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LOCAL NEWS, A6

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SUNDAY 05.07.17 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Tiderington reappointed to panel

Plymouth Township police chief named by Snyder

Darrell Clem  
hometownlife.com

Plymouth Township Police Chief Tom Tiderington once worked to battle human trafficking in a place he said seemed like "ground zero for prostitution" — south Florida. He took the job so seriously as a Fort Lauderdale law en-

forcement officer that he helped lead the charge to create a special investigations division to fight the problem and educate the public. He was chief commander of the unit. His work continues in Michigan, where Gov. Rick Snyder has just reappointed Tiderington to his second two-year term on the 14-member state

Human Trafficking Commission, created in 2014 to take a multi-pronged approach to tackling the problem. "The problem is significant throughout the country," Tiderington said. It's also a problem in the western Wayne County sub-



Tiderington

urbs, where he said one scenario involves a prostitute advertising escort services on websites such as Craigslist and entertaining customers in local hotels. Plymouth Township and Canton, among other communities, have had occasional prostitution cases in places such as hotels along the I-275 corridor. "I wouldn't say it's epidemic," Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said, but the area problem is

serious enough for Canton to assign an officer full time to a regional special task force that investigates human trafficking, among other crimes. Snyder, in announcing the latest appointments to the state Human Trafficking Commission, said in a statement that one of the panel's duties is to issue recommendations to Michigan lawmakers to im-

See PANEL, Page A2

## Hitting all the right notes: Teen launches country career

Brad Kadrich  
hometownlife.com

Shane Decker likes the song Canton's Grace Rembinski released late last month for a lot of reasons: Her voice, her composure, the lyrics, her potential and her talent. But regardless of how the song does commercially, Decker believes in it for one big reason:

It's going to save lives. Rembinski, a 13-year-old Discovery Middle School eighth-grader, released "I Want You to Know," an anti-bullying anthem that showcases her voice and was born out of bullying she and other friends have endured. Decker, the creative director for Mucho Love Music in Nashville who co-wrote the song with Rembinski and Mucho Love writer Mark McGuinn, believes in the song and he believes in Rembinski. "I think people need to hear this song," Decker said. "A song like this could save a kid's life. If you can do that ... it has nothing to do with money or fame or getting on the Billboard charts. This song could save a life. I think (Grace) has a big future."

They've known that locally for the last couple of years. Her biggest local success came two years ago, in an event her own choir teacher initially discouraged her from entering. When Rembinski, then all of 11 years old, saw her teacher distributing fliers for the Canton Idol competition in 2015, she asked about it. According to Rembinski, the teacher told her that, at that point in her development, she was too young and "not quite there" to compete. Rembinski, then a sixth-grader, disregarded the advice, entered the competition



See TEEN, Page A3 Grace Rembinski in the studio.

## Auction benefits Park radio program

Listeners get the chance to bid on great items donated by local businesses and make a difference in the lives of students through support of the 29th annual 88.1 the Park Radio Auction from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 20.

Organizers said the station will have "great items to bid on," including autographed memorabilia, restaurant gift cards and services from local businesses. A Dream Board with more unique items will be available for bidding all day.

Last year, WSDP-FM (88.1) raised nearly \$17,000 and this year it has set a goal of \$18,000.

Local businesses and residents still have time to support the student radio station by donating items. Businesses that donate can benefit from the exposure they will receive on 88.1 The Park. Most importantly, organizers said, they will "be helping a program that has impacted the lives of students" and served the Plymouth-Canton community for 45 years.

Todd Chatman graduated in 1983 from Salem and is now director of radio marketing for Food for the Poor. In reflecting about his experience at the station, Chatman said the station "set the course for my gratifying 30-year career in broadcasting."

"The practical, hands-on experience I received gave me an advantage in landing my first paid radio job," Chatman said. "Even if your career goals don't include broadcasting or media, the skills you'll craft at WSDP will benefit you the rest of your life. And, it's just a whole lot of fun, too."

Businesses or individuals interested in sponsoring a half-hour or hour of the auction can

See AUCTION, Page A2



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**PANEL**

Continued from Page A1

prove ways of addressing the human trafficking problem.

