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Novi student shows project at SVSU

Shane McClure of Novi is among 29 students who demonstrated their senior project Dec. 8 at the annual fall engineering symposium at Saginaw Valley State University.

McClure worked on the project with team members Gavin Bennett, Joshua Howell and Ahmed Alfaraj. The title of McClure's project is SVSU Greenhouse Vertical Hydroponics System, which is a device that orients gardens vertically saving ground space.

At SVSU, mechanical engineering majors are required to collaborate with outside clients or university organizations as part of the senior projects.

AAUW to wrap gifts

Do your holiday shopping 1-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, at Barnes & Noble, 17111 Haggerty Road, in Northville. and leave with wrapped presents ready for giving. Barnes & Noble will supply gift wrap and volunteers from the American Association of University Women Northville-Novu will wrap your purchases for a nominal charge.

All proceeds support AAUWNN local community programs, including college scholarships for local girls and women, Career Path Day and Let's Read Math for second- and third-graders.

Council aims for new-look Grand River

Corridor Improvement Authority given OK

Maria Taylor

Special to HometownLife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

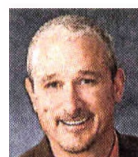
Novi's Grand River Avenue corridor could be in for a face lift.

On Dec. 4, the Novi City Council voted to create a Corridor Improvement Authority for Grand River, with the goal of attracting economic develop-

ment to the 5.3-mile stretch from Haggerty to Wixom roads. The decision comes after discussion this summer of how to best address economic growth, development, good design, pedestrian and bike access and improved aesthetics along one of the city's main thoroughfares.

A CIA is similar to a Downtown Development Authority: It generates tax revenue from properties in its district to put toward projects in that area.

Novi's CIA will be funded primarily by a Tax Increment



Auger

Financing plan. "It's a tool that allows us to cap the taxes where they're at right now," City Manager Pete Auger said. Over the

next 20 years, as property values in the corridor potentially increase, 50 percent of the tax revenue generated above that baseline will be diverted to the CIA, to be spent on projects set forth in its development plan.

The biggest benefit of having

a CIA, Finance Director Carl Johnson noted, is capturing funds that the city would not otherwise receive. Dollars that would go to other taxing jurisdictions, like Oakland County and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, will now go to the CIA, although those authorities have the ability to opt out or negotiate a lesser rate.

"Out of every dollar that comes to the city in taxes, we only operate on 26 cents," Auger

See GRAND RIVER, Page A2



Hundreds of friends, family and loved ones came out for The Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil Sunday in Kellogg Park. TOM BEAUDOIN

Candlelight vigil honors lost loved ones

Mourners gather with others around the world for annual tribute

Brad Kadrich

hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

For 13 years, Linda Grandinscak has attended the Compassionate Friends candlelight vigil honoring children who've died too young to honor her nephew.

This year, Grandinscak, a Novi

resident, had a tragic new reason to attend: Her daughter, Nichole Christensen, died last Christmas Eve after a battle against cancer.

So Grandinscak was there Sunday, lighting a candle and honoring both her nephew and, now, her daughter.

"We've been coming for years," Grandinscak said. "It's a

small thing we can do for our children."

She was in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth for the annual vigil, where hundreds of people lit candles, heard several musical tributes and listened as the names of nearly 800 children were read

"We've been coming for years. It's a small thing we can do for our children."

LINDA GRANDINSCAK

Novi resident who lost daughter, nephew

See VIGIL, Page A10

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PRICE: \$1.50

Annual campaign collects 5,000 coats for the needy

Sharon Dargay

hometownlife.com
 USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It started with one man donating his coat.

"I went past a facility where there were outside steam grates and I saw people huddled by

them, trying to stay warm. I thought how rough that must be for someone in the midst of a tough winter to not even have a coat," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said. "So I went back and looked at my

See COATS, Page A9



Jay Gordinier stuffs another bag of coats into the back of a truck bound for Community Sharing in Highland Township. SHARON DARGAY

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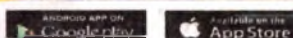
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Reading should be part of family culture

Growing up, my family would gather periodically throughout the year to listen as my mom read a story. I can still see my family – my dad, my sister and I – in the living room listening, as mom read to us.

Mom was the designated reader. Who knows why? Books were chosen. How? Who knows? All I can remember is sitting there – dad in his chair, my sister on the couch and me laying on the floor – listening as mom read.

I thought it was wonderful.

When I was young, the competition for



Steve Matthews
SUPER TALK

children's attention was not nearly as fierce as it is now. There was no cable television. There were no home computers, tablets or game consoles. There were no video games.

We were busy. Cub Scouts. Boy Scouts. Brownies and Girl Scouts. We had Little League baseball and pee wee football. We went from season to season – soccer and then basketball. Plus, we had church.

Looking back, one might argue that life was less complicated when I was growing up. So, perhaps, reading as a family was easier than it is now.

But when my wife and I started our family, we decided that reading to our children would be a priority. It became an integral part of our family life. We set aside time every evening to read to our children. For the most part, we were successful.

There were times when the evening reading time with our children flew by before we could attend to it. But that was the

exception and not the rule.

As I sat with my mom and dad when I was young and when I sat with my children when they were young, I was not aware of the benefits of daily reading. We did it because it was fun. My mom and dad did it because it gave them a chance to be with their children. My wife and I did it because it gave us a chance to be with our children.

But, serendipitously, reading to young children has many benefits. It increases vocabulary. Fluency improves. Reading stories out loud helps

children develop a sense of how language works, an ear for what sounds right and what sounds wrong.

Reading to young children provides an opportunity to learn how stories are put together and how to communicate. What we euphemistically call "reading for pleasure" improves a child's understanding of language.

And don't forget about informational text. Reading informational text creates a sense that this, too, is important. Correspondingly, reading informational text teaches children that reading is a great way

to find out about our world.

Reading has been a part of my family's culture for a long time. I hope it is a part of your family's culture as well. If it is not, start today. Find a book, find a spot on the couch and ask your children to sit with you as you read to them.

It will make a difference – not only in their ability to read, but in your relationship with them.

Steve M. Matthews, Ed.D., is superintendent of the Novi Community School District. He can be reached at steven.matthews@novi12.org.

GRAND RIVER

Continued from Page A1

said. "What tools like this TIF do is allows those other entities to invest in us ... including things on city council's wish list that we don't know how to pay for."

All dollars taken in by the CIA will be used to finance projects specific to the corridor. Within the development area, the CIA can acquire property, accept public and private grants, enter into contracts and leases, operate buildings and charge fees.

"Being able to reinvest some of the taxable value that's generated in the area, back into the area, is really important," Mayor Pro Tem Dave Staudt said. "While it may not be a direct benefit in terms of incentivizing somebody to do economic development, it definitely has a

direct effect on the mentality of somebody who's going to build. Their investment is going to come back, a portion of it, to help assist their business directly."

What those investments might look like is up to the CIA board, subject to approval from city council, which has the final say over the board's bylaws, budget, TIF plan and development plan.

"I'm looking for sidewalks, bike lanes, evaluation of road diets and infrastructure for potential future transit: Where should the bus stops be?" council member Gwen Markham said. "We could try to put broadband wireless across the whole corridor – why not?"

It could also mean achieving major projects like Ring Road, a project to redirect traffic around Grand River and Novi Road that was shelved due to lack of funding, Staudt pointed out. "The

CIA would allow us to tackle that in the near future," he said, "and I think every resident that navigates that part of the city would be very pleased to see us take that on."

Council member Andrew Mutch cast the lone dissenting vote, citing concerns over the board's accountability and the diversion of tax dollars for improvements to private property, which is permissible if the board decides it would provide public value – something the city could not easily do.

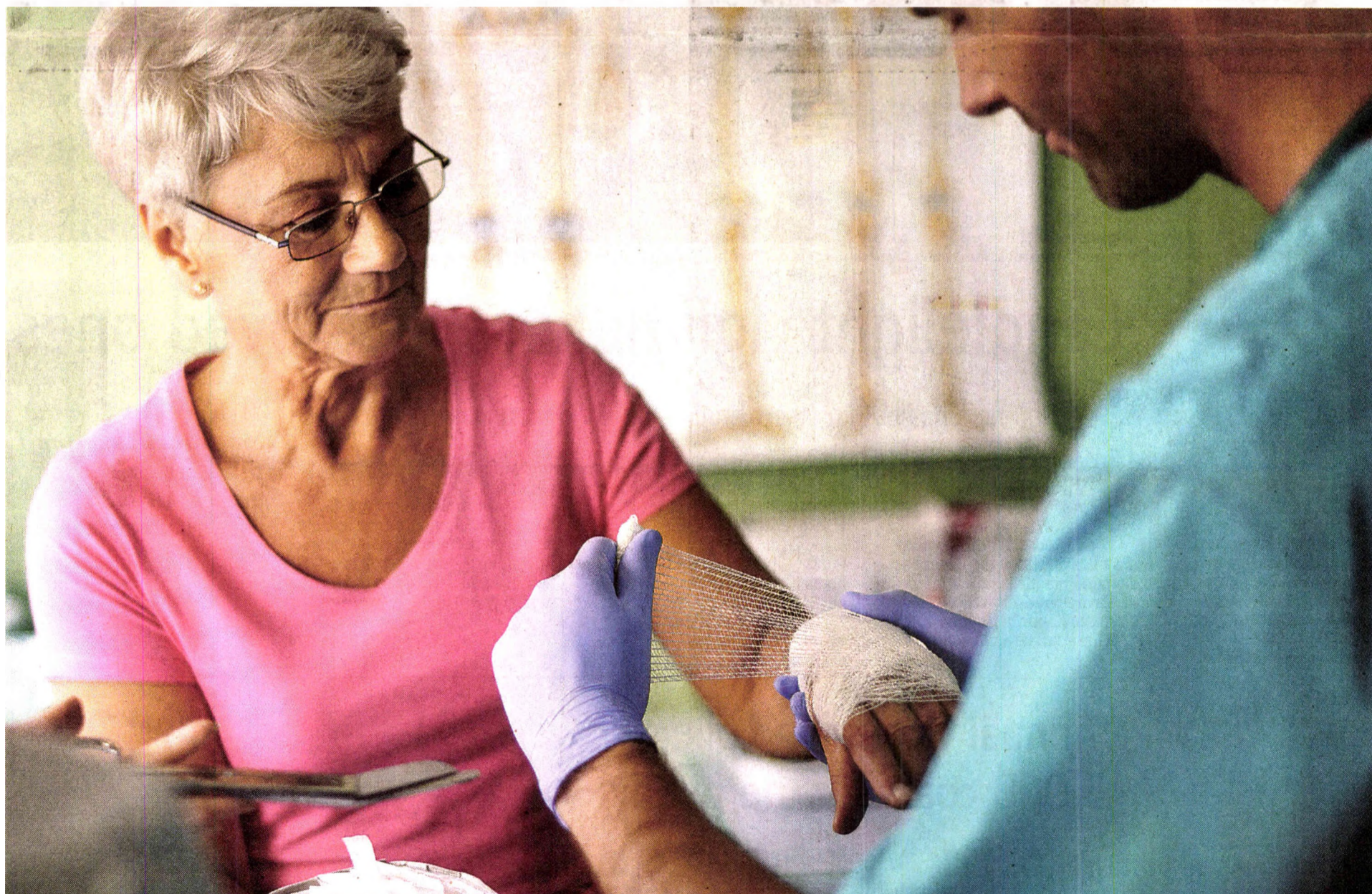
"Some people may see this as a feature; I'm not sure that's something I'm necessarily a fan of," he said. "If what the authority needs to do is so important and the use of those tax dollars is so well-considered, why haven't we as a city done it ourselves with the tax dollars that we already have?" The city will be the largest contributor in

terms of mills captured, he noted, and it already has dedicated millages for roads and capital improvements, a \$4 million tree fund and the ability to issue bonds for large projects.

In forming a CIA, Novi joins Independence Township and Farmington/Farmington Hills, which formed a joint CIA a few years ago.

"As we implement this plan, we want to be very aggressive in redeveloping this area," Auger said.

The CIA board will be composed of eight members plus the mayor, at least two of whom must live in the Grand River corridor area. Board members are appointed by the mayor, subject to council approval, for four-year staggered terms. A slate of candidates will be presented at the Dec. 18 council meeting.



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Lyon Township board decides to take second look at campgrounds zoning regulations

LeAnne Rogers
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Lyon Township may not be interested in seeing any new campgrounds established, but the board has reconsidered not having any zoning regulations for that use.

In November, the board agreed with the planning commission and voted to reject proposed zoning text amendments that would have allowed campgrounds as a special use in single-family resi-

dential areas and provide appropriate definitions.

Even though the board members still aren't interested in adding more campgrounds, they reconsidered their action and voted to send the matter back to the planning commission. The issue is having zoning regulations for a use that already exists in the township.

"I know there was a split on whether to send this back to the planning commission," Trustee Sean O'Neil said. "Whatever your position, this needs to be cleaned up."

