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YEAR END SALES EVENT



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Blackwell Ford

DTE vows to improve service, fix substation

Company installing new smart technologies, replacing old equipment

Darrell Clem
hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Amid broader efforts to improve service in the Plymouth area, DTE Energy work crews have begun rebuilding a power substation that caught fire in mid-August, knocking out power to over 4,000 customers.

The substation project comes as DTE and local officials say work crews

elsewhere have made significant strides to trim trees that threatened power lines, fix or replace damaged utility poles in Plymouth and Canton townships and reroute power lines away from wooded areas.

"Things have gone very smoothly since that (substation fire)," Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincok said. "We haven't had any issues and DTE has delivered on everything they said they would."

In Plymouth Township, which often bears the brunt of power outages, Supervisor Kurt Heise said it appears the situation has improved since DTE began efforts to improve its energy grid in that community.

And in Canton, Supervisor Pat Williams said efforts to trim trees and fix utility poles on the township's north end have helped.

"We've had intermittent power outages but it has been extremely short-term in nature," he said.

On the substation site, near the Plymouth Cultural Center, DTE crews

have removed all damaged equipment on the site as workers move ahead with a project intended to "improve reliability and give customers peace of mind," DTE Communications Manager Randi Berris said.

DTE is installing new, smart technologies and replacing equipment that in some cases dates back to 1925. The company is ushering in a sweeping makeover of the site at Theodore and Farmer streets, where the company brought in temporary equipment for a

See DTE, Page A2

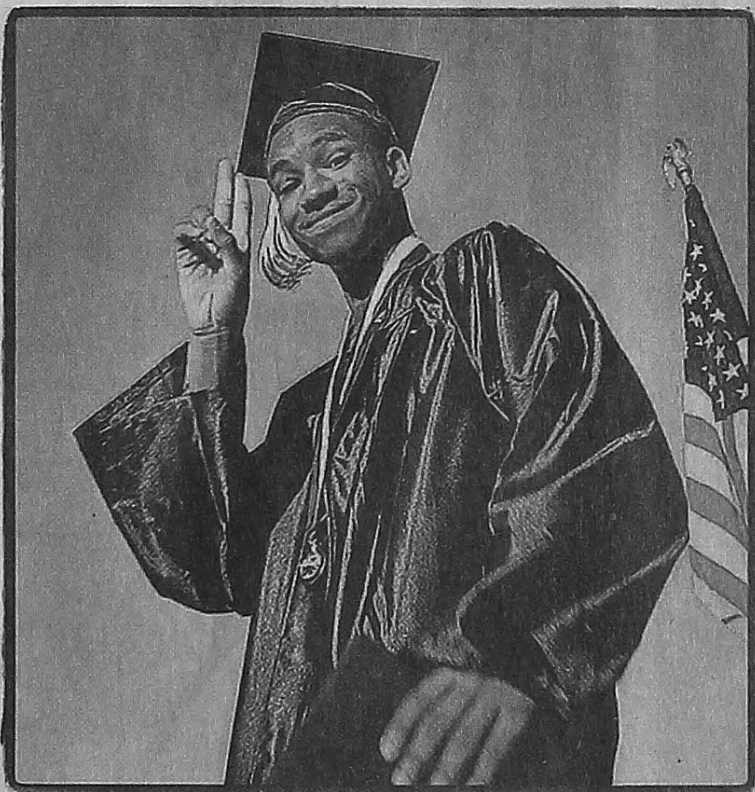
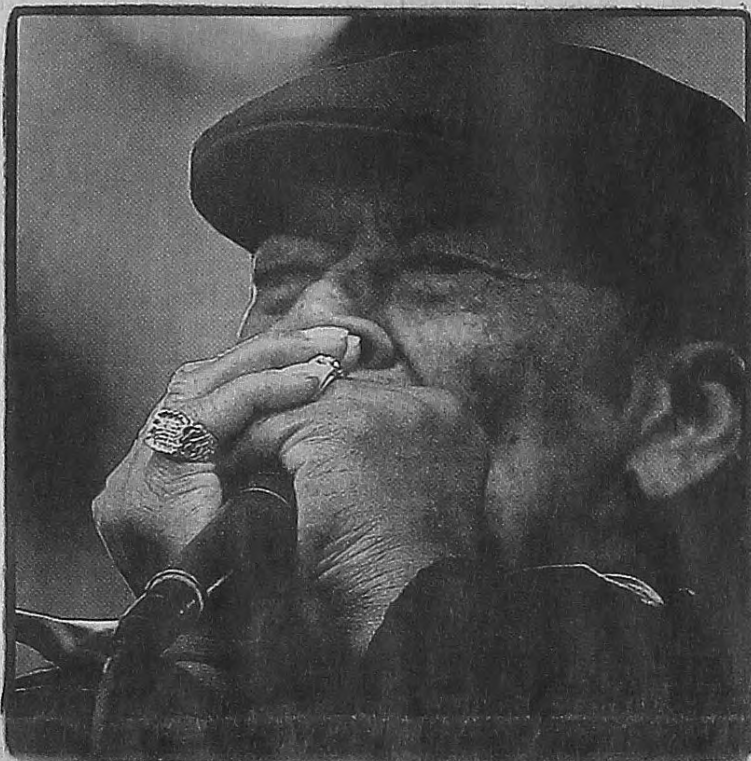
Quiet moments on Instagram by Bill Bresler

Staff photographer Bill Bresler uses the Instagram social media app to share his photographs. The photos are posted to Instagram and sometimes shared to his Facebook account. While many of the photos are made on assignment for HometownLife.com and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, he's always looking for moments and scenes that will work with the app. Some of the photos are made with the iPhone. Others are made with Bresler's professional camera equipment and imported into Instagram.

"My Instagrams are often photos that are secondary to the news assignment or found between assignments", Bresler said. "They are the quieter moments, or there is some twist to the look of the photo". He uses the Lo-Fi filter, which adds saturation, contrast, and a film-like black border to the photo. "Using the same filter for all of my Instagrams helps with a consistent look and helps identify the photos as an ongoing body of work." he said.

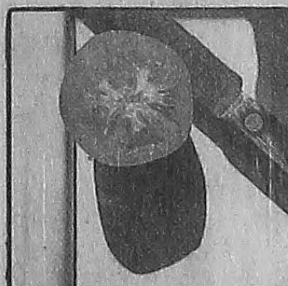
This is the third year of publishing Bresler's Instagram Year in Review.

Bresler has photographed for 38 years for the O&E. He taught photography for 16 years at Madonna University in Livonia. Many former students are Instagram friends. "We stay in touch with our photographs and a few words," he said. To join his Instagram feed search for bbresler.



MORE INSIDE

Find more of Bill's Instagram Year in Review inside on A6 or online at hometownlife.com.



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Here's a few options for New Year's Eve events

David Veselenak

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Christmas may be over, but that just means it's time for the next celebration: New Year's Eve.

While there's plenty to do in Detroit for New Year's Eve, there's a few events taking place a little closer to home if you're interested in something a little different.

Here's three things taking place for New Year's in the Hometown Life communities this weekend.

Parties in Livonia

Two of Livonia's banquet centers will hold celebrations to ring in 2018.

One will take place at Laurel Manor, 39000



Skateland West in Westland will hold its "Noon Year's Eve" event Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. COURTESY OF HUSH ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

Schoolcraft. The event takes place from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the banquet hall and will feature

performances by One Man Out, an open bar and hors d'oeuvres. Dinners include filet mignon,

chicken or vegetable tower, as selected at time of ticket purchase. Champagne will be available as midnight rolls in. Tickets for the event at \$100/person and is limited to adults ages 21 and older. More information can be found at laurelmanor.com.

Another Livonia hall, Burton Manor, will feature an evening by 3d Entertainment. The hall, located at 27777 Schoolcraft, will feature DJ Tiger and food from Fine Indian Cuisine Pakwaan. There will be a magic show for children and a belly dancer entertaining guests as well. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$65 without drinks, and \$75 with two drinks. Children 7-12 are \$35 and those younger than 7 are free. More information can be found

by calling 734-430-0251 or emailing mi3dentertainment@gmail.com.

Roller skating in Westland

If staying out past midnight isn't something you're interested in, one Westland skating center has just the option to celebrate the new year.

Skateland West, 37550 Cherry Hill, will hold its annual "Noon Year's Eve" event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the center. A balloon drop and countdown will take place at 11:59 a.m. to ring in the "noon year" and will come complete with a sparkling grape juice toast and prizes all around the rink. A second "lock-in" event will take place from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. later that day.

More information can be found at

skatelandwestmi.com.

Dining in Birmingham

If you're looking for a fun night in downtown Birmingham to ring in 2018, be sure to check out The Bird & The Bread's offerings for Sunday night.

The restaurant, located at 210 Old Woodward, will feature seatings at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and will have a strolling buffet dinner. Music will be performed by the Ramo World Jazz Group at the restaurant, which will transition into Vinoteca in early 2018.

Reservations can be placed by calling 248-203-6600.

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DTE

Continued from Page A1

makeshift substation after the fire.

Berris said the construction project encompasses nearly everything in the substation yard and should be completed by late April.

"We took this as an opportunity to fully upgrade the entire substation," she said, and Mother Nature had cooperated until recent bone-chilling temperatures arrived.

"Overall, we've been lucky with the weather," Berris said. "That has helped our crews stay on schedule and not get pulled off because of storms."

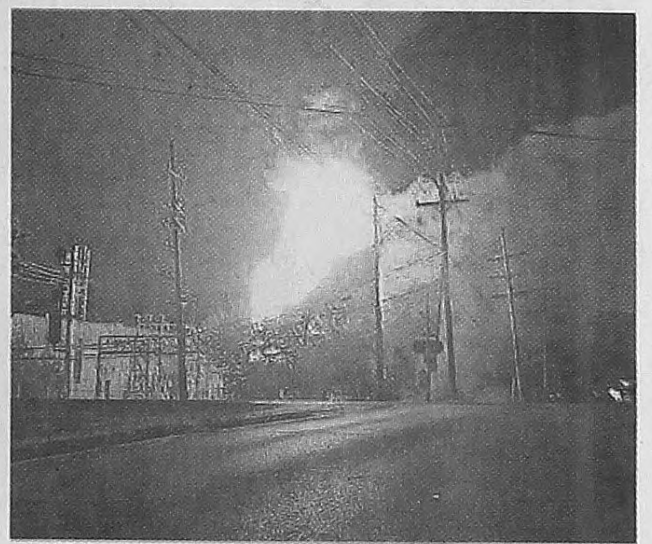
One storm last March knocked out power to large swaths of metro

Detroit, but DTE officials said that was a rare situation that couldn't be anticipated.

The substation project involves installing new concrete pads to support new equipment and replacing two transformers. One was expected to be replaced any day, Berris said Wednesday, with a second transformer coming in February.

After the two transformers are working, DTE plans to remove the portable substation equipment parked along Theodore Street. Construction work will continue inside the building in March, with exterior renovations and landscaping projected to wrap up by late April.

Longer term, Berris said DTE is developing a five-year, proactive strategic plan for improving its energy grid and con-



A DTE Energy substation that caught fire in August is getting a massive makeover to improve service. CITY OF PLYMOUTH

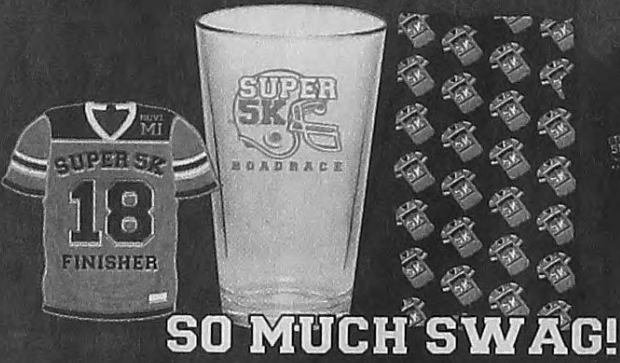
tinuing to boost reliability for customers. She said DTE has worked with the Michigan Public Service Commission and is expected in coming weeks to release more

details about the five-year plan.

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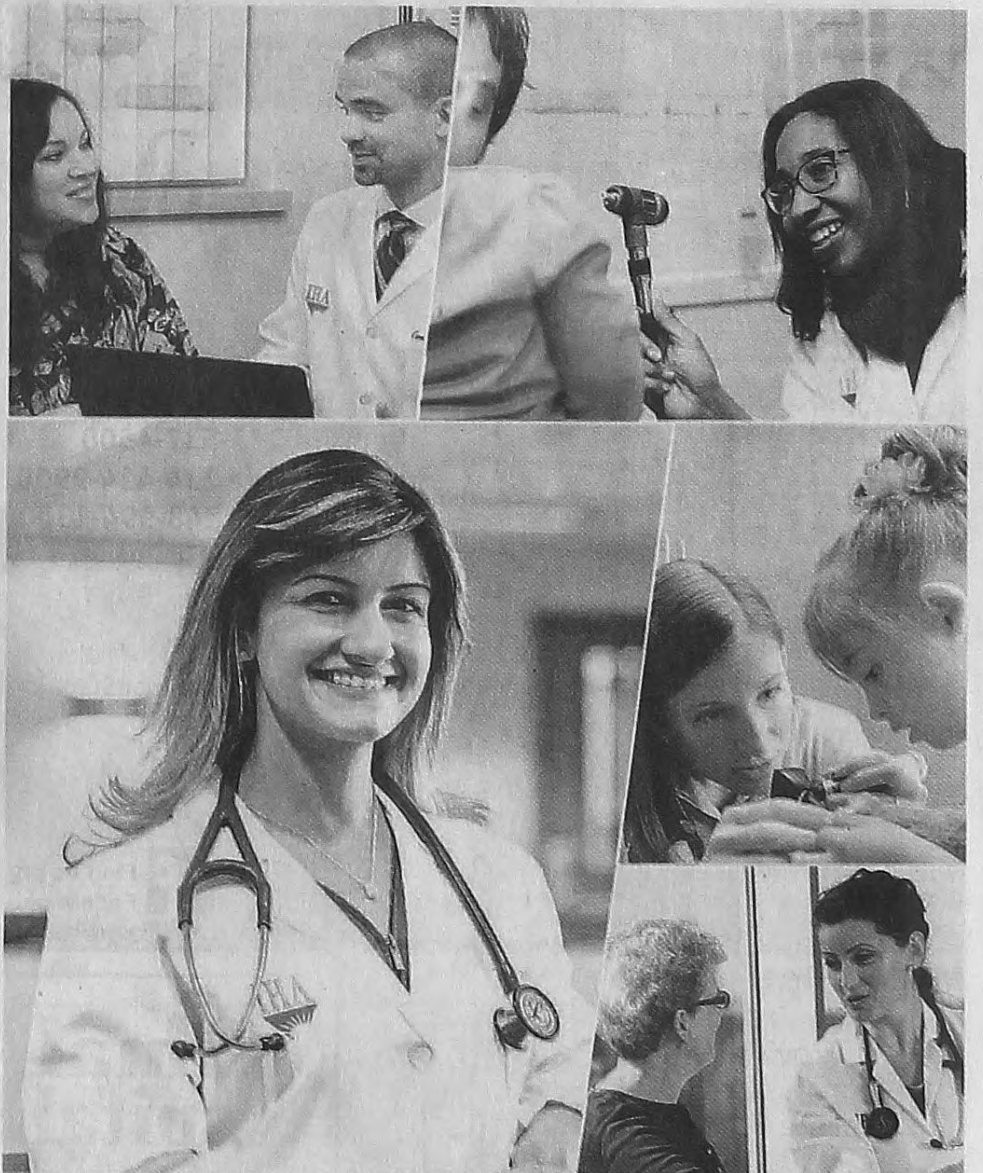
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Police bring Christmas to township families

Darrell Clem

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Santa was spotted wearing a police uniform this season.

