents show the city waited until this fall to start planning to control corrosion. Testing this September found five sites above the limit for lead, the Walton home topping the list at 418 parts per billion. The federal limit is 15.

Ranger is one of about 130 water systems since 2010 that failed to take timely action, and one of dozens that took a year or more to start the treatment process.

City Manager Chad Roberts said Texas environmental officials pushed hard this fall after USA TODAY Network reporters visited Ranger and began asking questions. State officials insist the push came after a weekly review found that Ranger met EPA criteria for the state to take formal enforcement action.

Ranger took its first step toward reducing lead in November — nearly three years late — by giving the state a corrosion-control study that called for adjusting the pH of the water. State officials deemed the plan insufficient, however, and are working with the city to improve it.

As the city formulates its plan, residents continue to drink water that might be dangerous.

A boil notice was in effect in early November when Kay Hodges, 23, said she drank straight from the tap because she was nine months' pregnant, dehydrated and out of bottled water. "I got really sick. I was throwing up all night," she said.

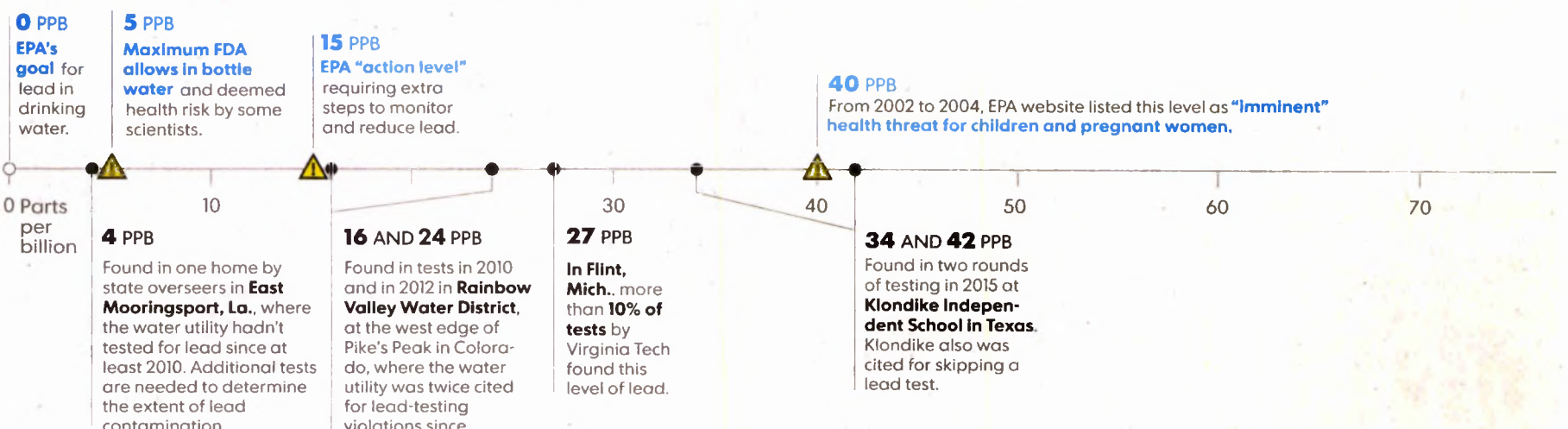
Hodges lives with her fiancé and young children in a low-income housing complex called Austin Acres. A tap at the complex has repeatedly tested high for lead, most recently at more than twice the federal limit. Hodges figures she should now get checked for the toxin.

Others fear lead exposure, too. Anita Baker, a 79-year-old colon cancer survivor in Austin Acres, has been using city water for cooking and making coffee but plans to stop after learning from a reporter that boiling the water concentrates the lead.

The Waltons — who squeeze into their one-bedroom home by putting the master bed in the living room — also drank lots of city water, in iced tea, Kool-Aid, diluted juice and by itself. Adam's highest blood lead reading was more than three times the federal cutoff to be considered elevated, and his 1-year-old brother, Andrew, also had slightly elevated lead levels.

Texas environmental offi-

BY THE NUMBERS LEAD IN DRINKING WATER



See WATER, Page A9

WATER

Continued from Page A8

Officials say they have taken steps to speed Ranger's response. They sent experts to Ranger, referred the city to the EPA for formal enforcement in March, issued new citations in October and fined the city about \$3,000.

The city raised water rates to pay for improvements and now promises to replace more of the old water lines, increase testing and seek grants for more upgrades.

"We are good with the state right now," Mayor Joe Pilgrim said, "and that's all that matters."

Still, residents may have to wait years for clean water. After the state approves a re-worked corrosion-control study, Ranger has two years before it must start treating its water. By then, Adam Walton will be almost ready for kindergarten.

Two standards

It's easy to see why a place like Ranger winds up with toxic water when you compare it to a typical large water system like the one in Louisville, Ky.

Louisville Water has about 435 full-time staffers, including a director of water quality and production with a Ph.D. in environmental engineering. Ranger has seven public works employees.

Louisville Water has an operating and maintenance budget of \$127 million. Ranger's entire city budget is \$3.2 million.

Some small utilities are even worse off.

In Colorado, near Black Canyon, the man in charge of providing safe water to 335 people is a farmer who spends most of his time tending to livestock, wheat, oats and barley.

In West Texas, at Klondike Independent School District, water safety is handled by Superintendent Steve McLaren, whose first job is running a one-building school system serving 260 students. He wears many hats in the district amid cotton fields; he's been known to drive a school bus from time to time.

McLaren acknowledged he skipped required testing for lead and copper in fall 2014 because "some things just slip by." When Klondike did test last year, it found excessive lead in both rounds of testing.

Generally, the bar for running tiny utilities is low. Certification for hands-on operators varies by state and typically involves passing an exam and getting continuing education credits. Some states require licensing but with varying qualifications. Minimum requirements in Texas are a high school diploma or GED and a training course in basic water operations. No experience necessary.

"You might have to get more training to run a hot dog stand than a small water system," said Paul Schwartz of the Campaign for Lead Free Water, a group of people and organizations working to rid drinking water of lead.

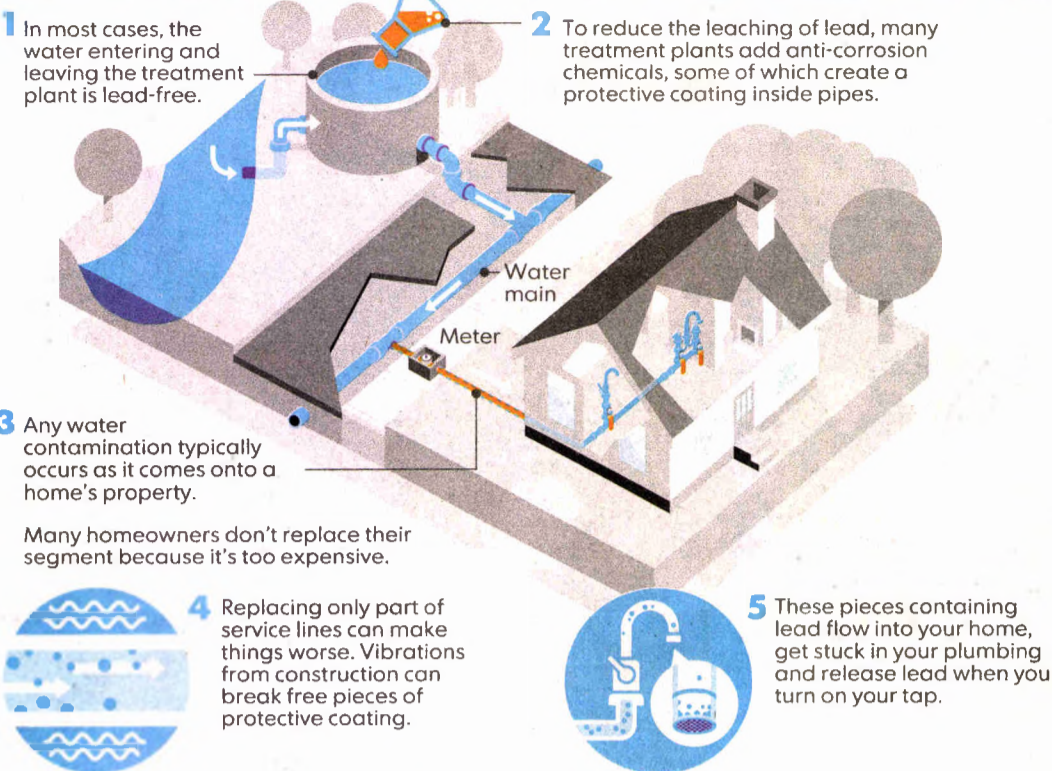
Many states, and the EPA, offer extra guidance and instruction. But not everyone avails themselves of this help, leaving many small operators with "a complete lack of training," Lambrinidou said. "Sometimes, they're cheating and they don't know they're cheating."

Some government funding is available for struggling utilities. EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which includes a state contribution, has provided \$32.5 billion through 2016 to water systems that applied for help. Another EPA program awards millions each year to non-profit organizations that provide training and technical assistance to small, public water systems. The U.S. Department of Agriculture also offers loans and grants.

Edwards and others say the need far outstrips the money, and loans don't help utilities that can't pay them back. A 2013 EPA assessment estimates infrastructure needs for small water systems will total \$64.5 billion over 20 years. The revolving fund's 2016 allocation, for systems of all sizes, was less than \$1 billion, and a

HOW DOES LEAD GET INTO YOUR DRINKING WATER?

More than 7 million U.S. homes are estimated to have service lines made of lead that can leach into water. Millions more homes built before 1986 have solder and fixtures that can leach lead.



Source USA TODAY NETWORK research
KARL GELLES, USA TODAY

"You might have to get more training to run a hot dog stand than a small water system."

Paul Schwartz, Campaign for Lead Free Water

Congressional Research Service report on the fund in November concluded that "a substantial gap remains between financing needs and available funds."

Recognizing resource constraints, the federal government lets small water systems play by more lenient rules.

Scattered throughout EPA regulations on lead and copper are specific provisions for small water systems. While utilities serving 50,000 or more people must always control corrosion, for example, smaller systems don't have to even plan for such treatment when lead is below the federal limit for two consecutive six-month periods. And they can discontinue treatment once lead drops below the limit.

Utilities serving 3,300 or fewer can, if they meet certain criteria, test for lead as little as once every nine years.

Experts say such regulations make it easy for lead problems to go undetected and uncorrected in the very places that are most vulnerable to contamination.

"You might think we have a lead in water law," Edwards said. "What we have is a national joke."

Untested water

A cornerstone of those 25-year-old lead regulations is testing. But the USA TODAY Network found that 9,000 small water systems together serving almost 4 million people failed to test properly for lead in the past six years, meaning the toxin could be there without anyone knowing. More than a quarter of those systems had repeat lead-testing violations.

EPA said it gives higher priority to immediate public health issues like acute contamination than testing violations.

Money is a factor in skipping lead tests, which can cost around \$50 per tap. Utilities must test from five to 20 locations, depending on how many customers they serve. A USA TODAY Network analysis found it would cost about \$1.2 million to check the water served by every small utility that failed to test twice since 2010. Lead testing for every small water utility that missed even one test would cost about \$5 million.

Ranger admits in a letter to residents to three years of skipped or incomplete tests. Roberts, who started as city manager in the spring, blamed lack of expertise and past neglect, saying "the ball got dropped for sure."

It also got dropped at Orange Center School in California, which skipped testing for nine years even after finding excessive lead in 2003. In the rural neighborhood outside

100,000

people get their drinking water from utilities that discovered high lead but failed to treat the water to remove it

4 MILLION

Americans get water from small operators who skipped required tests or did not conduct the tests properly

\$5 MILLION

The cost to test every small water utility that missed even one test

Fresno, officials in charge let kids keep drinking the water for more than a decade.

State officials threatened to fine the school, but records show no more lead tests were done until 2012 and no action was taken. Three of those tests again found high lead. Two more years went by before California officials ordered the school to stop using the water and began shipping bottled water to students, while the school waits to be connected to the Fresno water system.

Ninety customers of East Mooringsport Water in Louisiana, are also waiting to hook up to a larger water system after at least five years of skipped tests.

"Honestly, we just didn't have the money to do (testing)," said Edward "Pat" Turnley, who distributes monthly water bills to East Mooringsport customers.

The state cracked down several times, ordering the district to test three years ago and fining the community more than \$43,500. But little changed. Finally, in late June, the state tested nine homes itself, and found lead contamination in two. More testing will need to be done to determine the extent of the problem.

East Mooringsport buys treated water from the nearby town of Blanchard, then stores it in old tanks. Resident Gladys McCauslin suspects sediment in the tanks is what makes her tap water brownish and gritty. Residents are warned to boil it before drinking or cooking.

"It makes me feel like I'm in a Third World country," she said.



JAY CALDERON, USA TODAY NETWORK

work with them, but the problem is finding someone who's responsible," said Walter Ivey, director of West Virginia's Office of Environmental Health Services.

One option is for states to test the water. But Jon Capacasa, director of EPA's Region 3 Water Protection Division, said the law calls for utilities to monitor for lead and report results to states, and the obligation lies with them.

When utilities can't or won't, however, they often face little if any real punishment.

Notices and orders were EPA's weapons against Coal Mountain's testing violations for five years, after which nothing changed and West Virginia asked that no further federal action be taken.

Water-quality advocates say residents deserve better.

Government "owes it to these people to at least provide clean drinking water," said Wyoming County Clerk Mike Goode, adding that the county is working on a proposal to help Coal Mountain. "It's bad. These people live in America. They have a right to good water."

But Mila Darnell laments that such rights don't always extend to poor, rural Americans like her.

"We're a forgotten people," she said. "It hurts to feel ... like you just don't count."

Minimizing risk

Roberts, the city manager, downplayed the danger from Ranger's water. Roberts said small children and pregnant women probably shouldn't drink it (as the city said in a letter to residents). He said overall, "I drink it. ... I don't think it's a health alert serious enough for an emergency."

Roberts blamed homeowners' pipes, although he acknowledged the city's distribution system contains lead as well.

Pilgrim, Ranger's mayor, agreed the water isn't unsafe, saying his city "has never put any of their people in danger. ... It's not an ongoing medical disaster to anyone in town for any reason."

They are far from the only officials to minimize water problems.

Kentucky's Peter Goodmann, who directs the division of water there, used a similar rationale to defend many years of inaction when a tiny water system without an owner refused to test for contaminants. "There's not much we could do because there's no responsible party," Goodmann said of Kettle Island Water, which was recently downgraded from a public water system because it's gotten so small. "Nobody's dying there, and there doesn't seem to be any public health effects."

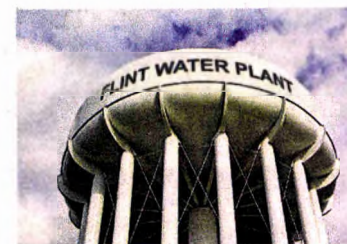
The EPA would not allow senior officials including Peter Grevatt, director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, to be interviewed. The agency would respond only in writing to questions, saying it's revising lead regulations, working with states to strengthen protections and oversight, and remains committed to "vigorous civil and criminal enforcement to protect public health." On Nov. 30, the EPA released a drinking water "action plan" that includes proposed steps to help tiny water utilities comply with drinking water laws, such as guidance to find money for improvements and new certification guidelines for operators.

For now, lead continues to taint tap water in places like Ranger. Katelyn Peters, who lives next door to the Waltons, doesn't see anything changing soon.

"This is where I was raised. This is where I was planning on raising my kids," she said, watching three of her four kids chase each other in the front yard. "Now, I'm terrified. I would live anywhere else."

Contributing: Lex Talamo and Caitlin McClade.

80 Parts per billion 90



103 PPB TO 13,200 PPB

Levels of lead in parts per billion in the tap water of a home in Flint, Mich., in early 2014.

124 PPB
Found at Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, where the water utility is run by the school maintenance staff.

130 PPB
Found in 2014 at Orange Center School near Fresno, Calif., where officials hadn't tested for lead in almost a decade. That fall, officials shut the system down and shipped in bottled water.



LAURA LANGR, USA TODAY NETWORK

418 PPB

Detected in September test at home of 2-year old Adam Walton in Ranger, Texas, which has twice exceeded the federal limit for lead contamination in 2014 and 2016. Ranger has yet to start treating its water to reduce the lead.



Jennifer "Nuke Town" McIntosh in action.

DERBY

Continued from Page A1

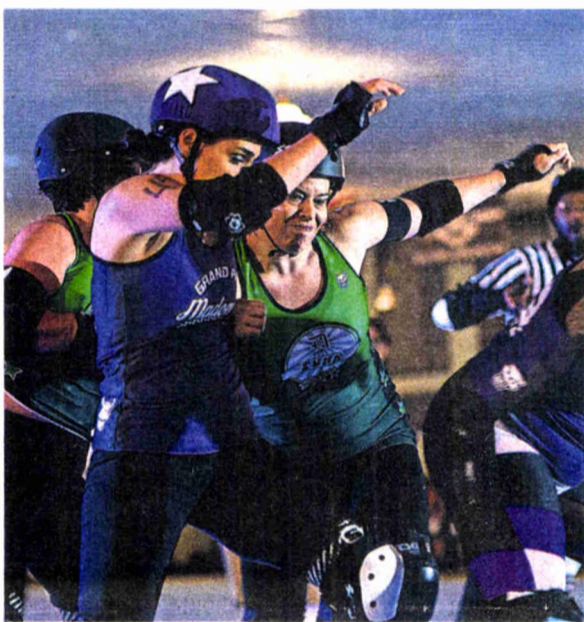
The game itself involves players for each team scoring points during two 30-minute periods. Each team is allowed five players on the track at once: four "blockers" and one "jammer." The blockers are responsible for attempting to stop the opposing team's "jammer," who scores points for the team by passing opposing blockers on the track, Harthun said.