"I thank these individuals for their commitment to helping improve laws that work to prevent human trafficking in Michigan," Snyder said.

Tiderington was recommended for a commission seat by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. The

panel, under the umbrella of the Michigan Attorney General's Office, seeks to educate the public about human trafficking. It also works with health care providers, police departments, courts and agencies that can help victims of human trafficking.

The commission also seeks ways to strengthen laws against human trafficking.

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# Learn about Detroit's Belle Isle during discussion at Plymouth District Library

Is Central Park the largest city park in the country? No - it's Belle Isle! Learn more about this historic gem when the Friends of the Plymouth District Library welcome Michele Hodges, president of the Belle Isle Conservancy, at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 11. She will share the many



Hodges

A recent story in the Detroit Free Press shared that in 2016, the

recent improvements at this popular state park and also plans for the future.

982-acre park welcomed 4 million visitors, up from the 3.8 million of 2015. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has a 30-year lease to manage the park, which is owned by the city of Detroit. It's the largest city-owned park in the U.S. and is the third-largest island in the

Detroit River after Grosse Ile and Fighting Island.

The public is invited to attend this program. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is requested at [plymouthlibrary.org](http://plymouthlibrary.org) or by calling 734-453-0750, ext 4.

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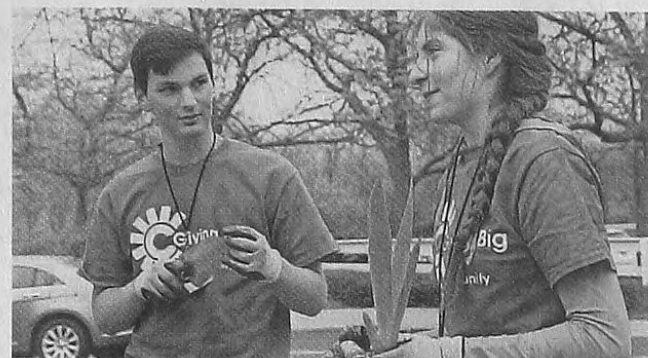
## Cleanup project benefits high school seniors

As part of the Community Choice Foundation's Scholarship Program, 20 high school seniors and their families from across Michigan led a cleanup and beautification project April 29, clearing brush, laying sod and planting flowers on behalf of The Senior Alliance in Wayne.

Each student will be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship - \$100,000 total - for pledging to attend college in Michigan and committing to giving

back to the state by building their careers here.

By becoming a Community Choice scholar, the students pledge to use their time, talent and education to improve Michigan's future, as well as participate in networking and volunteer opportunities. The beautification event was just the first of many activities that will showcase the scholars' commitment to giving back.



A.J. Carter from Royal Oak High School and Kelsey Postler from Canton High School plant flowers at the senior center. Both students plan to attend the University of Michigan next fall.

## AUCTION

Continued from Page A1

email station manager Bill Keith at [bill.keith@pccsk12.com](mailto:bill.keith@pccsk12.com). Businesses willing to display an auction flier can also contact the station.

Keith called the auction a "great reminder of the impact the station has had in the lives of students." The station's alums, Keith said, have stepped up to match every half-hour of the auction. They also hope to add more alumni matchers in the weeks ahead.



88.1 THE PARK

Students and other volunteers will be manning the phones for the annual 88.1 The Park radio auction from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 20.

"We want to thank everyone who has supported us over the years," Keith said. "The

auction has become such a big part of our fundraising. This is our biggest fundraiser and we

couldn't do it without the generous support of local businesses and our listeners."

You can also listen to the auction via the station's live web feed at [www.881ThePark.com](http://www.881ThePark.com). The website will also feature a complete list of auction items.

WSDP-FM is owned and operated by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district and is staffed by students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools. The station features hit music, hourly local news, live broadcasts from the community and high school sports.



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# TEEN

Continued from Page A1

— and won it.

## Idol momentum

Since then, Rembinski has become a pretty popular presence at local events, concerts, etc. She plays events in Wixom, she's played the concert series in Plymouth's Kellogg Park and she's been the entertainment at a couple of events hosted by the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities.