The reconsideration put the board in sort of a unique position, township attorney Carol Rosati said, since usually a reconsideration is sought because of new information becoming available or an official realizing they didn't vote as they intended due to wording of a motion.

"You have a use without defined standards. There is a disconnect with the existing use," Rosati said.

In this case, Trustee Kristopher Enlow had sought the reconsideration so the campgrounds proposal could be sent back to the planning commission, which had rejected considering the zoning text amendments.

Currently, the township has zoning regulations for campgrounds, but they are not a permitted use in any zoning

district.

"I would like that to go back to the planning commission. We have definitions to use, but no place to put that use," Trustee Lise Blades said. "I'd like the planning commission to take steps to eliminate that dispute."

Currently, the township has the 494-acre Haas Lake Park RV and campground located east of Milford Road and off 11 Mile. It's a non-conforming use under the zoning ordinance.

The discussion on the text amendments was triggered by language proposed by Wildlife, LLC, a group that indicated it would seek to establish a campground on lakefront property it had purchased north of the Haas Lake location. Planning consultant Christopher Doozan pre-

pared text amendment language that differed from what Wildlife, LLC, had proposed. Some township board members weren't happy with the proposal from Wildlife to allow unpaved roads and provide a bathroom/shower facility rather than sewer and water hookups at each campsite.

At the planning commission public hearing, residents focused on opposition to the idea of an additional campground rather than the text amendments themselves. Speakers had been concerned about noise, the transient nature of campgrounds, pollution, possible negative impact on single-family residential uses, possible negative impact on property values and smoke from campfires. One person, besides

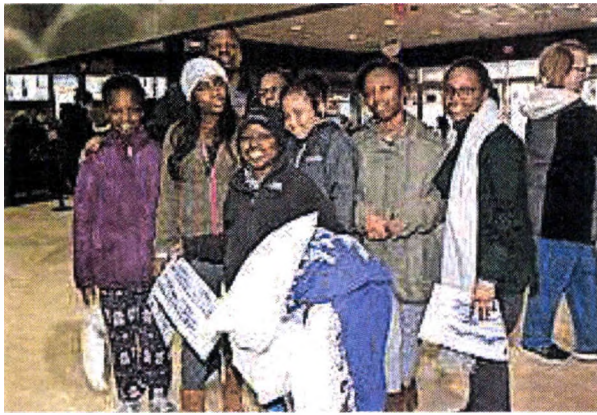
the applicant, had supported the text amendments, noting the property couldn't be used for single-family residential development due to the extensive excavation done by Lyon Sand and Gravel.

Among the special uses that can be approved in single-family residential are oil and gas extraction, sand and gravel excavation and schools.

"You can provide the planning commission with the minutes (of the meeting). They can get your thoughts. This will be on the agenda so the public who were interested can attend," Rosati said.

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Movie-goers raise funds for CLF



Movie-thon, a 24-hour movie-watching marathon, returned Nov. 10 to Emagine Theatre in Novi to benefit Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, a statewide organization that supports adult and pediatric patients and their families cope with leukemia, lymphoma and other blood-related disorders. This year, more than 150 movie-goers from southeast Michigan enjoyed films such as "Thor: Ragnarok," "Daddy's Home 2" and "Murder on the Orient Express." Attendees enjoyed unlimited popcorn and drinks, bid on raffle items, won prizes from sponsor WYCD-FM (99.5) and even had the chance to meet Paws, the Detroit Tigers mascot. The fun-filled event raised more than \$33,000 overall.

Cash giveaway, phony property sale scams reported

A 76-year-old Novi woman reported a Nov. 28 scam attempt in which someone apparently posed as a DTE Energy employee.

The woman told police she had called what she thought was a DTE number to inquire about a bill and was told she had won \$100, according to a Novi Police Department report. She provided her name, address and the last four digits of her Social Security number, she said.

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

The woman said the person on the phone — the report did not say whether the person was male or female — then told her she'd be eligible for store discounts if she gave that person \$2. She asked to speak to a manager; when the person on the phone refused, she hung up, she said.

She then called DTE to ask about the \$100 prize and was told the company does not award money like that. She realized the incident had been a scam and visited the police station to report it.

Police told the woman to monitor her credit

record, as she had revealed part of her Social Security number.

Real estate fraud

A Novi man reported Dec. 2 a con scheme in which his online home-for-sale listing was hijacked at least three times.

The man told police he had listed the Lyon Township property for sale on Craigslist and later found that information from the listing had been copied and used in three other Craigslist postings, a police report said. The phony ads, photocopies of which the complainant

provided to police, said that keys to the home would be sent in exchange for an \$800 deposit and included an email address and phone number other than the complainant's.

The complainant said he was alerted to the situation when a prospective buyer contacted him and said that the phone number on the for sale sign at the property didn't match the number on the Craigslist ad.

— By Matt Jachman

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Missing woman's family waiting for answers

Brad Kadrich

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

For more than 365 mornings now, Ann and Richard Stislicki have awakened in their Fowlerville home to the uncertainty, the fear and the loneliness that comes with the realization their daughter Danielle is still missing.

It's been that way since Dec. 2, 2016, when Danielle, their bubbly 28-year-old daughter, left the insurance office at which she worked in Southfield, never to be heard from again. Danielle was supposed to go out with friends that night, but never showed up. Her car was found in her Farmington Hills apartment complex the next morning, but there's been no sign of her since.

That was a little more than a year ago and, though the family is doing what it must to get by, it never gets any easier. This week, with the one-year anniversary having passed Saturday, was especially difficult.

"It's a challenge. ... It was very difficult this past week to get through," Ann Stislicki said. "We started to make a commitment that we'd focus on ourselves and the family and not look at Facebook. You work through it, you talk through it as much as you can, but we all have our moments when we break down. But we're there for each other. We know we're all challenged with the struggle and (try) to keep that hope up."



Danielle Stislicki

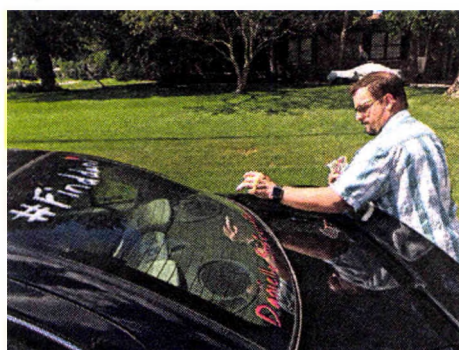
Chris Paliewicz, Danielle's uncle, remembers those days, not like they happened more than a year ago, but like they were just yesterday. He was walking his dog Dec. 3, 2016, the day after Danielle went missing, when he got a call saying they needed to get into Danielle's apartment.

The day after that was spent searching for her, which has been pretty much how the ensuing 365 days have gone. "December 2nd ... was the last day that any of us could call 'normal,'" Paliewicz recently wrote in a Facebook post. "We all went to sleep, not knowing what the next year had in store. Now here we are, one year later ... still not knowing how to be."

There are moments of hope, one coming a few months ago with the arrest of Floyd Galloway of Berkley. Galloway, a former security employee at



Ann Stislicki comforts her daughters during a vigil in Redford. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Chris Paliewicz, the uncle of missing Farmington Hills woman Danielle Stislicki, tags a car window with #finddani. BRAD KADRICH

the insurance office where Danielle and her mother worked, was arrested on sexual assault charges stemming from an attack in Hines Park in Livonia last fall.

At the time of his arrest, Galloway had already been a person of interest for the Farmington Hills Police Department, who'd searched his Berkley home just a couple of weeks after Danielle's disappearance and removed evidence, including a mattress and

floor boards from his bedroom, among other items.

Galloway has since pleaded guilty in the Hines Park case and the Stislicki family was in the courtroom Dec. 1 as he was sentenced. Ann Stislicki said being there was something of a show of force to Galloway.

"Our focus right now is the closure of the Hines Park case," Ann said. "As (Farmington Hills Police) Chief (Charles) Nebus has said, we have a strong case and I definitely want to make (Galloway) aware we have a strong case and that we will continue to pursue it."

Nebus definitely believes his officers are making great headway on the case. They conducted searches under 74 warrants since Danielle's disappearance and, though Nebus won't talk about all of the evidence that has been collected, he believes progress is being made.

Weeks after her disappearance, Farmington Hills police announced they believed she'd been the victim of a crime. They do believe, Nebus has said, that this is a homicide and investigators' efforts have been pointed in that direction.

In July, officials from a variety of law enforcement agencies searched a large portion of Hines Park, to no avail. "We've gotten tips from all over southeastern Michigan," Nebus said. "We continue to conduct searches, including several places the last few weeks."

They connected Galloway to the Stislicki case through DNA found in the Livonia assault case and coordinated police work between the Farmington Hills and Livonia police departments.

Nebus believes it's a matter of time before the case is resolved.

"We feel very strongly we are going to solve this case," Nebus said.

In the meantime, Ann Stislicki and her family continued to be buoyed by the nearly constant support from friends, family and total strangers, much of it coming in the forums of social media like Facebook and Twitter.

Early on, the family established sites like the Find Danielle Stislicki Facebook page and the website finddani.org. There have been fliers and posters, bracelets emblazoned with her name and a campaign where #finddani is painted on the rear windows of cars.

To this day, Ann Stislicki is approached by strangers who've read or heard something about her daughter. The support, she said, is overwhelming.

"There are so many people in the community who have helped us stay strong — media, law enforcement and people we don't even know have helped Danielle. Words were hard to come by," Ann said. "We have people sending letters/cards to the house, just knowing they are following Danielle's case. They don't know Danielle, but they've seen what they've seen on TV or in the papers or on social media or by word of mouth."

For now, though, the family is focused on Galloway's progression through the legal system in the Hines Park assault case. The family hopes the conclusion of that case will help bring a resolution in their own.

"We represent Danielle and we represent the fight for her and the opportunity for justice," Ann Stislicki said of her family's appearance at Galloway's sentencing. "We want to know where she is and to bring her home."

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DIFFERENCES START CONVERSATIONS

With equality for all a goal, Chris Lassiter gets people talking

PATRICK HITE
STAUNTON NEWS LEADER
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about Americans doing exceptional things, visit onenation.usatoday.com.

STAUNTON, Va. – It's a solemn Chris Lassiter, not flashing the smile that the 41-year-old is so well-known for around his hometown of Staunton, Virginia.

He's sitting on the front steps of his house situated in a historic African-American neighborhood of this small city in the Shenandoah Valley. It's two days after the violence of Charlottesville, and although Staunton is 45 miles and a mountain range away, the Unite the Right rally, the clash of supremacists and protesters and the one violent death, have taken their toll here, too.

Lassiter looks into the camera and tells those watching him on Facebook Live that he understands it can be emotionally draining. He tells them that he feels a bit distraught over everything that happened. It's still difficult, 48 hours after the events, to comprehend what happened.

But then, in typical Lassiter form, he also tells the viewers that he wants to do whatever he can to be part of the solution. And so he invites those watching to join him the following Saturday morning for an hour of prayer.

And then he extends another offer. "Right after that, just a couple of friends and I are getting together to talk," he says. "The friends who have said, 'Hey, I'll come' are a diverse group, so it will be different cultures, different takes on theology, all of that stuff. We're just going to get together and talk and help each other work through it."

Anyone who wants to join the group is welcome.

How much can talking help? Lassiter believes a lot.

One of Lassiter's favorite sayings is "Proximity breeds compassion." He has seen far too many arguments over social media, arguments that resolve nothing and ratchet anger, leaving everyone

CHRIS LASSITER

Age: 41

Location: Staunton, Virginia

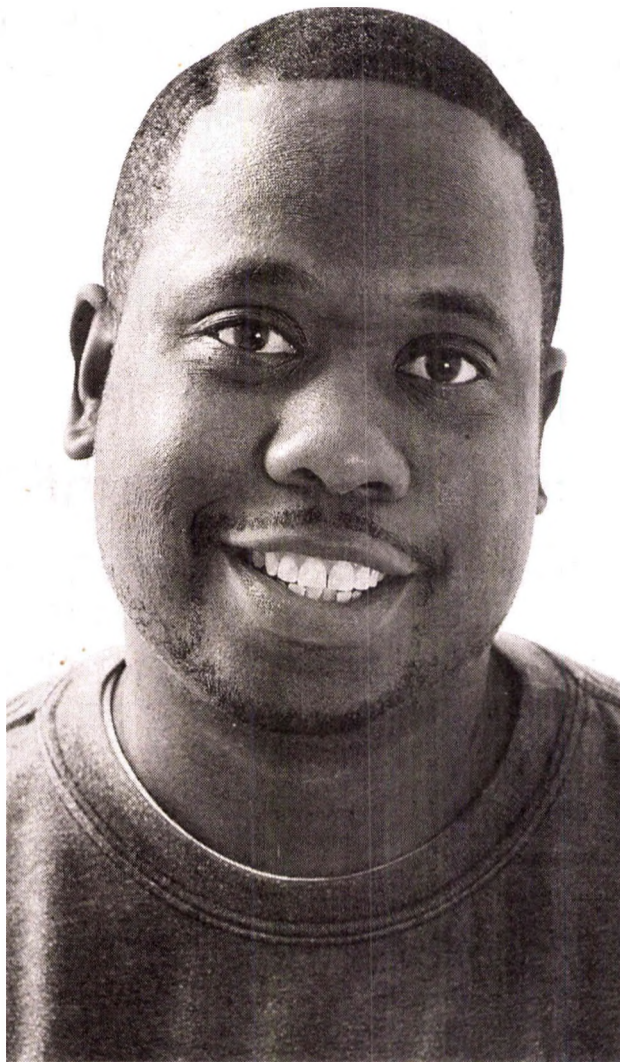
Mission: To create an environment where people can again be friends with people with opposing views. And to create a template for others that is the opposite of shouting past one another on social media.