A special event

Harthun will join other women athletes Saturday, Dec. 17, when the Detroit Roller Derby Winter Wonderland event will feature a match-up between the undefeated Detroit Pistoffs and the D-Funk All-Stars. Working in partnership with Operation Care Package, the group will be collecting non-perishable items, like beef jerky, hard candy and crackers, as well as donations of baby wipes, Chapstick and bug spray, for troops overseas.

Scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in Detroit, ticket prices are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. The event will also feature Santa mingling with the crowd and an ugly sweater contest.

The Detroit Roller Derby Winter Wonderland is testament to a sport that is gaining enthusiasm among participants and spectators alike. The WFTDA contends that the flat track version of the sport evolved in 2001. It has quickly grown to encompass more than 400 leagues worldwide, including the Detroit Roller Derby League, which currently includes nine teams: four home teams, three travel teams, a



Martha Goldberg of the D-Funk All-Stars gives it her all.

recreation team and a junior roller derby team that will begin in 2017.

Harthun is one who made the conversion from spectator to participant.

"I was a fan of roller derby before I joined it. A few of my friends and I used to go out for a ladies night to watch them play at the Masonic. It looked like so much fun," she said.

Now an experienced player, Harthun goes by the name of "Brazen Kane" when she is one the derby track — a nickname she terms as an inverse correlation to her "soft-spoken, nice girl" personality.

"This has been a very rewarding experience for me. I've gained a lot of friendships, lost a lot of weight and it has built up my self-confidence so much in the process," she said.

A positive impact

Other local Detroit Roller Derby League players echo her sentiments.

Jennifer McIntosh of Milford and West Bloomfield's Martha Goldberg both credit the sport with having a positive impact on their lives.

"Roller derby builds you up; it helps develop mental toughness. You get knocked down time and time again and it doesn't feel very good and pretty soon you realize that you want to be the one doing the knocking down. It makes me want to be strong," said McIntosh, 40.

Growing up in Traverse City, McIntosh said she has always been athletic and enjoyed participating in team sports, including playing catcher on her prep varsity softball team. She has always been a fan of competition and likes hobbies that help keep her both mentally and physically healthy.

"I have always believed that you need to set goals for yourself to keep moving through life successfully," said McIntosh, who goes by the moniker "Nuke Town,"

when playing with her team, the Grand Prix Madonna's.

"Roller derby helps me to set goals for myself. I drink more water, I eat better ... it makes me want to be healthier overall," she said.

'Improving yourself'

For Goldberg, 43, the mother of three school-aged children, roller derby has provided a rare opportunity for Zen-like concentration.

Playing roller derby "takes you out of your everyday experience. It is one of the few times in life that you are completely focused on others and improving yourself," she said. "When I am on the track working on derby, all of the things that I am worrying about fall away."

While practice times vary from player to player, Goldberg said she practices four to six hours per week and participates in games about once a month.

Goldberg said she has been playing for four years. Currently a member of the D-Funk All-Stars, she points out that roller derby is one of the rare sports that allows for competition among vast age ranges.

"The community is very diverse. It's an exciting thing. There are not many sports where you can have a 19-year-old and a 47-year-old playing against one another," she said.

Roller derby is also very empowering, noted Goldberg, who serves as coordinator of the Teen Foundation Board for The Jewish Fund. "It is important for me that my daughter sees me working at something that I enjoy and helps makes me stronger," she said.

Although she had roller-bladed in her youth, she had never

played roller derby prior to joining her team in her late 30s. "My children were in school full time and I finally had a little free time to squeeze in for myself. I was looking for something fun," she said.

She said she was drawn to roller derby in part by the spirit of camaraderie among team members. "I like the idea of women working together to accomplish a common goal," she said.

Support from everyone

McIntosh said that she, too, was drawn in by the friendly companionship of the league. She and her husband co-own a six-acre farm in Milford, complete with a horse, two dogs and three cats. A manufacturing engineer by trade, she now serves as a consultant in the manufacturing industry.

Despite her busy lifestyle, "as soon as I learned that they were forming a league, I knew I had to join," she said.

Although she had skated "when I was 9 years old at birthday parties," it took her almost two years to learn to be completely comfortable in roller skates.

"I had to learn it all from scratch," she said, adding that "with new learners, everyone is so supportive and encouraging."

Harthun agrees. "I have never in my life encountered anything like this group of women. Someone is always there to help you up or give you a hug. It is absolutely amazing," she said, "I would not have gotten to where I am now without so much help from my teammates. They nurtured me and encouraged me as I progressed along."

For Harthun, an ad-

ministrative assistant for a Northville accounting firm, playing roller derby has opened a new door.

Raising her two sons, now ages 19 and 21 and in college, Harthun enjoyed actively volunteering in their schools, for their sports teams and for the local community. As they grew older, "I was needed less and I sort of became at odds with myself. I needed something, but I didn't know what. I kind of challenged myself to do something that scared me," she said.

That is how in 2014, at age 46, Harthun found herself attending the Detroit Roller Derby U., an event designed to introduce roller derby to a new crop of potential players.

"I did not only learn how to skate, but also how to play derby. My family thought that I was crazy to attempt this at my age, as well as it being my first ever contact sport. But I was looking for a challenge. I began my derby journey when most people retire from it," Harthun said.

While the playing the sport has been personally rewarding, equally rewarding is the opportunity to participate in the fundraising and community outreach activities that are an integral part of the Detroit Roller Derby League, she said.

The way Harthun sees it, it is just one more way that roller derby is brightening the lives of those connected to it. "Roller derby really is special," she said.

As Goldberg said, "It is not like anything else other people do."

To purchase tickets for the Detroit Roller Derby League match-up Dec. 17 between the Detroit Pistoffs and the D-Funk All-Stars, go to www.brownpapertickets.com.

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Travelers explore hidden gems of Balkans

Jay Young
Correspondent

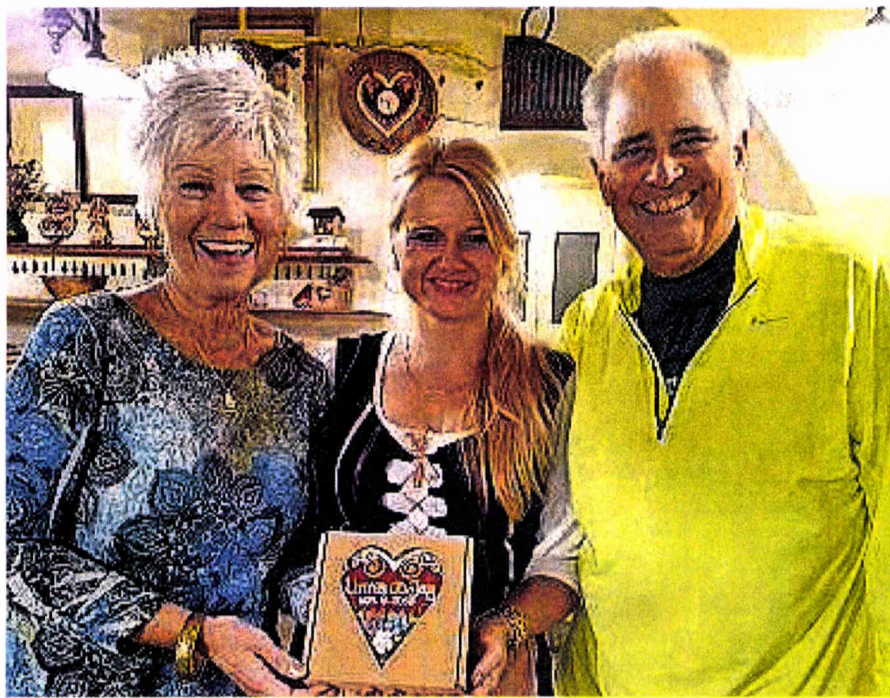
Question: What do Melania Trump, “Shark Tank” entrepreneur Robert Herjavec and “Game of Thrones” have in common? The answer begins in the Republic of Slovenia, the birthplace of the future first lady of the United States.

We recently returned from a three-week trip with Grand Circle Cruise Line, starting in the tiny country of Slovenia, which achieved its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. About half the size of Switzerland, Slovenia borders Italy and Austria on its north and west, and Croatia and Hungary to the east and south. It is an intriguing mixture of the best of those cultures.

Landing in the capital of Ljubljana, we visited its fascinating mix of churches, museums and public markets before traveling about 20 miles to beautiful Lake Bled, Slovenia’s leading mountain resort. Situated in the Julian Alps, the area encompasses sweeping alpine panoramas, a fairy tale island located in the center of the lake and a popular spot for weddings, a cliff-hanging medieval castle and a four-mile promenade around the lake.

In day trips from Bled we visited Postojna Cave, the country’s most famous natural attraction with its endless display of stalagmites and stalactites, and the 13th century Predjama Castle, which served as a stronghold for robber barons throughout its fascinating history.

Our next stop was Zagreb, the capital and largest city of Croatia and home country of Robert Herjavec’s immigrant parents. Zagreb is a city with a rich history dating from Roman times. Our



Jay and Linnea Young pose with an employee, dressed in traditional costume, at a famous gingerbread bakery near Lake Bled, Slovenia. She has just finished decorating a large cookie celebrating the Youngs’ anniversary.

tour included medieval landmarks, such as the Cathedral of the Assumption, a colorful open-air market called Dolac and the Museum of Naive Art, displaying artworks by untrained peasants.

A day trip from Zagreb led us to the lovely Baroque city of Varazdin, a former capital of Croatia and home to several aristocratic families who built magnificent palaces and churches there. They later contributed furnishings to its centerpiece, a moated castle, which now serves as a museum.

From Zagreb we traveled south to Plitvice Lakes National Park, the largest national park in Croatia and one of the oldest in southeast Europe. Founded in 1949, over one million visitors each year come to view waterfalls and 16 interconnected lakes, which range in color from turquoise to green, grey or blue, depending on the

mineral content of the water.

Arriving at Split, we embarked on our Grand Circle Cruise Line ship, the Athena, which would take us down the Adriatic coast to several Croatian islands, Montenegro, Albania and Greece.

Split is the second largest city of Croatia and largest port on the Dalmatian coast. Dating from the 4th century BC, when it was founded by Greeks, it has seen many rulers including the Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, Ottomans, French and Habsburgs. Split is best known today as the site of the huge Imperial Palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. Occupied from 300-313 AD by Diocletian, a Croatian native, the palace is built like a fortress with walls running 590 feet by 705 feet. Ironically, although Diocletian was a great persecutor of Christians, his Temple of Jupi-

ter was later converted into a Christian baptistery and his mausoleum became a cathedral.

That night we set sail for our first Dalmatian island - Hvar. Blessed with having a large fertile coastal plain and fresh water springs, its hill-sides are covered in pine forests, vineyards, olive groves, fruit orchards and lavender fields. Unique to the island are stone walls defining agricultural field divisions of the Stari Grad Plain, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Our next stop was the island of Korcula, reputed to be the birthplace of Marco Polo. The most populous Croatian island not connected to the mainland by a bridge, we learned it was ruled for centuries by the powerful city-state of Venice and is today known for ship building and fishing.

Our next destination was the grand city of

Dubrovnik. Regarded as one of the world’s most exquisite walled cities, it is one of the most prominent tourist destinations on the Adriatic Sea and the setting for the “Game of Thrones” HBO TV series.

Dubrovnik’s character reflects its storied past as an independent city-state called Regusa, whose fleet of ships carried trade between much of Europe and the Middle East. Although demilitarized to protect it from war in 1991, it was besieged by Serb and Montenegrin soldiers for seven months and suffered significant damage from shelling. Under UNESCO supervision, Dubrovnik was repaired with amazing speed and the only visible reminders of the war are pock marked bullet holes in some structures and new bright orange roof tiles.

The next morning we cruised into beautiful Kotor Bay, Montenegro. One of the youngest republics in Europe, (it achieved independence from Serbia in 2006), Montenegro is even more of a crossroads of cultures than Croatia. The result is a unique nation of rugged beauty with an historic linkage to Serbia that defies many of the preconceived notions of the Balkans.

The highlight of our visit was a boat trip to a beautiful baroque church, Our Lady of the Rocks, situated on a manmade island in the middle of the bay. My wife and I renewed our wedding vows in this gorgeous place on our 45th wedding anniversary - truly a memorable event.

If Montenegro was magical, our next stop, Saranda, Albania was sobering. Saddled with a paranoid Communist government, the country was isolated from the international community

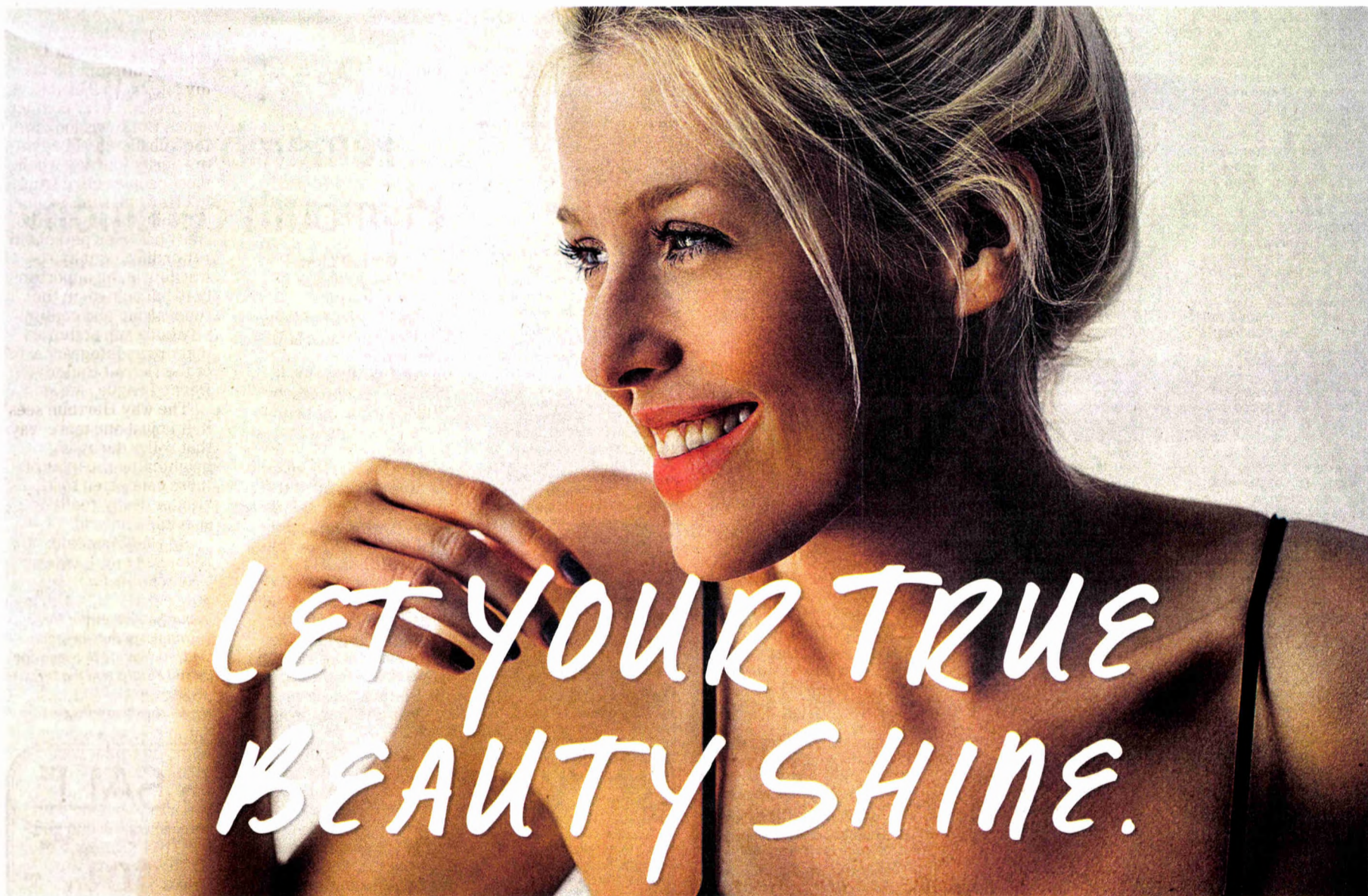
from 1945-1985. During that time, under dictator Enver Hoxha, hundreds of mosques and Islamic libraries as well as Christian churches were destroyed and the country was proclaimed the “world’s first atheist state.” A sad reminder of those days is the 750,000 concrete bunkers scattered throughout the country in preparation for an imaginary invasion that never came.

Our next port of call was the Greek island of Corfu and an excursion to Achillion Palace, the magnificent villa and gardens built by Elizabeth, Empress of Austria in 1890. A popular figure, she retreated to Corfu to escape the constraints of court life in Vienna and immersed herself in the world of the ancient Greeks. Tragically she was assassinated by an anarchist in 1898.

Our last stop before passing through the Corinth canal and disembarking at the port of Athens was the ruins at Delphi. Thought to be the center of the earth by the ancient Greeks, the Oracle at Delphi was often consulted before important decisions were made and contained treasures built by the great societies of the day to honor Apollo and other Greek gods. The nearby museum contains unmatched holdings, including the bronze sculpture of the Charioteer.