Two local families had a Christmas season they won't forget after Plymouth Township Police Department employees showed up bearing gifts donated by local businesses.

One mother with three children and a grandson benefited from this year's holiday effort, as did a couple with three foster children under the age of 5, said Karen Bonadeo, senior records clerk for the police department.

She described the families as "speechless" Dec. 20 when they received clothing, blankets,



Sgt. Todd Seipenko and Officer Caitlin King brought gifts to mom Melissa, grandson Weston and son Lance, among others. PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP POLICE

toys, groceries and other gifts in a partnership between Plymouth Township Police, Suburban Cadillac of Plymouth and other local businesses.

"It's a way to give

back and show that we really care about the community. We try to help people in any way we can," Bonadeo said.

Police Sgt. Todd Seipenko and Officer Caitlin

King made the delivery along with Bonadeo and dispatcher Cynthia Fell. NorthRidge Church recommended the two families, who knew they were getting gifts but



Weston cuddles with one of his gifts. SUBMITTED

didn't realize how many.

Bonadeo called it a true community partnership involving the police department and local businesses. Among the gifts:

» Subway, Lee's Chicken, Walmart and Target

gave gift cards.

» Phoenix Theatres provided movie passes.

» Sam's Club gave diapers and other baby supplies.

» Summit on the Park in Canton offered a summer camp pass to a boy with autism.

» Busch's Fresh Food Market gave gift cards and food including a ham and a turkey.

» The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum provided full-year memberships.

Bonadeo said the effort shows just how generous the local community can be when others are in need. She said it's the fourth year of the annual program.

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Plymouth gym sends Christmas to foster kids

Darrell Clem

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A Plymouth-based women's gym made sure 121 foster children had Christmas gifts to open this season — a charitable gesture intended to bring some holiday normalcy to disrupted lives.

HALE Strength and Shape's clients from Plymouth, Canton and beyond bought toys, clothing, bicycles, American Girl Dolls, puzzles, hats, mittens, small electronics and other gifts for children served by Ennis Center for Children, a nonprofit foster care agency with locations in Flint, Detroit, Pontiac and Port Huron.

Ennis Center sent a U-Haul truck that was

loaded up Dec. 20 with gifts for foster children ranging in age from a few months to their late teens — children who couldn't be with their own families for Christmas.

"No kid wants to be away from their family at the holidays," Lydia Seale, Ennis Center marketing and events coordinator, said. "Without donors and sponsors, we wouldn't be able to provide all these gifts."

It's the fourth year HALE Strength and Shape owners Courtney and Kurt Hessenbruch collected gifts from their clients who are given foster children's names and their wish lists.

"It gives us that human connection," Courtney Hessenbruch said.

"If you write a check, it's money that goes somewhere to do something good. Seeing a child's name gives it a real connection. You can envision their happiness when they open that gift. It just makes it that much more special."

The Hessenbruchs have three daughters of their own, ages 11, 9 and 6, but they wanted to help other children in need. Every year, their patrons respond.

"Every year we're blown away by the generosity of our clients," Hessenbruch said. "Every year they just exceed our expectations. It feels so good to be part of something this big."

Seale said the gifts were distributed to children served by all four

Ennis Center locations. Ennis Center for Children is a nonprofit adoption and foster care agency that offers clinical and mental health services to children and families.

Some foster children may be away from parents who are incarcerated. Others may be removed from their homes due to a parent's mental health crisis or other problems.

"They don't have a sense of normalcy," Seale said. "It's just not normal for that to happen to them."

With the gifts from HALE Strength and Shape, she said, Ennis



HALE Strength and Shape owners and employees, joined by Ennis Center for Children representatives, filled up a U-Haul truck with gifts for foster children. SUBMITTED

Center could help provide some sense of normalcy during what can be a difficult holiday season. She lauded efforts by the gym and its clients to help.

"It's really amazing," she said.

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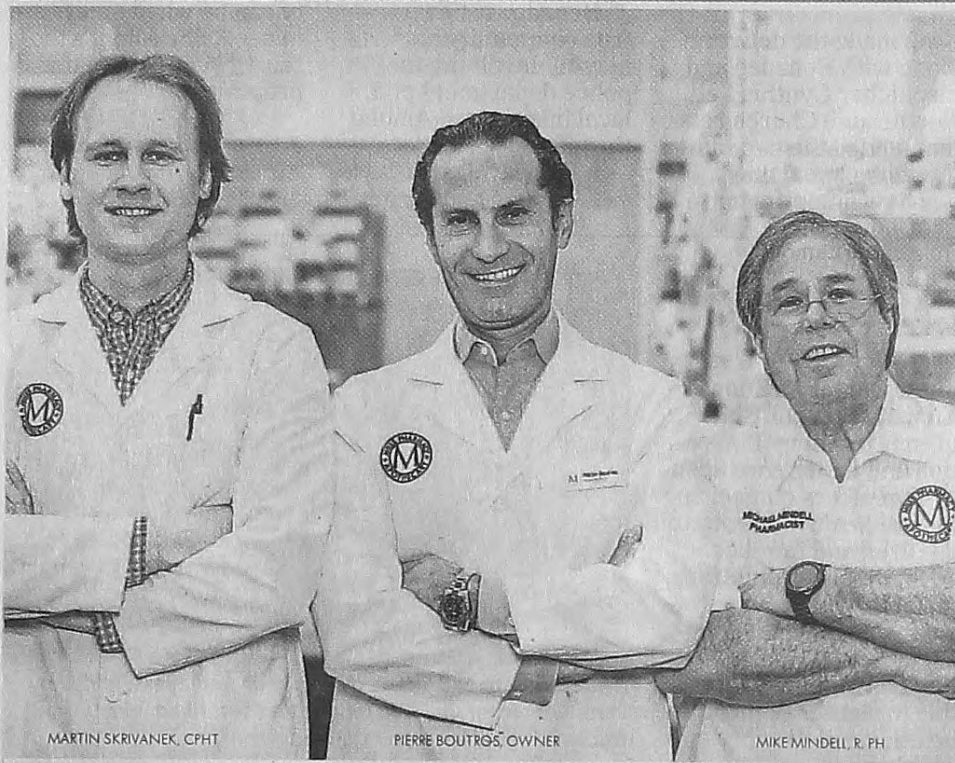
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Man ticketed for naked roadside Christmas Day bet

Darrell Clem
Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A 28-year-old driver accepted a \$30 bet from a woman he met online to pull off the road and take a picture of himself standing naked outside of his vehicle, police say.

His reward: A Christmas Day ticket for indecent conduct, courtesy of Canton police.

The Flint man told police that a woman he met on the website Craigslist offered him \$30 to pull his Mitsubishi Outlander off the road, stand naked outside the vehicle and take pictures with his cellphone.

He pulled behind a market at Haggerty and Cherry Hill roads about 11:30 p.m., but he was spotted by a passerby who notified Canton police of a possible naked man, a police report said.

The suspect was still on the scene when police arrived. He divulged his story and said he stood in the glare of his headlights to take pictures while wearing nothing but his shoes.

The man had at least one photo on his phone that showed his naked upper torso, the report said.

Canton Deputy Police Director Chad Baugh said his advice would be

to avoid such illegal behavior and take a more "common-sense approach to life." Embarrassing situation aside, Baugh said the man now has to appear in court to answer to the misdemeanor charge of indecent conduct — and that could end up on his record.

"Whatever you do today, you'll have to explain later," Baugh said.

There was no word on whether the man was able to collect on his bet.

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734-972-0919

Salvation Army Red Kettle donations doubled through Dec. 31

There's Still Time to Give to The Salvation Army's 2017 Red Kettle Campaign

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit reminds the community that there is still time to give to the 2017 Red Kettle fundraising campaign. All tax deductible donations made through Sunday, Dec. 31 will be doubled thanks to generous matching support by Detroit area businesses and community leaders.

While the iconic red kettles left storefronts on Christmas Eve, select Kroger locations will continue hosting bell ringers including Kroger stories in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Canton, Commerce Twp., Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Milford, Novi, Southfield, South Lyon, Westland and White Lake.

Red kettles will also remain at all metro Detroit area Emagine Thea-

tres.

Those looking to volunteer as a bell ringer between Christmas and New Year's can visit ringbell.org.

"The Salvation Army is grateful for the generosity of those supporting the Red Kettle campaign," said Major Russ Sjogren, general secretary and metro Detroit area commander for The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division.

"Their donations will support our efforts to provide more than food and shelter across metro Detroit through after school programs, free legal aid, disaster relief, and more."

To make a tax deductible contribution to assist families and individuals throughout the year across Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties:

- » Visit www.salmich.org
- » Text SALMICH to 41444
- » Call 877-SAL-MICH
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The Plymouth District Library's 2018 Closing Dates

January 1 (Monday)	New Year's Day
March 16 (Friday)	Staff In Service Day
April 01 (Sunday)	Easter
May 27/28 (Sunday/Monday)	Memorial Day
July 4 (Wednesday)	Independence Day
July 15 (Sunday)	Art in the Park
September 2/3 (Sunday/Monday)	Labor Day
September 09 (Sunday)	Fall Festival
November 21 (Wednesday) – Close at 6 pm	Thanksgiving
November 22 (Thursday)	Thanksgiving
December 24/25 (Monday/Tuesday)	Christmas
December 31; January 1, 2019 (Monday/Tuesday)	New Year's Day

Publish: December 31, 2017

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The Plymouth District Library Board has changed its ANNUAL MEETING from January 16, 2018 to February 20, 2018. This meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

Sandy Young, Administrative Assistant
Plymouth District Library
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734 453 0750
X 217

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All Saints third-graders experience ancient Rome



Third-graders at All Saints Catholic School in Canton dressed as gladiators in helmets and masks as just one part of the day-long celebration Dec. 21, marking the end of a study unit about ancient Rome. In addition to playing competitive games involving tallying dice in Roman numerals and wheelbarrow-style chariot races, the students also created catapults of Popsicle sticks and rubber bands. The students have been studying ancient Rome since Thanksgiving and the lessons have included art and architecture, Roman government, technology innovations, such as cement and aqueducts, and the role of the Catholic Church during that time. For more information on All Saints, go to www.allsaintscs.com or call 734-459-2490.

CANTON POLICE BRIEFS

Cow facing slaughter escapes briefly

A cow scheduled for slaughter made a run for it after briefly escaping from a butcher's farm in Canton, a police report said.

But its getaway didn't last long. A police officer shot the cow after its owner, who had been chasing it, asked that it be euthanized, the report said.

The cow escaped from Boyer's Meat Processing, near Barr and Geddes, about 4:30 p.m. Dec. 22,

prompting the owner to report the incident to police. Fortunately, the cow didn't make its way to any heavily traveled roads.

"It stayed in a wooded area," Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said.

The owner had pursued the cow but couldn't catch it, so he summoned police and asked that it be euthanized. He was arranging to get it back to the butcher shop.

Choking, gun incident?

A Canton woman apparently cheating on her

husband notified police after the man she was seeing choked her and pointed a gun to her head during a dispute, a report said.

The woman, who lives on Coachman Court in Canton, called from Redford to report an assault she said happened on Christmas Eve. However, police say she then became uncooperative.

The woman later changed her story and told police the man had a gun, but he was holding it rather than threatening her with it. She said he was upset that she was

breaking off their relationship.

She showed no interest in pursuing charges.

Heroin overdose

Police went to a residence on Morton Taylor amid reports that a man had apparently overdosed on heroin, a report said.

Police received a call about 5:30 a.m. Christmas Eve that the 50-year-old man was lying on the floor, unconscious but still breathing. He reportedly had snorted heroin thinking it was

cocaine, a witness told police.

The man didn't live at the residence but was spending the night. Authorities were able to rouse him and paramedics took him to a hospital for treatment.

He denied using drugs, the report said.

Identity fraud

A 45-year-old man contacted police after he received a letter from Verizon about four new cellphones that had been ordered in his name.

Thing is, he didn't order them.

The man learned his identity had been fraudulently used sometime prior to Dec. 24. He called Verizon to report the incident and learned that the account using his name was in New York.

Then, he got a call from a credit card company that someone had tried to buy guns totaling \$2,000 in Texas, but that attempt was denied.

The man told police he has placed an alert on his credit in hopes of avoiding any similar situations.

- By Darrell Clem

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More quiet moments on Instagram by Bill Bresler



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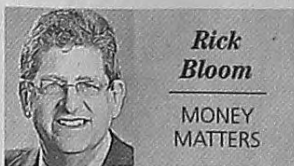
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Newly passed tax law will have winners and losers

After much bickering and fanfare, we have a new tax law. Like everything else in our society, there is much partisanship when it comes to whether this law is good or bad. No matter what side of the political divide you fall on, the one thing you should accept is the fact that politicians on either side of the aisle have no credibility. It would be nice if our politicians could focus on what's good for the American people, but that seems too much to ask. All they are concerned with is attacking the other guy. That being said, over the next few weeks, I will try to highlight certain parts of the new tax law and let you make your own decision as to whether it's a good law or not.