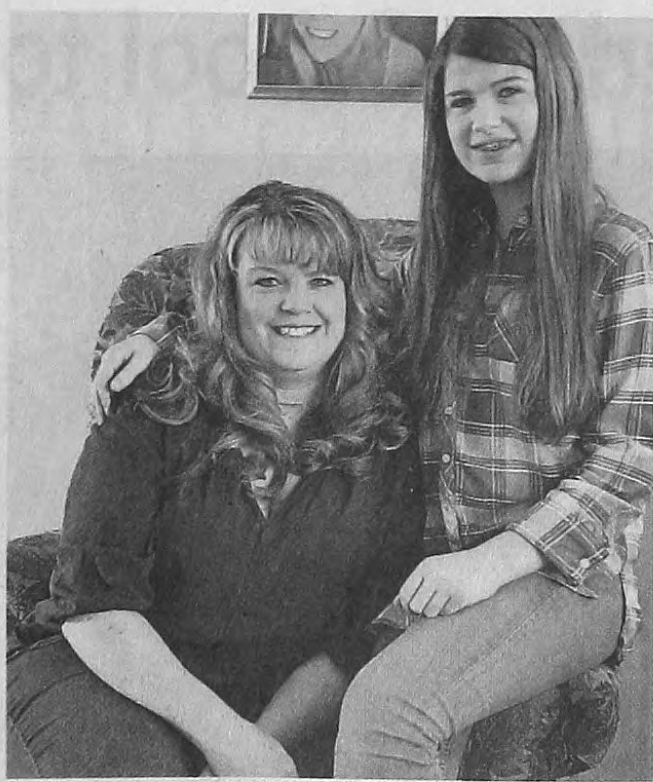
"It is so fun," she said. "I love singing for other people, because it makes them happy. I love seeing their reactions."

She's been doing it a long time. Her mom (and manager) Jill once heard Johnny Cash's "Jackson" coming from Grace's room. She hollered at her daughter to "turn that down."

"She hollered right back, 'Mom, it's me,'" Jill said. "So she's been performing for a long time."

It was the Canton Idol performance that eventually triggered the latest steps in Rembinski's musical growth.

Seems a friend of the family has a brother who works for Mucho Love. The brother saw a cover Rembinski did of Sarah McLachlan's "Angel" on YouTube, and a career was born. One day, the phone rang and it was



BRAD KADRICH

Budding singer/songwriter Grace Rembinski (right, with mom Jill) recently released her first single "I Want You to Know."

Decker, the creative director of Mucho Love Music.

"Shane called and said, 'We'd like to meet Grace,'" Jill Rembinski said. "We spent a year talking about what Grace wanted. They then decided they wanted to hear more about Grace."

Those year-long discussions resulted in Grace co-writing "I Want You to Know" with Decker and McGuinn. They recorded the song in February and released it last month.

## Passion topic

Decker said the song came out of a brainstorming session with Grace. He asked her what she was passionate about and she talked about the bullying she and at least one other friend had suffered. She said the bullying got so bad for one gay friend — "He's made fun of constantly," she said — that "it drove him to try to take his life once."

"I thought about how (bullying) made me feel,

like I wasn't good enough," Grace said. "I just came to a point where I thought, 'Be myself.'"

Decker remembers the talks the trio had about what Grace wanted to write. They "threw around a bunch of ideas" and the bullying idea resonated, particularly with parents Decker (one son) and McGuinn (two children).

"I talked with (Grace) a while and she brought up this bully idea," Decker said. "(McGuinn) and I were very aware of it and we thought that was something we could write about."

Decker said that, even at such a young age, Grace has the traits to make it as an artist. She's got "a little something different, an edge" needed in the business, he said. She has inflections in her voice "you can't learn, you either have them or you don't and she can already control it."

Decker said that while Grace's main taste leans to country, she can sing any kind of genre. It's something her vocal coach, BeckRidge Chorale musical director Michael Gross, has been trying to teach her. Gross said Grace's willingness to not only to listen to, but to learn from, artists from a variety of genres is a key to her success.