Like the puzzle we started with, during this trip we put together pieces of history, culture, natural wonders and delightful people we didn’t know existed, as we discovered the hidden gems of the Dalmatian coast.

Canton resident Jay Young is former director of Community Services for the Livonia Public Schools.



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How to protect your family members from scams

Jay Grossman
hometownlife.com

Nobody wants to lose their retirement nest egg to a con artist, yet it happens all the time.

According to the National Council on Aging, approximately five million older Americans are abused every year and the annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$2.6 billion. Nor is it a problem that's going away anytime soon, as an average of 10,000 baby boomers turn 65 years old every day.

Carol Guyton, a senior vice president with Bank

of America, is something of an expert when it



Guyton

comes to spotting scams involving the elderly. Guyton has worked 32 years in the banking industry, mostly in the consumer area. Here are some tips and warning signs she provides to customers to avoid being the next victim:

Q: What are the most common scams and fraud risks that older customers face?

Guyton: The most common scams prey on people's trust. It could be a con artist who tells the person they owe a large sum of money and the con artist is willing to work with the person if they will make a "good faith" payment by withdrawing funds from their bank account. Another scam is getting the victim to wire or send money on the pretext that the person's child or another relative is in the hospital and needs the money. Also, money is solicited for fake charities. This often occurs after natural disasters.

Q: Is there a specific time of year this fraud is more frequent?

Guyton: No, these types of scams are active year-round.

Q: What systems and safeguards are in place to protect elder customers' accounts from unauthorized access?

Guyton: Bank employees are trained to recognize "red flags" such as:

- » Sudden changes in a client's bank accounts or banking practices.
- » Withdrawals of unusual or unexplained large sums of money.
- » Changes in a client's behavior.

» New signers are added or new joint accounts are opened.

» Confusion about account balances or activity or claim that some property is suddenly missing.

Q: What are the signs that loved ones or family members should look for that may indicate an elderly person is a target of fraud?

Guyton: I have personal experience in this area. I tell families when an elderly person is suddenly very close and trusting with individuals the family doesn't know or are not comfortable with, this is a huge warning sign. An example could be new neighbors or someone they've met over the phone. I would encourage those with elderly family members to carefully observe and ask questions about who they talk to on the phone and whether they've re-

ceived any visitors.

Be sure to let the person know you are only asking to make sure everything is in order. Also, if the relationship is close enough and applicable, ask to browse checkbooks and bank statements from time-to-time.

Q: What are some of the more popular scams?

Guyton: Financial scams involving Medicare or health insurance ... online counterfeit prescription drugs ... funeral and cemetery scams ... investment schemes ... reverse mortgage schemes ... and, of course, lottery or sweepstakes scams. Unfortunately, it's a growing list.

For more information on how to avoid scams against seniors, go to the National Council on Aging's Savvy Savings Seniors page.

grossman@hometownlife.com
586-826-7030
Twitter: @BhmEccentric

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. for Thursday papers
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WEATHERED



CHARLES J. "CHUCK" Age 87 of Dallas, Georgia, formerly of Dexter, Greensboro, GA and longtime resident of Northville, passed away on November 29, 2016. He was born June 29, 1929 in Saginaw, Michigan. Son of Charles L. Weathered and Claire Estelle Robinson. He graduated from Highland Park High School Class of 1947. He married Patricia Butterfield in 1950. Chuck served with the US Navy Reserve from 1947-1951 where he served in the 10th Infantry Division Ft. Riley Kansas until 1955. Chuck also worked for Chrysler Missile Division, and Bendix Aerospace Systems Division. While at Bendix, He was the Director of the Apollo Lunar Surface Experimentation Package (ALSEP) program to provide the lunar surface experiments placed on the moon during the Apollo missions. Chuck married Patricia L. McKenna on October 7, 1961. They built a home in Northville where they raised their family. After the Apollo Missions, Chuck became the Director of North American Operations for General Motors Truck and Bus and retired from GM in 1995. He and Pat built homes in Dexter and Greensboro GA. Chuck enjoyed playing golf daily, either at The Ann Arbor Hills Country Club or Reynolds Plantation in GA. He and Pat enjoyed traveling, cooking, and spending time with family and friends until Pat was diagnosed with cancer and died in 2000. They were married for 39 years. Chuck attended a Montgomery Hills Jr. High School reunion in 2002 and reconnected with fellow classmate Jacquelyn Lusby. They discovered that their spouses passed away within days of each other. They fell in love and married on July 21, 2003. They were married for 12 years, spending time traveling and visiting with friends and family. They eventually settled in Florida where Chuck cared for Jackie during her long battle with Alzheimer's. Jackie passed away 05-02-2016. Charles is survived by his loving children, Linda (Michael) Knight, David (Lea) Weathered, Michael Weathered, Kathy (Fred) Meyer, Tracey (Greg) Clark and Lisa Cebula; his grandchildren, Jason (Hannah), Sara, Julie (Brad), Joshua (Katreen), Jessica (David), Kyle, Jenny, McKenna, Collin, Steven, and Mackenzie; his great-grandchildren, Isaac, Naomi, Justus, Olivia, Isabelle, Emi, and one on the way. He is also survived by three step-children and their nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Chuck was preceded in death by his wives Patricia L. Weathered, Jacquelyn Weathered and Patricia Smith, his parents, his step-father Paul Miller and Sister Virginia Pacific. Visitation will be held Thursday, December 15 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held Friday, December 16, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. Dr. Rev Douglas Vernon from First United Methodist Church of Northville will officiate the service. Mr. Weathered will be laid to rest at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia. Memorial contributions would be appreciated to the Alzheimer's Association, 25200 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 100, Southfield, MI. 48033-7443 or Michigan Parkinson's Foundation, 30400 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 150 Bingham Farms, MI 48025. casterlinefuneralhome.com

GORMAN



JOANNE formerly of South Lyon, Michigan passed away after losing her three year battle with cancer. She died peacefully after multiple visits with family. She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Gerald A. Gorman and three siblings. She was the first born of seven children to Eugene J. Hallman and Marion L. (Kurtz) Hallman of Detroit, MI. Joanne was survived by her five children: Michael Leonard (Kelli) of Pearland, TX; Patrick Eugene (Janet) of South Lyon, MI; Keith Edmund (Amy) of Parrish, FL; Barbara Ziegler of Troutman, NC; Daniel Joseph (Kimberly) of Chelsea, MI. Also surviving are three sisters, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Joanne was a retired Fraudulent Check Investigator for Meijer, Inc. At the time of retirement, she was responsible for six stores in six counties. Upon retirement, she moved with her husband to Bonifay, FL. In Bonifay, she enjoyed playing golf and working on her favorite pastime, researching family genealogy. She acquired volumes of articles and pictures, which she then compiled into a chronological family history dating back to the 9th century. Her greatest joys were traveling the country and actively participating in her family's growth. A visitation will be held for family and friends at her son's church, Faith Baptist Church, 4030 Kalmbach Rd., Chelsea, MI, on Wednesday, 14-December, from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. A memorial service will also be held at the same location on Thursday, 15-December, at 11:00 a.m. which will then be followed by a luncheon. Joanne's final resting place will be with her husband at Great Lakes National Cemetery, in Holly, MI. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Great Lakes Caring Hospice Foundation, in memory of Joanne Gorman, 900 Cooper St., Jackson, MI. 49202 (www.greatlakescaring.com). Please feel free to sign the on-line guest book and leave messages for the family at www.phillipsfuneral.com

GRAY



GERALDINE B. Passed away at Beacon Square Assisted Living in Northville on December 7, 2016. She was 93 years old. Born January 19, 1923 in Monroe, MI she was the daughter of Tina and Edgar Stadelman. Geraldine attended Monroe schools and graduated from Monroe High in 1940. She was active in all school activities including accompanying the glee clubs and the soloists, and voice. She was the Editor of the school newspaper the Lotus Leaf, and the Senior Yearbook. She also graduated valedictorian of her class. She was a graduate of University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1944, where she was active in campus activities, Chi Omega sorority, two honor societies: Wyvern and Motor Board. She served as Personnel Administrator of the Women's League activities. She was Secretary of Senior Class and graduated with honors, BA degree. Geraldine was founder, owner and operator of Record and Gift shops at Stadelman furniture, in Monroe, for many years. She married LeRoy Gray, of Ann Arbor, on November 8th, 1952 they spent 49 years together until he passed away on November 9, 2001. She was also preceded in death by her parents as well as her sister, Betty. Geraldine is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Christine E. Szelap and Edmund Szelap; two grandchildren, Ryan Heffernan and his wife Katrina, and Brandon Heffernan. As per request, there will be no viewing or service. Entombment will be at Roselawn cemetery in LaSalle in the family mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, contributions should be made to the American Cancer Society.

WISZ



FRANK JOSEPH age 70, a longtime resident of Milford, died at his home on December 10, 2016. He is survived by his loving wife of forty five years, Marsha Wisz; his daughter, Lori Barnhart; sisters, Dorothy (Gret) Riffe, Bonnie Wisz, Lynn (Jerome) Killian, brother, Jeff (Brenda) Wisz. He also leaves many extended family members and many dear friends, including those from Chrysler and BOGUS Golf League. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Martha Wisz and sister, Patricia (Thomas) Patrick. A Funeral Service will be held at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 5 p.m., with visitation beginning on Thursday from 1 p.m. until the time of the service. Interment of ashes, Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Monday, December 19 at 9:30 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd St., New York, NY 10016. For further information phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

JAMES

KEVIN Age 50, passed away December 10, 2016. He was born November 30, 1966 in Pontiac, son of Leroy and the late Shirley James. Kevin is survived by his father, Leroy; his children: Regina (Bill) Powell, Kevin James Jr., and Jeffery James; his eight grandchildren: Layla, Stella, Landon, Aja, Kevin III, Aerilyn, Evelyn, and Jayden. He is also survived by his siblings: Cheryl James, Debbie Lechnyr, Ronnie (Wendy) James, and Clayton James. He was preceded in death by his mother, Shirley James. A funeral service will be held on Friday, December 16 at 11:00a.m. with the family receiving friends beginning at 10:00a.m. at New Hudson United Methodist Church, 56730 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, Michigan www.phillipsfuneral.com

JEFFERIES

BARBARA A. Age 64, passed away December 12, 2016. Barbara is survived by her children: Rachael (Steve) Showerman, Heather (Jeff) Moore, Christopher (Mandi) and Zachary; grandchildren: Grace, Ella, Tess, Hope, Elyse, Daphne and Colton; brothers Ron West and Tim Alban; sisters: Ann Sulisz, Peggy Waverick, Kathy Folsom and Gayle LaMagna. A visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2:00-7:00p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Thursday, December 15, 11:00a.m. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Active Faith. www.phillipsfuneral.com

SNYDER



ROBERT G. Age 67, of South Lyon, Michigan, passed away December 10, 2016, after a recent illness. He was born December 20, 1948 in Sandusky, Ohio, son of the late Gordon Snyder and survived by Mary (Naples-Snyder) Francisco. He was a UAW Retiree of Ford Motor Company in Lorain, OH, and avid bowler in earlier years. Robert is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Rebecca, his daughters: Carolyn and Tiffany, son: Joseph, and granddaughter: Kendall; step-siblings: Tom and Wilma McFadden, Carole Chaney, and in-law-siblings: Susan and William Kuchik. www.phillipsfuneral.com

SQUIRE

LAWRENCE May 9, 1941 - November 28, 2016
obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

RAYMO

ANGELA July 24, 1924 - November 28, 2016
obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

FLANIGAN

PATRICIA April 18, 1930 - December 1, 2016
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vietnam veterans' rifle salute.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

World War II veterans Gene Overholt and Charles Minthorn stand for the opening prayer.

Pearl Harbor remembered in Plymouth ceremony

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com

World War II veteran Charles Minthorn still remembers the wreckage of U.S. ships after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that catapulted the United States into war.

Minthorn, a Plymouth resident, worked at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Pearl Harbor and operated small boats during his service in 1943-45. On a cold day marking the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Minthorn fought back tears when asked why he came to a ceremony at the Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park.

"I came here because it's my duty," he said.

Not far away, U.S. Army veteran Gene Overholt recalled serving in France, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands as a communications soldier relaying information from combat zones to military headquarters. He was still in high school when he got a draft notice that ultimately landed him in the Battle of the Bulge.

His service in World War II forever changed his life. He spent four years at war and got out in 1946.

"It made a man out of a boy pretty quick," said Overholt, a Plymouth resident. "It was a life change."

Minthorn and Overholt were among a group of Plymouth-Canton area veterans and their supporters who paid tribute to those who served, suffered injuries and died at Pearl Harbor.

Don Dignan, chaplain

of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 528, said a prayer as a U.S. flag flapped in the wind.

"War is not what we seek," Dignan said. "Peace on Earth is a valued quest for all mankind."

Yet, he and others know there are times when war is inevitable — and the attack on Pearl Harbor ushered in one of those times.

"War was unavoidable," said Steve Monaghan, who was a flight officer in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam. "Freedom was threatened."

Deborah Davis, regent for the Daughters of the American Revolution's Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter, read a prayer poem and said it was common during World War II for people to carry wartime poems with them. She read one and spoke of the sinking of the USS Arizona and those who died on it.

During the solemn ceremony, the crowd said the Pledge of Allegiance, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and listened as Monaghan made mention of those who became prisoners of war or who were missing in action during war. Some veterans laid wreaths at the memorial while others fired a rifle salute. A lone trumpeter played "Taps."

In addition to the VFW Post 528 and the DAR chapter, other groups participating in the ceremony included the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6695 and the Plymouth Passage-Gayde American Legion Post 391.

dclem@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @CantonObserver
734-972-0919

Remembering Our Sons

Mike Cook
1963 - 2006

Rick Cook
1960 - 2002

*Forever in our hearts
Love You,
Dad & Mom*

LO-0000305546

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Local student studying in Ireland

Bailey Fowler, daughter of Colleen and Blaine Fowler of Northville, is studying in Ireland during fall semester 2016 through the Center for Global Education at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn., and St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.. Fowler is a junior elementary education major at CSB.

The Galway program gives students an opportunity to explore the history, culture, literature and religion of Ireland. While students are exposed to Gaelic as a living language, courses are taught in English. The focus is on a structured curriculum, leaving room for the exploration of unique opportunities presented by the intellectual and cultural resources of Ireland. Located in Spiddal, a rural village out-

side of Galway, students are housed in cottages at the Park Lodge, a family-run institution. Christi Siver, associate professor of political science at CSB and SJU, is director of the program for fall 2016.

Earns a doctorate

Megan Marie Wallen of Novi has successfully completed her doctoral program and been awarded a Ph.D. in biology at Georgetown University

in Washington, D.C. She is a 2006 Novi High School graduate and a 2010 University of Michigan graduate. Wallen has completed extensive research projects in Ghana, Kenya, Australia and Chesapeake Bay, Va.

In addition, Wilen has received awards and grants from numerous institutions, including the National Aquarium in Baltimore, the American Society of Mammalogists, the 2014

Marine Mammal Symposium and the 2016 Georgetown Biology Department Outstanding Graduate Student.

Wallen currently resides in Washington, D.C.

Enrolled

Northville residents April Thomas, Emily Fitzgerald and Julie Vu are enrolled at Kent State University. Vu is enrolled in the university's Honors College.

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Novi

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something for the entire family

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Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (English) & 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Fr. Didier Kutshienza, Pastor
Fr. Beto Espinoza, Associate
Parish Office: 248-349-8847 www.holyfamilynovi.org

Milford

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Bible Study: at 9:45
Rev. Martin Dressler

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www.faithcommunity-novi.org
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Dec. 24 Christingle @ 3pm &
Midnight Mass @ 10:30pm
Dec. 25 Christmas Service 9am
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Website: milfordbaptist.org

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www.fpcsouthlyon.org

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Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
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734-347-1983 pastor cell
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Northville

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(248) 349-1144
777 West 8 Mile Road
(8 Mile and Taff Road)
Northville, Michigan
Worship Times September - May 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
Memorial Day - Labor Day 10:00 a.m.
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10:30 a.m. Praise and Worship
Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m.
Matthew Oliver, Minister

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Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.

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248-374-2268
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Sunday School at 8:45
10:30 am Fellowship/Coffee
11:00 am Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study at 7 pm
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First Presbyterian Church of Northville
www.fpcnorthville.org
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Worship, 9:30 am.
Sunday School for all ages, 10:30 am.
248-349-0911

Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church
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Sunday School @ 11 am
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248-437-2222 • www.fellowshippepc.org

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Phone: 248-437-2983
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Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
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Website: www.fbcsouthlyon.com
Email: fbcsouthlyon@bcbglobal.net

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11:00am & 6:30pm
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
Rev. Sandra Willabee, Lead Pastor
southlyonfirstumc.org

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All Classes 9:00
Pastor Scott Miller, (248) 437-1651

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South Lyon MI 48178
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Rev. Thomas Scherger
248-573-7320
www.shepherdswaysouthlyon.org

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www.ecrossroads.net
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rhcpecc.net

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For more information regarding this directory, please call
Janice Brandon at 248-926-2204
or email: jkbrando@michigan.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The crowd was a little smaller than usual, due to the weather.

COMPASSION TRUMPS SNOW AS VIGIL HONORS CHILDREN



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Candles are lit for the ceremony.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Hugs, after the names of the children are read, and the ceremony ends.