Whenever we have a change in tax law, there are going to be winners



Rick Bloom
MONEY MATTERS

and losers, but it's not that easy to decide who the winners or losers are. Everyone's tax situation is different. I will leave it up to you to decide how the new tax law affects your individual circumstances.

This tax law is very comprehensive and the changes affect both business and individuals. Today, I will highlight some of the changes that will affect us as individuals. It's important to remember that this tax law takes effect in January 2018, so there will be no impact on how you file your 2017 tax return.

Under current law, we have seven brackets; the lowest is at 10 percent

and the highest is at 39.6 percent. Under the new law, we will continue to have seven brackets; the lowest bracket will remain at 10 percent, but the highest bracket will be reduced to 37 percent.

The major change for individuals comes on the deduction side. Under the new law, if you are single, the standard deduction will be \$12,000; if you're married, it will be \$24,000. This is nearly double what the deduction is today. About two-thirds of American taxpayers take the standard deduction currently. Because the standard deduction is nearly doubling, the result will be that more American taxpayers will be taking the standard deduction. For many, this will result in a significant tax savings, as well as reduce the cost in having their tax returns prepared.

Filing tax returns where you're taking the standard deduction is significantly easier than when you itemize your deductions.

From a deduction standpoint, many taxpayers will find that they have lost certain deductions. First, the amount you can deduct for state and local taxes is limited to \$10,000. In addition, this new tax law will eliminate miscellaneous deductions, including things such as employee business expenses and financial advisory fees. If you're an individual that took a large number of deductions, even though you may find that your tax bracket is a little lower, your taxes actually may go up because of the loss of deductions.

There is another provision in the new tax law that has gotten no pub-

licity, but can be a significant benefit to many families. Under the old tax law, 529 Plans such as the Michigan Education Savings Plan, can only be used for post-high school education. If you wanted to send your child to a private or parochial high school or elementary school, there were very few tax-efficient options. Under the new tax law, you will be able to use up to \$10,000 a year from a 529 Plan for pre-college education. If you wanted to send your child to a parochial high school, you could now use the 529 Plan as a very tax-sufficient saving vehicle.

One last thing — the new tax law eliminates the mandate to buy health care. Under current law, if you did not have a health care plan, you would have to pay a tax penalty. Under the

new tax law, that is eliminated.

This was not meant to be a comprehensive look at all the changes in the tax law, but it was meant to give you a flavor of some of the major areas that I believe will impact you and me as individuals. Over the next few weeks, I will highlight other areas of the tax law and I encourage you to learn how the tax law will affect you. Yes, there will be winners and losers. The more you understand the tax law, the more you can benefit from it.

Good luck!

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

AREA EVENTS

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

Trains at Plymouth library

The Great Lakes Chapter of the European Train Enthusiasts will be back at the Plymouth District Library this holiday season, with European model trains running through cities and countryside. The library's main level meeting rooms will house the chapter's expansive collection.

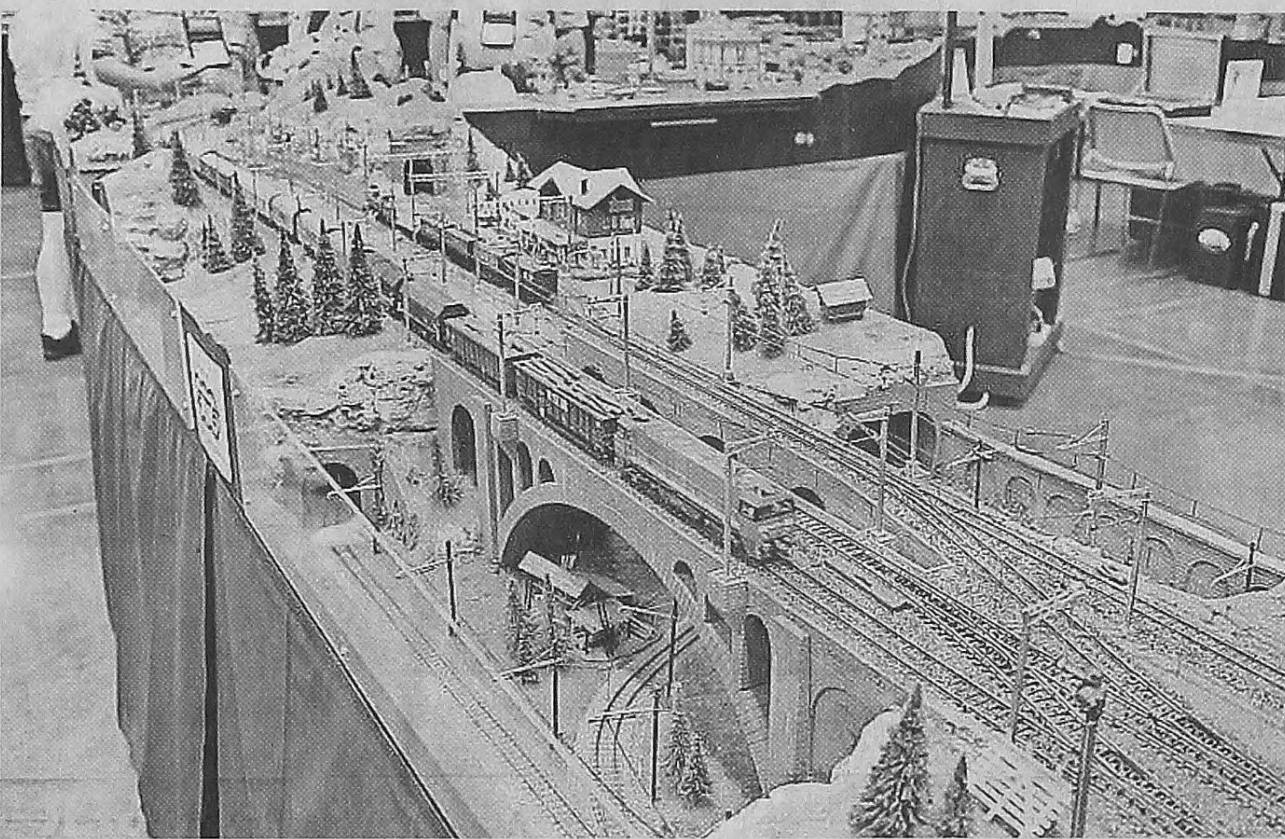
Local resident Jan Eisen is a member of the Great Lakes Chapter of the European Train Enthusiasts and is overseeing the installation of this display. A member of the organization since 2000, Eisen was the owner of Eisenbahn Model Trains, a shop which was located in Plymouth a number of years ago. For more information on the club, go to www.etegl.org.

This display is free and open to the public — made possible through the generous support of the Friends of the Plymouth District Library. It will be open 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2.

The library is located at 223 S. Main Street in downtown Plymouth.

Village Theater art exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will exhibit the collected works of the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild in the Gallery@VT through Jan. 1. Works on display include a wide variety of fiber art, such as basketry, beading, bead embroidery, bead weaving, kumihimo, crochet, doll making, dyeing and painting, embroidery, felting, garment design and construction, handmade paper and book art, knitting, knotting, quilting, sewing, spinning, weav-



The Plymouth District Library will host a model train exhibit over the holiday break.

ing and surface design.

The exhibit is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, during public performances at the theater and by appointment by calling 734-394-5300. The gallery is closed holidays.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road. For more information, 734-394-5300 or go to www.cantonvillage.com.

Veterans dinner

The V.F.W. Post No. 6695, 1426 S. Mill Street, in Plymouth will host a welcome home dinner for all veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and their family members 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7. Membership sign-up for the V.F.W. will be available, as well as hats and pins for sale, music from D.J. Koz, a 50/50 drawing, a tin can basket raffle and door prizes.

All Iraq and Afghani-

stan veteran, plus one guest, will be admitted free. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children at the door. All proceeds will go to V.F.W. Post 6695. For more information, call (989) 313-5407 or email strawjazz@yahoo.com.

PARC community forum

The Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex will hold a community forum at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., in Plymouth. PARC will update the community on its future plans to preserve and re-purpose the historic former Plymouth High/Central Middle School into an arts and recreation center and add a new Performing Arts Center as well as respond to questions.

Everyone is invited to witness the progress made since its inception and share in the vision for the future. Prelimi-

nary designs, site plans and renderings of the facilities will be on display and available for public review.

PARC is a 501(c)3 public charity. For more information, contact Don Soenen at 734-516-4053 or dsoenen@gmail.com.

Baseline Folk Society

The Baseline Folk Society continues its 13th season at The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, at 774 N. Sheldon Road.

Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers. Sign-up for open mic starts at 6:15 p.m. and ends at 6:40 p.m. Performances are the third Saturday of each month, September through May.

Music at the Elks

Blues @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in

partnership with the Detroit Blues Society (www.detroitbluessociety.org). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes.

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at

the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

The Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 is at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. For more information, call 734-453-1780, go to www.plyaa325.com or email jazzattheelks@gmail.com

AARP TaxAide looking for volunteers

Every year, AARP provides free income tax preparation services for seniors and other moderate income families from February through April. AARP is looking for new volunteers to become tax counselors. You should know how to use a computer and the internet, and be experienced with income tax preparation.

Training will be provided to learn the tax software and tax law, to prepare you for certification. Training classes in mid-January are being scheduled now. Volunteers are expected to be active about one day per week during the tax season.

You can apply by completing an application online at aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 888-227-7669.

Obits

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

Marvin R. Bertram

CANTON - age 91, passed away December 26, 2017.

Loving husband of the late Madeline for 61 years. Cherished father of Sandy (Mark) Laramie and the late Brenda Bertram. Cherished grandfather of Randy and Alex. Dear brother of Barbara Lee Eckert.

Marvin was a proud United States Naval Veteran who fought for 2 years as a 2nd Class Quartermaster in WWII. He was also the owner and watch maker of Bluford Jewelers in Plymouth for 42 years.

Visitation Friday, December 29th, 2-8 PM with a 7 PM Scripture Service at McCabe Funeral Home: Canton Chapel, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton. In state Saturday, December 30th, 10:30 AM until time of Funeral Mass 11 AM at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Rd, Canton. Interment at Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia. In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in his name. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

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State sending \$554M in school refund checks next month

**Paul Egan and
Kathleen Gray**
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The state of Michigan is planning to send \$554 million in refund checks for school employees on Jan. 22, an official said.

The money, which pays back 3% deductions that were taken from the checks of school employ-

ees between 2010 and 2013, will be sent to school districts then, said Kurt Weiss, a spokesman for the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

Those school districts will then make payments to individual school employees and former school employees eligible for the refunds, Weiss said.

In a long-awaited move, the Michigan Supreme Court ordered the money to be returned on Wednesday, ending years of court battles in which judges at all levels of Michigan systems sided with unions representing the school employees.

The money was intended to help pay for retiree health care, but the courts ruled the 2010

law that provided for the mandatory deductions was unconstitutional.

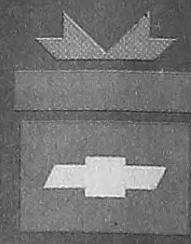
The Legislature passed a replacement law in 2012, which gives school employees an opt-out provision.

The state also posted on its website a series of answers to commonly asked questions about the deductions and refunds.

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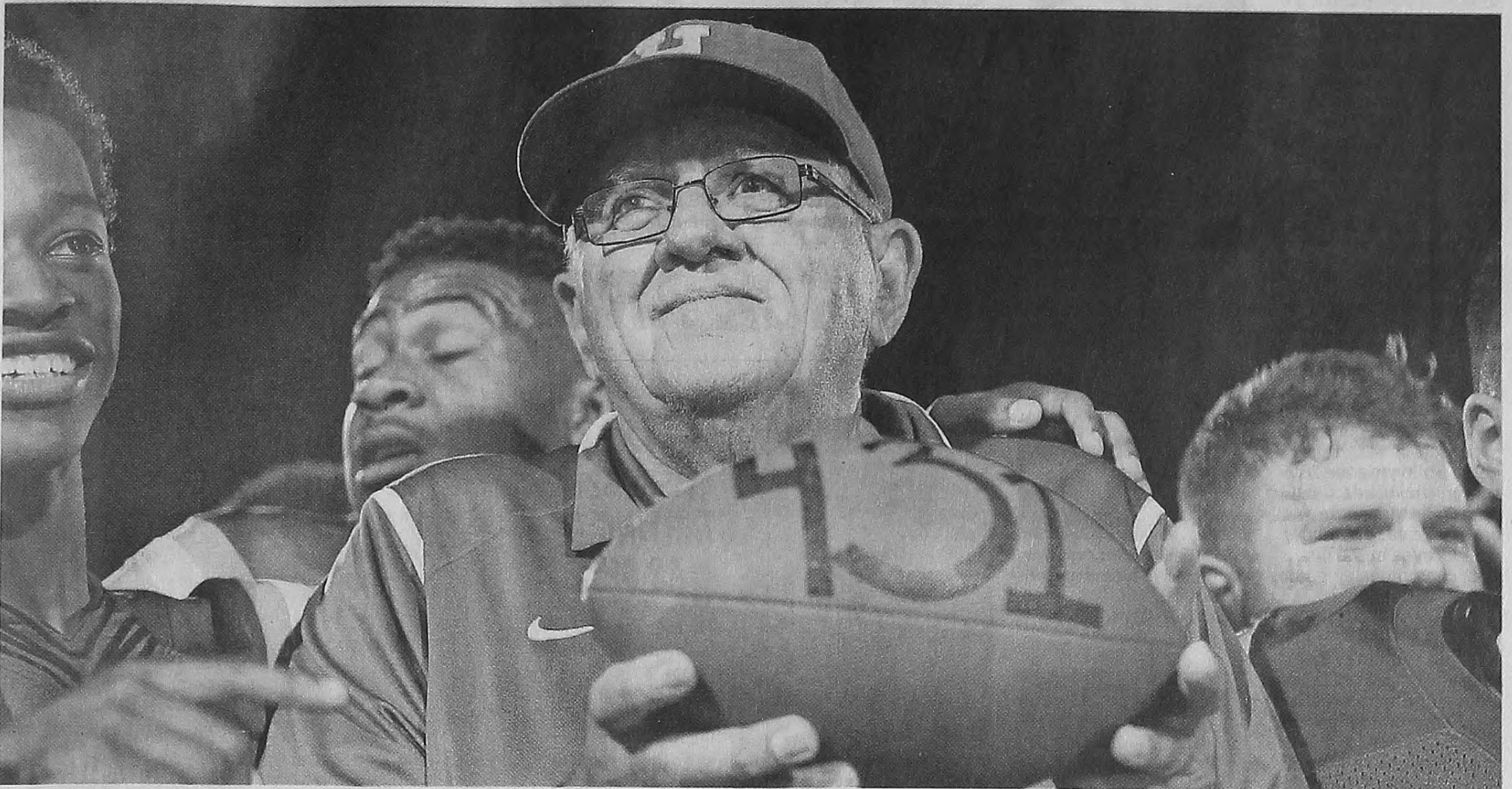
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Coach John Herrington with the game ball presented by his players with "431" written on it representing his career victories. DAN DEAN