"Country is a thing for her, but I've been able to get her to look at old

standards," Gross said. "She absorbs something from everyone she listens to. She takes something away from them. Not everybody can do that."

## Slow pace

Grace seems to have a promising career, but it's a career no one is eager to rush. Mucho Love signed Grace to a single-song contract, put her in the studio and "did some simple tracks," Decker said. "I want it to be very angelic, a little 'less is more.' I wanted the words to be heard and not have this big symphony of music behind it. I wanted her voice to stand out."

Gross wants Grace — one of three kids (21-year-old Abigail and 11-year-old D.J.) of Jill and Daryl Rembinski — to experience a variety of artists, expose her to old standards like Ella Fitzgerald and others and not necessarily get trapped into making contemporary music. "Young people hear enough of today's crap," Gross said. "I want her to have a sense of where music comes from. I want her to experience the history: 'Here are some voices to listen to ... now let's find your voice.'"

Decker said much the same thing, pointing out Grace needs to continue to write songs "that are relevant to her life and her age group.

"That should come naturally," Decker said. "She's a wonderfully talented girl, she's sweet and smart, her parents are salt of the Earth and they believe in her dreams, which is great."

"I respect her parents a lot," he added. "If you're going to dream and not chase those dreams, why dream at all?"

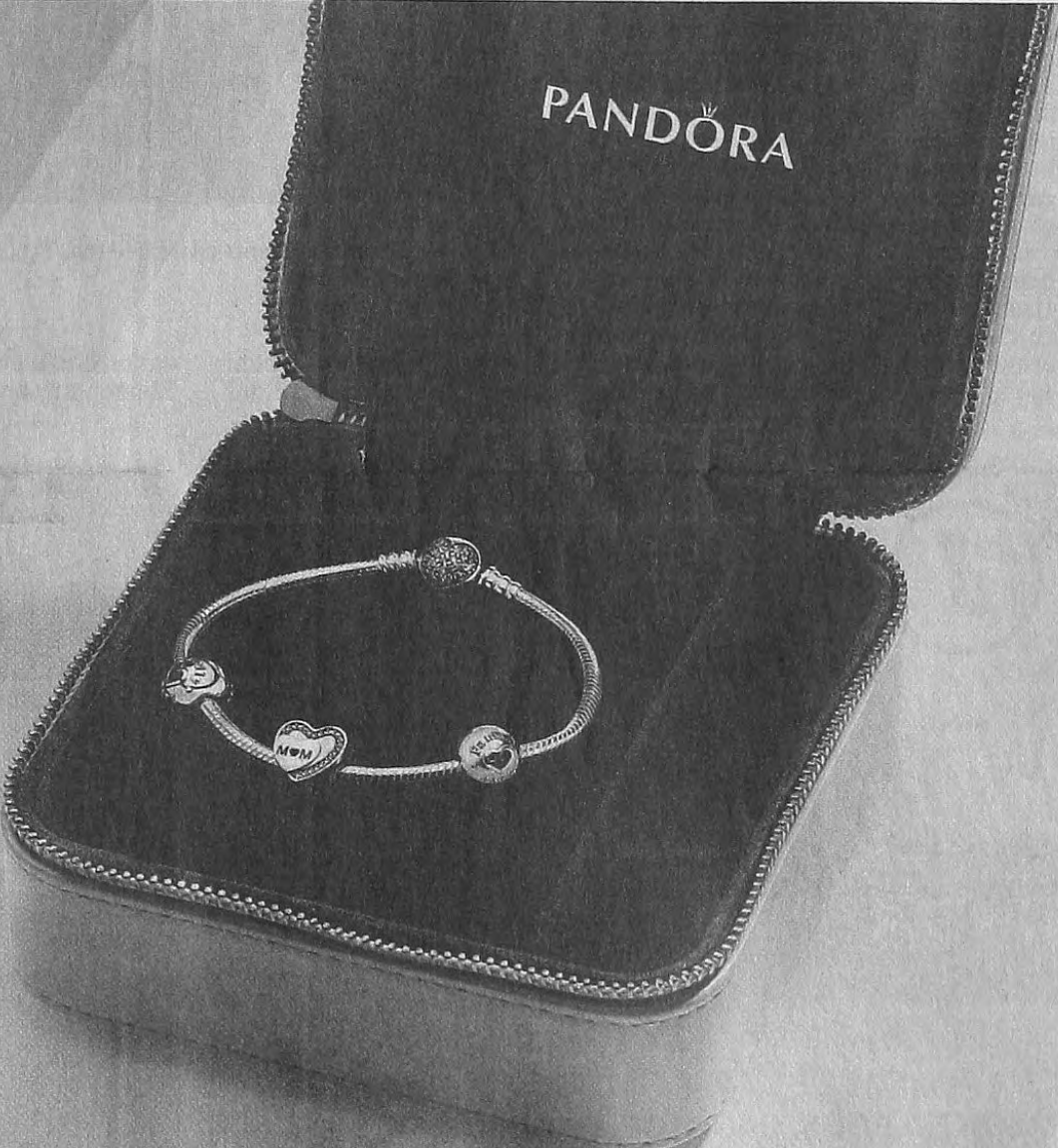
Mucho Love's willingness to plot out a long-term strategy for Grace was one of the things that Jill Rembinski liked about how the label wanted to handle her daughter. She's filled with praise for Mucho Love and, particularly, for Decker.