Brad Kadrich
hometownlife.com

Mother Nature made it pretty tough, but the folks who turned out Sunday for the 20th annual Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil have been through way tougher stuff than 10 inches of snow.

While the crowd was down a little, the occasion wasn't dimmed at all as a large crowd gathered in Plymouth's Kellogg Park for the annual vigil that honors the memories of sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and grandchildren who've left too soon.

"The event went well, even though the snow just kept coming down," said Gail Lafferty of The Compassionate Friends, Livonia chapter. "It was beautiful and the Memory Trees were exceptionally pretty with all the snow."

The event was part of the 20th annual Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting, which unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of those who died at a young age.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle-lighting on the globe, the annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual



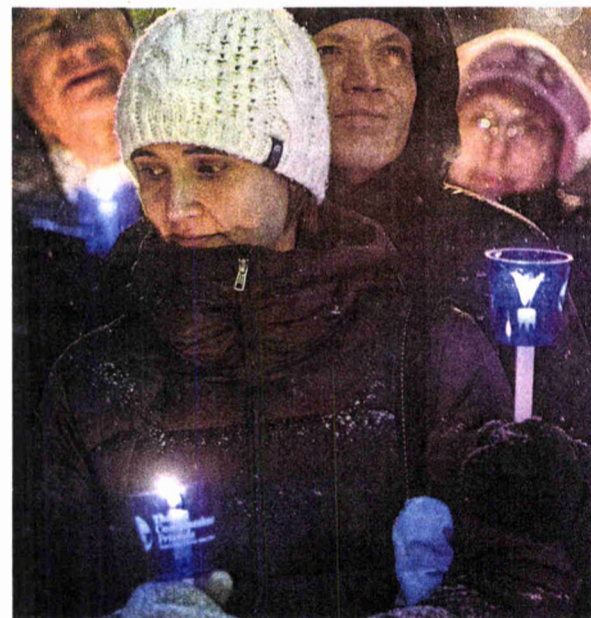
BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Compassionate Friends, gathering in Kellogg Park, for the global candle lighting to honor children who died too soon.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joe and Shelia Klock look at one of the Memory Trees in Kellogg Park. The Klocks were honoring the memory of their son Joseph Klock Jr. They are from Farmington Hills.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Remembering the children with Compassionate Friends.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Remembering Alyssa Temple.

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24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone.

In Plymouth, the event usually crowds Kellogg Park with hundreds of participants. This year, the huge snowfall limited the crowd to about 100. The event included the reading of names, including Lafferty's own son Max. There was poet-

ry and song, and two Memory Trees were decorated with ornaments dedicated to the children.

"I'm sure the weather played a big part in people coming," Lafferty said. "We read 730 names and there were the same amount of ornaments split up between the two Memory Trees."

Started in the United

States in 1997 as a small Internet observance, the event has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance.

Anyone who has lost a child, or would simply like more information, can call 734-778-0800 or email tcfcandlelight@yahoo.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing to receive public input on a variance requested by the property owner of 777 Eight Mile Road, Northville, Michigan, 48167. The applicant is seeking two variances to erect a new sign on premises zoned R1-A First Density Residential District, parcel number 48-002-99-0001-000. The City's Building Official evaluated the proposal, and has determined that the maximum sign area allowed for this sign is 40 square feet, and located 10 feet from the property line. The applicant is proposing to erect a sign of 75.53 square feet, and locate the sign seven feet seven inches from the property line. Therefore, variances for 35.53 square feet in area and two feet five inch distance from the property line are needed from Article 21of the Zoning Ordinance to allow erection of the new sign.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday January 4, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the variance request. The variance application is available for review at the City of Northville Building Department during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, local prevailing time. Written comments regarding the proposed variance requests will also be received at the above address.

Publish: December 15, 2016

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

LO-0000305935 3X3

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

The Charter Township of Northville Administrative Offices will be closed on the following days in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays:

Friday, December 23, 2016
Monday, December 26, 2016
Monday, January 2, 2017

Residents who wish to pay property taxes, before the year-end, can do so until closing at 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 30, 2016.

POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE.

Sue A. Hillebrand, Clerk

Publish: December 15, 2016

LO-0000305745 2x3



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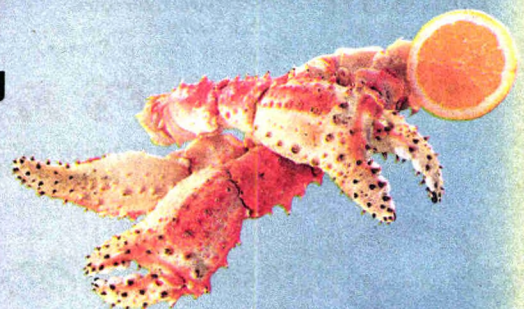
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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Grand Valley's Mencotti made almost all her goals

Only national title elude NCAA Division II's top scorer

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

When Grand Valley State had its streak of three consecutive NCAA Division II women's soccer titles snapped in the championship final earlier this month by Western Washington, 3-2, Gabriella Mencotti probably took it as hard as anybody.

For Mencotti, the nation's leading goal scorer for all NCAA divisions with 29 goals this season, it could have been something straight out of Camelot.

But the ride back from Kansas City turned out to be a different feeling for the junior forward, who played an integral role both as a sophomore and freshman in the Lakers' national championship runs.

A 23-2-1 overall record this season for the Lakers was certainly nothing to be ashamed of. And, in retrospect, Mencotti was proud of her team's effort.

"I think having a couple of days to digest the loss was good," said the 2014 Northville High graduate and Novi resident. "But I think overall, reflecting on the season, we had an incredible season. A lot of players, especially our seniors, had great years and some of them even their best years so far. I think everyone stepped up and had a really good year. And it just happens sometimes where the end might not be good enough. But overall, it was a good experience for us to have. Looking back, I think it was a great year, no matter what."

All-America honor

Mencotti, who also recorded 13 assists this season, was recently named first team All-America by HERO Sports, deservedly so.

"Twenty-nine goals is a pretty re-

See **MENCOTTI**, Page B5



Northville graduate and Novi resident Gabriella Mencotti (right) was a goal-scoring machine for Grand Valley State.

BOYS SWIMMING



Novi senior Siddhardha Kareddy was seventh last year in the Division 1 butterfly.

FILE PHOTO

BOYS HOCKEY

Legace hot as Wildcats take down Stevenson

Novi goaltender makes 44 saves in upset 4-2 triumph

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Manny Legace Jr. is starting to carve out his own legacy as a goaltender for the Novi High School boys hockey team.

The senior, who served as primarily a backup the past two years, continued his stellar early season play for the Wildcats as he turned away 44 out of 45 shots Friday night at Novi Ice Arena in a 3-2 upset win over Livonia Stevenson, ranked No. 2 in Division 2 and last year's MHSAA runner-up.



Legace Jr.

Legace is the son of former NHL goaltender Manny Legace, who logged a total of 347 regular season games with the L.A. Kings, Detroit Red Wings, St. Louis Blues and Carolina Hurricanes before retiring from pro hockey in 2012.

Manny Legace Sr., who was a member of the Wings' 2002 Stanley Cup champs, now serves as a goaltending consultant for the NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets and runs Detroit Hockey Academy.

"He was here today," Legace Jr. said. "He gives me a lot of advice. I wouldn't say I take a lot of his talent, but I take a lot of my knowledge from him. That's where I get a lot of it from."

Novi, which improved to 4-2-1 overall and 2-2-1 in the KLAA Central Division scored all three of its goals in the opening period.

Derek Dubois opened the scoring for Novi at 2:05 of the opening period, when his close-range backhand slipped past Stevenson goalie Will Tragge. Assists went to Ryan Fonda and Anthony Luongo.

But the Spartans answered shortly after on a power-play goal from senior captain Justin Alton, from Kyle Lynch and Alex Walkuski, to make it 1-1.

But then the course of the game shifted radically, when Stevenson's Vince Decina was sent off for a five-minute checking from behind penalty at 7:04 of the first.

And the Wildcats made them pay with a pair of power-play goals, the

'CATS COULD BE EVEN BETTER THIS SEASON

Novi returns plenty of talent and also welcomes one of nation's top swimmers

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Coming off its best finish in school history, the Novi boys swimming and diving team could be even better this season.

Make that significantly better. Although the Wildcats lost Area Swimmer of the Year Ryan Katulski to graduation off last year's squad that finished seventh (134 points) in the MHSAA Division 1 state finals and set seven school records, the outlook looks even more promising.

That's because the Wildcats return a slew of talented performers and one promising newcomer who might be the best swimmer in the state in senior Camden Murphy, a University of Georgia signee.

"We are looking to have an exciting year and improve upon our seventh-place finish at last year's state championships," Novi coach Brent Pohlonski said. "Our boys have been looking forward to this season for a long time and they have put in a great year of train-

ing. Almost everyone came back faster than they were last year."

Novi's top returnees include state placers Siddhardha Kareddy and Joey Berman, both seniors.

Kareddy took seventh in the 100-yard butterfly (51.15) after posting a school-record time of 50.81 in the prelims, while Berman was ninth in the 100 backstroke (school record 52.16).

Both were also members of the Wildcats' school-record and all-state (top eight) 200 medley (sixth, 1:35.21) and 400 freestyle (eighth, 3:11.71) relay teams.

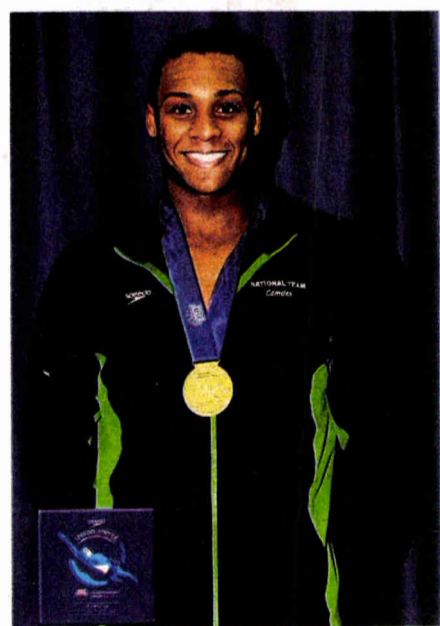
Other key returnees include Philip Billiu, a state finalist on three relays, and Joel Kotyk, a state qualifier in the 200 individual medley. Both are seniors.

Other returning state qualifiers include juniors Alexander Yuan (200 freestyle), Max Williams (100 backstroke) and Preston Harrell (100 butterfly).

Meanwhile, Murphy is more than a promising newcomer.

See **SWIMMING**, Page B2

See **HOCKEY**, Page B4



Novi's Camden Murphy is one of the nation's top butterfly swimmers.

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BOYS SWIMMING

Northville triumphs over Pinckney to open season

Wildcats win eight events in easy victory

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Despite a season-opening 128-58 dual meet triumph to start the season Dec. 8 at home, Northville boys swimming and diving coach Rich Bennetts wants to pump the brakes.

"Nice to get a win to start off the year; they may be hard to come by for us this year," he said. "At this point, we have not even been able to really break down the races and the strategy because, quite frankly, we are so out of shape there is really no point to it yet. We

are trying very hard in practice to get everyone in shape as quickly as possible, but when you sit around and do nothing for the better part of seven months, it doesn't happen overnight."

The Mustangs won eight of the 12 events, led by Trevor Degroot, who captured the 200-yard individual medley (2:08.06) and 100 freestyle (51.91). He also teamed with Cameron Heaven, Jason Nitkiewicz and Kirk Maibach for first in the 200 freestyle relay (1:34.20).

Other individual first-place finishers for Northville in-

cluded Maibach, 50 freestyle (22.67); Thomas Rys, 1-meter diving (188.05 points); Nitkiewicz, 500 freestyle (5:13.00); and Roman Grossi, 100 breaststroke (1:09.85).

Northville's 200 medley relay team of Arthur Greenlee, Nikolai Arton, Nitkiewicz and Heaven also took first (1:43.91).

Pinckney was led by David Turner's win in the 200 freestyle (1:49.23) and 100 butterfly (55.20). He also helped the Pirates win the 400 freestyle relay (3:40.33). Pinckney's Zach Beckwith also won the 100 backstroke (1:07.15).

"We will continue to challenge the boys at practice every day and I look forward to getting everyone in swimming

shape so I can see what kind of team we will have," Bennetts said. "The divers did a nice job tonight and it looks like there are two or three freshmen that might be able to help us out come February. The returning team, minus maybe a handful of guys, is so out of shape that I can't really get a read on them yet. Hopefully, we can start to improve dramatically once we get in shape."

**DUAL MEET RESULTS
NORTHVILLE 128, PINCKNEY 58
Dec. 8 at Northville**

200-yard medley relay: 1. Northville (Arthur Greenlee, Nikolai Arton, Jason Nitkiewicz, Cameron Heaven), 1:43.91; 2. Northville (Ali Pazooki, Haotian Jiang, John Duan, Craig Maibach), 1:48.22.
200 freestyle: 1. David Turner (P), 1:49.23; 2. Nitkiewicz (N), 1:52.49; 3. David Alameddine (N), 1:57.25.
200 individual medley: 1. Trevor Degroot (N),

2:08.06; 2. Duan (N), 2:12.63.
50 freestyle: 1. Maibach (N), 22.67; 3. Greenlee (N), 24.10.
1-meter diving: 1. Thomas Rys (N), 188.05 points; 2. Nolan Thaxton (N), 143.95; 3. Ian Duan (N), 110.25.
100 butterfly: 1. Turner (P), 55.20; 2. Nitkiewicz (N), 56.56; 3. Pazooki (N), 1:00.32.
100 freestyle: 1. Degroot (N), 51.91; 2. Heaven (N), 53.55; 3. Jacob Grimmer (N), 55.02.
500 freestyle: 1. Nitkiewicz (N), 5:13.00; 2. Alameddine (N), 5:13.17; 3. Nicholas Mouaikel (N), 5:32.16.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Degroot, Heaven, Nitkiewicz, Maibach), 1:34.20; 3. Northville (Jiang, Grimmer, Taiyo Ichikawa, Grimmer), 1:38.42.
100 backstroke: 1. Zach Beckwith (P), 1:07.15; 2. Alameddine (N), 1:07.48; 3. Curtis Lee (N), 1:08.82.
100 breaststroke: 1. Roman Grossi (N), 1:09.85; 3. Jimmy Huang (N), 1:12.28.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Pinckney (Turner, Karl Swanson, Zach Jennings, Beckwith), 3:40.33; 2. Northville (Alameddine, Ichikawa, Greenlee, Lee), 3:41.32; 3. Northville (Nick Brown, Grimmer, Mouaikel, Pazooki), 3:49.29.
Dual meet records: Northville, 1-0 overall; Pinckney, 0-1 overall.

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bemons1@twitter.com

BOYS SWIMMING

Novi sweeps opponents in double-dual meet

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Novi swept all three relay events Friday night and brought home to its fans a double-dual meet boys swimming and diving victory over Okemos, 121-65, and Brighton, 132-53.

The Wildcats, who improved to 3-0 overall, also got individual wins from Brian Son, 200-yard freestyle (1:50.76); Siddhardha Kareddy, 50 freestyle (22.85); Joey Berman, 100 butterfly (55.08); and Maxwell Williams, 100 backstroke (57.67).

The foursome of Berman, Joel Kotyk, Preston Harrell and Max Robbins captured the 200 medley relay (1:45.57), while Berman, Alexander Yuan, Son and Kareddy were first in the 200 freestyle relay 1:32.03.

Novi capped off the meet with first in the 400 freestyle relay as Stephen Siitari, Kareddy, Son and Yuan were clocked in 3:25.64.

Brighton's Drew Panzl was a double-winner, capturing the 200 individual medley (2:02.00) and 100 breaststroke (1:00.90).

Okemos got wins from

Hunter Hollenbeck, 1-meter diving (254.80 points), Ewan Woolcock, 100 freestyle (49.78); and Alexander Eddy, 500 freestyle (5:12.44).

The next challenge for the Wildcats will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, where they will take on the reigning MHSAA Division 3 state champions.

**DOUBLE-DUAL MEET RESULTS
Dec. 9 at Novi**

TEAM SCORES: Novi 121, Okemos 65; Novi 132, Brighton 53.

FINAL EVENT RESULTS
200-yard medley relay: 1. Novi (Joey Berman, Joel Kotyk, Preston Harrell, Max Robbins), 1:45.57; 3. Novi (Erik Halboth, Colin Quinn, Maxwell Williams, Stephen Siitari), 1:46.95.
200 freestyle: 1. Brian Son (N), 1:50.76; 3.

Alexander Yuan (N), 1:51.85.
200 individual medley: 1. Drew Panzl (B), 2:02.00; 2. Berman (N), 2:03.82; 3. Daniel Chung (N), 2:09.06.
50 freestyle: 1. Siddhardha Kareddy (N), 22.85.
1-meter diving: 1. Hunter Hollenbeck (O), 254.80 points.
100 butterfly: 1. Berman (N), 55.08; 2. Williams (N), 57.17; 3. Minjae Kim (N), 59.06.
100 freestyle: 1. Ewan Woolcock (O), 49.78; 2. Kareddy (N), 49.95; 3. Son (N), 51.55.
500 freestyle: 1. Alexander Eddy (O), 5:12.44; 2. Robbins (N), 5:12.58; 3. Halboth (N), 5:22.27.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Berman, Yuan, Son, Kareddy), 1:32.03; 3. Novi (Adam Carozza, Harrell, Lucas Quinn, Robbins), 1:37.94.
100 backstroke: 1. Williams (N), 57.67; 3. Nitin Kinra (N), 1:01.84.
100 breaststroke: 1. D. Panzl (B), 1:00.90.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Novi (Siitari, Kareddy, Son, Yuan), 3:25.64; 3. Novi (Seung Jae You, Carozza, Williams, Kotyk), 3:32.93.
Novi's dual meet record: 3-0 overall.

bemons@hometownlife.com
bemons1@twitter.com

BOYS SWIMMING

Wildcats slip past Canton in dual meet

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Senior Phillip Billiu earned his first individual state cut of the season by winning the 100-yard backstroke as Novi pulled out a highly-contested 96-90 dual meet victory over Canton.