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Chris Lassiter believes organizing community discussions can help start a healing process. MIKE TRIPP/STAUNTON NEWS LEADER



Q&A WITH CHRIS LASSITER

What does it mean to be an American?
I think the first thing I think about as an American is privileged. I've been to parts of the world that don't have running water. Not only do I have running water, I control the temperature of the water. I love the melting pot aspect of America, and my neighborhood is a prime example. As an African-American, I'm well aware of the many painful chapters in America's history, too. We appreciate what we have in America, and my friends and I work where we see areas that need justice and reconciliation.

What moment motivated you to become part of this effort?

In 2005, I got to meet the legendary John Perkins of the Christian Community Development Association in Los Angeles. His strategy of living in the neighborhood where you want to make a difference shaped the trajectory for my wife, Emily, and me. I've met so many people I'd consider true heroes at Urban Youth Workers Institute and the Legacy Conference in Chicago who have inspired me.

What gives you hope?

The apostle Paul tells the church in Colossae that the meta-narrative of the Bible concludes with the creator reconciling all things. Right now our world is both beautiful and broken. The promise is that one day it will only be beautiful, and so we work toward healing the brokenness and restoring the beauty in our own small way here.

What concerns you?

It's hard not to look at the most recent school shooting or similar events in the world and not feel a great deal of concern for the world we are passing on to my five kids.

What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?

I guess I hope to accomplish two things. The first is to create an environment where people can again be friends with people with opposing views, or at the very least agree to disagree as we work together to see our society flourish. The second is to create a template for others that is the opposite of shouting past one another on social media. ... it takes time, humility, empathy and kindness to invite someone with opposing views out to lunch or into your home.

more entrenched.

But, he believes, having face-to-face talks with those who disagree with you can actually start the healing. "A huge part of being human and showing you that I value you is taking the time to listen," he said. "And not just listen to form a response, but just listen because you're important enough to listen to."

He knows the black experience in the United States has been a painful one.

He admits that can be infuriating. At the same time, he wants to stay focused on the end goal of equality for everyone.

"It's all justice for all people at all times, and doing that graciously," Lassiter said. "And at the end I think that helps you fight for reconciliation rather than just your own people group."

After Charlottesville, he held a com-

munity discussion on both a Saturday and Sunday morning, a week after the violence. One of the discussions was at a coffee shop and the other at a fast-food restaurant. Combined, the two sessions drew more than 30 people.

"We had more people and we probably also had a more diverse group than we've had."

He has been a teacher in the high school from which he graduated. He has been a Young Life leader, he has led Bible study for incarcerated youths, he has been a campus minister. He's been a newspaper reporter. Lassiter is constantly trying to find ways to serve the community he loves.

"One of the things I wanted to do," he said, "was put the personhood back in people as we have those conversations."

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LO-GM0004314-08

Oakland County to create off-road vehicle park

Bill Laitner

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A crowd of more than 300 off-road vehicle buffs — some from as far as Kalamazoo, Saginaw and northern Ohio — jammed a meeting of Oakland County parks officials Dec. 6 in Waterford Township to implore support for a new park where they could drive their Jeeps and other off-road machines.

“There’s this image of off-roaders like, ‘Hold my beer and watch this,’ but we have a large group and we spend a lot of money,” said Jim Kitson, 60, of Davison, an engineering manager who helped draw the big crowd via Facebook and email. Kitson’s burgundy Jeep with oversize tires sat outside amid scores of other Jeeps, off-road-ready pickups and similar vehicles.

After an hour of positive comments and none opposed, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission voted 10-0 in favor of a preliminary “concept” to develop a partnership with state park officials.

The crowd of off-roaders, some in sweatshirts that said “Swamp Stompers” or “Wanted: Oakland County ORV Park,” stood up to clap and cheer, then trooped out to rumble off in heavy-duty vehicles, some with giant tires.

Plans call for the park, on former gravel pits in Groveland Township, to open with its first phase of trails and user facilities in fall 2018, said Dan Stencil, executive officer of Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, and director of the county’s sprawling 7,000-acre network of 13 parks and golf courses with its \$25-million annual budget.

“I think this is going to be a real asset, not just to our county but to the whole region,” Stencil said.

The location means that some off-roaders can come just for an afternoon from metro Detroit, instead of driving for hours to distant parks in northern Michigan or out of state, while others will stay for several days at the site in Groveland Township and camp at Oakland County’s Groveland Oaks County Park “right across the street” from the ORV park, Kitson said.

“We have people from all over the state who are here and who’ll come to this park,” Kitson said. He took shows of hands identifying audience members from as far as Kalamazoo, Saginaw, Michigan’s far north as well as northern Ohio. Kitson, active with the



Jim Kitson of Davison stands beside his Jeep outside an Oakland County Parks Commission meeting after the vote to approve a new ORV park. BILL LAITNER



Off-road vehicle fans prepare to leave a meeting after Oakland County parks officials voted to create a new park for ORV sports. BILL LAITNER

Great Lakes Four Wheel Club, admitted he was largely responsible for the turnout because for the last year he’d been communicating relentlessly online with dozens of clubs and hundreds of their members.

A park for off-road vehicles had been envisioned for decades at the site of old gravel pits just off I-75 and adjacent to Mt. Holly Ski & Snowboard Resort in northern

Oakland County, state and county officials said. Planning accelerated recently, although making it happen got tedious because the park entailed an unusual part-

nership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which has been purchasing the played-out gravel pits.

The location, in sparsely populated Groveland, has been one that ORV fans have longed to use since the 1970s, said Jason Fleming, chief of resource protection and promotion for MDNR’s Parks and Recreation Division. It’s ideal for attracting the ORV crowd not only from southeast Michigan but throughout the Midwest, he said.

So far, the state has purchased more than 200 acres of the gravel pits using monies from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund — which come from oil, gas and other mineral royalties on state land.

The county has held two days of “gully runs” in which ORV users were given a limited course at the site to test their reactions and gauge public interest, “and those went very,

very well,” said Gary McGillivray, an Oakland County commissioner from Madison Heights, who is an appointed member of the parks commission.

Most of those in the audience were men, many wearing hunting or other outdoor attire. But several women spoke up to praise “off-roading” as the ideal family activity.

“My husband and I have a 4-year-old and this is getting her away from the TV and outside to see what our state has to offer,” said Jeane Smith, 41, of Waterford. And Jennifer Tomko, 41, of South Lyon said she owns three Jeeps and that the off-roaders she’d met had become a family to her.

“We are passionate,” Tomko said, then turned to the audience to ask, “How many of you are on a fake lunch right now to be here?” As Tomko’s hand shot up, laughter rose in the room along with dozens of other hands.


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Monday, December 25, 2017
Tuesday, December 26, 2017
Monday, January 1, 2017

Residents who wish to pay property taxes, before the year-end, can do so up until closing at 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 29, 2017.

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Sue A. Hillebrand, Clerk

Published: December 14, 2017 LO-0000335456 2x2.5


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Livonia's Ray honored as Veteran of the Month

James Ray, a World War II veteran from Livonia, was honored as the December 2017 Veteran of the Month by the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 32, of the Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

Ray served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-46 and the U.S. Navy Reserves from 1946-50. He was born and raised in Eldorado Ill., a small town in southern Illinois with a population of 4,500. He graduated from Eldorado High School in spring 1943 and went to live with his brother on the east side of Detroit. He was working at the Bower Roller Bearing Plant when he turned 18 and received his draft notice. He went back home to Illinois to enlist and

joined the navy. "I decided on the navy," Ray said, "because, I just didn't want to meet my end at the bottom of a muddy foxhole."

In November, he was put on a train and sent to Great Lakes Naval Base near Chicago for eight weeks of basic training. He was next sent to Philadelphia for two weeks training as a water tender. A water tender, or WT, is a first-class petty officer aboard a steam-powered ship in charge in a fire room. He "tends" water to the boilers, sees that fires are properly cleaned and stoked, etc. Ray was sent to Norfolk, Va., Naval Base, where he completed his training and was assigned to the newly commissioned destroyer escort ship USS Douglas Munro DE-422.

Its first assignment was to escort the USS Vixen PG-53 gunboat, which was carrying the commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet on a tour of the Caribbean defenses and also assessing the strength of the German U-boats in the Atlantic. A month later, it was sent to Casablanca, Morocco, to escort the USS Kasaan Bay CVE-69 aircraft carrier back to the U.S. for deployment to the Pacific theater.

"It was a rough journey across the Atlantic," Ray said. "I was so sick, I couldn't leave the engine room for three days." On Dec. 7, 1944, the third anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the ship left Norfolk and headed for the Pacific.

"We passed through

the Panama Canal on Dec. 17," Ray said, "then passed the Galapagos Islands and Bora Bora." After exercising at Manus Island off the coast of Papua New Guinea, it sailed to Biak, Schouten Islands, to pick up a convoy of LSTs and merchant ships bound for Lingayen Gulf, in the Philippines. It returned to San Pedro Bay, Leyte, and then, Dec. 20, sailed to escort a convoy of army tugs to Subic Bay. Upon its arrival a week later, the ship was assigned to screen a mine-sweeping unit clearing the San Bernardino Strait and the approaches to Manila Bay and also supported naval and amphibious operations on nearby shores.

The ship operated at Subic Bay, patrolling for subs and escorting ships until May 6, 1945. From May 19 to July 5, USS Douglas Munro served in the assault and occupation of Borneo. "I could hear the big guns going off from down in the engine room and knew all hell was breaking loose," Ray said. "I had to go look and went topside to see the shore being blown up. It was quite a sight. We were situated around the perimeter of the attacking force to protect them from being attacked from the sea, so we were far enough offshore that we were never fired upon."

Next it escorted supply convoys from Leyte, bombarded enemy positions and served as an antisubmarine patrol vessel. It also escorted transports from Ulithi to the Philippines from July 19-26 and then patrolled against submarines between Leyte and Okinawa until the end of the war. It left Leyte on Sept. 6 to join the South China



Livonia resident James Ray is the Veteran of the Month from the Myron H. Beals American Legion Post 32.

Force, arriving in the approaches to the Yangtze River on Sept. 19. The ship served with this force until Jan. 5, 1946, when it got underway from Hong Kong for the west coast, arriving Feb. 1 at San Francisco. Next stop was San Diego on March 30 to decommission the ship.

Ray was sent to Great Lakes and discharged May 19, 1946. He went

back to Illinois to see his parents for a couple of weeks, then to his brother's home in Detroit. He met Wanda, a girl from Tennessee, at a bowling alley and, in 1948, they were married. They lived in Inkster for 30 years before moving to Livonia in 1987. Wanda died in 2011 after 63 years of marriage. They have two sons, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Ray retired in 1985 as a claims adjuster and a loss control examiner for a local insurance company. He is a longstanding member of D.E.S.A. (Destroyer Escort Sailors Association) and also a member of American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

Ray attended the S.A.L. December membership meeting, where his story was read and a plaque was presented to him from Livonia Trophy, with his picture and service information. An additional plaque was also put on display in the vestibule of the American Legion Hall. The S.A.L. invites local residents to attend its monthly meetings to listen to the Veteran of the Month. The public is also encouraged to nominate veterans to be honored at its meetings. Nomination forms can be picked up at the American Legion Hall, 9318 Newburgh Road, in Livonia.

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VIGIL

Continued from Page A1

by leaders of The Compassionate Friends Livonia Chapter.

The candlelight vigil was one of many that took place at the same time around the world, the concept being that a worldwide band of light is formed in tribute to the children.

The event also featured a couple of Christmas trees in the park, decorated with ornaments as a further tribute to the children lost.

Danielle Varnas lost her brother, Joel Tefft, seven years ago. Sunday, she was in Kellogg Park to honor him. But Joel wasn't the only reason she was there.

"I want to support everyone else who has lost a loved one," Varnas said. "It's important for me to come, to honor the others and to honor my brother's

memory. He would like that."

Rhonda Temple of Dearborn Heights serves as treasurer of The Compassionate Friends Livonia Chapter and took the lead on organizing this year's ceremony.

Temple lost her daughter, 6-year-old Alyssa, to leukemia in July 2006. She's been coming to the vigil ever since. She said the event serves as a salve for the emotional wounds suffered by families who've lost children.