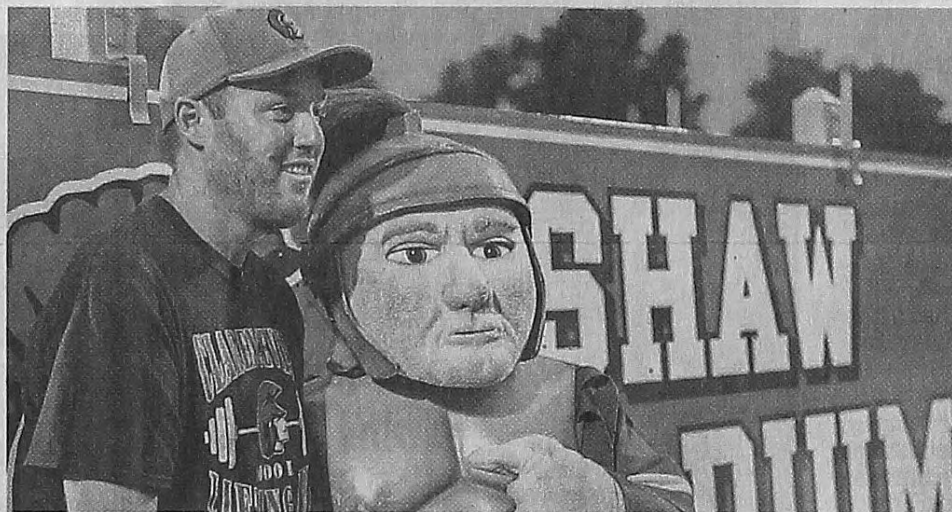
Charting 2017 Profiling the year's top stories

They had us cheering, jeering, shedding tears and they tugged at our hearts ... the best prep sports stories of 2017 are a roller coaster ride of emotions. From several athletic field dedications honoring past and present coaching legends; numerous state champions and repeat champions, unexpected finals appearances, record-breaking performances, hiring and firings, retirements and those that left this earth too soon the story lines are too numerous to list, but here are our picks for the top 10 high school sports stories from Hometown Life Sports.

State's winningest football coach

Farmington Harrison's John Herrington became the state's all-time winningest coach this fall, surpassing former Brother Rice head coach Al Fracassa.

Herrington, who started the Harrison program in 1970 and is the only head coach the school has ever had, began the season five wins behind Fracassa and finished it five wins ahead after leading the Hawks to a 10-4 overall record and an appearance in the



Tim Shaw and the Clarenceville Trojan mascot pose for photographs. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

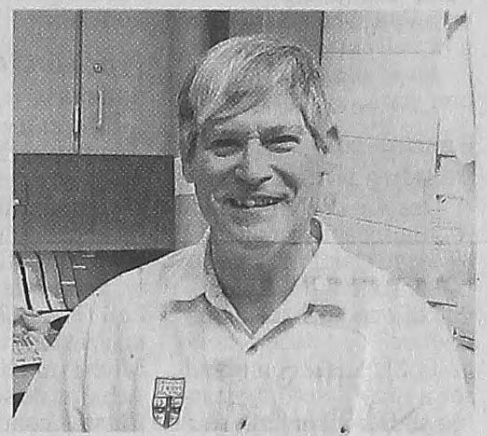
Division 3 state final game against Muskegon.

Harrison's Hall of Fame head coach now stands atop the Michigan High School Athletic Association's win charts with 435. Fracassa is second at 430 victories.

Herrington also owns a state-record 13 state championships in his legendary 48-year coaching career.

CC's Tom Mach retires

Another football coaching legend made news in early February when



Coaching legend Tom Mach stepped down after 41 years at the helm of the varsity football program at Detroit Catholic Central High School in Novi. BRAD EMONS

Tom Mach announced he was stepping down after 41 years at the helm of the varsity football program at Detroit Catholic Central High School in Novi. Mach ranks third all time in Michigan with 370 victories to go along with

See REVIEW, Page B2

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Canton, Salem girls play the 'Blohm' way, honoring Wendy's memory

Tim Smith

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Mere hours after Wendy Blohm's tragic, unexpected death at age 73, two girls high school basketball teams she loved dearly went all out to honor her memory.

Wendy, wife of Canton Chiefs coaching legend Bob Blohm, was considered "the First Lady" of the campus rival programs. Fittingly, Friday night's KLAAs Black Division matchup between the Chiefs and Rocks went down to the wire, with Canton hanging on for a 35-33 victory.

The winning shot, in the closing moments, was scored by senior forward Ashley Criscenti, on a short jum-

per in the lane. She led all players with 18 points.

"There was something special about tonight, in that both teams just wanted to dedicate this night to Wendy Blohm," said Canton head coach Rob Heitmeyer, who formerly was a Salem assistant coach. "Bob's wife passed away today, and for both teams, she's always been someone special to both programs."

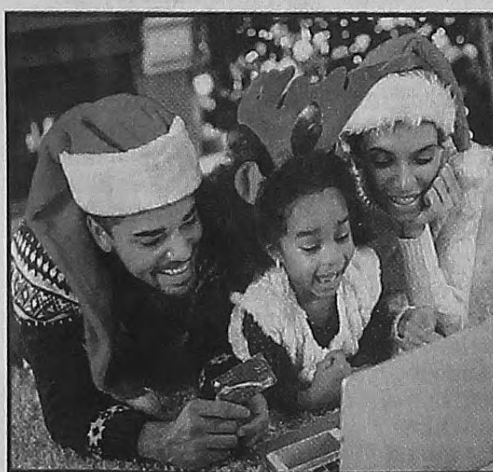
"The girls said a nice prayer before we came over here, and just wanted to play good 'Bob Blohm basketball.' Good ball control, making sure we didn't turn the ball over."

And after the final buzzer sounded at Salem High School, both teams got together at half-court to further pay



Right after Friday's girls basketball game, players and coaches from Canton and Salem met at halfcourt to pay tribute to the late Wendy Blohm. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

See BLOHM, Page B3



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REVIEW

Continued from Page B1

10 state championships. Dan Anderson, a 10-year defensive coordinator, was chosen a month later to replace Mach. In his first year at the helm, CC made it all the way to the Division 1 semifinal game where the Shamrocks were defeated 27-7 by eventual champion Clarkston.

In an interesting side story, former Birmingham Brother Rice football head coach David Sofran also joined the CC staff as an assistant.

Sofran had taken over the Rice program in 2014 when Fracassa retired. Sofran led the Warriors to a pair of state qualifying berths en route to a 20-12 overall record in three seasons at the helm. Following the 2016 season when Rice went 7-4 and lost to neighborhood rival Birmingham Groves in the district championship game, Sofran was let go.

Shaw Stadium

Amid standing ovations and chants of "Shaw, Shaw, Shaw!" the lovefest between Livonia Clarenceville's favorite son Tim Shaw and the small community he took by storm as a football player grew to epic proportions during a Saturday night in August.

Shaw returned to his alma mater as the field he scored so many touchdowns on was renamed. An emotion-packed half-time ceremony began with athletic director Kevin Murphy calling it "a great day to be a Clarenceville Trojan" and ended with the Shaw Stadium sign officially unveiled. The stadium now is David B. McDowell Field at Shaw Stadium.

Record-setting passing show

Despite dropping their regular-season finale, 58-39, to Oak Park, the Bloomfield Hills senior duo of quarterback John Paddock and wide receiver Ty Slazinski combined for a record-setting passing show in front of their home fans on Oct. 20.

Slazinski shattered a Michigan High School Athletic Association record for single-game receptions by hauling in 22 passes from Paddock. The old mark of 18 was held jointly by Comstock Park's Nick Turowski (2015) and Ionia's Adam Kerr (1922). Slazinski finished that game with 22 catches for 211 yards and three touchdowns.

In addition, Paddock, a Ball State signee, completed 36 of 59 passes. Both of those numbers pushed him into the MHSAA's top 10 rankings in those respective categories.

"I have no doubt in my mind that Ty Slazinski is the best receiver in the state of Michigan," said Paddock after the game.

Turak double winner at state meet

Ashley Turak, a junior captain on the combined Farmington-Harrison Thunderbird swim team, in her third year as a state qualifier, stood out as the Division 1 state meet's lone double individual event winner.

Turak won the 50 free in a Division 1 record time of 22.38, which is the third-fastest high school swim in that event in state history. She returned two events later to beat the field in the 100 free with a time of 49.79. Both all-state showings were school- and personal-best swims.

Turak was also part of the 200-yard and 400-yard freestyle relay teams that both took first places.

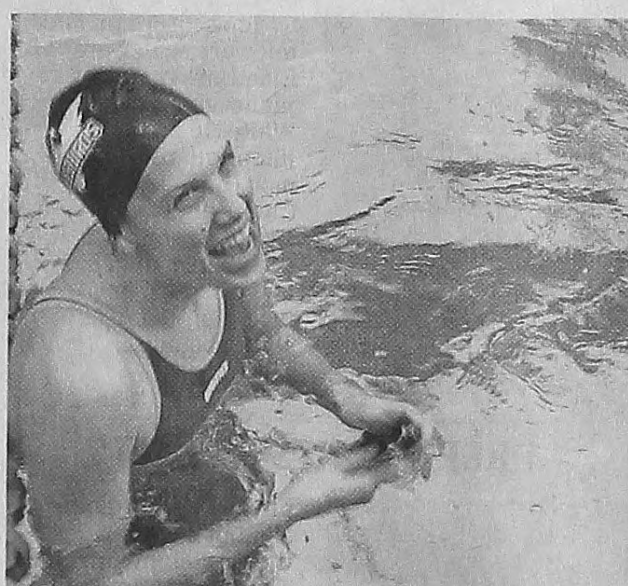
The Thunderbirds, in just the second year of competing, finished third in team scoring behind



Detroit Catholic Central wrestling team celebrates MHSAA Division 1 title in Mount Pleasant. SCOTT CONFER



Coach Tim Baechler confirms the rumors of his retirement. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Ashley Turak stood out as the Division 1 state meet's lone double individual event winner. KEITH DUNLAP/SPECIAL TO THE DETROIT FREE PRESS



Dan Anderson also coached three seasons at Kettering (Ohio) Alter High School. DETROIT CC

Farmington Hills Mercy and Saline.

Franklin football season

The story line was set – and even though it did not turn out the way the Livonia Franklin Patriots had hoped, the fact the 2017 football team returned to the state football finals 42 years after capturing the inaugural Michigan High School Athletic Association Class A championship was a feat in itself. After losses to Livonia Stevenson (week 1) and Churchill (week 4), it was improbable the Patriots next loss would be in the state final against Warren De La Salle.

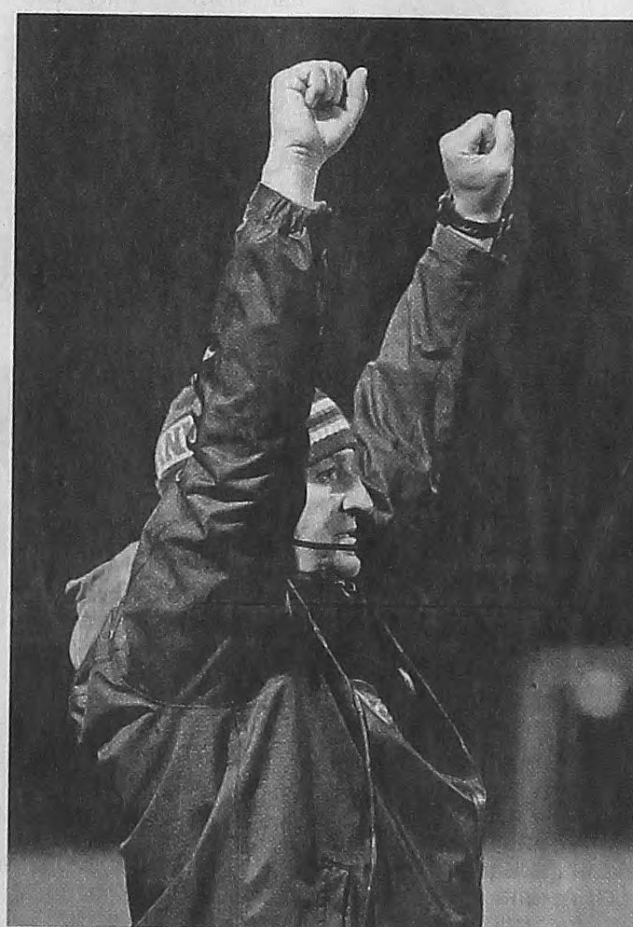
Franklin stunned the state by defeating Walled Lake Western 35-28 in OT on Oct. 27 in a predistrict game, they were not supposed to win. Then a week later avenged the loss to Churchill by winning the district title 21-19.

The Patriots then hosted Flushing and a miracle 55-yard run on a broken play followed by a 27-yard field goal with 1:45 to play gave Franklin a 31-29 win over Flushing for the MHSAA Division 2-Region 2 championship. Despite being the underdog once again, the Patriots (11-2) used a suffocating defense and a precision ground game Nov. 18 at rainy Grand Ledge to upend previously unbeaten Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central (12-1) as they pitched an impressive 20-0 shut-out in the Division 2 semifinal.