The Wildcats won despite winning only three of the 12 events, as Billiu posted an MHSAA Division 1 qualifying time of 54.56.

Novi's other two individual winners were Adam Carozza in the 200 individual medley (2:09.66) and Jack McClure in the 1-meter diving (177.20 points).

"I'm grateful for the challenge that Canton provided us in our first meet," Novi coach Brent Pohlonski said. "Every event was highly contested. This meet helped us see the weak areas that we need to work on if we are going to achieve our goals this year. I'm proud of how our team found a way to win after being challenged."

Canton's Dan Mullen figured in four first-place finishes, including sweeping the 200 and 500 freestyles in 1:47.45 and 5:00.26 (edging Novi's Joey Berman by 0.013 seconds).

Mullen also teamed with Kyle Amick, Derek Goderis and Caleb Styles for a win in the 200 freestyle relay (1:32.13). The foursome of Amick, Goderis, Tristen Shao and Mullen was first in the 400 freestyle relay (3:20.74).

Canton's 200 medley relay team of Shao, Richard Ling, Isaac Fong and Goderis was also victorious (1:42.68).

Other individual winners for the Chiefs included Amick, 50 freestyle (23.18); Shao, 100 butterfly (55.47); Goderis, 100 freestyle (49.81); and Ling, 100 breaststroke (1:05.81).

**DUAL MEET RESULTS
NOVI 96, CANTON 90
Dec. 6 at Canton**

200-yard medley relay: 1. Canton (Tristen Shao, Richard Ling, Isaac Fong, Derek Goderis), 1:42.68; 2. Novi (Phillip Billiu, Alexander Yuan, Brian Son, Adam Carozza), 1:43.90; 3. Novi (Maxwell Williams, Daniel Chung, Nitin Kinra, Seung Jae You), 1:47.13.
200 freestyle: 1. Daniel Mullen (C), 1:47.45; 2. Joey Berman (N), 1:47.80; 3. Caleb Styles (C), 1:55.56.
200 individual medley: 1. Carozza (N), 2:09.66; 2. Fong (C), 2:09.69; 3. Ling (C), 2:10.94.
50 freestyle: 1. Kyle Amick (C), 23.18; 2. Yuan (N), 23.19; 2. Williams (N), 23.90.
1-meter diving: 1. Jack McClure (N), 177.20 points; 1. Charles Carey (C), 166.30; 3. Tobias Artman-Chance (C), 132.60.
100 butterfly: 1. Shao (C), 55.47; 2. Billiu (N), 55.52; 3. Carozza (N), 58.89.
100 freestyle: 1. Goderis (C), 49.81; 2. Yuan (N), 50.18; 3. Amick (C), 50.23.
500 freestyle: 1. Mullen (C), 5:00.26; 2. Berman (N), 5:00.39; 3. Son (N), 5:12.51.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Amick, Goderis, Styles, Mullen), 1:32.13; 2. Novi (Yuan, Joel Kotyk, Williams, Berman), 1:33.23; 3. Novi (Stephen Siitari, You, Max Robbins, Preston Harrell), 1:37.06.
100 backstroke: 1. Billiu (N), 54.56; 2. Shao (C), 55.90; 3. Chung (N), 1:01.0.
100 breaststroke: 1. Ling (C), 1:05.81; 2. You (N), 1:08.89; 3. Samuel Stefanek (N), 1:12.07.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Canton (Amick, Goderis, Shao, Mullen), 3:20.74; 2. Novi (Berman, Son, Robbins, Billiu), 3:21.20; 3. Novi (Carozza, Siitari, Harrell, Kotyk), 3:33.73.
Dual meet records: Novi, 1-0 overall; Canton, 0-1 overall.

"I'm grateful for the challenge that Canton provided us in our first meet."

BRENT POHLONSKI
Novi coach

SWIMMING

Continued from Page B1

A club swimmer with the Kingfish Aquatic in Waterford, Murphy owns the national age-group record in the 100 butterfly and recently joined the team after capturing the USA Swimming Speedo Junior Winter Nationals East title with a time of 46.84. Murphy also was ninth in the 200 butterfly (1:46.25).

Pohlonski has a talented freshman class to chose from, led by Adam Carozza (freestyle-butterfly), Max Robbins (freestyle), Seung Jae (Brian) You (breaststroke-freestyle) and Sam Stefanek (breaststroke-freestyle).

"The addition of Camden Murphy and our outstanding freshman class will, hopefully, elevate us to one of the top teams in the state," said Pohlonski, whose team is already off to a 3-0 start. "Our biggest challenge will be replacing our two state finalist divers, Jimmy Ciolli (10th) and Nathan Pellerito (12th). We will be counting on junior Jack McClure to lead a very young group of divers and help them develop quickly."

CC's new direction

Former Oakland University assistant coach Shawn Kornoelje takes over at Novi Detroit Catholic Central for Shannon Dunworth, who moved to Texas.

Although state placer Matt Loniewski and state qualifier Andrew Campbell graduated, Kornoelje inherits a veteran squad that finished 11th in the Division 1 state meet with 68.5 points.

"After the last couple of weeks, just getting to know the kids and watch them train, I think we have a really huge upside," Kornoelje said. "My goal is to get as many guys qualified for the state meet as we possibly can and swim as fast as we can and see what happens."

CC's top returnee is junior Jonathan Lee, who placed fourth in the 100 breaststroke (58.10) and sixth in the 200 IM (1:54.87) at the state finals.

Lee was also a part of CC's eighth-place 200 medley relay team (1:36.13) that included junior Tommy Wiaduck, who was a state qualifier in the 100 freestyle (48.48).

Other returning individual state qualifiers for the Shamrocks are senior captains Chris Barron (100 backstroke), Dan Vela (500 freestyle) and Logan Mills (100 breaststroke), along with junior Charlie Walsh (IM-butterfly).

David Debaacker, a sophomore, and Brendon Connelly, a senior, also were state qualifiers in diving, while Junior Jimmy Connor (200 freestyle relay) returns as well.

Among CC's promising newcomers will be sophomores Joe Cottrell (IM-back-



CC's Jonathan Lee was an all-stater in two events.



Northville's Kirk Maibach set a school record in the 100 backstroke last year.

stroke) and Conor Brownell (freestyle), along with freshman August Phielking (IM-freestyle-breaststroke).

"Depth-wise in the Catholic League, I think we're in pretty good shape," said Kornoelje, who was 36 swimmers on his roster. "We're just going to try and get better each day and each week and see where we end up in March."

Northville retools

Northville finished 12th in last year's Division 1 state meet with 64 points and won the Kensington Conference meet, but lost state meet participants James Xue, Chris Geng, Shane Boran, Jack Breuch, Troy Stacer and Christian Field to graduation.

"We lost a lot of points not only to graduation, but we had

some kids move out of state and some others that decided not to join the team this year," said Northville 18th-year coach Rich Bennetts, who guided the Mustangs to a 9-3 dual record last season. "Those are big losses, especially the ones that you were not anticipating. However, we will not waste our time or energy on kids that aren't here. We will coach the kids that are here and want to get better. We have about six months of work to get done in a three-month season."

Bennetts will rely on juniors Kirk Maibach and Trevor Degroot, along with senior Nikolai Arton, to lead the way.

Maibach earned all-state (top eight) honors in the 50 freestyle (sixth, 21.30) and also took 10th in the 100 backstroke (school record 52.33), while

Arton finished 11th in the 100 breaststroke (59.94) and was Kensington Conference champ (59.91).

Both were members of the Mustangs' seventh-place 200 medley relay team (school record 1:36.65).

Meanwhile, Degroot was a state placer in the 500 freestyle (15th, 4:49.02) and helped the Mustangs take 11th in the 400 freestyle relay (3:13.11).

Other key returnees for the Mustangs include seniors David Alameddine and Thomas Rys (diving), junior Cameron Heaven (sprint freestyle) and sophomores Jason Nitkiewicz, (IM-butterfly) and Travis Nitkiewicz (IM-breaststroke).

Among the promising newcomers for Bennetts are Brian Ding, Curtis Lee, Andrew Lane, Craig Maibach and Nick Brown.

"Getting in swimming shape is priority No. 1," Bennetts said. "Then it is about teaching the kids the way we want things done and getting them to retain as much of that information as possible. The league is really good this year. Novi, (Livonia) Stevenson, South Lyon, Salem all have good teams. Our division (KLAA Central) is really good, we are looking up at everyone right now. Our team has not been in this position in about 15 years, so it will be interesting to see how we react. I hope we will fight hard to get better and be a much better swim team in February than we are now. We'll see how it all plays out."

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FILE PHOTO

BOYS BASKETBALL

Footloose: Maddox stars as Novi downs Rochester

New shoes help junior score game-high 27

Tom Morelli
Correspondent

It's got to be the shoes. How else could one explain how Novi junior guard Traveon Maddox Jr. scored points at a relentless pace in the Wildcats' season opening 74-55 win Friday night against visiting Rochester?

The 6-foot-4 Maddox sank 10-of-16 shots, including three triples, to finish with a game-high 27 points.

That's quite an accomplishment when you consider that Maddox didn't even start the game after suffering an ankle injury in practice earlier in the week.

It turns out that the cause of the ankle injury was a pair of low-top KD9s (Kevin Durant's signature shoe), prompting Maddox to seek out a more protective set of kicks.

Donning a fresh pair of green LeBron Soldier Xs,

Maddox lit it up instantly, showcasing both his range and vertical to register 14 points by halftime.

Among his many highlights of the night came in the second quarter, when junior guard Trendon Hankerson threw a lob toward the basket for Maddox, who put it away with an extraordinarily freakish dunk that left many jaws dropped to the floor.

If Maddox is able to provide Novi with performances like this the rest of the way, he may be sporting his own pair of sneakers by season's end.

"I've been practicing that dunk all summer and all fall, just working on my explosiveness, doing my squats and just trying to increase my bounce," Maddox said. "Today, I had a fast break and thought that this is my time, so I had to do it. I wanted to see the crowd go crazy."

While the offense played a

big part in the Wildcats' win, they still went to work on the defensive end, beginning with a 16-2 effort to close out the first quarter.

It increased in the second quarter, with Novi securing a healthy portion of rebounds and steals to help ignite its fast-break attack.

After Falcons guard Ahmed Anthony knocked down a 3-pointer with 4:15 left to cut the deficit to six, the Wildcats went on an 11-point run to make it 35-18 at halftime.

Running the break has been second nature for Novi, according to third-year coach Brandon Sinawi.

"The guys like to run," said Sinawi, whose team went 14-10 last season and won a Class A district title. "We have guys who like to get out on the fast break and that serves as their conditioning in practice. It's an opportunity for them to score easy baskets and we've preached on that since the end of the season last year. It's easy when you have guys who

want to do it and can do it. It makes the game fun as well."

Due to their overwhelming lead, the Wildcats went to their bench more often in the second half. While they weren't able to replicate their results in the first half, Novi still outscored the Falcons 39-37 over the final two quarters and led by as many as 22 points.

Figuring out a way to slow down Maddox and the transition offense proved to be a difficult task for Rochester coach John Pleasant.

"In the second half, we did a better job," Pleasant said. "We can't put ourselves in that big of a hole in the first half. They have a nice team and they absolutely killed us in transition. They had 17 transition points in the first half and that's going to hurt you."

"Traveon had it going, but then they came back with a couple other guys making shots. That's why you have to play team defense and hope to be able limit and contest shots

and not give up open shots."

The Falcons (0-1) were led by senior post player Lamarcco Gulledd with 18 points, followed by a 14-point effort from Hunter Shattler.

For the Wildcats, other notable contributors were senior forward Alec Bageris (13 points, six rebounds) and Hankerson (eight points, five rebounds, four assists).

Novi shot at a 46-percent clip from the field (29-of-63), including seven 3-pointers, while going 9-of-16 at the free-throw line.

"Defensively, early on, we played really well and that led to our offense tonight," Sinawi said. "Traveon coming off the bench and him getting hot early helped us out. We have guys who can fill it up though, no question. What impressed me to most was our defensive presence in shutting Shattler down tonight and turning those defensive stops into transition baskets, getting to the free-throw line and taking care of points that way."

BOYS BASKETBALL

Lukomski keys CC victory over Farmington

Sophomore scores 20 points after getting surprise start

Brad Emmons
hometownlife.com

Davis Lukomski didn't learn he was starting his first varsity game until five minutes prior to game time.

But the sophomore from Novi Detroit Catholic Central was more than ready as he made a splash in his debut, scoring a game-high 20 points Tuesday night as the Shamrocks opened their boys basketball season with a 74-59 victory over Farmington.

"He's played pretty good for us this fall and worked out hard this summer," CC coach Bill Dyer said of the 6-foot-6, 185-pound forward. "No, he didn't surprise us. We got a lot of confidence in him. He's got a quick release and a knack for the game. He's got those natural instincts that you can't really coach."

Lukomski was an efficient 7-of-12 from the floor and showed his range by hitting three triples.

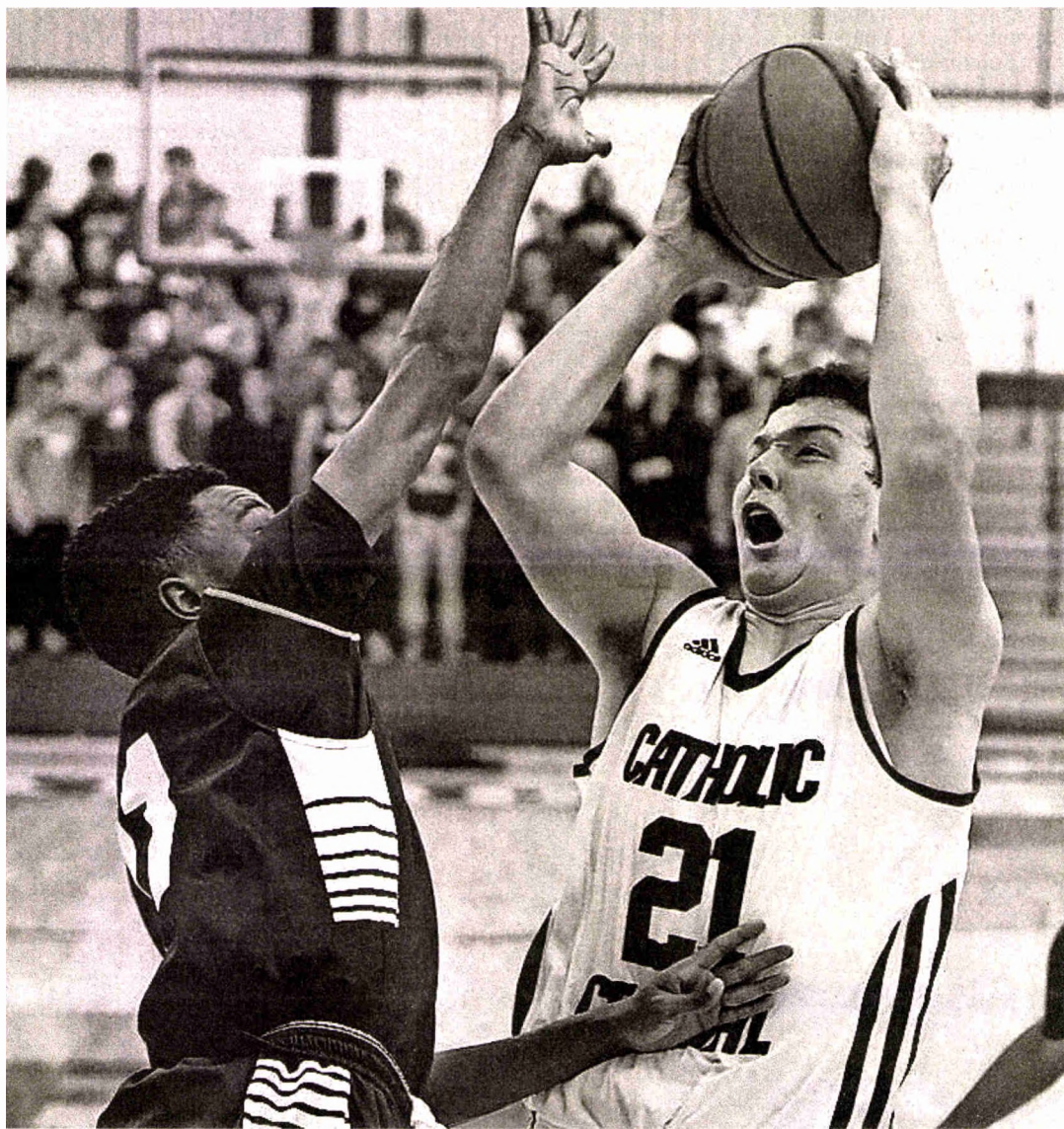
"Coach (Dyer) told me before the game I was starting, so what I took away from that is that the coach had faith in me," Lukomski said. "It kind of took away some of the nerves. Went out there, took my first shot and missed it, but remained confident and I got a three. The guy came off of me, I took it and made it. And I stayed confident from there and found myself wide open, so I kept shooting, making shots and it felt good."