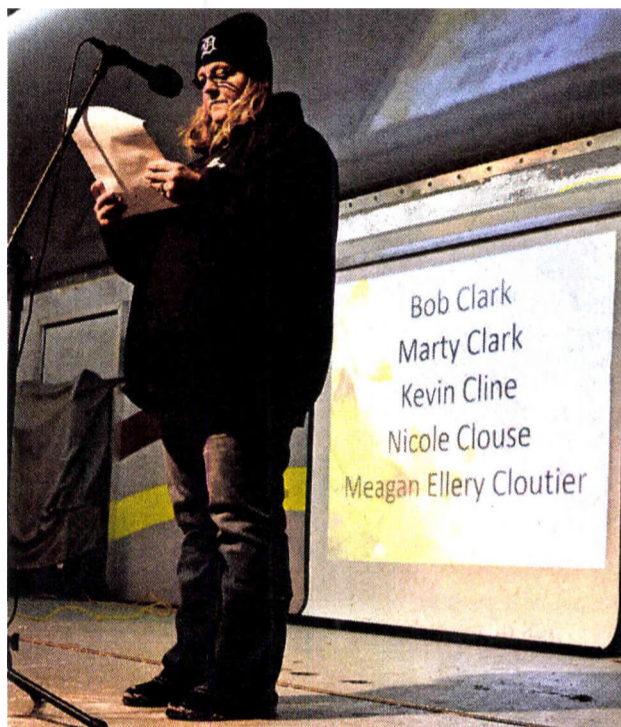
It's presence as a precursor to the Christmas holidays serves as solace for those who are grieving.

"It allows the community to come out to honor our children, our grandchildren and our siblings," Temple said. "The holidays are difficult, it's Christmas-time and all that joy is out there. Sometimes, we just can't find the joy."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Twitter: @bkadrich



Vickie Jensen of Redford looks for son Sean Denny's ornament on one of the trees that were part of The Compassionate Friends event. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



Rhonda Temple reads the names of loved ones who were remembered at the candle lighting evening.



Cecilia Coffey came out to the Compassionate Friends candle lighting in memory of her son Joe, who died in July.



Livonia resident Mari Gutierrez remembers her nephew, Marc Anthony.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Real vs. fake trees

Over the years, more people have opted for artificial Christmas trees over real trees. Although I'm not surprised, I'll admit that I have some nostalgic feelings for real trees, which I've seen around since the 1960s. They're a quaint seasonal feature, standing for sale along roads or strapped to car-tops of tree buyers.

My family has always used artificial trees but at one time, real trees were the only ones available. The 1950s saw the rise of the artificial tree, and the 1960s gave us the aluminum tree with color wheel (as seen on the classic Charlie Brown Christmas cartoon.)

Real trees have a slight aroma but require water, shed needles and have a limited 'life-span'. Once the holidays are over, you have to dispose of it and buy a new one next year.

Not all real or artificial trees have a perfect shape. Real trees come only in green or blue spruce color, whereas an artificial tree can be green or several other colors. The white artificial tree simulates snow and shows off decorations much better than a green tree (once you've had white you'll see the light!)

Artificial trees have become much easier to use and decorate as they now come in an umbrella pop-up assembly rather than inserting each separate branch, and they can come 'pre-lit' with clear or color lights.

Leo Weber
Livonia

Tax reform is a scam

So here's just a quick touch on the Republican tax reform scam as I'm barely a third of the way through reading it.

Teachers can no longer deduct supplies they personally buy for their students but corporations can. Student loan interest no longer deductible and tuition forgiveness taxed as full income but private school tuition is fully deductible. Only one college in Michigan gets a huge tax cut, the DeVoses' favorite college (brother Erik is a grad there). Almost half a trillion gone from Medicare including not paying for chemo anymore. Remember that commercial showing the Republican pushing Grandma in a wheelchair over the cliff? Well they're finally doing it for real.

And the benefits Trump gets is simply staggering; massive welfare for golf course owners, private jet owners, commercial real estate builders, pass through businesses, no alternative minimum tax. Good lord, that's just the tip of the iceberg. I

could fill this newspaper with all the ways we're getting screwed.

If everything goes according to the dynamic scoring, I'm in the hole a couple grand! But the best part is yet to come; Republicans want to install a trigger mechanism so if this redundant trickle down scam doesn't produce the desired growth results tax rates will go up ... not on the rich or corporations but on us middle class and poor folks, and social security benefits is top on the chopping block. Thanks Trump and Trott voters, for the life of me I can't figure out why you let rich folks lead you around by the nose.

Mitch Dubanik
Livonia

Nessel video disappoints

A recent trashy campaign video created by Michigan Attorney General candidate Dana Nessel makes the Plymouth community famous for the wrong reasons. As a Bernie liberal, I cannot support Attorney General candidate Dana Nessel. A most glaring reason why, is that in the video, Nessel is tying gender identity as a primary qualifier for elective office, and has instantly offended and alienated half of the voting population of Michigan. The ad is just plain stupid, and I certainly hope a more worthy female or male Democrat runs for office of Attorney General.

And yes, I think the sexual harassers of both parties in D.C. all need to go — especially the clown in the White House.

Let's be clear on this. The suggestion that members of the LGBT community, or any

female gay or straight, are immune from abusing power while in political office by virtue of gender, is total hogwash. And Nessel knows this, being an attorney and former prosecutor in Kym Worthy's office.

As Nessel knows, Sexual harassment is not a gender issue, it is an abuse of power issue. Dana Nessel has instantly and forever branded herself an opportunist demagogue and is using the awful abuse of sexual harassment victims in D.C. and Alabama as political tools. And I think that is just horrible and reprehensible, and instantly disqualifies her from holding any elective office, and especially disqualifies her for Attorney General, given her blatant bias against men. She places herself in the same category of the gender she has just offended with her broad sweeping generalizations.

I think Nessel should pull this ad immediately and apologize for grandstanding in the very same ways that pundits like Limbaugh or Hannity do, while they push their half-baked morally bankrupt political garbage on an unsuspecting public via the AM air waves. The vast majority of men, are good people and respect women and are not harassers, contrary to what her ad implies. And the same goes for good women.

Dan Sabo
Taylor

Register to vote

Do you want to help improve the U.S.A.? Here's what to do:

Step No. 1 - Be registered to vote.

Step No. 2 - Make a promise to yourself and the country that you will vote in all future elec-

tions, whether it is for city council or President of the U.S.A. Have faith that there are hundred or thousands of similarly-minded people, but only voting counts. Your vote does count.

Hadyn Notestine
Canton

Intersection is dangerous

It's no wonder there's so many accidents by Ford Road between Haggerty and Interstate 275. I have seen at least minimum of five cars every time I come through that intersection pull in front of people to get on the freeway.

People are not paying attention. You can see the sign by the traffic light at IKEA that the entrance to the freeway is on the right. If the police could sit there and watch them it's because they're on the phone or texting. It's ridiculous these people just are not paying attention and that's when the accidents happen

Diana Craig
Canton

Make way for emergency crews

Recently, a friend of mine was returning from shopping and passed through Garden City. My friend personally witnessed the Garden City Fire Department and Wayne Fire Department heading to what my friend believes was a mutual aid call toward Inkster.

Both departments were attempting to move through traffic with both lights and sirens. Incredibly cars refused to move out of the way. This made my friend angry.

"Can you imagine if it was your family they were trying to rescue?," my friend fumed.

Then came a suggestion, also from my friend, which I share with you: "Sometimes I wish the trucks had an instant camera to take pictures of these offenders and they should get high fines."

What do you think? Do you believe that getting out of the way of emergency vehicles is good or a bother and nuisance?

I grew up with the knowledge that police and fire personnel risk their lives on a daily basis. Not just in traffic. They need to maintain and support equipment that, if you examine the rescue machines closely, have repeated warning taped and marked all over them. The warnings are for the personnel operating the machines.

What can we do to ensure that these brave men and women are given the room to do the lifesaving work they do each day?

Alfred Brock
Wayne

Northville police get highlighted

I'd like to congratulate our Northville Township Police for being a featured Police Dept. in the 2018 calendar for Police News magazine. They are pictured for the month of July. It's a great picture of 5 officers standing in front of a 2016 Ford Police Interceptor and a 2016 Ford SUV. They look very sharp. The picture will be seen by thousands of people around the United States.

Craig Knapp
Northville Township

Bond issue follow-up

I see that the Northville Public School Bond issue passed, 4,654 yes

votes to 2,457 no votes. I did some research and found out that there are about 23,124 registered voters in the City of Northville and Northville Township.

So, a large number of people did not vote. I suspect that a lot of these voters were not even aware that the school district was asking for over \$100 million and had plans to tear down the current Hillside Middle School and rebuild. I only found out early on due to an article in the Detroit Free Press and then later on in the Northville Record letters to the editor. I received no flyer at my home. No effort was made by the school board to notify people like they did back around 1999 when they were asking taxpayers to approve the purchase of \$61.5 million in bonds to fund the construction of the new high school.

I know this because I have that bright yellow flyer right in front of me now. So, why didn't they make an effort to get more voters out? Why no flyer to all the community with a question and answer session to encourage people to vote? I didn't receive one. I suspect that this was all kept quiet.

Had this election been a year ago along with the Presidential election, there would have been 17,799 voters out to vote on this. A good turnout of voters and a fair vote. I feel that the taxpayers have been scammed. We do not need a new middle school. And what happens when in 8 years the student enrollment drops? And it will. Our school board has its wants and needs mixed up. I am angry.

Carol Maynard
Northville

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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 the following topics in regards to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance:

- To request an interpretation of Section 21.b.13 of the ordinance to determine if a name painted on the exterior of a building is considered a sign. The property in question is located in the Racetrack District (RTD) at the northwest corner of Seven Mile and Center Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-003-03-0226-001
- To consider a variance request on premises zoned R-1B, First Density Residential District, at 101 Hill Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, parcel number 48-22-34-404-006. As illustrated on the property survey submitted with the application form, the applicant is seeking a variance from Section 18.09 to:
 - Construct a six-foot tall privacy fence as follows:
 - For a length of 47.5 feet in the front yard along the north property line;
 - For a length of 63.75 feet in the front yard along N. Center Street, ten (10) feet from the west property line; and
 - For a length of 47.5 feet in the front yard along Hill Street, 16.25 feet from the south property line, and
 - To construct a 4-foot tall metal fence for a length of 27.5 feet in the front yard on Hill Street.

The public hearings will be held on Wednesday January 3, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, Lower Level Meeting Room, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, 248-449-9902. The purpose of the public hearings is to receive public comment on the variance requests. The variance applications are 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 pertaining to the proposed variance request and ordinance interpretation will also be received at the above address.

DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Published: December 14, 2017

Gifting craft beer? Seek advice from local experts

Dan Dean

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK —
MICHIGAN

Are you having a hard time navigating the often-confusing world of beer as it is now? Can't discern between a stout, session, sour, pilsner or IPA? Have an uncle, nephew, niece, spouse or friend you want to give the gift of beer to and don't know where to start?

You are not alone. Beer has certainly come a long way since the original Stroh's dominated these parts. But luckily, if you are reading this from the Mitten State of Michigan, you are most certainly as close to great beer as you are to a lake or stream. The new media company Thrillist recently announced Michigan as

its fourth best state in the nation for quality and availability of craft beer.

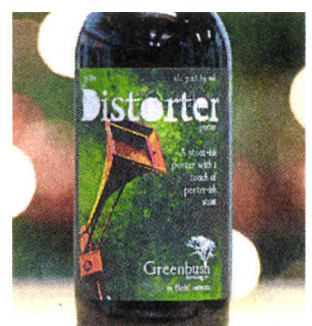
When I have a beer question, my go-to answer man is Ryan Wiltse, owner of River's Edge Brewing Co. in Milford.

"If you (or they) have a local bottle shop they frequent, go in there and chat with the knowledgeable staff. They may even know your friend or family member and can help you pick something out. There are a lot of passionate, knowledgeable folks out there who are more than happy to help," he wrote in an email.

"In our area, Pine Ridge Market has a great selection and an amazing connoisseur of craft beer and liquor in Levi. He's a real gem and we're lucky to have someone like him in this area to steer folks



Justin Daymon prepackages bottles of Founders Canadian Breakfast Stout at 8 Degrees Plato in Ferndale. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Greenbush Brewing Co.'s Distorter porter completes the author's personalized six-pack. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Founders Canadian Breakfast Stout. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

towards some great stuff and hard to fine selections," he wrote. Other options with great reputations include 8 Degrees Plato in Detroit and Ferndale, Beer Baron in Livonia, as well as Holiday Market in Royal Oak.

Founders CBS

It was a fluke that I arrived at the 8 Degrees Plato Ferndale location just before the 3 p.m. release of its supply of the much-heralded Canadian Breakfast Stout. The bourbon barrel-aged beer with hints of maple syrup from Founders Brewing Co. had not been released in bottles since 2011, said those standing outside this blustery and very cold Wednesday afternoon.

"It's always nice to get someone a hard-to-find or specialty bottle that might cost a little more," Wiltse said. And while many of the shivering masses in line said CBS would be the cat's meow of beer gifts, none I talked to had any intentions of gifting their prized \$25 bottles. Other great specialty options

include anything from Speciation Artisan Ales, Wiltse said.