On Nov. 24 Franklin was unable to duplicate the feat of their 1975 Class A championship team as Warren De La Salle pounced on a series of first-half mistakes to secure its second state title in school history with a convincing 41-6 win in the MHSAA Division 2 final at Ford Field.

Novi volleyball 3-peats

Sometimes following the script is just as impressive as reaching the improbable, especially when it is done in convincing fashion, three



Franklin head coach Chris Kelbert celebrates Franklin's 35-28 OT victory over Walled Lake Western. DAN DEAN

years in a row.

So it was with the Novi volleyball team.

Novi triumphantly closed out the dominant era of "Miss Volleyball" setter Erin O'Leary and eight other seniors with a 56-3 record when it defeated Birmingham Marian to claim its third straight state title Nov. 18

While teams wins came first for the University of Michigan bound O'Leary, her individual accolades solidified her as one of the top high school volleyball players in the nation. Besides being named Michigan Miss Volleyball, O'Leary was also the MaxPreps 2017 All-American Player of the Year and an Under Armour All-American.

O'Leary is the state's all-time leader with 5,678 assists, becoming just the third player in Michigan history to record 5,000 assists in her career.

Baechler retires

After a 20-year hall of fame career filled with wins and playoff appearances for the Canton Chiefs football team, head coach Tim Baechler announced he was retiring to spend time with his family.

"It's a bittersweet feeling," said Baechler, who talked about his decision with Hometown Life. "I am sad to say goodbye to what was a

large part of our family's life for 20 years as we raised our sons, but excited at the prospect of having some free time."

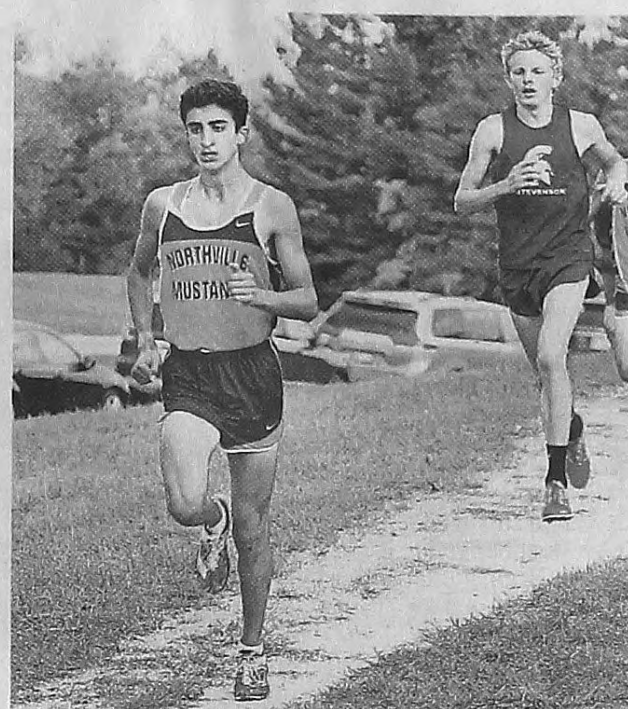
Baechler's final game was Nov. 10, when Canton dropped a 27-26 decision to Novi Detroit Catholic Central in the Division 1 regional championship game. That was only the 52nd loss during his outstanding two-decade run at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

CC wrestling dominates

In late February another team out of Novi finished a truly dominating season at Central Michigan University's McGuirk Arena. The Catholic Central wrestling team won its sixth Division 1 team state championship since the dual format was instituted 30 seasons ago by a 35-22 margin over Davison, a team that beat CC in last year's semifinals. The Shamrocks finished the season a remarkable 31-1.

Individually, CC qualified 14 wrestlers for the MHSAA Division 1 state finals at The Palace of Auburn Hills in March. The Shamrocks came away with five champions, two third places, one fourth and one seventh place.

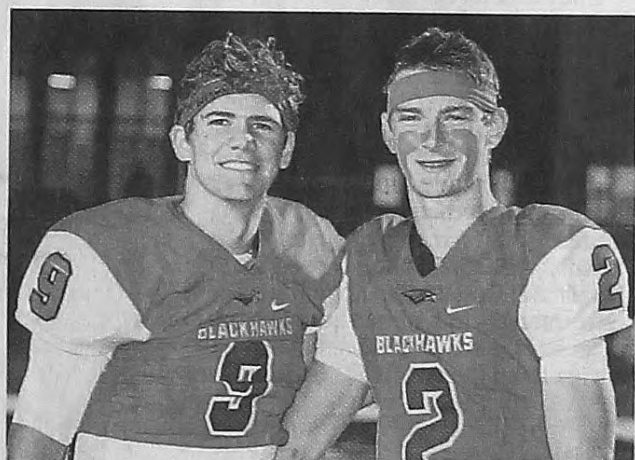
More impressive is the fact that not only did Cameron Amine (145 pounds), Ty Morland (171), Nick Jenkins (285),



Northville runner Nicholas Couyoumjian (left) was allowed to compete in the Division 1 finals after an MHSAA ruling. FILE PHOTO



Novi senior setter Erin O'Leary was voted the 2017 Michigan Miss Volleyball. BRAD EMONS



Bloomfield Hills wide receiver Ty Slazinski (right) set a state record (22) for single-game receptions from quarterback John Paddock. MARTY BUDNER



Former Brother Rice head coach David Sofran was on the Catholic Central sidelines for this year's Catholic League football game between the historic rivals. SUBMITTED

Ben Kamali (112) and Kevon Davenport (130) win titles, but all repeated as individual state champions.

Livonia Franklin's Nathan Atienza – currently wrestling at Michigan State University – needs a mention as another two-time individual state champion. His record over his last two seasons was an incredible 111-1. He claimed titles at 145 pounds in 2016 and then finished his high school career with a second title at 152 last March.

Northville cross country disqualified

Sometimes big stories are the result of unfortunate happenings. Such is the case of the Northville High School boys cross country team.

On Saturday, Oct. 29 the Mustangs appeared to garner the third and final team qualifying spot at the Region 6 at New Boston's Willow Metropark. However,

instead of competing in the MHSAA Division 1 finals on Nov. 4 at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, the Northville boys cross country team had to stay home after they were disqualified by meet officials on a violation for not wearing the same style uniforms. Specifically, Northville's seven runners were flagged for donning different colored undergarment sleeves and were informed 90 minutes after the race that they had been DQ'd.

Following the disqualification and the lobbying by coach Tim Dalton, the Northville athletic administration asked for a clarification of the ruling, which ultimately allowed fifth-place regional finisher Nicholas Couyoumjian to compete at the Michigan 1 state finals at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn by virtue of his top 15 individual finish.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Salem finds out hard way: No stopping Canton's Chiefs

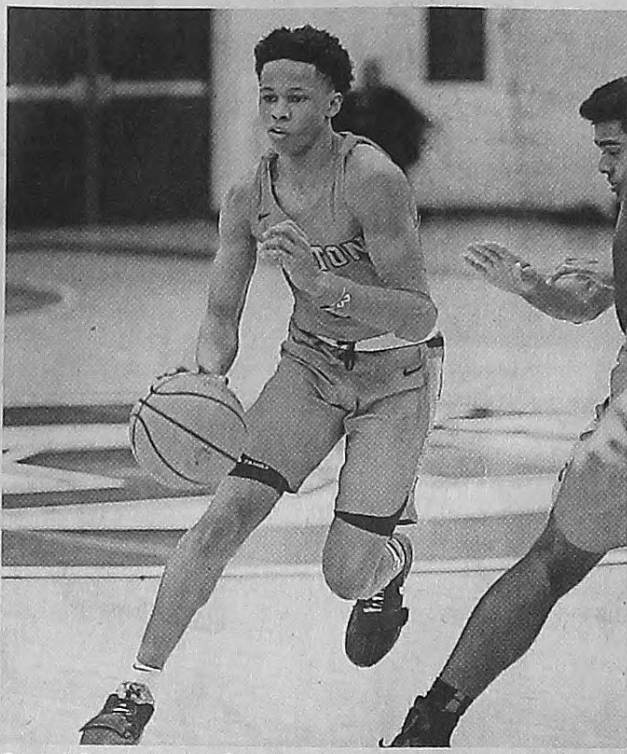
Tim Smith

Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After his Salem varsity boys basketball team absorbed a 67-28 defeat Dec. 22 at the hands of the Canton Chiefs, veteran coach Bob Brodie shook his head and tried to smile.

There wasn't anything he could say to sugarcoat what just happened at Salem High School in the second half of a girls-boys hoops doubleheader between the Rocks and Chiefs.

"It's hard to defend that, they've got good talent out there," Brodie said. "They can shoot the ball and take it to the rack. They got size and strength inside and they're pretty experienced. It's tough to deal with those guys."



One of Canton's trio of outstanding guards, B. Artis White, moves into Salem's zone on Dec. 22. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

The takeaway for Salem (1-4), he noted, is forget about Canton and gear up for a holiday tournament and then the 2018 portion of the schedule.

As for the 5-0 Chiefs, everything worked in the KLAA Black Division game. Canton roared out to a 12-0 lead to open the contest, enjoyed a 19-6 edge after one quarter and walked into the half-time intermission up 37-12.

Top scorers for Canton were senior guard Eian Barker (18 points), junior guard B. Artis White (16 points) and junior guard Vinson Sigmon (nine points). The Chiefs also were in charge around both baskets, outrebounding Salem by a 31-17 margin — including 11-1 in offensive rebounds.

"It's still early, but I think our group is pretty solid," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "We've got pretty good guards, they're hard to guard and they can score in different ways. And in today's game, in 2017-18, guards win."

"All three of those guys (Barker, White, Sigmon) are in the starting lineup, they're tough covers. All could score 20 on any given night."

Canton's early season success also features strong work down low from the likes of senior forwards Noah Brown (12 rebounds, including five offensive boards against Salem) and Chase Meredith (seven rebounds).

"Our guys are doing a much better job this year of having fast starts, and I think that has a lot to do

with experience," Reddy added. "We had a young team last year, now we have an experienced team."

"It's more of a player-led team than a coach-led team this year and that's the goal. When the players are leading you got a chance to be very good and they're doing a nice job of leading."

Salem's top scorers were senior guard Jordan Ingram and junior forward Ben Dierker, with six points each.

"Canton is good, they took us out of everything we tried to do and took it to us on offense," Brodie said. "It is what it is, we're trying to get better every game."

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PREP SPORTS RESULTS

Marty Budner

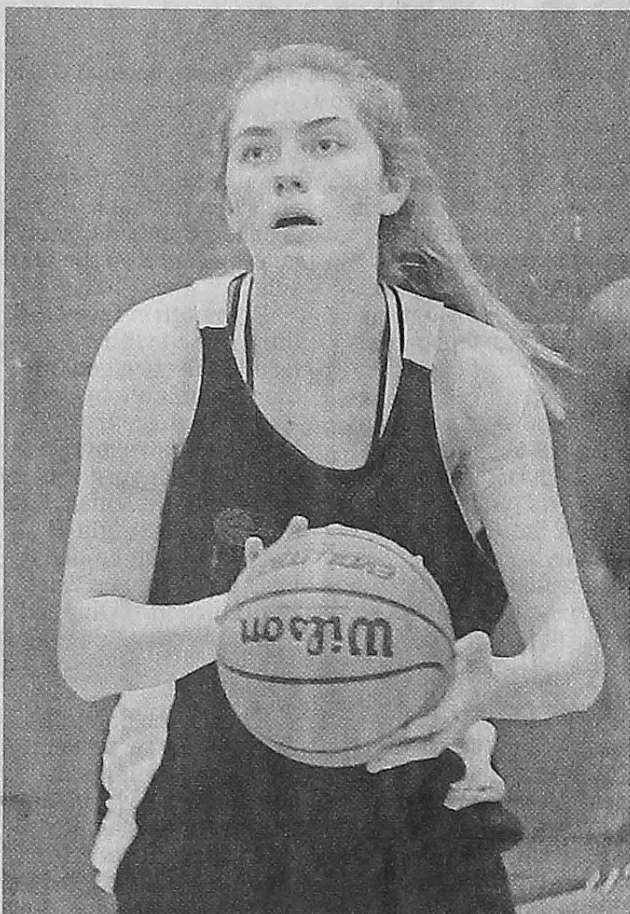
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Girls basketball

CHANDLER PARK ACADEMY 64, NORTH FARMINGTON 39: North Farmington suffered its first loss of the season Thursday afternoon in the Holiday Hoops in the Hills tournament hosted by Bloomfield Hills High School. Chandler Park held a 12-8 lead after one quarter and built the lead to 31-20 by halftime. The Raiders kept it close in the third quarter but Chandler Park took control in the fourth with a 19-6 scoring advantage. Maya Kelly led the Raiders with 15 points, five rebounds and five assists. Sam Cherney finished with 13 points and 15 rebounds while Molly Simpson netted eight points.

GROVES 36, SEAHOLM 30: On Dec. 21, Groves took a 13-4 lead after the opening quarter and held on the rest of the way for the six-point triumph. The Maples cut the lead to two points heading into the final quarter where Groves put the game away with an 11-8 scoring advantage. Sha Carter led all scorers by pouring in 21 points for the Falcons. Groves teammate Ellie Ruprich was the only other player in double figures with 10 points. Seaholm's top scorers included Riley Annear (six points), Helena Beasley (six) and Julie Bell (five). Seaholm (0-6) next plays at Royal Oak on Jan. 5. Groves (4-2) next plays at Rochester on Jan. 4.

NORTH FARMINGTON 42, NOTRE DAME PREP 33: In this non-league battle on Dec. 22, North Farmington rallied on the road to register this nine-point triumph. The Raiders trailed 14-11 after the



Amy Ruprich netted 10 points for Groves in a recent victory over Seaholm. MARTY BUDNER

opening quarter but had a 9-1 second-quarter scoring advantage en route to a 20-15 halftime lead. North Farmington outscored Prep by a 22-18 second-half margin. Molly Simpson led the Raiders offense with 15 points. Senior center Sam Cherney churned out yet another double-double with 12 points and 14 rebounds. Maya Kelly added 10 points, five rebounds and five assists. Justina Gaynor (11) and Celia Gaynor (nine) were Notre Dame Prep's (1-3) leading scorers. Undefeated North Farmington (6-0) hosts Southfield A&T 7 p.m. Jan. 4 in a key OAA Red Division battle.