"They said it takes a while for things to pick up," Jill said. "They're going to give this some time to build. They want to take their time because of her age."

Grace is OK with the pace Decker wants to set for whatever career she builds. For now, she's just getting used to the attention. Her music is available in all the usual places — Spotify, Google Play and iTunes — and she even has her own YouTube channel.

"I've always thought it would be amazing (to do records)," Grace said. "I didn't think it would happen, but it did and it's amazing."

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# East Middle designated as School to Watch

East Middle School has been recognized as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. The National Forum is an alliance of more than 60 educators, researchers and officers of national associations and foundations dedicated to improving schools for young adolescents across the country.

Through the Schools to Watch initiative, the National Forum identifies schools across the United States that are well on their way to meeting the forum's criteria for high performance. To receive this honor, East completed a two-year process during which staff reviewed data, rated themselves on the national rubric and hosted two site reviews. East is excited to join 12 other schools in Michigan and around 400 nationwide that demonstrate the highest levels of teaching and learning.

"It is an honor to be nominated as a School to Watch," said Scott Burek, principal of East Middle School. "Our staff works hard everyday to provide students with the knowledge and skills to become successful in whatever they choose. It will be great to share what we do with others so they can adopt similar strategies and programs to affect positive change in their own buildings."

"East Middle School in the Plymouth-Canton school district has exceptional student support programs," said Mary Alice Krajenta, director of Michigan Schools to Watch. "Student learning engagement is high as teachers have students collaborate around learning and engage in high-

*"Our staff works hard everyday to provide students with the knowledge and skills to become successful in whatever they choose."*