As the last of the die-hards purchased their prized bottles, I stood among the rows and rows of beer with Plato co-owner Tim Costello, who despite the mayhem of the special release, took time out to offer advice on buying the gift of beer.

"Beer is like pizza — there is no such thing as a bad slice," Costello said.

Determining the likes and preferences of the person you are purchasing a gift for helps. "They should be asking you a lot of questions," Costello said about store staff helping you find that perfect beer gift. "What kind of flavors do they like? What do you like in a wine? What do you like in a coffee? All those flavors translate into beer in one form or another."

Personalized six-pack

With the sounds of "Sleigh Ride" playing in the background, we proceeded through the rows,

choosing all Michigan-made beers. Based on a series of questions he asked, Costello chose New Holland Brewing Co.'s Extra Time, a session beer, to start things off building the six-pack from light to dark.

Along the way, I told him I was not big a IPA fan, but that I had recently tried and really like the M-43 IPA from Old Nation Brewing Co. in Williamston. In response, a can of Nawl A Cawp, an East Coast IPA from Birmingham's Griffin Claw Brewing Co., went into the pack. Others included Walter Gets Buzzed from Pigeon Hill Brewing Co. in Muskegon; Blood Orange Wheat from Farmington Brewing Co.; Coconut Brown from Blackrocks Brewery in Marquette; and finally a bottle of Distorter porter from Greenbush Brewing Co. in Sawyer, Mich.

The entire process took about two minutes and, in the end, I had a perfect beer gift for myself.

If you are feeling down because you missed the

release of the Founders CBS (I did not) or cannot find any of the new releases from Speciation, have no fear.

"Go to your (or their) local brewery, chat with the staff and ask their advice," Wiltse said. "Gift certificates are always great, as are mug club memberships." Many breweries also have great merchandise, gift sets, bottles — River's Edge will release three barrel-aged bottles Dec. 9, including its 2018, a bourbon barrel-aged sparkling golden ale with grilled plums in a 750 ml champagne bottle. Growlers are available as well.

Dan Dean is managing editor of Hometown Life and a fan of brewed merchandise, especially coffee and craft beer with coffee.

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Check out these three events this weekend

David Veselenak
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

School's almost out, the tree's been up for a few weeks — there's definitely a reason to go out and do something fun this weekend.

Check out these three events happening in Detroit's western suburbs this weekend leading up to the end of the year.

Christmas concert in Livonia

If you're in the mood to enjoy some holiday music, the Livonia Civic Chorus has just the offering this weekend.

The chorus will showcase its annual holiday concert at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium at Clarenceville High School, 20501 Middlebelt.

The concert, titled "Sing We Now of Christmas," features the chorus showcasing various holiday tunes during one of its two annual concerts.

Pre-sale tickets for the show are \$10 for children, students and seniors and \$12 for adults and can be bought at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard. Tickets the day of the show at \$15 for everyone at the door.

For more information, go to livoniacivicchorus.org.

Jurassic Quest in Novi

If you need a break from all Christmas all the time, grab the kids and take them this weekend to the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi for Jurassic Quest.

The experience, coming for the first time to the convention center at 46100

Grand River, runs Friday through Sunday and features more than 80 animatronic dinosaurs for attendees to check out. Children who attend can also dig for dinosaur bones as young paleontologists and hop into the "Dino Bounce" to exert some of that extra energy.

The event takes place 3-8 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$20 for both children and adults, while seniors are \$18. Children under age 2 are free. VIP tickets are \$34. Additional activities have added costs and parking is \$5.

For more information, go to suburbancollectionshowplace.com.

'A Christmas Carol: The Musical' playing in Plymouth

If more than a Christmas concert is your liking, Plymouth has a musical of

one of the season's most-cherished tales this weekend.

Forever After Productions will perform "A Christmas Carol: The Musical" at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, 650 Church St. The performance tells the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge as he receives visits from three spirits Christmas Eve.

The performance will run all weekend, with shows happening at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in person, via phone at 734-547-5156 or online at heartforeverafter.org.

dveselenak@hometownlife.com
734-678-6728
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

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4pm English • 6pm Spanish
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Vigil Mass: 5pm Bilingual
- January 1**
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Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
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First United Methodist Church
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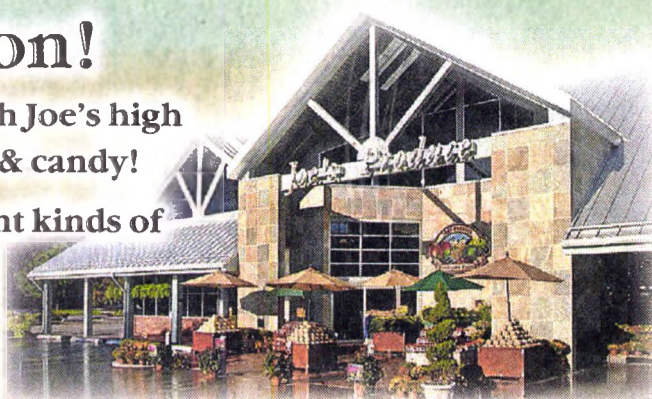
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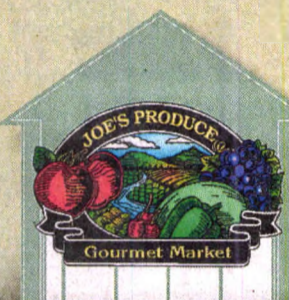
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USA HOCKEY

Ex-NTDP coaches Cole, Luongo to return with MSU

Second major college visit to USA Hockey Arena in past couple of weeks

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Danton Cole is all about the “red, white and blue,” but don’t fault him too much for slipping some “green” in there, too. The 50-year-old Cole, who coached the past seven seasons for USA Hockey’s National Team Development Program, returns Saturday to the Ply-

mouth arena he left last spring when he became head coach of Michigan State University. The puck drops at 7 p.m. at USA Hockey Arena, located on Beck Road north of M-14 (734-453-8400). Also back to visit their old stomping grounds will be MSU assistant coach Chris Luongo (on Cole’s staff in 2015-17) and Spartans goalie coach Joe Exter. On the Spartans’ roster are four former NTDP players: forwards Patrick Khodorenko and Dylan Pavelek, defenseman Tommy Miller (West Bloomfield) and goaltender Ed

Minney. “It will be a lot of fun to see the guys again,” Cole wrote in an email to the Observer. “There is a lot asked of them and we, as coaches, become very attached to young men that sacrifice a great deal to be there. I look forward to seeing the progress they have made.” Cole, a former National Hockey League player who guided the U.S. to the gold medal at the 2017 International Ice Hockey Federation Under-18 World Championship in Slovakia, is looking forward to



Danton Cole, shown from this season behind the Michigan State bench, is returning to face the USA Hockey NTDP — a program he coached for several seasons. MSU ATHLETICS

See COACHES, Page B3

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USA HOCKEY

Kiefer’s legacy honored with naming ceremony



On hand for the ceremonial puck drop for the renaming of the USA Hockey Arena rink in honor of Mitchel Kiefer were family members Paula, Julianna, Alexa and Steven, along with De La Salle’s Joseph Jenkins (left) and Catholic Central’s Brendan West. BRAD EMONS

Rink named for former Catholic Central goalie killed in accident by distracted driver

Brad Emons
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Although he was taken much too soon, Mitchel Kiefer’s legacy will be remembered every time hockey players and fans now step inside Plymouth’s USA Hockey Arena. In a ceremony Dec. 6 prior to Detroit Catholic Central’s home game against Warren De La Salle, the Olympic-sized ice sheet was named in honor of the former Shamrocks goalie as a part of a new partnership between USA Hockey and the

Mitchel Kiefer Foundation. The Northville resident, a member of the Shamrocks’ 2016 Division 1 state championship team, was killed in a car accident Sept. 19 that year by a distracted driver while Kiefer was on his way to Michigan State. Police said at the time, Kiefer was driving westbound on I-96 near Williamston when his car was rear-ended by another vehicle, causing him to cross the median and collide with a truck hauling a trailer. A 21-year-old Kalamazoo woman was sentenced to two years probation, almost \$1,900

in fines and 24 days of community service after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor count of “moving violation causing death.” Kiefer’s family, including his father Steven, mother Paula and sisters Julianna and Alexa, were in attendance for the unveiling of the newly named rink in his name. (His brother Blake, a student at Grand Valley State, was unable to attend.) The Kiefer Foundation has raised nearly \$1 million with the main message of putting distracted driving on ice. “That’s awesome and he

deserves it,” said CC senior defenseman Jared Lee, a teammate of Kiefer’s in 2016. “I think the message for the whole thing is a great idea. That’s, obviously, a problem that needs to get addressed. His dad before the game said about him making a better place and changing the world. Even though he’s gone, he’s changing the world with that and his family his helping him out.” Some connected with Catholic Central had been floating around the idea build-

See KIEFER, Page B2

BOYS HOCKEY

Showcase to spotlight top leagues

Full slate of games Dec. 16 in Livonia features KLAA vs. MIHL match-ups

Tim Smith
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

They’ll be jumping over the boards and onto the Eddie Edgar Arena ice for something like 12 hours straight. The MIHL-KLAA High School Showcase is slated to begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, when Livonia Franklin faces Grand Blanc. Ten additional games will follow — with games hosted on both ice sheets at Eddie Edgar in Livonia — as some of Michigan’s best boys high school teams square off to give fans an opportunity to get a healthy hockey fix. “This showcase is just what high school hockey needs more of,” Livonia Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. “A number of great games all in one building, so people can see more than one game.” “The MIHL (Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League) showcase in February is our top event of the year, so it made sense to have a showcase earlier in the season.” Mitchell’s Spartans will take on Orchard Lake St. Mary’s at 5:30 p.m.



Mitchell

According to Ryan Ossenmacher, whose Salem Rocks will face Trenton at 1 p.m. in the fifth of 11 games on the schedule, it is important to note that the event is not a “public-private showcase, but rather a showcase of the two best leagues in the state. The number of players who have moved on from both of our leagues continues to grow every year.” One of Ossenmacher’s former players, forward Matt Schaumburger (2017 grad) is playing for the Syracuse (N.Y.) Stars of the U.S. Premier Hockey League. As of Dec. 7, he had 11 goals and eight assists in 19 games. “This is an excellent oppor-

See SHOWCASE, Page B2

Get More Sports

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
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KIEFER

Continued from Page B1

ing a state-of-the-art ice arena and sports complex on campus with Mitchel Kiefer's name in mind.

"We designed, scoped it, priced it," said Steven Kiefer, senior vice president of Purchasing and Supply Chain for General Motors. "We were in the process of thinking how we were going to raise the money."

But after much thought following Mitchel's death, Catholic Central and the Kiefer family went an alternate route while finding a willing partner in USA Hockey.

"At that point, you're in such a grief and a fog that I don't think you're thinking very straight," Steven Kiefer said. "And as we started looking at the cost of this complex, I realized very quickly that \$20 million could go a long way to help society. So we thought if we made a small gift to this facility, got the naming and really used our money and our ability to raise funds in our efforts to really get the message of distracted driving out, that would be so much more value than putting an effort to building a building."

John Vanbiesbrouck, vice president, Junior Council, for USA Hockey, was on hand to make the presentation to the family prior to the game.

"I introduced Steven to the USA Hockey family and just assisted with the friendship and the partnership that is now come together," said Vanbiesbrouck, the former NHL and Michigan State goalie. "It came with a vision. Steven wanted to do something special for Mitchel. The DCC team playing out of here ... they were debating on whether to build a whole fieldhouse and things like that. Why not do something special here, name the arena and have a memorial after his son? I think this just came together a long period of time of consideration and consulting."

Although Mitchel Kiefer played only one year of varsity hockey at CC, he had a positive impact on those around him.

"Mitch was 'the man' for the team," Lee said. "Everyone on the team loved that kid. He necessarily didn't play that much. That was the year we had (Alec) Calvaruso — fantastic goalie. But everyone loved Mitch on the team. I don't know if it's the right thing to say, but we loved to party with Mitchel. He was the man, always laughing, always having a good time, always picking the boys up. Never had a bad attitude. He was just an awesome kid. We all loved that kid."

Brandon Kaleniecki, in his first year as CC's coach that championship season, viewed Mitchel both as a unique person and player.

"He was a really good kid, a bright kid," Kaleniecki said. "That's what we remember most. He was hard-working, a fun kid to be around at practice and stuff like that. He was also very honest when you had conversations with him. Anytime



The late Mitchel Kiefer's number is hanging in the rafters at USA Hockey Arena. BRAD EMONS



The artist's rendering of the Kiefer Rink at USA Hockey Arena.

you did, he gave you answers that you didn't necessarily see coming. And that's a good thing, at least from the coaches' point of view."

In his short 18 years, Mitchel accomplished much. Born in Toyko, he lived half of his life in Europe.