The Shamrocks had to feel good about their 33-27 halftime lead, but felt even better after going on a 21-5 third-quarter run to stretch their lead to 54-32.

"We always talk about the first four minutes in the second half coming out with intensity and (CC) went on a 7-0 run," Farmington coach Terrence Porter said. "They took it from a six-point lead to a 13-point lead and it was hard for us to recover."

During that third quarter, CC got scoring from eight different players.

"We played together as a team pretty well," Lukomski said. "We haven't been together very long, but we played pretty well. Our starters had good chemistry. We've been working together all week long and guys off the bench re-



Catholic Central's C.J. Baird (right) shoots over Farmington's Austin Anthony.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

bounded and did their part. It was a good team win."

The Falcons simply couldn't match up with CC's overall size, which not only featured the 6-6 Lukomski, but also 6-5 senior C.J. Baird (12 points) and 6-5 junior Christian Girgis, along with 6-5 sophomore Matt Harding and 6-4 senior Jack Morris.

"It was really our inability to rebound the basketball," Porter said. "They were more physical than we were. They got multiple attempts at the basket, which led to some of their wide open 3-pointers that they were able to hit."

Farmington broke into a full-court press at the end of the third quarter and the Falcons ended up outscoring CC 27-20 over the final eight minutes while creating 10 of CC's 13 turnovers.

But it was too little, too late for the Falcons, who got a team-high 16 points from sen-

ior forward Jordan Graham, along with 11 from junior Russell Norris. Senior guard Jay Kirby scored all nine of his points on 3-pointers in the second quarter.

"I told the team I thought we played extremely hard the end of the third and pretty much all of the fourth quarter, but we were forced to because we were down by so many," said Porter, whose team shot 24-of-62 from the floor (38.7 percent). "So we have to play that hard from the opening tip. It's a process and a learning curve and we'll get back on the practice floor tomorrow and watch film and we'll get ready for Friday night."

CC also got 13 points from senior guard Gio Genrich as the Shamrocks shot 29-of-65 from the floor (44.6 percent).

"We tried on working getting the ball inside and use a little size for us," Dyer said. "It looked pretty good at times

tonight. There's certain things we haven't quite covered yet. With only two-and-a-half practices (because of CC's long football playoff run) we haven't got a lot of stuff in. There's a lot of things we still have to get better at and maybe one of them is who is starting the game."

And one player who may have cemented his starting spot is Lukomski, who grew two inches this summer after playing last season for the CC freshman team. Lukomski was a post player during his grade school days at Plymouth's Our Lady of Good Counsel.

"We told him about five minutes ahead of time," Dyer said of the sophomore's surprise start. "That helps, doesn't it? He knew before. For his first game on the (varsity) he played pretty great. Pretty proud and pretty happy for him."

BOYS BASKETBALL

Northville cruises by Tractors in a rout

Mustangs score first 18 points to cinch outcome

Brad Emmons
hometownlife.com

Sophomore guard Robert Johnson scored a game-best 20 points Friday as Northville rolled to a boys basketball victory at Dearborn Fordson, 58-24.

The 5-foot-11 Johnson made 10-of-11 free throws as the Mustangs improved to 2-0 overall.

"It was terrific to see Rob go off tonight," Northville coach Todd Sander said. "He's really been growing up over the past couple of weeks. We really need him to continue to improve."

Swedish exchange student Gustaf Tjernberg, a 6-foot-5 senior, added 11 points, including 7-of-8 from the line, along with 14 rebounds. Senior guard Jake Justice added 10 points and eight rebounds.

Fordson (1-1), outscored 18-0 at the start, got seven points from Hamze Alzayat.

The Tractors were only 3-of-19 from the foul line (15.7 percent), while Northville was 19-of-21.

GABRIEL RICHARD 61, FRANKLIN ROAD 40: Anthony Brown led a balanced attack Friday with 17 points and Eric Wigginton added 11 as Riverview Gabriel Richard (1-0) downed visiting Novi Franklin Road Christian (1-1) in a non-league encounter.

The Pioneers led 14-10 after one quarter and broke it open with a 21-8 second-quarter run, hitting four of their nine 3-pointers on the night. Freshman Rahmon Scroggs and senior Nick Suchecky scored 14 and 12 points, respectively, for the Warriors.

NORTHVILLE 50, SALINE 43: The host Mustangs (1-0) shot a blistering 90 percent from the free-throw line en route to a season-opening victory Dec. 6 over the Hornets (0-1). The Mustangs connected on 19-of-21 foul shots as senior guard Jake Justice went 7-of-8 along with a team-high 13 points. He also grabbed seven rebounds.

Phil Jovanovski added 11 points, including 5-of-5 from the stripe, while Swedish exchange student Gustaf Tjernberg added eight points and seven boards.

Calder Pellerin scored 13 points for the Hornets, who went 9-of-14 from the foul line.

"We knew tonight was going to be a battle given the tough, active zone Saline plays," said Northville coach Todd Sander, whose team led 22-20 at halftime before outscoring the Hornets 13-4 in the third quarter. "That's tough in an opener, but we adjusted well and Colin Latta hit a couple of triples to spread them out in the first half. I thought we won the game in the third quarter, when our defense held them to four."

FRANKLIN ROAD 55, HENRY FORD ACADEMY 42: Max Hollman led the way with a game-high 28 points as Novi Franklin Road Christian (1-0) earned the road victory Dec. 6 at Dearborn Henry Ford Academy (0-1).

The 6-0 senior guard went 11-of-14 from the free-throw line along with one 3-pointer as the Warriors overcame a 25-23 halftime deficit by outscoring the Navigators 20-6 in the third quarter.

"Max got dribble penetration and was able to take it all the way to cup," Franklin Road coach Matt Mikel said.

Rahmon Scroggs chipped in 11 points, while Joshua Beck added 10 points and 10 rebounds. Jay Douglas led Henry Ford Academy with 10 points.

Franklin Road was 13-of-19 from the foul line, while Henry Ford was 12-of-19.

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"It was terrific to see Rob (Johnson) go off tonight."

TODD SANDER
Northville coach

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Novi topples Chelsea; Franklin Road rolls to big victory

Brad Emmons
hometownlife.com

Novi made it three straight to start the girls basketball season Friday with a 46-34 victory over host Chelsea.

Junior guard Ellie Mackay continued her hot scoring with a game-high 20 points to go along with an assist, four rebounds and two steals.

The Wildcats (3-0), who led 22-20 at halftime and 38-26 after three quarters, also got contributions from Cara Ninkovich (six points, five assists),

Lauren Calhoun (six points), Mikayla Lynch (five points) and Ally Pringle (four points).

The loss dropped Chelsea to 2-2 overall.

FRANKLIN ROAD 44, OAKLAND CHRISTIAN 27: Rachel Bause posted a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds to lead Novi Franklin Road Christian (4-0) to a victory Friday at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian.

Daria Boboc added 12 points and nine rebounds for the Warriors, who led 18-13 at halftime and 29-17 after three quarters.

Madison LaLone paced Oakland Christian with 10 points.

Franklin Road made 10-of-12 free throws, while Oakland Christian was 7-of-8.

NOVI 40, WEST BLOOMFIELD 29: Junior guard Ellie Mackay led the way with 19 points, three steals and four rebounds Dec. 8 as the Wildcats (2-0)

turned back the Lakers (3-1) in a non-league match-up. Novi led 19-15 at halftime, then went on an 11-0 run to end the third quarter and build a 36-25 lead.

Other contributors for Novi came from Cara Ninkovich (eight points, four assists), Julia Lalain (six points, eight rebounds) and Julia Stadtherr (five points, three rebounds, two assists).

Jamie and Jordyn Elam paced West Bloomfield with 10 and seven points, respectively.

NORTHVILLE 60, SALINE 37: Senior forward Jessica Moorman poured in a game-high 20 points Dec. 6, leading the host Mustangs (1-1) over the Hornets (1-2).

Junior guard Kendall Dillon chipped in 10 points for the Mustangs, who led 29-14 at halftime and 51-23 after three quarters.

Sydney Jarvela led Saline with eight points. Northville was 10-of-19 from the free-throw line (52.6 percent), while Saline was 10-of-18 (55.5 percent).

NOVI 56, AVONDALE 33: Junior guard Ellie Mackay racked up a game-high 21 points Dec. 6 to propel the host Wildcats (1-0) to a season-opening victory over Auburn Hills Avondale (2-1).

Mackay also added four assists, four rebounds and four steals as the Wildcats led 31-10 at halftime and 43-20 after three quarters.

Other key contributors for Novi included Cara Ninkovich (eight points, seven rebounds, six assists), Julia Stadtherr (seven points, five steals), Mikayla Lynch (seven points), Jessie Bandyk (seven steals) and Lauren Calhoun (four rebounds, two assists).

FRANKLIN ROAD 41, EVEREST COLLEGIATE 28: Rachel Bause scored a game-high 13 points to go along with eight rebounds and six blocks Dec. 6 as Novi Franklin Road Christian (3-0) turned back Clarkston Everest Collegiate in a non-conference game.

Reagan Mumford chipped in 11 points and eight boards as the Warriors led 24-9 at halftime and 29-14 after three quarters.

Franklin Road was 11-of-16 from the foul line (68.7 percent), while the Mountaineers were 6-of-9 (66.6 percent).

NOVI 56, AVONDALE 33: Junior guard Ellie Mackay racked up a game-high 21 points Dec. 6 to propel the host Wildcats (1-0) to a season-opening victory over Auburn Hills Avondale (2-1).

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PREP WRESTLING

CC assembles strong case as No. 1 team

Brad Emons
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Talk about a home mat advantage.

Wrestling before a throng of more than 1,000 cheering students, preseason No. 1-ranked Novi Detroit Catholic Central put on an impressive display before the friendly faithful with a 48-9 dual match victory over Grandville in the school's annual assembly match.

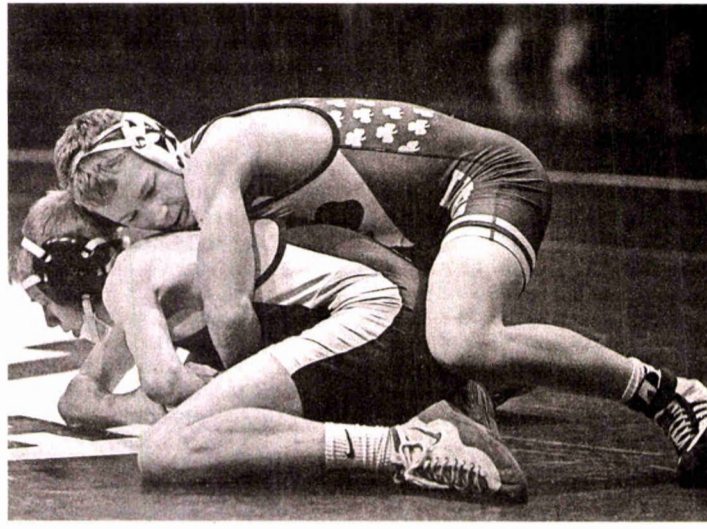
When CC's 103-pounder Devon Johnsen took just 23 seconds to pin Grandville's Victor Rehmmor in the opening match, the roar of the Shamrocks' student body was deafening, to say the least.

It wasn't quite the ancient Roman Colosseum, but it definitely had that feel as the Bulldogs found themselves in a 21-0 hole to start after 112-pounder Rhett Newton (18-1 technical fall), 119-pounder Derek Gilcher (pin in 4:29) and returning state champion Ben Kamali (16-6 major decision) each scored impressive wins for CC.

"It's very special," CC coach Mitch Hancock said of the annual season opener. "I compliment the Basilian fathers for allowing us to do this, along with our faculty, our staff. I think everybody here embraces the wrestling community. This environment here today has taken off and it's recognized by our national publications. People around the country know about the Catholic Central assembly match. You got to take your hats off to Grandville and coach (Ryan) Gritter for coming in and having courage to wrestle in this type of environment."

Grandville's 130-pounder Anthony Taylor momentarily stopped the bleeding when he decided CC's Stone Moscovic, 10-4, to score the Bulldogs' first points.

"It's a great atmosphere," said Gritter, whose team was ranked No. 5 in the Division 1 preseason Michigan Grappler.com poll. "I think it's really cool that they do that for their



CC's Derek Gilcher (top), a freshman at 119, pinned Grandville's Robby McHaffee.

student body. Their school spirit is huge and you heard that. And it's fun for us to come and have that experience also and put the kids in some adverse situations and see how they do. I have a couple of young guys. You put them in starting out and it can only get easier from there."

But things didn't get any easier for Grandville as the Shamrocks captured the next six matches, getting a pin from returning state champ Cameron Amine (145), along with decisions from returning state champ Kevon Davenport (135), Joe Urso (140), Aidan Wagh (152), Brendan Yatooma (160) and Tyler Morland (171), another returning state champ.

Morland, who went 47-1 last season en route to the D-1 title, took on Cam Bush, the returning state champ at 152 pounds, and posted a convincing 10-0 major decision.

The CC senior was just happy to be back on the mat after suffering a knee injury while playing in the seventh game of the football season. The linebacker was lost for the season as the Shamrocks made a run all the way to the Division 1 state final.

"I'm definitely not in as good a shape as I'd like to be with only a week of practice," Morland said. "It's a work in progress. A little more practice and I would have been a lot better. I just got tired on my feet and didn't score as many points as I wanted to."

"Me and Cam (Bush) are good friends. He's always been smaller (weight class) than me. I just go out and wrestle. I didn't have any game plan really, just score more points."

Morland wore a protective sleeve on his knee, but showed no ill effects.

"He hasn't been on the mat a ton and to wrestle a state champ, who bumped up to wrestle him, and I thought he showed a lot of guts today," Hancock said. "I was proud of him. He looked really, really good on top. As a team, we've got to get in better shape and just get a little bit better with a game plan when we step on the mat."

Grandville took two of the final three matches as Sam Greco (189) decided Dane Flynn, 8-3, while Ian Hall (215) outlasted Steven Kolcheff in double overtime, 2-1.

In the final match, CC's

defending state heavyweight champ Nick Jenkins won by major decision, 13-5, over Bryce Henning.

"I was really impressed with our 119-pounder Derek Gilcher, who is a freshman," Hancock said. "And I was very, very impressed with our 160-pounder (Brendan) Yatooma, who had a nice win over (Jake) Paganelli after they bumped Bush to wrestle Morland. And our 215-pounder (Kolcheff) was in that double-overtime match with Ian Hall. We have three freshmen in the lineup and two won. And I thought we should have won all three matches. I like the energy the freshmen brought. A lot of energy and they wrestled tough."

Although the majority of the CC student body could only stay for an hour before heading back to class, it was an afternoon to remember.

"It's awesome," Morland said. "There's no better atmosphere when it comes to wrestling. It's as good as it gets. It's a lot of fun."

Meanwhile, Hancock was appreciative that Grandville made the 264-mile round trip.

"Coach Gritter is very, very intense and competitive," he said. "And his program is on the rise. He challenged those guys today and you could see that. They were very well-prepared and they were in good shape and well-coached."

DUAL MATCH RESULT
DETROIT CC 48, GRANDVILLE 9
Dec. 7 at Detroit CC
103 pounds: Devon Johnsen (CC) pinned Victory Rehmmor, 0:23; **112:** Rhett Newton (CC) won by technical fall over Jesse Veldhouse, 18:1; **119:** Derek Gilcher (CC) p. Bobby McKelvie, 4:29; **125:** Ben Kamali (CC) won by major decision over Josh Kenny, 16:6; **130:** Anthony Taylor (Grandville) dec. Stone Moscovic, 10:4; **135:** Kevon Davenport (CC) won by major dec. over Mike Cazzasco, 14:5; **140:** Joe Urso (CC) dec. Mason Priest, 5:3; **145:** Cameron Amine p. Aldon Herrera, 3:30; **152:** Aidan Wagh (CC) dec. Al Matthews, 10:3; **160:** Brendan Yatooma (CC) dec. Jake Paganelli, 3:1 (overtime); **171:** Ty Morland (CC) dec. Cam Bush, 10:0; **189:** Sam Greco (Grandville) dec. Dane Flynn, 8:3; **215:** Ian Hall (Grandville), 2-1 (2 OTs); **285:** Nick Jenkins (CC) won by major dec. over Bryce Henning, 13:5.
Dual match records: Detroit CC, 1-0; Grandville, 0-1.

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PREP WRESTLING

Wildcats victorious at double dual meet

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

The Novi wrestling team got two for the price of one Dec. 7.

The Wildcats opened their 2016-17 season with a double-dual meet victory over North Farmington, 56-12, and host Farmington, 51-30.

Among the double winners individually for Novi were Ryan Farris (112 pounds), Chris Silva (119), Sandeep Menon (125), Ryan Heur (140), Eric Wright (152), Lincoln Cleary (160), Corey Grassmyer (171), Chase Sparling (189) and Chad Howell (215).

CC rules duals

Top-ranked Novi Detroit Catholic Central improved 6-0 overall Saturday by winning all five matches in the Westland John Glenn Rocket Duals.

The Shamrocks outscored their opponents, 347-27, including a 48-15 win over Glenn in the finals.