NORTH FARMINGTON 36, STONEY CREEK 30: North Farmington opened OAA Red Division girls basketball

action Dec. 15 with a 36-30 victory over Stoney Creek that featured another standout effort by Sam Cherney. The Raiders held a 15-9 halftime lead and that proved the difference as each team scored 21 second-half points. A senior center, Cherney once again led North Farmington with a tremendous triple-double that included 14 points, 17 rebounds and 14 blocked shots. Molly Simpson also had a strong game with eight points and three assists. Khyra King Ealy, Natalie George and Maya Kelly each contributed four points. Patil Tcholakian added seven steals for the Raiders (4-0), who were 16-of-22 from the free-throw line.

LAKE ORION 39, SEAHOLM 22: In a strange OAA crossover game Dec. 14, Lake Orion

pitched a first-quarter shutout and led 8-0 after the first eight minutes. The Maples, however, rebounded for a 12-3 second-quarter scoring advantage to take a 12-11 halftime lead. Lake Orion had another strong quarter after halftime, outscoring Seaholm by a 15-2 margin to take a 26-14 lead into the fourth quarter. The Dragons won the final quarter to earn the victory. In another oddity, Lake Orion was led by three players — Sydney Strenger, Shannon Falter and Kendall Robertson — who scored six points apiece. Seaholm's scoring sheet was just as balanced, as Riley Annear, Julia Bell and Chloe Burkett scored five points each.

Boys basketball

NORTH FARMINGTON 49, CINCINNATI WINTHROW 41: In Wednesday's game played at Detroit Renaissance, North Farmington won this battle against its Ohio-based opponent. Donny Dreshaj led the way with a double-double that featured 18 points and 10 rebounds. Kamon MacNear had 10 points and Kevin Edwards contributed seven points for the Raiders. Winthrow junior Mike Hill Jr. also hit for 18 points.

HARRISON 76, TAYLOR TRILLIUM ACADEMY 52: Eddie Lenton posted a double-double with 17 points and 17 rebounds to lift Harrison to this non-league triumph Friday night. Senior captain Chris Rexroth, an Ivy League prospect, also had a strong game for the Hawks with 13 points and eight rebounds. "Eddie Lenton is a sophomore with great upside," said Harrison's first-year head coach Jarrell Hogan. "As a team, we withheld a very big run in the fourth quarter and pulled off a

great win for our first victory of the season."

NORTH FARMINGTON 46, ROSEVILLE 36: North Farmington traveled to Macomb County Dec. 21 and registered this 10-point victory over host Roseville. The Raiders held a 25-19 halftime lead and won the second half by a 21-17 margin. Donny Dreshaj (22), Kamon MacNear (10) and Kendall Hayes (seven) were North Farmington's scoring leaders. On Dec. 9, Ypsilanti defeated North Farmington 37-26 in the Oakland Invitational. Dreshaj led the Raiders with seven points.

ROEPER 55, ALLEN PARK CABRINI 49: Visiting Roeper surprised Cabrini with this six-point win Dec. 18 in Allen Park. Josiah Smith and Evan Akkashian led the Roughriders offense with 21 and 20 points, respectively. The win left Roeper with a 2-3 overall record.

SEAHOLM 59, HARRISON 57: Senior guard Cooper Mixon hit a last-second shot Dec. 15 to lift Birmingham Seaholm past Farmington Harrison in an OAA boys basketball crossover game. Mixon, who poured in a game-high 34 points, led the Maples to a thrilling 59-57 victory over the host Hawks. "It was a hard-fought battle with a lot of ups and downs for us," first-year Harrison head coach Jarrell Hogan said. "We played good defense. Sometimes it goes in and sometimes it doesn't. Their star player just hit a clutch shot with three seconds left to win it." Senior Blake Carter led Harrison with 16 points, four assists and two steals. Junior Trenton Ramsey contributed 11 points, four rebounds and one steal.

GROVES 70, BLOOMFIELD HILLS 69: Senior forward Cristion Williams hit the game-win-

ning shot with three seconds remaining Dec. 14 for Groves. The Falcons (3-0) were led by senior forward Mitchell Pitts, who finished with 22 points. Teammate Offie Rashed, a senior guard, was right behind with 19 points.

Boys bowling

NORTH FARMINGTON 26, FERNDALE 4: On Dec. 20 at Luxury Lanes in Ferndale, visiting North Farmington dominated the action to win by 22 points. Spencer McCallum led the way with a fine 457 series, which included games of 224 and 233. Cameron Simon added a 253 game and Louis Greenbaum contributed a 204 as the Raiders remained undefeated (3-0) in the OAA White Division.

Girls bowling

NORTH FARMINGTON 28, FERNDALE 2: North Farmington was in control all the way Dec. 20 against Ferndale to improve to 3-0 on the season. Marissa Bruni took series honors with a 383 total (games of 174 and 209). Teammate Lyric O'Steen shot games of 197 and 170 for a 367 total.

Boys hockey

FARMINGTON 4, ROCHESTER UNITED 4: On Dec. 22 at the Rochester ONYX Arena, visiting Farmington rallied from a three-goal deficit to earn this draw. Trailing 3-0 after the opening period, the Falcons rebounded nicely with goals from Collin Rea, Will McCarthy and Tanner Neill (two). Neill's second goal with just 33 seconds left in the third period resulted in the tie. The teams played a scoreless overtime period. Farmington goalie Nick Rogers stopped 38 of the 42 shots he faced.

BLOHM

Continued from Page B1

respects to Wendy Blohm.

Heitmeyer then smiled when talking about how low scoring the game turned out to be, never with greater than a four-point spread between the teams. Canton's 14-10 edge after one frame turned into Salem's 19-18 halftime advantage, and the second half was extremely close.

"Bob always liked to say the first one to 30 (would win), and tonight was just a classic Canton-Salem game," he continued. "All the lead changes, no team led by more than four."

On the game-winning

"There was something special about tonight, in that both teams just wanted to dedicate this night to Wendy Blohm."

ROB HEITMEYER

Canton head coach

play, Criscenti "got a nice feed into the paint and she did a nice turnaround jump shot that danced on the rim and fell in," said Heitmeyer, whose team (now 4-2 overall, 3-0 in the KLAA Black) also benefitted from Alaina Heitmeyer's 12-point showing.

Salem (4-1, 2-1) saw its season-opening winning streak stopped at four games, but not without a valiant effort.

"They made a shot, we came down, got a good

look and got to the free throw and it didn't work out," Salem head coach Dan Young said. "But I was really proud of our girls. We're making great steps, we're getting closer."

"We're getting good experience for our whole team. Everybody played and that's only going to make us stronger. It's only December. So that's the positive, we knew it would be a good game because they have a good team."

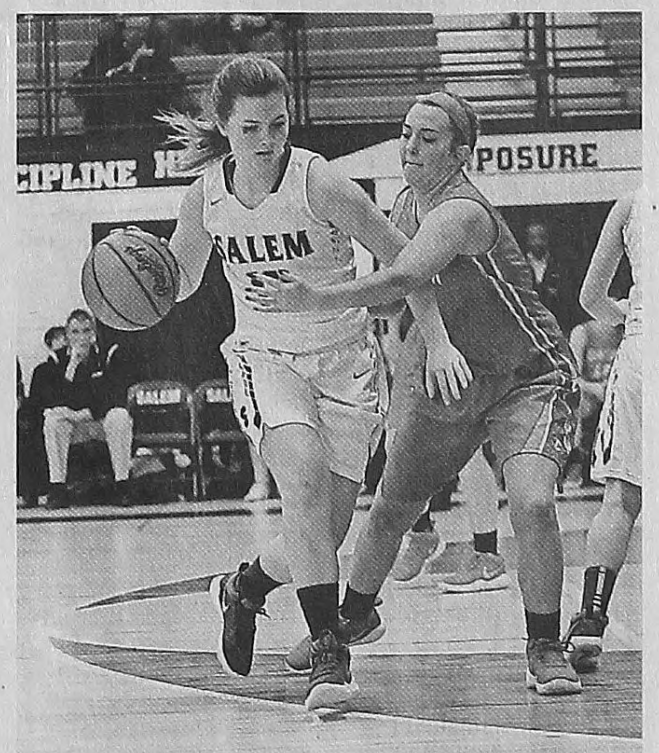
Junior guard Emma Strieter led Salem with 12 points.

Young said the Rocks are getting contributions from the entire roster, led by seniors Madalyn Simko, Maddie Kernahan, Strieter, juniors Jenna Sydlowski, Kyle Pamplona and Jaclyn Deprez.

"Great team chemistry, the girls work really hard," said Young.

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Canton's Jamie Wendel (4) guards Salem's Jaclyn Deprez (13) during the girls basketball game. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



HOCKEY

Salem rallies in third to edge Plymouth, 4-3

Tim Smith

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Salem doesn't yet have their "home rink" ready, and it might be February before they can move into the new-and-improved Plymouth Arctic Pond.

For now, the Rocks are dividing home games between Arctic Edge in Canton and USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, where they faced campus rival Plymouth Friday night.

The teams put on a spirited display, with plenty of back-and-forth action in front of an energetic crowd of several hundred. Salem turned a 3-2 deficit after two frames into a 4-3 triumph, after winning the special teams and goal-tending battle.

"We could play here or we could play at a pond, we could play wherever," Salem head coach Ryan Ossebmacher said. "I think there's going to be energy. This game, with the tweak in the schedule and this being the only time we play them, there's that much more energy added to the game."

Plymouth enjoyed a 32-18 edge in shots on goal, but Salem junior goalie Austin Goleniak was up to the task.

Salem (2-6-0) killed off an early penalty in the third, and the Rocks scored twice in less than two minutes (once on the power play) to pull out in front.

After Anthony Gattoni one-timed the rebound of a Dante Doute shot past Plymouth goalie Brendan Olepa for the 3-3 equalizer, junior forward Colin Goleniak beat Olepa on the power play.

Goleniak sent the puck in front to Alex Schaumburger, whose shot was blocked by Olepa. The rebound bounced over to Goleniak, who scored on a low, sharp-angle shot.

"He (Goleniak) has a knack for being in the

"He (Goleniak) has a knack for being in the right spot around the net, the pucks seem to find his stick. And more often than not, when he gets in that position he's going to score."

RYAN OSSEBMACHER
Salem head coach

right spot around the net, the pucks seem to find his stick," Ossebmacher said. "And more often than not, when he gets in that position he's going to score."

"He's sneaky, he plays under players and his first couple strides are quicker than most guys. So when there's a loose puck and he's even with somebody, he's going to get to that puck first."

The Rocks then needed to protect the slim lead with Olepa on the bench for an extra attacker.

"Plymouth's a really good team, they only have one loss, they tied Brighton," Ossebmacher said. "We knew there were going to be points in the game where we just had to hold on. At the end, I thought we did a good job on face-offs, our guys listened to the assignments and really didn't give them a clean look."

Plymouth (5-2-1) did not have a happy return to the Beck Road arena where home games were played earlier this decade (when it was Compuware Arena).

"I thought their goalie was the best player on the ice," Wildcats head coach Gerry Vento said. "We didn't bury chances and they were a little hungrier around the net than us. They got the win, they deserved it."

"We didn't control rebounds, we didn't tie



Plymouth Wildcat Jack VanDenBeeurdeury (26) attempt on Salem goalie Austin Goleniak (29) is thwarted by Tyler German (14) and Josh German (11) of the Rocks. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

up in front of the net, so when that goes on it's not a recipe for success."

Following are several takeaways from the game:

BACK AND FORTH

The Rocks enjoyed an early 5-minute power play after Plymouth's Gianni Pinto was called for boarding. But that advantage was side-tracked because a Salem minor penalty soon followed.

Salem goalie Austin Goleniak held firm against Plymouth pressure, turning aside a shot from between the circles taken by Tim Baldwin and snagging a shot taken by Andrew Garby.

Both teams traded goals just 31 seconds apart in the final stages of the frame. With 1:10 to go, Salem senior forward Tyler German tapped in a perfect cross-crease pass from junior linemate

Logan Sowa.

"We came together in the D zone and Logan Sowa battled his heart out at the blueline," German said. "He did what we were harping on the whole game, he got the puck out, moved his feet and I just kept going up the ice and he had a really nice pass. I just cut back and put it in."

But the Wildcats quickly answered on a rising shot by Andrew Garby with 39 seconds left. Olepa drew the assist.

QUICK RESPONSE

Just like the opening frame, both teams traded goals in rapid-fire fashion, this time with Salem answering a Plymouth goal.

The Wildcats went up 2-1 when Pinto followed up his own shot and slid the rebound into the far corner with just under 15 minutes remaining. Sa-

lem needed just 15 seconds to get it back, with Josh German's slapshot beating Olepa on the far side.

Plymouth entered the third period with a 3-2 lead thanks to a goal in the final minute by Jack VanDenBeeurdeury. A hard shot down low by Nathan Stoneburg was blocked by Goleniak, but the goalie lost sight of the puck and it landed to his right — where VanDenBeeurdeury whipped it into the cage.

FINALLY

Then came Salem's two-goal surge, which turned a deficit into a lead. Unlike several other close games against some of Michigan's best high school teams, Salem found a way to win against Plymouth. Ossebmacher is hopeful that the victory will start a trend.

"We've lost in over-

time, lost to Trenton by a goal," Ossebmacher said. "Those are all close games, and when you're in tight games like that there's little moments. ... Like a blocked shot you missed, a face off you could have won. In a game like this, you do enough of those things right and they add up, and then you do get the corner, you do win."

LET'S PLAY

There were some ice maintenance problems that slowed down the action. The game was delayed twice due to net anchors not being securely rooted in the ice. Arena workers brought their drills out to deepen the holes so that the moorings could be better installed.

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SPORTS SHORTS

Marty Budner

Hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Pittman honored by WSU

Birmingham Groves graduate Anthony Pittman was honored recently by Wayne State University football head coach Paul Winters at the school's annual post-season banquet.

Pittman, a team captain and linebacker, was voted as Wayne State's 2017 Most Valuable Defensive Player. The Birmingham resident was voted to the All-GLIAC First Team and was one of three defensive players to start all 11 games. Pittman led the Warriors in tackles for loss (12.5) and sacks (3.5), while leading all WSU linebackers with 37 solo tackles. He also tied for the team lead in assisted tackles (26) and was second in total tackles (63).