"He played hockey in Europe and, boy, when he had the opportunity to play for Catholic Central, it was no question his dream," Steven Kiefer said. "We basically moved back from Europe so Mitchel could play hockey at Catholic Central. He's one of the few men that played on every

Catholic Central hockey team, meaning he came in as a prep player. He quickly moved up to the JV White team, then the JV Blue team and then, his senior year, year he was on varsity team and he worked so hard to make it as a goalie on the varsity team."

Following his graduation from CC, Mitchel spent the summer selling knives for Cutco.

"And if you know what that product is, it's the world's most well-known knife, but it's also about educating young people on how to sell," Steven Kiefer said. "And he quickly became the high-

est salesman in the company's history. He sold \$52,000 worth of knives in a three-week period in the summer of 2016. And he was just driven. He was just passionate about making the sale, so actually he holds the trophy and holds the award for the highest sales in the history of that company. They have a trophy and annual award named after Mitchel for top sales performer at Cutco."

Mitchel then enrolled at MSU and shifted his focus away from hockey.

"He wanted to move on to becoming a neuroscientist and move the

world becoming a neuroscientist and, unfortunately, that was cut short," Steven Kiefer said. "But fortunately, we were able to get an honorary degree from Michigan State. He was awarded that at the beginning of this year. And we just continue to do some amazing things in his honor."

The Kiefer Foundation has also worked with the state of Michigan to install guard rails at the location where the crash happened on I-96, at Dietz Road in Leroy Township. It helped fund a project with the Michigan Department of Transportation for 1.7 miles of cable guard rail to stop cars from going across that median.

"And just one month ago, after the posts were put in, four posts went down," Steven Kiefer said. "Some driver was caught and stopped from going across the median due to these guard rails and since have already been fixed."

The Kiefer Foundation has also staged several fundraisers since Mitchel's death through charity hockey games, charity golf outings, along with a number of charity city and high school events.

"It's really been effective at raising funds, but also raising awareness," Steven said. "The bigger

issue now is how to get the word out and how to change behavior."

The Kiefer Foundation is partnering with P.E.E.R.S. (Professionals Encouraging Educational Reforms), a nonprofit that is focused on educating young people.

During the Dec. 6 game, a virtual reality simulator was brought into the concourse located between the two rinks to educate drivers.

"It's a meaningful way to, basically, show somebody how easily texting and driving can create a fatal accident," Steven said. "So we've been working with them to upgrade the product. The system they use is a virtual reality system, which is moving toward a new generation, which is helping them fund it. In the first quarter of next year, we'll be taking it to 50 schools in the area to, basically, spread this message."

The Kiefer Foundation's goal is also to support policies, advancement and implementation of technology and end distracted driving that is associated with traffic deaths and injuries.

"So we believe, some way, Mitchel is changing the world for the better," Steven said.

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SHOWCASE

Continued from Page B1

tunity to get many of the top programs in the state under one roof," Ossensmayer said. "This allows scouts to make a day of it and come out to watch several games, as opposed to traveling to a rink for a single game."

Also strongly behind the effort to bring a number of quality teams to

one venue is Plymouth head coach Gerry Vento. The Wildcats will face Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood at 4:30 p.m.

"Arguably, the KLAA (Kensington Lakes Activities Association) and MIHL are two of the top conferences in the state," Vento said. "So putting them all under one roof in one day is not only going to make for some great high school hockey match-ups and games

early in the season, but it always allows scouts to do some one-stop shopping, so to speak.

"If there are fans of high school hockey out there, they should make the effort to check out some great hockey on Dec. 16."

Those fans who walk into the door at Eddie Edgar Arena (Lyndon, west of Farmington Road) will hear the sounds of sticks, skates and pucks echoing on

THE SCHEDULE

- 9 a.m. — Grand Blanc vs. Livonia Franklin
- 10 a.m. — Canton vs. Grosse Pointe North
- 11 a.m. — Howell vs. Port Huron Northern
- Noon — Novi vs. University of Detroit-Jesuit
- 1 p.m. — Salem vs. Trenton
- 2:30 p.m. — Northville vs. Warren De La Salle
- 3:30 p.m. — Livonia Churchill vs. Grosse Pointe South
- 4:30 p.m. — Plymouth vs. Cranbrook

both sides of the building. The 'A' and 'B' rinks will both be busy with

games throughout the morning, afternoon and evening.

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5:30 p.m. — Livonia Stevenson vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary's
6:30 p.m. — Hartland vs. Birmingham Brother Rice
7:30 p.m. — Brighton vs. Novi Detroit Catholic Central
Eddie Edgar Arena is located at 33841 Lyndon, just west of Farmington Road, between Five Mile and I-96. For more information, call 734-422-5172. Admission is \$5.

BOYS HOCKEY

Plymouth hangs on to edge Churchill, 4-3

Potential blowout turns into nail-biter, but Wildcats able to survive

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The previous time Livonia Churchill and Plymouth got together for a boys hockey game, the Chargers won the regional title.

On Friday, at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, the Wildcats apparently remembered that night well and came out with a vengeance — scoring early and often, but ultimately needing to sweat out a 4-3 victory.

“Credit to Plymouth, they have a deep team this year,” Churchill head coach Jason Reynolds said. “They’re going to be one of the top competitors in Division 2, so we knew what we were coming into.”

“And, of course, they have a bone to pick with us this year because we won that regional championship last year. So I knew this game meant a lot to them.”

Plymouth didn’t waste any time. Junior forward Jacob Back charged in on Churchill senior goalie Chris Sergison and found the back of the net at the 15-second mark.

“We stressed really hard before the game started about starting on time and not sitting back,” Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento said. “Just get into it and take it to them and see what happens.”

“Obviously, first shift, first shot, makes a big difference and gets the guys going.”

The Wildcats added another goal just two minutes later, this one courtesy of senior forward C.J. Mullenax.

It was 3-0 before the period ended as sophomore forward Kyle Ahern scored his first varsity goal.

But then Sergison (15 saves) largely held the fort, not giving up a fourth goal until senior forward Tim Baldwin one-timed a centering pass from senior forward Jack Chumley early in



Tumbling into the boards Friday night are Plymouth’s Graham Sheehan (left) and Livonia Churchill’s Jordan Venegoni. TOM BEAUDOIN



Plymouth’s Jack Chumley (right) carries the puck, with Livonia Churchill’s Carter Swider in pursuit. TOM BEAUDOIN

the third period.

Churchill seemingly woke up when staring at a 4-0 deficit. It took the Chargers 11 only seconds to answer. Junior forward Zack Vendittelli lifted a backhand under the crossbar and a comeback bid was in full swing.

Although Plymouth senior goaltender Brendan Olepa faced just 19 shots, he had to make a couple of his biggest saves while protecting a 4-3 lead.

First, he sprawled acrobatically to deny a

Churchill scoring bid just outside the crease. It helped his cause that Matt Gibboney then blasted the rebound over an open net.

Then with about four minutes remaining, Venegoni ripped a shot that Olepa snagged.

“That kid can really shoot the puck; that was a big save,” Vento said. “It was a screen shot, too.”

Also helping Plymouth (4-1-1) close out the win was some strong work under pressure by senior defenseman Andrew Garby.

“We just had to start skating hard and get pucks out of the zone, that’s where we had trouble,” Garby said. “The pucks were getting out near the blue line and wouldn’t get out.”

“They’d keep it in. We just had to clear pucks out of the zone and get them deep, that’s how we prevented them from scoring.”

Following are other takeaways:

START ON TIME

One team answered the bell to open the con-

test and the other one didn’t, much to the chagrin of Reynolds.

“I think the most important thing to take away from tonight’s game is we need to start on time,” Reynolds said. “That’s something we preach to our team on a daily, weekly basis. And if you don’t start on time, especially against a team like Plymouth, it will come back to bite you.”

The Chargers (3-3) found themselves down a goal just 15 seconds into the contest and, before long, they were down 2-0.

PLUG IT IN

Livonia Churchill had just cut the deficit to 4-3 (on goals by Vendittelli, senior forward Josh Friend and senior forward Carter Swider) when Plymouth was called for a minor penalty with about 12 minutes remaining.

But the Wildcats were able to kill off the penalty.

“I think we need to do a better job of finding the open shooting lanes,” Reynolds said. “Move around the zone a little more, find some of the seams in the penalty kill where we can attack the

net. “That’s something that’s going to be a work in progress.”

THAT’S A FIRST

Ahern finally scored the first goal of his high school varsity career. He buried a high shot inside the left post with 3:35 to go in the opening period to open up a 3-0 lead.

“Kyle’s a big, strong physical kid,” Vento said. “He plays hard, works hard. He’s been having chances and you could tell by that goal he’s got a great shot.”

“He put it where that goalie didn’t have a chance. But he does so much more for us than score goals.”

LESSON LEARNED

The Wildcats blew a three-goal lead Dec. 5 against state powerhouse Brighton, managing a 3-3 tie. Friday was similar, letting a 4-0 lead shrink to one goal.

Vento said the team is learning that comfortable leads vanish quickly against quality opponents.

“The boys realized that if they skate and play their system, they can at least play with anyone,” Vento said. “It’s just a matter of doing it for 51 minutes.”

In the Brighton game, Plymouth got goals from Adam Rebecca, Mullenax and Baldwin.

SHOWCASE LOOMS

Reynolds echoed other area coaches about the potentially thrilling day of high school hockey that will take place Saturday, Dec. 16, at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia.

It will be the inaugural MIHL-KLAA Showcase. Churchill squares off against Grosse Pointe South at 3:30 p.m.; Plymouth takes on Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood at 4:30 p.m. There will be 11 games, beginning at 9 a.m.

“From my standpoint, it seems as though the MIHL and the KLAA are the two top (leagues) in the state,” Reynolds said. “And anytime you have a chance to match those two leagues up next to one another, I think it makes for an exciting day of hockey.”

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COACHES

Continued from Page B1

the game.

“Mostly, just to be back and see the players, coaches and staff that were a huge part of (wife) Deb and my lives over seven great years,” Cole wrote. “We had some very special moments, but the best part of being there was the people I got to work with and know.”

But Dec. 16 also will be a special night for Scott Monaghan, senior director of operations for the NTDP.

“It’s going to be emotional to see Danton and Chris over on that bench for MSU,” Monaghan said. “I remember them as players (for the Spartans) when I was a student. I was honored to give them an opportunity here with the national program. And I know coaching their alma mater was a dream for both of them.”

Because the NTDP is a pipeline of potential Division I players for colleges such as Michigan State, Monaghan also sees Cole’s return to East Lansing as a win-win situation in the development of young players.

“I always tell kids you go to a college for the



Chris Luongo surveys the action during a recent MSU men’s hockey game. REY DEL RIO | MSU ATHLETICS

school,” Monaghan said. “Make sure you pick a place, not a person. But if I had a son in that position, I would always be 100-percent behind them playing for Danton Cole.”

“He’s a good human being and he’s about more than just the ‘hockey part.’ He cares about kids and their futures.”

In some ways, taking over the reins of a relatively inexperienced college team — which Cole has done with the Spartans — merely is an extension of what he did

with USA Hockey.

“The season has gone well and the team has made a lot of progress,” Cole added. “We are very young, 19 freshmen and sophomores, so there is a lot to learn.”

“I really have enjoyed the work ethic and commitment of the team and they represent MSU very well.”

U18 team edges Central Illinois

On Dec. 9 in a contest at USA Hockey Arena, the U.S. NTDP U-18 team

defeated Central Illinois, 6-2.

Leading the way with a goal and two assists was Joel Farabee, while Birmingham’s Bode Wilde, Jonathan Gruden (Rochester) and K’Andre Miller also scored.

Making 25 saves in goal for the victory was Drew DeRidder (Fenton).

Schoolcraft splits pair

Schoolcraft College’s men’s club hockey team played two American Collegiate Hockey As-

SPARTANS VS. TEAM USA

What: Michigan State University’s men’s hockey team will face the U.S. National Team Development Program’s U-18 team. The game is part of the NTDP vs. NCAA College Series presented by Kroger.

When/where: Puck drop is at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

Welcome back: Former NTDP coaches Danton Cole, Chris Luongo (an ex-Detroit Red Wings player) and Joe Exter now are with the MSU coaching staff and will be back to face their former program.

Cole was head coach the past seven seasons, while Luongo was one of his assistant coaches in 2015-17 (and previously on the same staff at Wayne State University). Exter, a goalie coach, founded and developed USA Hockey’s renowned Warren Strelow National Goaltending program while a coach with the NTDP.

Several former NTDP players also are on the Spartans, including defenseman Tommy Miller of West Bloomfield.

Tickets: Good seats (starting at \$10) remain available, but the crowd should be similar to the near-capacity 3,715 on hand for the Dec. 2 game against Michigan. Go to usahockeyarena.com or call 734-453-8400 for more information.

sociation games over the weekend at Redford Ice Arena and came away with a lopsided win followed by a lopsided loss against Miami (Ohio) University.