Other victories came against Allen Park (74-6), Clinton (75-3), Livonia Franklin (75-3) and Clarkston (68-0).

Notable victories for CC came from Rhett Newton, who decided Glenn's Kyle Borthwell, a third-place Division 1 finalist from a year ago, along with Joe Urso, who defeated Clarkston's No. 6-ranked Jake Rygielski, another state qualifier from last year.

"I thought our guys wrestled hard today and were aggressive," CC coach Mitch Hancock. "We had some good individual match-ups and learned a lot about where we need improvements. Overall, it's a good start to the year as a team."

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PREP BOWLING

Shamrocks shine in league singles action

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Senior Nathan Geddes earned runner-up honors as host Novi Detroit Catholic Central placed four in the top 10 at the Detroit Catholic League singles tournament Dec. 5 at Livonia's Woodland Lanes.

Geddes was on target from the start, rolling consecutive games of 266 and 244 while finishing with a four-game set of 875 and a 219 average.

Also earning a spot on the all-tournament team was CC's Alex Roelant, who finished fifth with a 775 series (194 average) with high games of 202 and 244.

CC's Andrew Lack was seventh with a 193 average and a 769 series, highlighted by a 257 game, while Ben Ward also made the top 10 with a 758 series (190 average), including a 216 high game.

Other high scorers for the Shamrocks, who are looking to defend their 2016 Catholic League crown this season, included Joe Jessop (209) and Chintan Maheshwari (201).

Mustangs swept

On Friday, host Pinckney won both the boys (21-9) and the girls (29-1) in a match-up of KLAAs schools at Whitmore



CC's Alex Roelant (left) and Nathan Geddes made all-tourney in the Catholic League singles tourney Dec. 5 at Woodland Lanes.

Lanes.

Chevy Pawlik and Jacob Evans rolled high games of 192 and 182, respectively, as the Pinckney boys won both regular games, 866-721 and 792-727, while splitting the Baker sets, 128-146 and 220-149.

Nathan Colosimo (178) and Payton Kurhumel (170) led Northville (1-2).

Rachel Kuczajda rolled games of 244 and 254 to lead the Pinckney girls, who cap-

tured both Baker sets, 166-92 and 127-89, as well as both regular games, 737-485 and 700-528.

Craig paced Northville with a 199-144, while Compeau added a 149.

Lakeland rolls

Andrew Zavinsky rolled games of 224 and 211 to propel White Lake Lakeland to a 27-3 KLAAs crossover boys bowling victory Dec. 8 over Northville

at Waterford's Century Bowl.

Aaron Lenz also added a high game of 233, while Zachary McCoy chipped in a 214 for the Eagles, who won both Baker games, 165-137 and 170-132, along with both regular games, 901-822 and 984-744.

T.J. Newman and Connor Eadeh paced Northville (1-1) with high games of 199 and 191, respectively.

Meanwhile, the Lakeland girls were also victorious against the Mustangs, 30-0, with Taylor McBride and Jenny Pelc posting high games of 205 and 180, respectively.

The Eagles captured both Baker games, 132-102 and 113-65, along with both regular games, 812-463 and 837-617.

Delaney Compeau led Northville (0-2) with a high game of 160, while Katie Craig added a 156.

Northville falters

On Dec. 6, the Northville boys opened their season with a 22-8 win over Walled Lake Western at Westland's Town 'N Country Lanes as Korhumel (182-184) and Eadeh (184) led the way.

Meanwhile, the Northville girls got a 136 from Compeau in a 22-8 loss to the Warriors.

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HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

first coming at 7:50, when Loungo batted in a rebound from Zach Perpich and Fonda, followed by Cam Czapski's fifth of the year, from Perpich and Brandon Kour, just 27 seconds later to make it 3-1.

"We took the five-minute; it was a penalty," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "We hit the kid from behind. Those are the rules and Novi did what good teams do, they capitalized on it."

Novi made the most of its six first-period shots on goal. The Wildcats had just 11 total shots on the night.

"Honestly, our power play hasn't been working that well lately and we only had an hour practice yesterday after the Brighton game (Wednesday)," Novi coach Mark Vellucci said.

"We worked on special teams and we got pucks to net and I think we got a couple of rebounds there. When you're struggling on the power play, you try and get pucks to the net and get rebound goals like that. It was good."

Legace then took over the game, making 19 saves in the second period alone before the Spartans finally got one through at 8:14 of the third, when Morgen Gray scored off a nice feed from Brendan Hall with Logan Dunham also assisting to cut the deficit to 3-2.

"The second goal was a tough one, but my team was playing so well," Legace said. "They were putting everything they had into it, blocking every shot they possibly could. I knew even when they got that goal we still had a good chance of winning still."

The Spartans didn't help their cause by taking a costly penalty with only 5:37 left and,

with just under a minute to go, Kour scored an empty-netter to close out the win after the Spartans pulled Tragge for the extra attacker.

"When you get chances and you're going against a good team and a good goaltender, you have to capitalize on your chances," said Mitchell, whose team slipped to 5-2 overall and 2-1 in the KLAAs Central. "And we were not able to do that tonight and those were the breaks. The sun comes back up tomorrow and we'll come back, move on and go forward. We learned from this and grow moving forward. Again, it was a very good high school hockey game and all the credit in the world goes to Novi."

Getting a split during the week against Brighton (3-1 loss), the top-ranked team in Division 1, and Stevenson, No. 2 in Division 2, bodes well for the Wildcats.

"We played hard against

Brighton, it was 1-0 after the first (period) and we were in it," Vellucci said. "They're the top team in the state, one of the top teams along with (Stevenson). I think we made a good statement, especially tonight. We held on. We don't have the talented guys like they do and Brighton does, but we have guys that work their butts off. When you've got Manny in net, the boys feed off it and are confident. They push and they play harder for him."

And during the off-season, Legace Jr. was determined to want to leave a legacy of his own going into his senior season.

"After sitting my sophomore year and most of my junior year, it was just my time to shine and it feels great," he said. "There wasn't anything I didn't work on. I tried to get in shape the best I could, that was mostly the big thing."

BOYS HOCKEY

Brighton holds off Novi, 3-1

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com

Top-ranked Brighton made a three-goal lead after two periods stand up in a 3-1 KLAAs Central Division boys hockey victory Dec. 7 over host Novi at Novi Ice Arena.

The Bulldogs (5-1, 1-0), ranked No. 1 in Division 1, jumped out to a 1-0 lead at 10:56 of the opening period on Jake Crespi's goal from Joey Martini.

Brighton added two more in the second period, with Jake Demski scoring from Brody White and Keith Wikman at 9:38, followed by Adam Conquest's goal at 10:25 from Crespi and Will Jentz.

The Wildcats (3-2-1, 1-2-1) got their lone goal at 5:28 of the final period, as Ryan Fonda scored from Brandon Kour and Zach Perpich. But Brighton goalie Logan Neaton (23 saves) blanked the Wildcats the rest of the way to preserve the victory.

Novi goaltender Manny Legace Jr. made 22 saves.

DETROIT CC 7, PORT HURON NORTH-ERN 0: Seven different players scored Dec. 7 as Novi Detroit Catholic Central (4-3-1, 4-1-1) rolled to a Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League North Division victory over Port Huron Northern (2-4-1, 0-4) at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

The three-time defending MHSAA Division 1 state champion Shamrocks, ranked No. 7 in Division 1, jumped out to a 3-0 first-period lead on goals by Carter Korpi at 3:37 (from Rylan Clemons), Greg McQuade at 12:50 (from Brendan West and Zachary Spys-Tellner) and Spys-Tellner at 16:06 (unassisted).

Ethan Ervin's goal at 10:53 of the second period from Kory McCullough made it 4-0.

The Shamrocks added three more in the final period, starting with Dylan Montie's goal at 6:32 (from Erin and Ryan Hausman), McCullough at 8:08 (from Nicco Zervos) and Zervos at 12:18 (from John Zielinski and Jared Lee) also scored.

CC goalie Sean Finstrom had to make just nine saves to post the shutout, while Chad Kreda had 23 saves for the Huskies.

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WOMEN'S HOCKEY

These girls got some serious game

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Whenever the subject of girls hockey comes up at Canton High School, Jessica Carpenter shoots straight and hits hard.

"I feel a lot of people think that girls can't check," said Carpenter, 16, of Plymouth. "They think guys hockey is so much more aggressive and a lot tougher than girls hockey."

"So whenever people ask me about hockey, I always try to prove them wrong, saying girls can be just as aggressive as guys can."

Carpenter is a pretty tough cookie herself, playing defense for the Compuware 16-Under girls hockey AAA team.

She and her hockey-playing siblings, including Honeybaked AAA players Julia and Jenna (not to mention 10-year-old Carly), are raising their sticks and raising their voices about the growing phenomenon that is women's hockey in North America.

And soon they'll be cheering loudly and proudly for their heroes on U.S. Women's Select Team — scheduled to face Canada at 4:30 p.m. Saturday at USA Hockey Arena in an exhibition game that essentially is a teaser for next spring's Women's World Championship (March 31 through April 7, 2017, at the same venue).

In the house

The game provides the Carpenter sisters and other girls who play and love hockey an opportunity to get an up-close-and-personal glimpse of U.S. women's hockey standouts such as Farmington's Megan Keller and Brighton's Shiann Darkangelo.

"It's a really great opportunity for us," said 14-year-old Julia Carpenter, a center for the Honeybaked 14U team, coached by her dad Larry Carpenter. "It'll be important for girls our age to see their role models get to play on the ice, not just on TV."

Hockey fans of all ages might be in for a surprise when they see the high quality of action unfolding in front of them.

"In the past, you can't catch them on TV," Larry Carpenter said. "So you have to watch them when they're streamed over the Internet, maybe catch the finals when they play in the Olympics."

"So to see them in person, it's just so exciting to have them there. It's high-quality hockey and it's great to have people realize that women can play at that high level and deliver such a fun, entertaining game."

He added that even Detroit Red Wings fans "will be



Competing for the Honeybaked U14 AAA girls team based out of Suburban Hills Farmington Hills are sisters Jenna (back) and Julia Carpenter of Plymouth.

amazed at the quality of the hockey."

Agreeing wholeheartedly with them is Reagan Carey, USA Hockey's director of women's hockey.

"For those who haven't seen elite women's hockey, I think they'll be absolutely surprised and they'll be excited to watch one of the most competitive games in sports they'll ever see, let alone hockey," Carey said. "The rivalry between the U.S. and Canada is unmatched; they'll compete hard and they're out to win on both sides."

"So we're looking forward to bringing that energy and exposure to our sport for these fans. I guarantee they're not going to walk out of there disappointed."

Buzz building

The arena on Beck Road in Plymouth is certain to be packed and filled with energy that afternoon. Bringing it will be clusters of girls teams from area organizations such as Compuware, Honeybaked (based out of Suburban Ice in Farmington Hills) and the Livonia Hockey Association.

Larry Carpenter estimated that a contingent of up to 200 Honeybaked players, coaches and families will watch the game.

"Of course, we got tickets as soon as they were available," he said. "The girls had skated with Kendall Coyne and Megan Bozek (among 14 players from the silver medal-winning 2014 U.S. Women's Olympic team). When we found out that they were coming, we knew we'd be going."

With a grin, 13-year-old Jenna Carpenter (who also plays on the Honeybaked 14-U

team) said she is "really excited to see Megan Bozek play, because she's my favorite USA Women's Hockey player."

Jessica Carpenter added she'll be keeping tabs on Keller, an alum of the Honeybaked program and — when not playing for Team USA — a Boston College defenseman who she calls a personal idol. Jessica said she and her sisters also want to someday play at BC.

"It's really cool, because you dream about being in the highest level of hockey and the USA team is one of the places you want to be when you're older playing hockey," Jessica said. "It's really cool to see these girls coming to our hometown."

The Carpenters and others might be happy to learn that Carey also is a fan of Keller's. Carey described the 20-year-old as a "fairly consistent member of the National Team the last few seasons. She goes to Boston College and has been a terrific player for us on (defense)."

Representing

Teams wearing Compuware and Honeybaked jerseys are sure to rub elbows with girls players from Northville High School, Farmington Hills-based Little Caesars and the Livonia Knights. All of those organizations have bought large blocks of tickets for the game.

"We've got five of our girls teams that have bought tickets in some quantity," the Livonia Hockey Association's Mike Featherngill said. "I think we'll have over 250 players and parents in our section at that game."

According to Featherngill, the 16U, 14U, 12U and 10U

Knights will be represented at the Dec. 17 game. Players from the Livonia Stars and Livonia Hurricanes introductory girls hockey programs also are raring to go.

He said the U.S.-Canada contest provides inspiration for girls who want to live the dream of playing college, pro (yes, leagues are starting to gain traction on the East Coast) and, perhaps, international hockey.

"It proves that they have a higher level that they can continue to play after they stop playing in their local associations," said Featherngill, who has a daughter on the 12U Knights. "There's not a lot of role models for them to look up to as far as older hockey-playing girls other than what we would consider beer leagues for guys and for women, too."

"Outside of that, there is a professional women's hockey league, but it's only really big on the East Coast right now. So this gives them some exposure to a higher level of hockey with some older girls and shows there's still an opportunity to keep playing past whatever they want to do in high school."

It's tough hockey

Girls hockey is "growing immensely" at all levels, he added. In the Livonia Hockey Association alone, there are about 575 boys and girls playing for various teams. Out of that number, an estimated 120 girls players are skating this winter.

The exhibition game and 2017 IIHF Women's World Championship, hopefully, will give fans visual proof of what the Carpenters already know: girls hockey players are no pushovers.

"Our league is really competitive. We always go to Canada and we play against their teams and they're really tough teams," Julia Carpenter said. "I think we play against them really well."

Julia, also a Canton High School student, added that she isn't a star player for Honeybaked 14U, but likes to get into the dirty areas to score goals.

"I like being the one that makes all the little things happen in order to get a goal and stuff," she said. "It's a little more aggressive than I thought, but I like it to be aggressive."

For the Carpenters and many other hockey families in the area, the Dec. 17 contest serves as an appetizer for the main course — namely the main course of high-level women's hockey still about four months away.

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BOYS HOCKEY

Plymouth goaltender denies Northville

Mustangs tie game, but succumb to OT winner

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com

Hockey coaches like Plymouth's Gerry Vento have seen it happen many times. A goaltender gives up one goal and then another, in the blink of an eye.

How the goalie — and his team — responds after that is anybody's guess. But Friday night against KLAAs Kensington Conference varsity boys hockey rival Northville, Vento and the Wildcats got the best possible response.

Junior goalie Brenden Olepa bounced back in a big way after Northville's Daniel McKee and Ty Kilar scored within a 12-second span in the third, turning a 2-0 Plymouth lead into a 2-2 contest. Olepa made a number of key stops the rest of regulation and overtime, buying time for teammate Tim Baldwin's OT goal to give the Wildcats a 3-2 victory.

"It was a great game to watch and be a part of," said Vento, whose team is 5-0-0 in the KLAAs South Division. "Neither team backed down and the compete level was high."

"I thought Olepa was the best player on the ice and, when your goalie was the best player on the ice, you always have a chance to win."

Olepa stopped 30 of Northville's 32 shots, to win the excellent goaltending match-up against the Mustangs' Brett Miller (31 saves).

Baldwin's winner was a snapshot from between the circles, ripping the puck past Miller's blocker. Assisting on the deciding goal was Nick Yankee.

But Vento stressed that the way Olepa and his teammates hung tough after McKee and Kilar scored was something for the Wildcats to build off of.

"I was really impressed with the way we responded after giving up those two quick goals that tied the game," Vento said. "It would have been easy to pack it in and call it a night, but the boys dug deep and continued to battle."

Plymouth opened the scoring with about two minutes left in the second period, on an unassisted goal by Jacob Balch.

The Wildcats then made it 2-0 with 15:04 to go in the third, with Jack VanDenBeurgery taking a feed from Nathan Stoneburg and finding the back of the Northville net.

The two-goal lead was very short-lived, however. McKee got one back with 13:51 remaining, from Nick Bonofiglio and Josh Mitchell.

Just 12 seconds later, the Mustangs (2-3-0) were celebrating again following the equalizer by Kilar (from McKee and Nate Czarnota).

For the final 13:39 of regulation, it was back and forth with goalies Olepa and Miller standing tall.

That led to Baldwin's winner, which sparked a happy mob scene along the boards.

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MICHAEL VASILNEK
Plymouth goalie Brenden Olepa denies Northville's Jack Sargent, who is trying to jam the puck in at the left post during Friday's game at Novi Ice Arena.

MENCOTTI

Continued from Page B1

markable statistic," Grand Valley State third-year coach Jeff Hosler said. "Her goal total alone would place fourth in our conference for teams. And she had 13 assists on top of that, so it shows her versatility as a player, that she's just not just a goal scorer, but has very good vision and can set up others as well."



Mencotti

After earning first team all-state honors and helping Northville win the MHSAA Division 1 state championship in 2014, Mencotti accepted the chance to play at Grand Valley alongside her older sister Alexis, who had her senior season cut short this fall in the fourth game, when she suffered a torn anterior cruciate knee ligament for the third time.

During her freshman year, Mencotti distinguished herself by scoring 16 goals, highlighted by six game-winners, to go along with 11 assists as she earned second team All-America honors. During her sophomore year, she finished with 10 goals and nine assists en route to all-Great Lakes Intercollegiate and all-Midwest accolades.