Pittman had more total tackles in 2017 than he did in 2015 and 2016 combined (42).

In addition, Pittman was given the Courtney 'Cortez' Swim Award which recognizes a member of the WSU football program whose contributions include: a positive approach to all aspects of the program both on and off the field; noticeable improvement to academic growth and progress; skill and physical development; and growing spiritually and contributing to the overall vital-

ity of the football program.

Pittman also earned the Athletic Director's Academic Honor Roll (gpa of 3.5+) each of the last two semesters.

Senior kicker Paul Graham (Commerce Township/Orchard Lake St. Mary's) was selected as Wayne State's 2017 Special Teams Most Valuable Player. He won the same award in 2015.

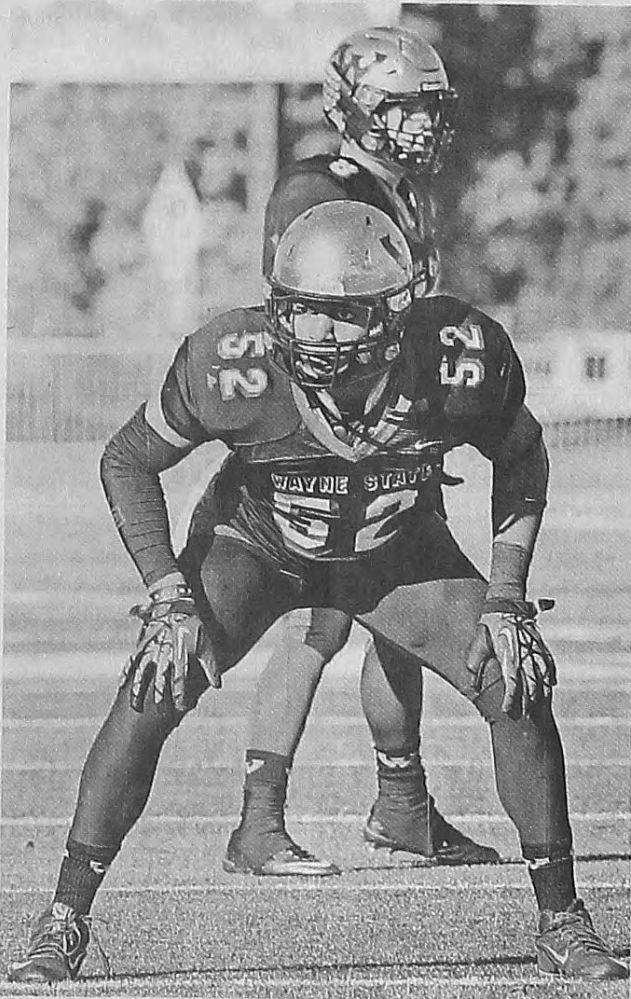
McDonald joins USPBL

Bloomfield Hills native Scott McDonald has landed a new job.

McDonald was recently named the United Shore Professional Baseball League's Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations. He will oversee all of the USPBL's marketing and communications initiatives.

"As we continue to progress as a professional baseball league, we wanted to add an executive with leadership and baseball experience, which Scott certainly has," said USPBL owner and CEO Andy Appleby of Bloomfield Township. "He has an extensive background in communications and marketing at some outstanding institutions across the country and we are excited that he will be a key part of our team as we prepare for another outstanding season in 2018."

McDonald heads to the USPBL after a long tenure at Oakland University where he most



Birmingham Groves graduate Anthony Pittman was voted Wayne State University's 2017 Defensive Most Valuable Player. COURTESY OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

recently served as the Associate Athletics Director for Public Relations. He led the Rochester-based university's athletic communications, marketing, broadcasting and video services programs.

McDonald will officially begin his USPBL duties on Jan. 2.

DSC to help host nationals

The Detroit Figure Skating Club of Bloomfield Hills once again will play a vital role as U.S. Figure Skating will bring its national championships to Detroit in 2019.

Detroit will serve as host city for the 2019 U.S. Figure Skating Champi-



Scott McDonald SUBMITTED

onships from Jan. 19-27.

The new Little Caesar's Arena will host all junior free skate, free dance and championship-level events. The Detroit Skating Club, meanwhile, will be the site of the junior short programs and short dances, as well as the novice, intermediate and juvenile events.

"U.S. Figure Skating is excited for the return of the U.S. Championships to Detroit for the first time since 1994," said U.S. Figure Skating President Sam Auxier. "Detroit and all of Michigan is a skating hotbed that is home to many of our top athletes, both past and present. It will be a wonderful event in one of the great, new venues in our country."

U.S. champions will be crowned in ladies, men's, pairs and ice dance at the senior, junior, novice, intermediate and juvenile levels of the U.S. Figure Skating competitive structure. The event also serves as the qualifying competition for

entry into the U.S. World Figure Skating team each year and the U.S. Olympic team every four years.

Detroit last hosted the U.S. Figure Skating championships in 1994 at the Joe Louis Arena.

Michigan Senior Olympics

It's not too late to register for the Michigan Senior Olympics which is set to begin in early February.

The Michigan Senior Olympics is open to anyone ages 50 and over, with athletes competing in five-year age groups. There are currently more than 500 athletes from across the state registered to compete.

Competition begins Feb. 7 with ice hockey at the Troy Sports Center with most events ending by Feb. 12 (with the exception of DanceSport which ends Feb. 18). Bocce ball, basketball (free throw and 3-point contest), badminton, billiards, pickleball, volleyball and power lifting are the other competitive sports.

Michigan Senior Olympics is a nonprofit organization which promotes healthy lifestyles by organizing state games, sports competitions, health, fitness, nutrition and wellness programs for Michigan's over-50 population.


For more information or to register, visit www.michiganseniorgames.org on the website.

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5 signs you're stuck in the rat race

BY ERIC TITNER
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

We've all heard the phrase rat race before — it refers to a seemingly never-ending, pointless, and even self-defeating pursuit, and it's often used when referring to one's job or career. Individuals who are stuck in the rat race are unhappily going through the motions in life, trudging through the daily grind of their workday feeling unfulfilled, unchallenged and uninspired until they go home at the end of the day — only to repeat the whole process again.

Those who are stuck in the rat race are more than just unhappy — they're actually negatively affecting their health and well-being. According to a recent *Forbes* article, people who hate their jobs face some serious consequences, including increased risks for stress, sleeplessness, illness and mental health issues. An article by *The Atlantic* even goes on to suggest that workplace unhappiness can shorten your lifespan.

Obviously, individuals who are stuck in this unfortunate situation have every good reason to try and get out of it. Are you one of them? The truth is, sometimes people get so busy and wrapped up in their daily responsibilities and activities



GETTY IMAGES

that they fail to take stock of their current situations. You may very well be stuck in the rat race and not even know it.

Use these signs to determine if you need to make changes to your daily life:

1. Your energy and enthusiasm levels are low.

Are you like the energizer bunny when you get up in the morning? Do you go through an average workday full of "get up and go" enthusiasm for what lies ahead? Or maybe you're more like a wilted flower or droopy basset hound

who practically needs to be dragged through the day, and can't wait to get back home so you can ... lie around and do absolutely nothing. We all have good days and bad, but if more often than not you're facing each day with a real lack of energy and enthusiasm, that's a good sign you're stuck in a rat race and may need a change.

2. You're stuck in the past.

Do you spend more time thinking about "past glories" than future opportunities? Do

you gladly reminisce about days gone by and what you have done at the expense of what lies ahead and what you will accomplish?

People who are stuck in the rat race avoid thinking about the present and the future as a protective mechanism — keeping them from having to confront an unhappy reality or an uncertain tomorrow. If this sounds like you, you might just be stuck in a rut.

3. You lack purpose.

Folks who are in happy places in their lives are fueled by a sense of purpose and gamely tackle each day, along with the challenges and goals they've set for themselves. Those stuck in less fulfilling situations? Not so much. And it's not hard to imagine the vicious spiral this creates, leading you to accomplish less and less as the days drag on. Don't get stuck in a rat race spiral.

4. You're noticing changes in your health and wellness.

When you're stuck in the grinding gears of the rat race you're going to experience a negative effect on your health and well-being.

The ravages of stress, tension, sleeplessness, anxiety and more will begin to gnaw away at you — and you'll notice it.

Tack on to this that people stuck in the rat race often make poor diet and exercise choices, and it's easy to see that this is a road to ruin.

5. You feel powerless to effect change or think there's nothing better out there for you.

One of the real tragedies of being stuck in the rat race — as if we haven't mentioned enough of them already — is that it robs you of the very ability to see a way out of it. It's common for those stuck in a rut to feel that there's simply no way out or have such a negative raincloud following them that they can't even fathom that there's something better out there. It's not a good place to be.

If after reading this you've realized that you're stuck in the rat race and are starting to worry or panic — stop and take a deep breath.

It's always better to know the truth, and it's never too late or a bad time to figure out where you are with your job situation — good or bad — and make a change.

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

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 — law (computer industry rule)
 - 7 WWII prez
 - 10 Argus-eyed
 - 15 Turn sharply
 - 19 Haul in
 - 20 Mendacity
 - 21 Nerve
 - 22 Caucus state
 - 23 Luau libation
 - 24 Hearth waste
 - 25 Slight residue
 - 26 Again
 - 27 "Ad Council bloodhound"
 - 31 Et — (plus more)
 - 32 Roly-poly
 - 33 "I knew it!"
 - 34 Good tidbit
 - 38 Colleague of Trotsky
 - 40 "They don't have qwerty layouts"
 - 46 Pen's tip
 - 48 String after Q
 - 49 Have — of hope
 - 50 Gp. for fillers and drillers
 - 51 "At a short distance"
 - 56 "Metro section manager"
 - 59 Deadeye's skill
 - 60 TCBY treats holder
 - 61 Bloom
 - 62 PC pictures
 - 63 Fetus feeder
 - 65 Kottler of TV
 - 66 Juan's "this"
 - 68 Henry VIII's third Catherine
 - 69 "Tool whose teeth rotate"
 - 72 Costello and Holtz
 - 76 Baseballer Slaughter
 - 78 Brogan part
 - 79 Sloping
 - 81 Bacon piece
 - 84 Gone
 - 85 Antsy feeling
 - 86 Color tone
 - 87 "It may show acidity"
 - 90 "Divorcée in 1991 news segment"
 - 92 Min.
 - 93 Segment
 - 94 Suffix with 114-Down
 - 95 Chargers linebacker
 - 96 "Yale, e.g."
 - 102 Tips, as a cap
 - 106 Chilling
 - 107 Golfer
 - Trevino
 - 108 Batter
 - 110 Taxi readout
 - 111 What the double-digit Roman numerals at the starts of the answers to the starred clues add up to
 - 118 Mud in a cup
 - 121 Haikus, e.g.
 - 122 22nd letter
 - 123 Goopy camp treats
 - 124 All tied up
 - 125 Shul scroll
 - 126 Be off
 - 127 Unseat
 - 128 Like paraffin
 - 129 Lacking pity
 - 130 Negatives
 - 131 First phases
- DOWN**
- 1 Fox or ox
 - 2 Prophet
 - 3 Derivation
 - 4 Teaches new skills
 - 5 Biblical twin
 - 6 Rigidity
 - 7 Thin-screen boob tube
 - 8 Plate
 - 9 Practice
 - 10 Giant in train travel
 - 11 Petty of film
 - 12 Quiz's kin
 - 13 Paella base
 - 14 Ticked (off)
 - 15 Pfizer drug
 - 16 Many eras
 - 17 She bleats
 - 18 Bitingly cold
 - 28 In thing
 - 29 Chin-wag
 - 30 Native Nebraskan
 - 35 Sister of Cleo
 - 36 Rider, e.g.
 - 37 Old rulers
 - 39 Jenna Bush, to Jeb
 - 41 NBA and NRA, e.g.
 - 42 Crusty roll
 - 43 Big name in Art Deco
 - 44 "We did it!"
 - 45 "See you"
 - 47 Wild horse
 - 51 Cartoonist Al
 - 52 Oscar winner
 - 53 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
 - 54 No voters
 - 55 On or about
 - 56 Coup group
 - 57 Morse "E"
 - 58 "That's what — service!"
 - 61 One paid to park cars
 - 64 Sweet filling
 - 65 Event invitee
 - 66 Sup at home
 - 67 Try to hit, as a fly
 - 70 Snow-pure
 - 71 Epic story
 - 73 Aloha Stadium site
 - 74 "One," on a U.S. coin
 - 75 Process unit
 - 77 Coll. in Lower Manhattan
 - 80 Filled up
 - 81 Cow of ads
 - 82 Kitchen filter
 - 83 Burlesque dancer Lili
 - 84 Llama locale
 - 85 2004 Chevy debut
 - 88 Mudbath site
 - 89 "It" game
 - 90 Feeling bliss
 - 91 Vane locales
 - 94 Freezes
 - 97 Church chant
 - 98 "Icky!"
 - 99 Full of melting snow
 - 100 Fiats
 - 101 Spanish plural article
 - 103 — Islands (Danish chain)
 - 104 Least limited
 - 105 Has a feeling a fly
 - 109 Boats
 - 112 Goes (for)
 - 113 Blow a horn
 - 114 Saving sort
 - 115 Arab nation
 - 116 Drusilla
 - 118 Shul-goer
 - 119 Gardner of "The Bribe"
 - 120 Nettle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19							20			21				22					
23							24			25				26					
27						28			29				30						
31					32			33					34		35	36	37		
38				39		40		41			42	43	44	45					
			46		47			48			49						50		
51	52	53			54	55			56					57	58				
59				60					61					62					
63			64					65				66	67						
68					69			70				71			72	73	74	75	
			76	77				78				79		80					
81	82	83					84					85					86		
87					88	89				90							91		
92					93				94					95					
96			97	98					99			100	101		102		103	104	105
106									107			108		109		110			
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118	119	120					121					122					123		
124							125					126					127		
128							129					130					131		