On Dec. 8, the Ocelots built an 8-2 lead after two periods and posted a 10-4 victory. Big guns in the win were Griffen Ahmet (two goals, assist), Richard Corso (two goals), Jacob St. Andre (goal, two assists) and Scott Pohl (goal, assist). Making 20 saves for Schoolcraft was goaltender Connor O’Reilly. The following after-

noon, however, Miami came out looking for revenge and got it with a decisive 9-3 win. Schoolcraft goals were scored by Ahmet, Sage Becraft and Nolan Cioch.

Next up for coach Rob Lindsay’s team is a home-and-home against Western Michigan University. The Ocelots will visit WMU for a game at 6 p.m. Friday, followed by a home game at Redford (at 6:30 p.m. Saturday).

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THE OPIOID CRISIS

A voice crying out a warning

Wings broadcaster Daniels shares story about death of son to drugs

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

As the television play-by-play announcer for the Detroit Red Wings, Ken Daniels has a large platform to reach a broad audience of viewers.

Speaking Nov. 29 before an audience at Novi High School's Fuerst Auditorium, Daniels delivered a strong and powerful message to the school's student-athletes and their parents about the ever growing opioid crisis, an epidemic which claims 142 lives daily and more than 64,000 last year across America.

Just less than a year ago, Daniels lost his son Jamie to a drug overdose in Palm Beach County, Fla., at age 23.

Daniels, who just released a book, "If These Walls Could Talk: Detroit Red Wings," is making public appearances to help families cope with and prevent the same heartbreak he's experienced since his son died Dec. 7, 2016.

Also on hand for the question-and-answer session was recovering addict David Clayton, now youth coordinator for the Macomb County-based Families Against Narcotics, along with Dr. Anthony Colucci, the Red Wings team physician since 1989 and a board-certified emergency room physician.

Speaking out

"It's not only what happened to my son, but many families are going through it," Daniels said. "And to look out into the audience here tonight and see the kids' faces and (see them) seriously listening — not just to me, but to (Clayton) and (Colucci), who is our Red Wings team doctor — talk about the over prescription of narcotic drugs ... and just the abuse in general. And even if one kid gets the message and talks to another kid and speaks out and stops them, then we've saved a life. So hopefully, it was worth it."

Bill Roose, who formerly worked for the Red Wings and is now communications specialist for the Novi Community School District, helped arrange the presentation along with Novi athletic director Brian Gordon.

"Like I said before, it doesn't discriminate," Gordon said. "I hope our athletes will take this stuff and put it to good use. And this won't be the last time they hear from me when it comes to these things. It's something we're going to continue to drive into their heads. It's my way of saying we do care about them."

Prior to his presentation, Daniels asked the audience if they had known somebody from their family or community affected by the opioid crisis.

Several hands were raised.

Banding together

"For these families going through this ... we must drop the stigma of what an addict is," Daniels said. "The family needs to put the feeling of shame aside. It's unfortunate we're all members of a club we don't want to be a part of, but there's so many that have come up to me and it's comforting to know we can be together, because this epidemic does not discriminate. It knows no socioeconomic boundaries.

"As my good friend and former colleague with 'Hockey Night in Canada' Scott Oake says — whose son Bruce passed away six years ago from heroin addiction — it's nature vs. nurture. Jamie was about a whole lot more than addiction. He wanted a better life, but addiction got a hold of him and wouldn't let him go."

Jamie Daniels's tragic story is like many others and it started innocently enough.

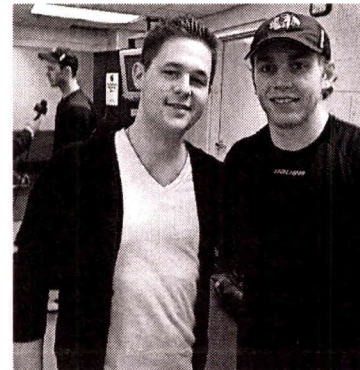
He went to Florida to get help with an opioid addiction that was linked initially to painkillers he received after



Detroit Red Wings TV broadcaster Ken Daniels shared his personal story regarding his son's death with Novi student-athletes and parents. BILL ROOSE | NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Taking questions from the audience were (from left) Detroit Red Wings broadcaster Ken Daniels, Wings team physician Dr. Anthony Colucci and David Clayton, youth coordinator for Families Against Narcotics. BILL ROOSE | NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Jamie Daniels poses with Chicago Blackhawks forward Patrick Kane after a game during the 2015-16 season. KEN DANIELS

his wisdom teeth were pulled.

He was first introduced to opioids during his time as a member of a Michigan State University fraternity house, which was closed down two years after he left. He was not the only frat member to have an opioid addiction.

"Believe me, this is not an indictment of Michigan State," Daniels said. "It happens everywhere."

Recovery phase

Admitting he had a problem, Jamie spent two weeks detoxing and appeared to be himself again.

"But we knew, less than two weeks couldn't cure two years," Daniels said. "He didn't want to stay longer. Being over 21, we couldn't make him. And believe me, this addiction overpowers free will. Another relapse put him back in the hospital here in Michigan and another stay in detox. That is painful, to say the least."

Jamie, an above-average student who graduated from MSU, was then recommended by a Michigan psychologist to try an inpatient treatment center in south Florida where, after 30 days, he was moved into a sober living home.

He attended outpatient treatment meetings, was routinely drug-tested and landed a job working at a law firm as a clerk, with the hope of getting acclimated back into society clean and sober, according to his father.

Jamie spent seven months in Florida, but found himself caught systemically entangled in a web of recovery home corruption.

Recovery business

"The criminal side of the recovery process shocked all of us," Daniels told the audience. "With the help of Florida's state attorney, the FBI and the special drug force task unit of Palm Beach County, we all know about the billion-dollar

business, which is the broker recovery industry, littered with corruption and criminal activity, and it took my son's life."

At the time, Palm Beach County had more than 400 sober living homes alone in this "so-called recovery capital," according to Daniels. Although the laws have begun to change, they had been classified as homes for the disabled.

"Anyone can turn a house into a sober home and rent it out," Daniels said. "It's all part of the Affordable Care Act, which makes payment for addiction treatment virtually unlimited and this is what criminals exploit. These homes are linked with outpatient treatment programs and doctors and labs. And many sober homes are a way to profit, prey on individuals in recovery with insurance. Insurance is the gold ticket. Jamie had insurance, he had mine. Some of these so-called sober homes pay individuals to recruit patients. They get anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000 per person to what has become known as body brokers."

New law passed

Last July, the Florida Legislature passed Bill No. 807, which required more regulation of the sober living homes industry, making it a third-degree felony, akin to racketeering, for those in violation.

"If we had only known what patient brokering was when Jamie was in Florida," Daniels said. "These people befriend individuals at recovery meetings or work places, enticing them into specific, sober homes with a promise of free rent, all covered by insurance. They even paid to go to 12-step programs and befriend those with insurance."

"In many cases, these homes provide drugs to those in recovery, so the relapse client has to enter detox once

again, while the owners of the sober living homes are charging the insurance. The patient is then referred to a specific doctor, while the homes keep billing the insurance. And that's where Jamie, who had been doing so well, got baited and trapped. He was all geeked because rent was only \$50 per month rather than \$245 a week he was paying in his closely monitored first home."

Jamie's second recovery home was \$150 monthly and, for a 23-year-old kid, that seemed to be a lot. Another doctor, meanwhile, had changed his medication to treat his anxiety. He had already been on a generic program of Prozac for three weeks. His father later discovered Jamie had been put on Xanax, a highly addictive drug that is not commonly prescribed to someone addicted to prescription medication.

Broken system

No drugs were found in Jamie's bedroom following his death and Daniels was told by the law enforcement authorities they were not clear how he ingested heroin-laced Carfen-tanil, a pill which shocked his heart while in his sleep.

Following his death, Jamie's roommate fled to another state and tried to extort money from Daniels in exchange for some of Jamie's belongings that he had taken.

The last two sober homes where Jamie lived were termed fraudulent by Florida authorities. Some medical bills Daniels received reached \$50,000. Jamie's signatures for urine and blood tests had been forged while he was spending time in Michigan. The FBI was thankful it could prove the case was fraudulent.

"My son knew it was his only path to get clean," Daniels said of the sober home called Journey to Recovery. "The last house Jamie lived in, the owner, Kenneth Chapman, was charged with insurance fraud

and money laundering and is currently serving 27½ years in prison."

Warning signs

Colucci, who is famed rapper Eminem's personal physician, also talked about the dangers of opioids.

As medical director of the Henry Ford Macomb emergency room and a FAN member, Colucci believes doctors must restrict opioids for extreme pain that accompanies an injury for 48-72 hours. After that, non-narcotic painkillers are recommended.

"I've always been sensitive that opioids can be highly addictive," he said. "We're all vulnerable, my sons are vulnerable, I'm vulnerable. We're all vulnerable to go down this path of addiction. There's no set script for what the person looks like. They come from well-to-do families. They can look put together, but they think they're invulnerable, especially the young kids."

Colucci, who got involved with FAN in 2010, believes it's the job of his own profession to go against the grain of long-standing medical practices when it comes to prescribing painkillers. He said people are still practicing under archaic rules.

Doctor's responsibility

"There's many stories of a 15-year-old that gets a knee scoped from a football injury," Colucci said. "They get a script for narcotics and then we lose them because that's what the doctor wrote, that's what doctor ordered, that's what the doctor said. And both the parent and the child are listening and, 'Yep, every six hours,' and they just follow what they're told."

"That's when I stepped in in 2010 and said, 'We're the problem, we're not helping as physicians.' The physicians that are prescribing, they're old school and we've developed a problem. Now it's our job to turn this around and reverse the problem that we have. It comes to education, educating the parents. It comes down to prescribing practices."

The message from the three panelists was identical, but was it getting through?

"I think we hit a couple of people," Colucci said. "There's still, unfortunately, some of the kids that were here where it didn't resonate at all. But obviously, it hit with the parents, it hit with the grandparents and it's a warning sign. If anything, when I go out, is that I try to educate. And I say, 'These are dangerous things and, physiologically, you don't need anything more for pain med more than 48-72 hours. And if you go beyond that, you're taking the risk.'"

Message resonates

For Novi senior basketball player Nik Williams, the presentation by Clayton, who spoke of his own journey and recovery of addiction, along with Daniels and Colucci did make an impression.

"I think it actually opened our eyes in the first place," Williams said. "I think it gives us a lot of information, lots of humbleness and I hope they can actually learn something today. And me, too, and I hope everything goes well for them and their family. I think it impacted me a lot and I'm glad that I came, actually listened and I learned a lot from this lesson."

Daniels believes progress is being made and the word is getting out about the dangers of opioids.

"I don't think it's under the radar anymore," he said. "I think it's out there now. When the president of the United States comes out and calls it a federal health emergency and we're lessening the amount of scripts that doctors can give to seven days. All the CDC's say all you should give is 72 hours — really, it's abstinence."

"For every one of you kids out there — don't start, abstinence, don't put your parents in the position that I'm in right now. We're all vulnerable."

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BY PETER JONES
THEJOBNETWORK

The grind of wake-work-sleep-repeat five times a week is enough to make anyone tired. Fold in family obligations, housework and, you know, the occasional night out of fun, and it's no wonder that most of us are exhausted by 2 p.m. every day.

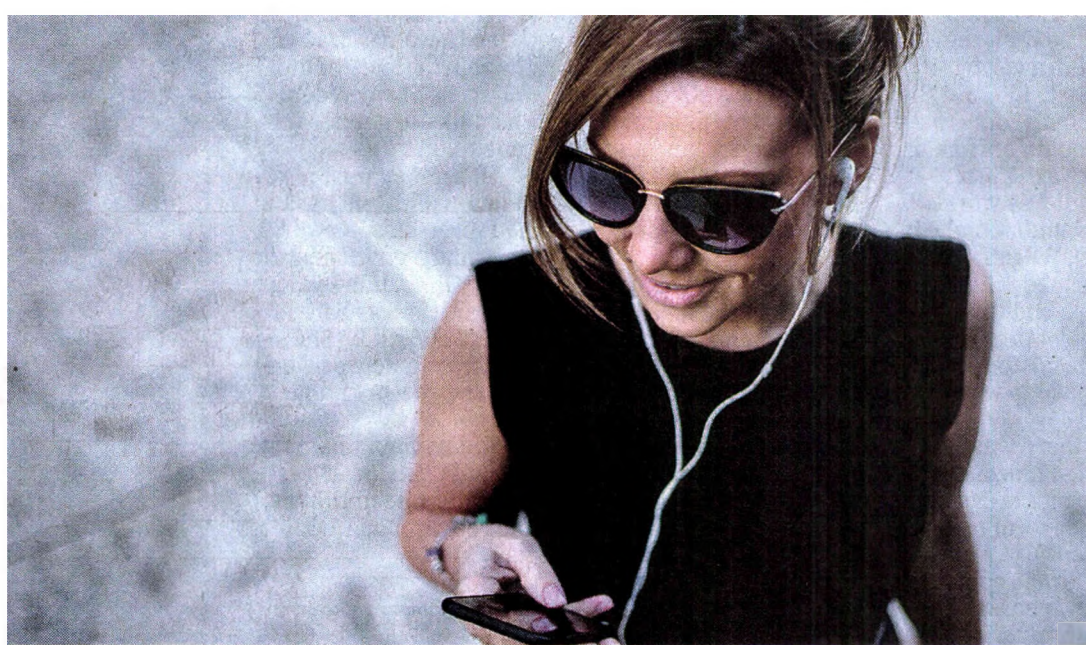
If you want to feel better so you can work better, you don't have to make huge life changes in order to see results. Start small with the following tips and fold them into your life bit by bit. If you're diligent about changing your ways, your physical and mental energy are sure to see a boost.