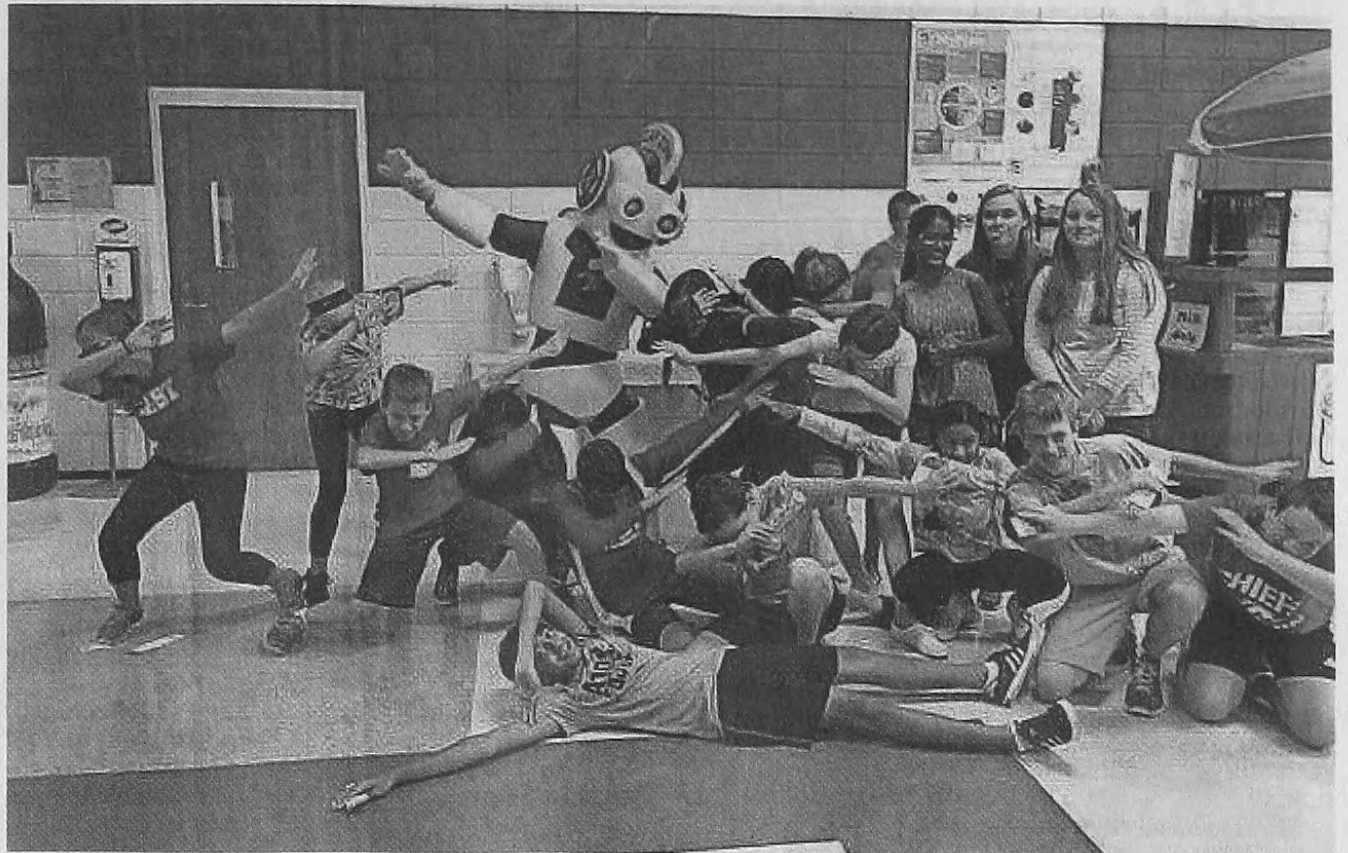
**SCOTT BUREK**  
principal, East Middle School

level thinking projects."

As a result of this honor, the East staff was recognized with a designation certificate during the 2017 MAMSE annual conference March 10 at the Swartz Creek Performing Arts Center. The building was also recognized April 19 at the Institute for Educational Excellence's Middle School Network Meeting and will be honored June 21-24 at the National Forum to Advance Middle Grade Reform's annual conference in Washington, D.C. During this event, a conference session will be presented on East's successful Positive Behavior Intervention Support program.

A Celebration Day was held Thursday at East Middle School, where East was presented with the Schools to Watch banner. The ceremony was followed by a reward afternoon for students to commemorate the honor with the school's "May the Fourth Be With You" Festival, including field day events, bouncers, races, 88.1 The Park playing music, Kona Ice frozen drinks and much more.

Schools to Watch is supported by the Institute for Excellence in Education, Michigan Association of Middle



East Middle School has been recognized as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform.



East Middle School students celebrated their School to Watch designation at a recent presentation.

School Educators, Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association.

"It is an honor to be designated and recognized as a School to Watch," East science teacher Renee Nowaske said. "East is dedicated to preparing students to be lifelong learners ready for the world, even as the world is changing."