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

SUDOKU

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

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

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

OUTDOOR FUN WORD SEARCH

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

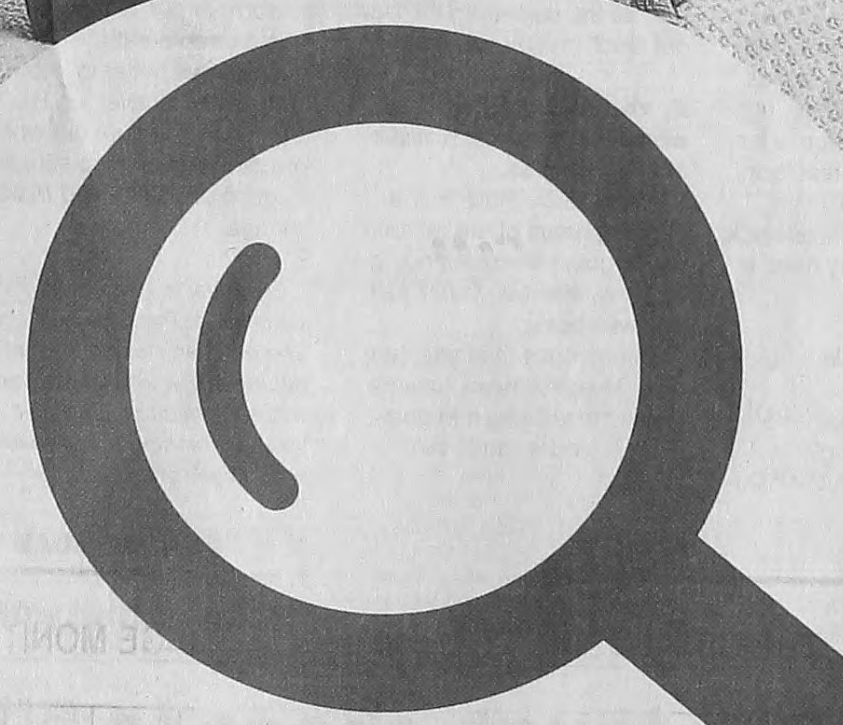
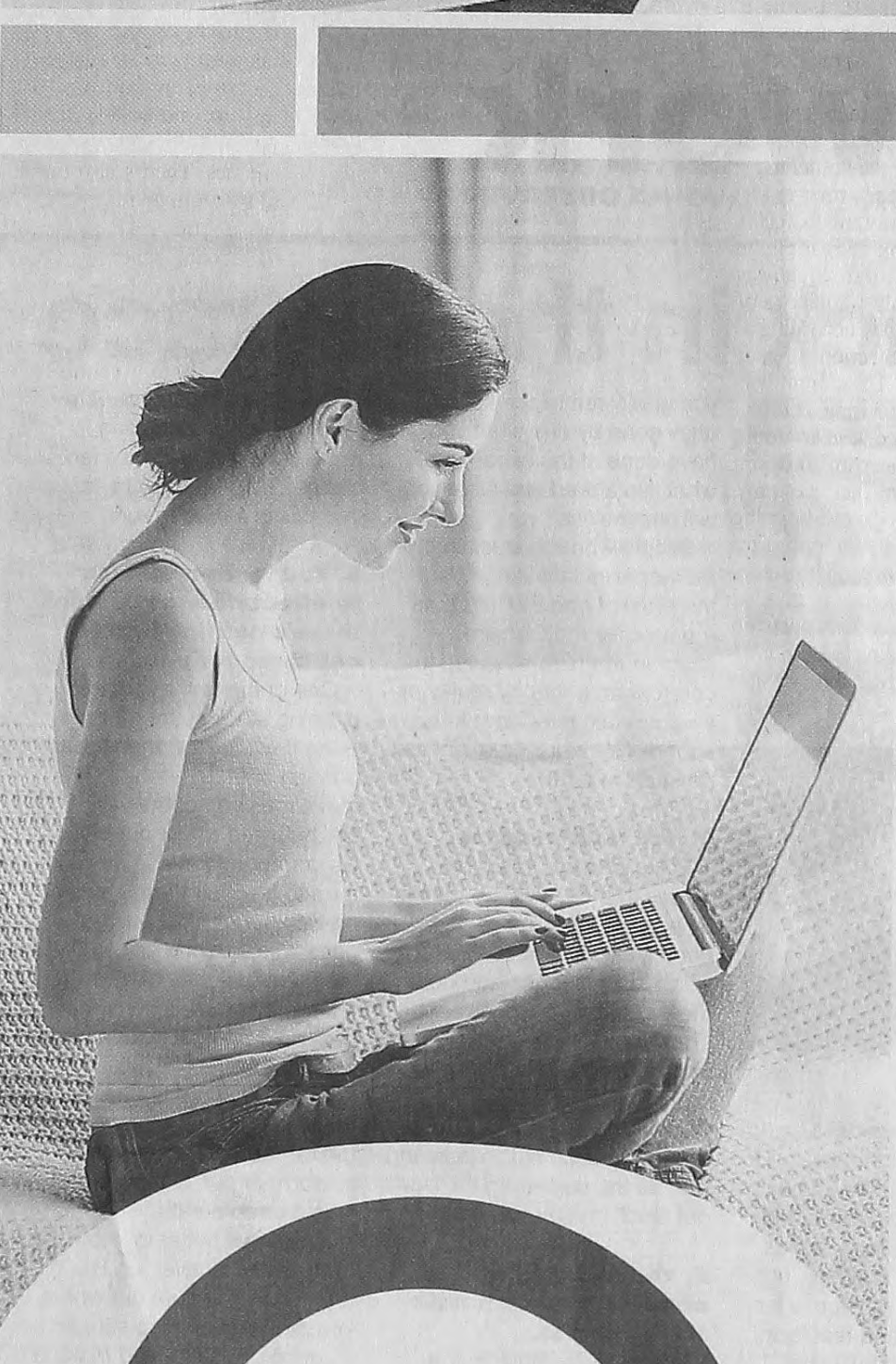
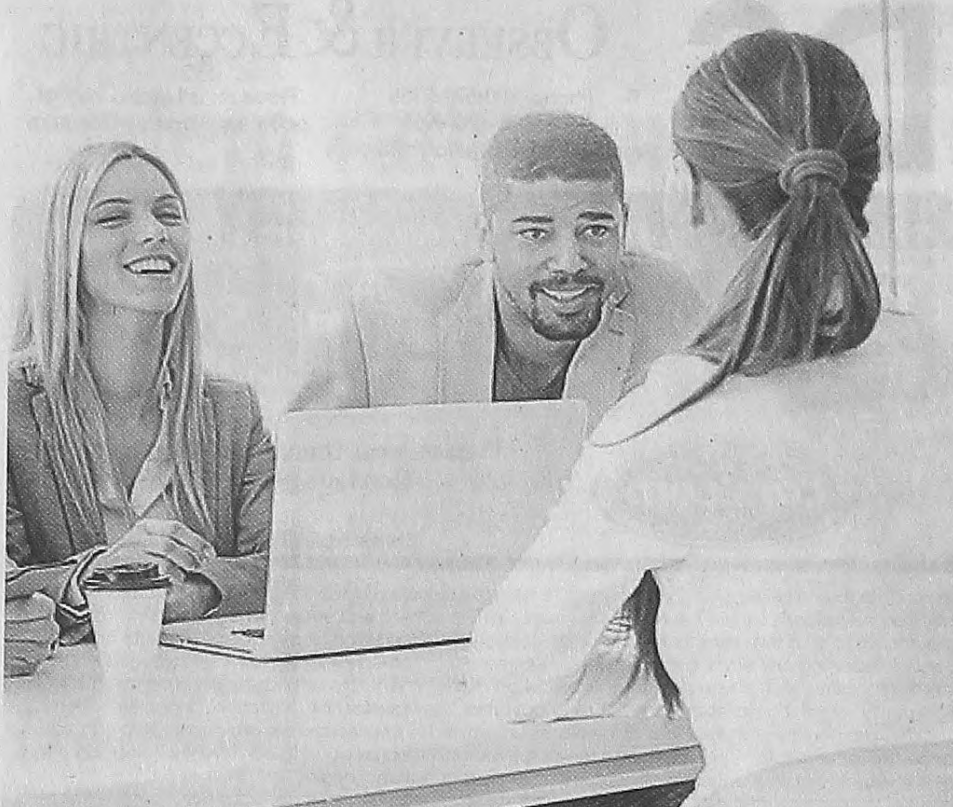
- WORDS**
- ADAPTATION
 - ANCHOR
 - BAIT
 - BEDDING
 - BIVOUAC
 - BLAZE
 - BOAT
 - BOW
 - BUCK
 - CACHE
 - CAIRN
 - CAMP
 - CONIFER
 - CREEK
 - FIN
 - FOLIAGE
 - HOOK
 - KAYAK
 - KNOTS
 - LAKE
 - LAYOVER
 - PITCH
 - PLOT
 - RAMP
 - RATTLING
 - RECREATION
 - RUT
 - SCENT
 - SCOUT
 - SHELTER
 - STERN
 - SUPPLIES
 - TRAIL
 - WILDERNESS
 - WIND
 - WOODED

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

Crossword Answers

MOORES	FDR	ALERT	VEER
ARREST	LIE	MOXIE	IOWA
MAITAI	ASH	TRAGE	ANEW
MCGRUFF	THE	IMEDIO	G
ALIA	FAT	AHA	TREAT
LENIN	DVORAK	KEYBOARD	S
NIB	RST	ARAY	ADA
CLOSER	ANGE	CITY	EDITOR
AIM	CONES	VASE	ICONS
PLACENTA	GABE	ESTA	
PARR	CITROUL	ARS	LOUS
ENOS	HEEL	ATAS	LANT
ESSAY	PAST	AGITA	HUE
LITMUS	EST	MANA	TUMP
SEC	PART	INE	TEO
IVY	LEA	QUES	SCHOOL
DOFFS			
EERIE	LEE	RAM	FARE
TWO	THOUSANDS	SIXTEEN	
JAVA	POEMS	VEE	SMORES
EVEN	TORAH	ERR	DEPOSE
WAXY	STONY	NOS	ONSETS

Word Search



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Car Report

EASY TO GET USED TO: HYUNDAI'S ALL-NEW IONIQ HYBRID IS WELCOME ENTRY IN GROWING ELECTRIC-VEHICLE DERBY



By Dale Buss

Electric vehicles are becoming mainstream now as manufacturers hope that their proliferating number of partially or fully electric models will get traction – individually and collectively – with an American public that still remains far from enamored with the automotive propulsion mode of the future, particularly at a time of cheap gasoline.

But as EV demand takes shape, count on the all-new Hyundai Ioniq to be in a strong position to make a play for a chunk of the market.

The 2017 Ioniq Hybrid – it's also available in a plug-in version and an all-electric version – covers all the bases that today's sedan buyers find

important when it comes to new cars. That includes peppy performance, a smooth ride, durability, a reasonable price, significant creature comforts, an upscale interior – and, of course, class-leading fuel economy, at least in the hybrid version I drove.

In fact, Ioniq ranks 7 out of the 24 compact cars for 2017 rated by *U.S. News & World Report*, bolstered by all these basic attributes as well as by its comparison with segment leaders. The Ioniq hybrid takes dead aim at the pioneer and by far the leader among hybrids, Toyota Prius, and holds up well in many ways.

Most important might be the base price. Ioniq's begins at around \$22,200 while the pricetag for the base Prius pushes \$25,000. In the compact-sedan category where purchase price as well as the cost of ownership both can factor heavily in consumers' minds, this is a huge advantage for Ioniq.

Let's begin with the crucial metric of fuel economy, which even at a



Hyundai Ioniq Hybrid Interior Cabin

time of \$2.50-a-gallon gasoline is a top-of-mind consideration for most people who are in the market for a hybrid, possibly matched in importance only by their concern about the environmental footprint of whatever vehicle they purchase.

Ioniq SEL, the mid-trim version that retails for around \$26,000, posts a whopping 55 mpg in combined city and highway driving, sipping only 1.8 gallons of gasoline per 100 miles, according to Environmental Protection Agency official estimates. These numbers top Prius's by a bit: 3 mpg.

Move down price-wise to Ioniq Hybrid's base Blue trim and you pick up even more fuel economy, with an EPA-rated, eye-popping 58 mpg as the version optimizes propulsion efficiency. This, too, beats out Toyota's similarly minded Prius Eco version, which posts 56 mpg. In fact, according to Edmunds.com, the Ioniq Hybrid Blue version sets a new record in fuel economy

for a hybrid vehicle that lacks plug-in capability.

At the same time, the 1.6-liter, four-cylinder gasoline engine that anchors the Ioniq Hybrid is plenty capable as augmented with a 32-kilowatt electric motor fed by a lithium-ion battery pack. It delivers total output of 139 horsepower, which is enough to power Ioniq briskly through everyday driving and special acceleration needs.

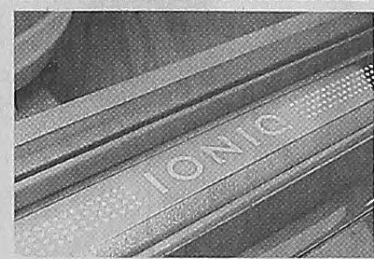
In fact, Ioniq Hybrid hit 60 mph in 8.7 seconds in Edmunds' testing, quicker than a Prius. Sure, the car might be considered a bit sluggish compared with classically powered sedans in its segment, but it more than meets the needs of nearly all driving modes and demands.

Handling is adequate, neither too snappy nor sluggish. But overall, Hyundai Ioniq is not a "driver's car," and so it was wise of the brand not to try to pass it off as some sort of high-mileage performance wonder.

However, when it comes to another

important set of criteria, Ioniq outshines much of the category: interior simplicity and comfort. Its interior controls are laid out well, and its multiply adjustable driver's seat adapts well to a wide variety of human frames. There's also ample head and leg room up front.

Meanwhile, the placement of Ioniq's dashboard controls is clear and logical with lots of big buttons, a far cry from the mistake that some manufacturers have made in overpopulating the front controls and making them confusing. There are even redundant hard keys for many of the infotainment-screen functions.



The Hyundai All-New Ioniq Hybrid

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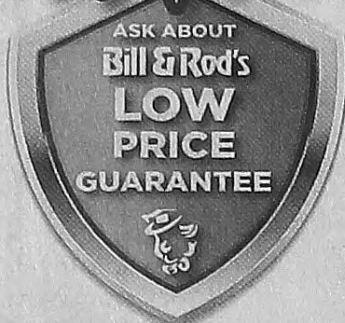
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