Eat good, whole foods.

Whole grains, protein and fruit are great ways to keep your brain and body going, even if you're not feeling your perkier.

Try oatmeal with a banana or berries and a sprinkling of nuts for breakfast instead of that muffin or bagel. Store healthy snacks in your desk or in the common fridge so you have good options when you're lagging and need an energy or blood sugar boost — try almonds, carrots and hummus or plain popcorn.

If you're prepared when hunger strikes, you won't go



GETTY IMAGES

searching for a vending machine. And don't forget to hydrate. Keep a refillable bottle by your desk for water and a mug for green tea, which is less dehydrating and much healthier than coffee.

Get enough sleep.

"Enough sleep" will differ from person to person. According to the National Sleep Foundation, adults need seven to nine hours.

Of course, this is just an average, and you know your body best. For you, a restful sleep might mean eight hours, or it might mean five. If you're

exhausted every day, chances are you need to increase your sleep time.

Try adding 30 minutes every day and taking note of how you feel the next workday. Once you start to feel more rested, you likely have found a sweet spot.

The issue for most working adults is finding the time at the end of the day to wind down and actually fall asleep at a reasonable hour. If you establish a bedtime routine and turn off electronics in the hour leading up to your bedtime, sleep will come easier. Adding in exercise a few days

a week can only help.

Finally, it's not the best idea to consume caffeine after lunch, so watch your coffee and soda consumption.

Move around.

If you're drooping midday, move your body to wake it up. Are you able to get out for a lunch break? If so, take advantage — even a 20-minute daily walk in fresh air will do wonders for your energy levels and your morale.

Can you make it to the gym, do a quick workout video or go for a jog at least three times a week? Even better. If

you just don't have the time, take 15 minutes at home (in front of the TV will do) to stretch your body every night. Anything to get the blood moving will make you feel and perform better at work.

Check your vices.

Smoking and drinking alcohol might feel like crutches that you desperately need to keep functioning, but both can have adverse effects on both your energy and your health. If you don't want to cut them out, at least aim to cut back.

Make a workday soundtrack.

This one is fun: If you're allowed to play music or use headphones while you work, take advantage.

Every night, take a few minutes to create a playlist of tunes that will keep you motivated throughout the next day. It's more difficult to doze off when you're (silently) singing along to your favorites. When a long day stretches ahead of you, a curated music list is a small pleasure you can anticipate.

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

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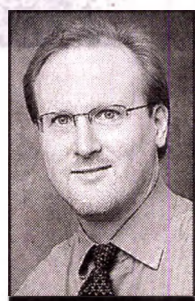
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Car Report

WITH DASHBOARD MARKETPLACE ON LATE-MODEL VEHICLES, GM AIMS FOR COMMERCIALIZED, CUSTOMIZED COMMUTE



By Dale Buss

There are many ways for brands to create loyalty as the driving and riding experience undergoes vast changes. General Motors is taking a further plunge into this new era of mobility by creating what it

learning, "it's an even faster and simpler interaction the more you use it."

More than two million GM vehicles on the road—the late-model ones that are embedded with 4G LTE connectivity—are now equipped with this service, which makes car ownership (in a time of sharing) even more relevant and useful.

In addition to branded dashboard buttons, Marketplace also features a "Shop" section dedicated to offers specific to GM vehicles, such as purchasing Wi-Fi data, discounts for an oil change or deals on GM accessories.

Given that the average U.S. driver spends 46 minutes a day behind the wheel, GM figures Marketplace could "make this time more productive, more enjoyable and safer."

At the same time, brands get a big opportunity to cater to consumers when previously the only time to reach them safely on the road was with a radio ad.

Shell, for instance, is tapping into Marketplace for easy notification of drivers of its more than 14,000 stations, representing the largest refueling network in the U.S.

Shell's Marketplace presence also offers discounts through its loyalty program as well as seamless digital payments.

GM's Marketplace move is a win-win as a brand partner, says Dan Little, head of North America marketing for Shell, and "a testament to both brands' leadership in their respective fields and our shared commitment to quality and mobility innovation."

The first brands accessible through Marketplace include:

- GM lets customers buy 4G LTE Data packages, extend their OnStar subscription or receive offers for certified



calls "the industry's first commerce platform for on-demand reservations and purchases of goods and services."

Dubbed "GM Marketplace," it allows customers to buy coffee, order take-out food or make dinner reservations by tapping an icon on the vehicle's dashboard touchscreen. Brands that have already signed up for Marketplace include Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, Applebee's and Shell.

In a nod to consumers' demand for personalization, GM's on-board analytics will use information from consumers' established digital relationships with those brands as well as location-based data from the vehicle to shape and customize experiences.

If your favorite Starbucks order is a grande Cinnamon Dolce Latte, for example, a driver with Marketplace can make that preferred order—and pay for it—just by pushing the Starbucks icon on his or her car's screen.

"The beauty of this platform is that it is designed from the get-go to be used while driving," said Santiago Chamorro, GM's VP for global connected customer experience, in a press release. And because the simple (and distraction-free) user interface integrates a clear UI with driver preferences and machine

service, parts and accessories for their specific vehicle.

- Starbucks offers another convenient way for customers to order ahead and enjoy their favorite handcrafted beverage or food item. And as part of the Starbucks Rewards™ program, members enjoy more value by earning Rewards towards free food and drink. (Early 2018)

- Dunkin' Donuts will help customers start their day off right through an experience that allows DD Perks members to preorder and pay onscreen for their favorite coffee and donut, at their preferred pickup location.

- Wingstop will allow you to skip the wait by re-ordering your favorites and paying ahead, so your can get home in time for the big game

- TGI Fridays will let customers schedule a table reservation for them

and their closest friends and family when they need a break from the week.

- Shell will enable the exceptional driver experience, providing ease of payment and savings with INSTANT GOLD STATUS in the Fuel Rewards® program. Customers' closest Shell station will be identified and station amenities showcased among the largest fuel station network in the U.S., with the ability to pay in-dash coming soon.

- ExxonMobil will quickly locate Exxon and Mobil fuel stations with details of what they offer, route you there and get you back on the road faster.

- Priceline.com gives drivers access to hundreds of thousands of hotels and exclusive hotel savings on the go.

- Parkopedia allows drivers to find, reserve and pay for parking, all at the click of a button.

- Applebee's ensures customers are never too far from Eatin' Good in the Neighborhood whether close to home or miles away with the ability to locate their nearest restaurant, order featured menu items and reorder recent favorites through the convenience of their vehicle's touchscreen.

- IHOP makes it easy for guests to enjoy hot, fresh all-day breakfast favorites like fluffy buttermilk pancakes on the go, thanks to safe and secure on-dash ordering and location service capabilities that help search and find the nearest restaurant for pickup.

- delivery.com empowers the neighborhood economy by enabling customers to order online from their favorite local restaurants, wine and spirits shops, grocery stores and laundry and dry-cleaning providers.

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DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51. 3 year Rabies \$17. Heartworm Test \$19
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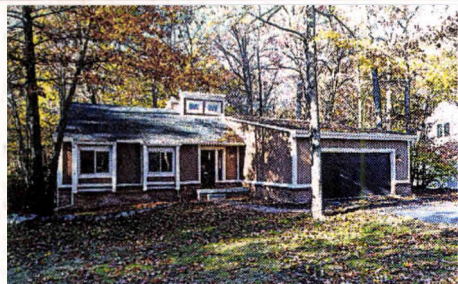
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*Open floor plan that is great for entertaining
*Granite kitchen has multiple skylights that keeps it sun-drenched all year
*Master suite with private deck, fully finished walkout basement
MLS 217101993 248.684.1065 \$280,000



Move In Ready Condo!

*This condo features four bedrooms and two and half bathrooms
*Beautiful hardwood floors as you walk through large entry
*Kitchen with stainless steel appliances, dining area with bay window and patio door to your back yard
*Master bedroom with large walk in closet, master bath with ceramic floor
MLS 217105707 248.684.1065 \$230,000



Gorgeous Colonial, Great Location!

*This home features four bedrooms, three and half bathrooms
*Updated gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, backsplash and new cabinet lighting
*Vaulted master bedroom, great size additional bedrooms with possible 5th bedroom
*Perfect covered patio overlooking 20 unbuildable acres and amazing sunsets
MLS 217093043 248.684.1065 \$429,900



Gorgeous Historic Home!

*This home features four bedrooms, and three and half bathrooms
*All custom white kitchen with quartz, large spacious rooms with nine foot ceilings
*Three fireplaces, screened in porch, oversized garage and expansive master suite
*Located in the Village of Milford, in walking distance to the downtown
MLS 217099613 248.684.1065 \$649,900



Gorgeous Custom Built Colonial!

*This home features five bedrooms, four and half bathrooms located on a quiet cul de sac
*Beautiful gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and hardwood floors
*Great room equipped with temperature controlled wine cellar & cozy bar
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MLS 217080346 248.684.1065 \$498,900



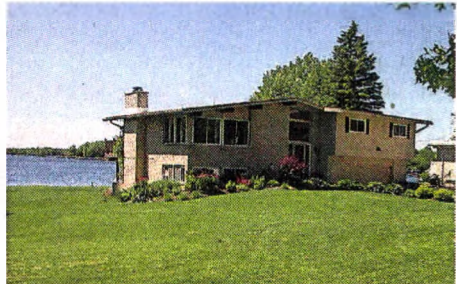
Exquisite One of Kind Lake Sherwood Home!

*This lake front home features five bedrooms, four and half bathrooms with amazing view throughout
*Updated kitchen with delightful breakfast nook and barn wood accent wall
*First floor master suite with lakefront views, jetted tub and custom walk in shower
*Spacious finished basement with bedroom and plenty of for entertaining
MLS 217104397 248.684.1065 \$679,900



Charming Colonial!

*This home features three bedrooms, two and half bathrooms on 2.1 acres
*Updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, Quarts counters and marble backsplash
*Great room with beautiful brick fireplace and crown molding
*First floor laundry, 3 Car garage with shed
MLS 217090562 248.684.1065 \$359,000



Beautiful Lake Front Home!

*This five bedroom, three bath, Colonial features incredible views of Lake Sherwood
*Open floor plan with lots of space for entertaining
*Walkout lower level with family room and fireplace, separate bedroom and full bathroom
*Choose to keep this existing home or build the home of your dreams on this amazing waterfront lot
MLS 217049046 248.684.1065 \$499,000



Wonderful Four Bedroom!

*This four bedroom, two and half bathroom is located on a large wooded lot in desirable Timber Ridge
*Kitchen with Maple cabinets, granite counters and backsplash
*Amazing three season sunroom, with vaulted ceiling, ceiling fan and door to wooded yard
*First floor laundry, super family room and three car garage
MLS 217083592 248.684.1065 \$335,000



Peaceful 8.23 Wooded Acres!

*This delightful Ranch features three bedrooms and three bathrooms
*Spacious master bedroom with spa like bath including a jetted tub, euro-shower and dual sink
*Beautiful granite gas fireplace is a focal point in the modern living room
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MLS 217085126 248.684.1065 \$629,900



Build The Home Of Your Dreams!

*Pictured is a four bedroom, two and half bathroom, Colonial, on 1.03 acres
*Many floor plans, with natural fire place and hardwood floors
*Brick and stone with covered porch
*Island kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances
MLS 216116498 248.684.1065 \$499,000



Gorgeous Brick Ranch!

*This Ranch features three bedrooms, two bathrooms
*Kitchen with Granite counter tops, Jerusalem limestone floors and a great snack bar
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*Fenced in backyard and cedar deck
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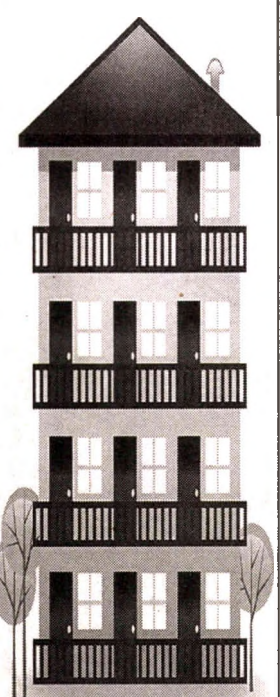
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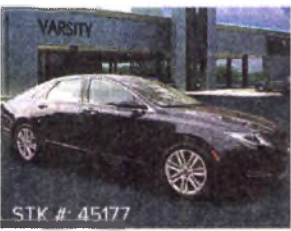


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