"The East staff works diligently on a daily basis to provide high-quality instruction and support services to our students in hopes of creating lifelong learners," East social studies teacher Tammie Groth said. "Our dedication to the success of our students is reflected in the wide array of extracurricular activities we choose to sponsor. We want to provide our students with many avenues to explore their interests and develop new ones."

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# 'RETIRED' CEO TURNS TO EDUCATION

'The most rewarding thing I've done': Dick Munro, a youth teacher and mentor

ANNIKA HAMMERSCHLAG  
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NAPLES, Florida - When asked about the three Purple Hearts he earned while serving in the Korean War, Dick Munro responds like he does to any question about his accomplishments: with absurd modesty.

"It doesn't mean I'm a hero — it means I didn't duck," he laughed.

Munro, 86, is the former chairman and CEO of Time Inc., which later became Time Warner, and a current education activist in Naples, Florida.

He began his career at Time Inc. as a trainee and retired 40 years later as top dog.

"I just went to work every day. It just happened," he said.

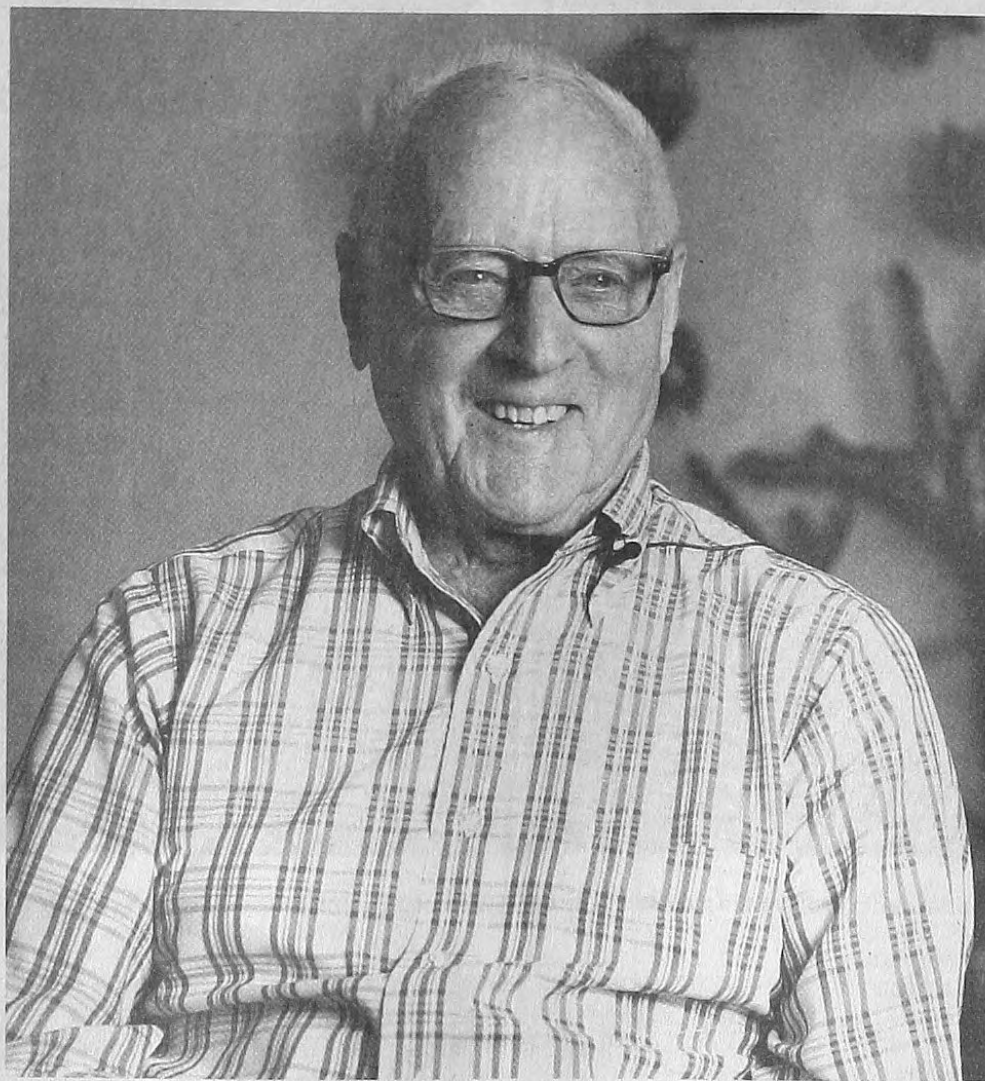
After Munro "retired" from Time Inc., he took to sitting on corporate boards — 20 of them, he counts. They include prestigious companies, foundations and universities such as Genentech, IBM and Columbia. And that 25-year stint as director of the United Negro College Fund.