"Gabby's developed a lot in her time here," Hosler said. "I think coming in as a freshman, she was a really good athlete, a great competitor, had a lot of pace and good, but raw, soccer ability. And she just worked really hard over time to be cleaner on the ball, better with her back to goal and she really has grown to be a very good

player in the air around the goal."

Versatile player

Standing 5-foot-11, Mencotti can beat you in the air, but also on the ground one-on-one.

"Truthfully, I think she's at her best when she's taking players on, making well-timed, penetrating runs and creating problems for defenses that way," Hosler said. "I think her ability around the goal is by far her biggest improvement that's she's made."

Mencotti was able to take her game to a different level this season, as she was flanked by a couple of talented teammates up front in first team All-America player Marti Corby and Kendra Stauffer.

"At the beginning of the year meeting, we talked about what my goals are for the season and what not," Mencotti said. "And I set personal goals for myself. At the beginning of the year, I told (Hosler) I wanted to be the leading goal scorer on our team, so when that happened, that was great being the leading goal scorer in our division and all of them, it was pretty cool. I had people playing in balls perfectly, so all I had to do was flip it in the back of the net. I owe my team that, but I did surprise myself with how many, which was very exciting."

Mencotti has also evolved into an all-around player that teammates will follow on and off the field.

"I think she's a fierce competitor," Hosler said. "I think she's a kid this year that brought everything she had to training on a daily basis. I think kids respond really well to her. She's somebody as a junior that really developed a voice within the group. That served as an inspiring, com-

mitted voice for other players to turn to."

Scholar-athlete

Mencotti, a finance major with a 3.75 grade-point average, also excels in the classroom. Recently named the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Scholar Player of the Year, she's contemplating life down the road and where it might lead after she finishes her Grand Valley State soccer career.

"Once my career is over, I haven't fully decided," said Mencotti, who played youth club soccer for the Michigan Rush. "I don't know if I'll look to play soccer after. I might look into that to play a little bit. School-wise, I plan on getting my master's and then just looking for a job from there. Maybe at some point, coach a team, even though its rec or club just to get back into it."

This season proved to be challenging in more ways than one for the Lakers, who in addition to Alexis Mencotti, lost three other key area players to various injuries throughout the season.

Starting goalie Emily Maresh (Northville), who starred as a freshman during the Lakers' 2015 NCAA championship run, missed the entire season and was red-shirted after undergoing hip surgery.

Walking wounded

Meanwhile, starting sophomore midfielder Samantha Riga (Plymouth/Livonia Ladywood) appeared in just five games before a leg injury ended her season early, while senior midfielder Gabbie Guibord did recover from a knee issue and returned to play in the final four.

It was the Bermuda Triangle of injuries.

"I think it was very tough, because everyone has a role on our team and some of those players who were injured had significant roles last year," Mencotti said. "So adapting to that with Maresh not in goal, I thought Jen (Steinaway) stepped up and did really well. Guibord in the center ... she works harder than anyone I know. Having her sit out for the beginning of the season was very difficult, but when she came back it was good to have her back for end of the season. Riga was out for the whole season ... she was a vital piece to our formation up top. It was hard, but we were able to adapt, which was good."

With one season of eligibility left, Mencotti believes the sun will rise again and the Lakers will challenge for another national title.

"It's going to be different, obviously, such an amazing group of seniors," Mencotti said. "It's always going to be hard to digest the fact and think how we're going to move on and what not, but I think with the returners, everyone is going to be a year older. They're going to have a year to grow, many of whom got plenty of playing time. And we've got freshmen coming in. It's going to be a good group and I'm super-excited for what's to come."

Mencotti, who had one goal and three assists during Grand Valley's NCAA tourney run, wouldn't trade this season for anything, other than that final match.

"Obviously, there's a lot of positives to take away, but the main goal was not reached," she said, "so definitely it was bittersweet."

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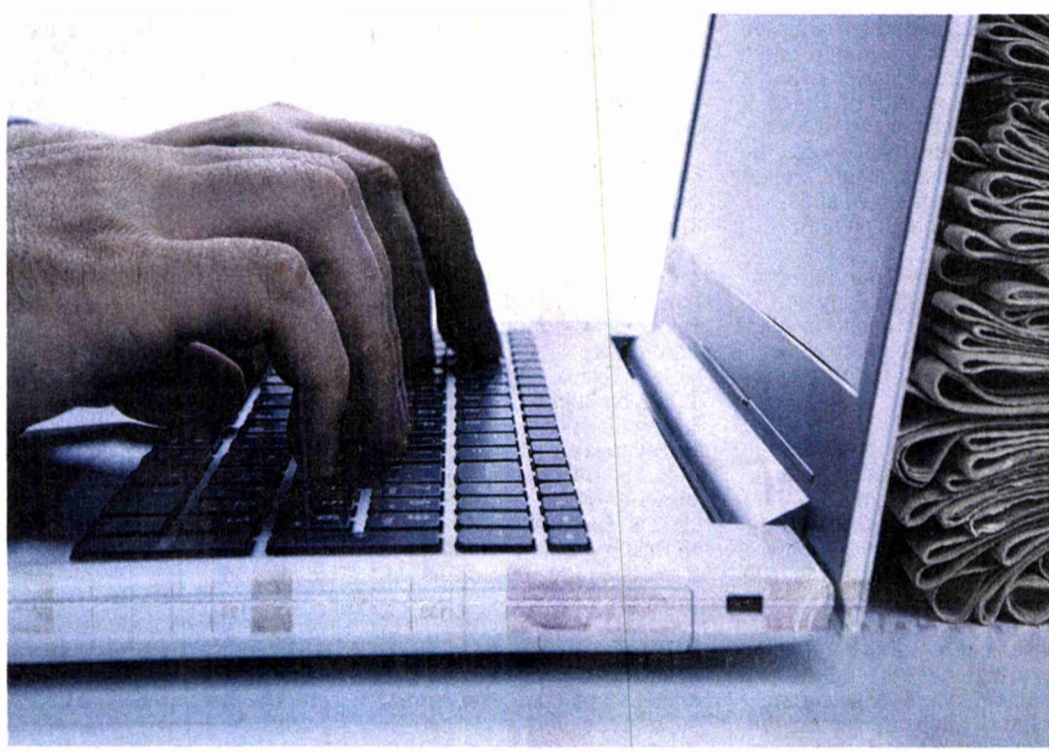
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Job-hunting while employed requires time, tact

BY DEBRA AUERBACH
 CAREERBUILDER

Anyone who has searched for work knows that it's a full-time job. When you're already employed but want to make a career change, you may wonder how you'll ever find the time. What's more, you have to conduct your search with some level of secrecy, assuming that your current company doesn't know you're looking. Experts share these tips on navigating the tricky waters of job-hunting while you're employed.



GETTY IMAGES

move on from your current job, that usually means you are not happy," he says. "A poor attitude at work can be a red flag to employers that you no longer want to be there. (Staying positive) also goes a long way in making the eventual separation amicable, since you never want to burn bridges with a former employer."

He also says you should search on your own time. "Don't use work hours or your office computer to conduct your job search. Many companies have tools that monitor web traffic," Mahan notes. Those tools can flag users who visit job boards and social networks.

Lastly, Mahan says, be selective when choosing references. "Recruiters may ask if they can contact your current employer. Sometimes, this is just a curveball to find out more about why you are leaving," he says. "Have a good canned response ready for that question if it comes up. Also, make sure you really trust anyone you put down for a referral not to spill the beans."

Debra Auerbach is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

Use automation to your advantage.
 Donna Shannon, president and CEO of the Personal Touch Career Services, says the key to efficiency is automating the process. "For example, rather than searching through a website every day, have CareerBuilder email you the new jobs that fit within your search criteria," she says. She also suggests rotating which employment site sends you job postings each day so you receive new opportunities regularly.

Designate specific job-search times.
 When you're employed and looking, it might seem as if you should devote all

your free time to your search. However, that could actually backfire. "My No. 1 piece of advice for job seekers who are currently employed is to set aside one to two times per week to job-search and to really focus, versus spending a bit of time each day," says Christy Hopkins, a human-resources consultant and writer for Fit Small Business. "When you set aside two time slots, like 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays and 8 to 10 a.m. Saturdays, you can actually focus and get job applications done with a high level of attention to detail. If you just come home from work and

plop down with the TV blaring and exhausted from your day to job-search — and you do this every day — you will burn out, and you will make mistakes on applications."
Tap your network — wisely.
 Utilizing your personal and professional network can pay off when you're looking for a job, whether or not you're employed. It's how you approach your contacts that's important, says Nancy Halpern, a principal at KNH Associates. "Be highly selective and careful whom you talk to. Pick out only those people

whom you really trust and you think are in the position to advise you about where to look and where opportunities may lie," she says. "It's also a great idea to speak to former employers, assuming you left on good terms and would consider returning."
Be discreet about your search.
 Chris Mahan, CEO of Jobvocate, a company that makes career development software, recommends using tact so your employer doesn't catch you job-hunting. First, stay positive at work. "If you have made the decision to

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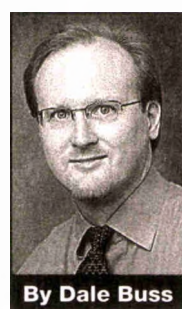
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Car Report

TV ADVERTISING FOR AUTO DEALERS THIS SEASON POINTS TO CONTINUING POWER OF THE MEDIUM TO MOVE METAL



By Dale Buss

From "December to Remember" to "Happy Honda Days," this month has become a crucial period for auto dealers in metro Detroit and nationwide. And they still rely on television advertising — both at the brand level

and the regional dealership-group level — to make the most of it.

If you've got any doubts that television advertising retains a crucial role in feeding the automotive marketing funnel, just turn on the TV for a few minutes this Christmas season. Inundation with

holiday-themed brand and regional dealer ads for Audi, Honda, Toyota, Jeep, Ford, Chevrolet, Cadillac and others will ensue.

Just as auto brands face a big need and opportunity to move the metal now in what has become a hugely important December each year, it seems they may be rediscovering the role that television advertising can play in encouraging actual car sales as well as in creating brand awareness and impressions.

Much of the former role has been parceled out to digital advertising over the past decade, but campaigns like Lexus' annual "December to Remember," as well as some new data from the Video Advertising Bureau (VAB), suggest that many auto marketers are giving a closer look to the capabilities of TV.

"The truth is that TV and digital work

together very well," Sean Cunningham, president and CEO of the VAB, told me. "TV has done a good job of fueling digital, which does an especially good job with dealer offerings. But too much of the attribution for success has been assumed to be digital. Now we're seeing more awareness that it was the wrong division of labor."

Consider the deluge of TV advertising for the crucial holiday promotion season that has emerged for the auto industry over the past several years, for the first time turning the period into a fertile sales period after it pretty



much had been deadsville for most of the industry's history.

"There was \$161 million spent on Black Friday on automotive advertising on TV alone," Cunningham noted. "And the reason is that the industry knows right now is the period when they have to move those vehicles, an inordinate volume of units. And when you need to mobilize customers en masse, in a tight timeframe between now and the end of the year, they understand that TV is going to light up their online instruments and fill dealer showrooms with traffic."

"Start Your Engines," a new study by the VAB that surveyed active auto shoppers in November, found that TV carried the most influence of all media throughout their decision process. It turned out that millennials were twice as likely to become aware of their local car dealership via TV (56 percent) than the next leading means, online search (26 percent), while 25- to 54-year-olds were 74 percent more likely, 53 percent TV versus 30 percent search.

And when it came to deciding to take a test drive, 40 percent of millennials and adults 25-54 cited TV as their primary motivator.

"These findings fly in the face of several automakers' recent requirements that 50 percent of local advertising go to digital media, said Evelyn Skukovich, VAB's vice president of strategic research and insights.

"TV ads are pointing people to dealers

and putting them in cars. And most often it's TV ads that direct people to auto web sites, which is consistent with the catalyst role that TV plays in social media."

Indeed, more than half of shoppers visited an automaker's site after seeing a TV ad in the VAB study, versus fewer than 30 percent for online search. This held true across demographics by a significant margin. Similarly, one in three were prompted to look up more information online after seeing a TV ad.

In the discovery phase, millennials cited TV at 47 percent and online search at 45 percent, while 25-to-54-year-old cited search at 46 percent and TV at 42 percent. Among both groups, TV held an advantage of 2-to-1 over social media and more than 3-to-1 over online video and magazines. The numbers were consistent across gender and demographics, with fully 57 percent saying they're in discovery until a month before they buy.

"In terms of discovery and consideration," Skukovich told me, "people will be surprised to know how much TV ads have impact in terms of pushing them to the dealership and getting them in the car. The majority of people believe that online search is the big driver, but that's not necessarily the case."

Skukovich concluded: "A lot of brands that went away from TV are coming back to TV advertising, realizing its power."

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- *Four bedroom, two and half bathrooms
- *Large foyer with hardwood flooring, formal dining room
- *Master bedroom with walk in closet, private ceramic bath
- *First floor laundry

MLS 216111444 248.684.1065 \$300,000



Stunning Ranch!

- *Three bedrooms, two bathrooms
- *Over 3,000 of finished gorgeous living space
- *Dream kitchen with updated cabinets, granite countertops with stainless steel appliances
- *Finished basement with full bar

MLS 216113048 248.684.1065 \$285,000



Beautiful House, Perfect Setting!

- *Four bedrooms, one and half bathrooms, on 2.5 acres
- *Great home with lots of updates and charm
- *Master bedroom with walk in closet, and large pantry
- *Three car garage with loaded storage racks

MLS 216114009 248.684.1065 \$299,900



Builder's Own Custom Colonial!

- *Five bedrooms, four and half bathrooms, on 1.12 Acres
- *Gourmet kitchen with Granite counters, Cherry cabinets and huge pantry
- *Main floor master suite with jetted tub and walk in closets
- *Finished basement with full kitchen, bar and media room

MLS 216084025 248.684.1065 \$459,000



Quiet, Secluded with Stunning Views!

- *Three bedrooms, one and half bathroom, on over a half acre
- *Located on a peaceful court in Cobblestone Village
- *Enjoy wonderful views from your screened in porch
- *A must see Colonial!

MLS 216107592 248.684.1065 \$265,000



Corner Lot Colonial

- *Four bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms, charming Colonial
- *Stone fireplace, custom cabinets
- *Professionally finished basement with full bath
- *Deck overlooking play area and lake privileges on Lake Chemung

MLS 216104747 248.684.1065 \$289,900



Completely Remodeled Colonial!

- *Three bedrooms, one and half bathrooms, with lake access
- *Stunning kitchen with granite countertops, tile backsplash and stainless steel appliances
- *New paint, custom trim and carpet throughout
- *Gorgeous 400 square foot cedar deck

MLS 216109602 248.684.1065 \$229,900



Stunning Condo! Great Location!

- *Three bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms, end unit condo
- *Elegant kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counter tops
- *Convenient first floor laundry
- *Finished basement with full bath and wine closet

MLS 216107766 248.684.1065 \$229,000



Immaculate Home!

- *Four bedrooms, two and half bathroom, beautiful Colonial
- *Kitchen with new granite and hardwood floors
- *Master bedroom with huge walk-in closet and private bath
- *Great private yard

MLS 216071707 248.684.1065 \$299,900



The Perfect Colonial for Horse Owners!

- *Four bedrooms, four bathrooms on 2.01 acres
- *Original Red Oak wood floors on main floor
- *Large basement with full bathroom and walkout
- *Massive deck for entertaining

MLS 216093499 248.684.1065 \$319,000



Gorgeous Custom Built Home on 1+ Acre!

- *Four bedroom, three and half bathroom, Cape Cod
- *Formal dining room with Bay window and Crown molding
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MLS 216097767 248.684.1065 \$339,000

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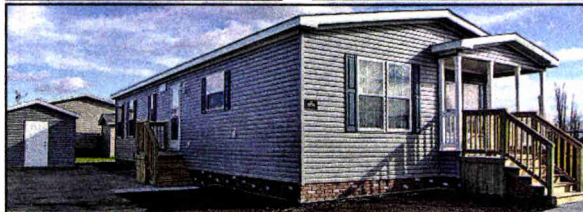
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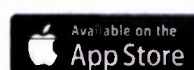
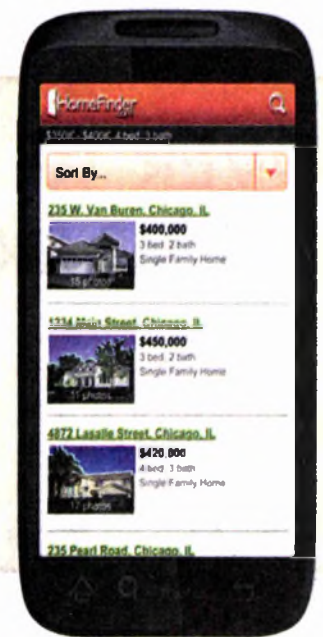
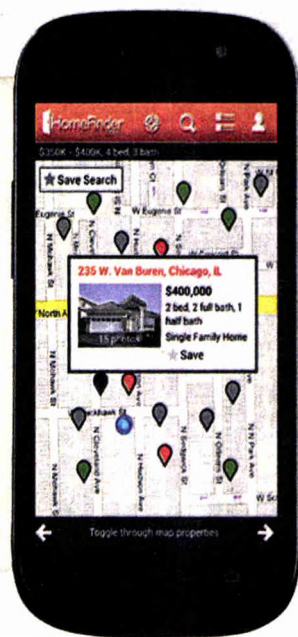
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