When Munro moved to Naples, a resort town known for its white-sand beaches and exclusive golf courses, he had no intention of relapsing into his philanthropic addictions. But then he peeked behind the luxury condos and five-star restaurants.

"I had no idea that just a stone's throw away there were people hanging on by their fingernails," Munro said.

Thirty miles northeast of Naples lies Immokalee, home to a community of Latino farmworkers. Many live in trailers. Others cram into one-bedroom bungalows with their entire family.

"It was mind-boggling, seeing how these poor people lived. There's an underbelly to this county that most people don't know about," he said.



KATIE KLANN/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Dick Munro didn't have to look far from his Naples home to find his passion. He works with Champions for Learning, which pairs kids with retirees who help them study and get jobs.

Munro began teaching at a Head Start program at a low-income school and joined a college scholarship selection committee for underprivileged students. He took on two mentees from Immokalee and helped them with college applications. One, the son of tomato pickers, now interns at a cyber security firm.

Working with Immokalee children, he said, is "the most rewarding thing I've done. Their smiles will just melt you."

## Dick Munro

**Location:** Naples, Florida

**Age:** 86

**Profession:** Retired chairman and CEO of Time Inc.; education activist

**Mission:** Empower children to reach their full potential.

## Q&A WITH DICK MUNRO

**What does it mean to you to be an American?**

It means that I was fortunate to be born in a country the world envies. A country whose democratic principles have had an enormous positive impact on the world almost since its founding. We have set an example of civility, generosity, diplomacy and when required, power. With all that comes the responsibility of leadership. And we should cherish that responsibility.

Yet, despite all of our enormous resources, we are becoming a nation divided, angry and lacking the civility we once knew. Issues of income in equality, racism and the treatment of immigrants are disturbing. But, I am an optimist. There will always be more good guys than bad guys.

**What moment touched and motivated you to launch this effort?**

My first exposure to poverty occurred years ago when I was involved with Save The Children. I visited Indian Reservations in the West, the Mississippi Delta and parts of Appalachia. It was an eye-opener, to say the least. I never realized parts of the USA were similar to third-world countries. Here in Naples, my first visit to Immokalee was equally shocking. This is a remarkable community of good, hard-working farmworkers, many of whom live in severe poverty.

**What gives you hope or what concerns you?**

Public schools give me hope. The privilege to be exposed to students, teachers and administrators gives me hope. I wish more citizens could have the opportunity to visit classrooms to observe the learning process in action, to observe the professionalism and passion the great majority of teachers bring to their classrooms every day.

**What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?**

There will never be enough volunteers. Naples is made up of extremely generous and civic-minded people, but there is still a whole bunch of them who don't become involved. This is unfortunate for both them and our community. Seniors have lots of skills to contribute. Many simply have not been exposed to the challenges we face. You really do get more out of volunteering than you put in.

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# Healthy Kick-Off

May 20, 2017 | Noon - 3 p.m.

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- Health Screenings: Skin Cancer, Blood Pressure and More
- Meet Players from AFC Ann Arbor, Semi Pro Soccer Team
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- Teddy Bear Clinic

**All activities are free**

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[stjoeshealth.org/healthy-kick-off](http://stjoeshealth.org/healthy-kick-off)

LO-0000318984

# Westland woman receives her MIA brother's medals

David Veselenak  
hometownlife.com

It's been more than 60 years since Cpl. James Ross went missing during the Korean War. On Tuesday, his legacy lived on through his sister at her Westland home.

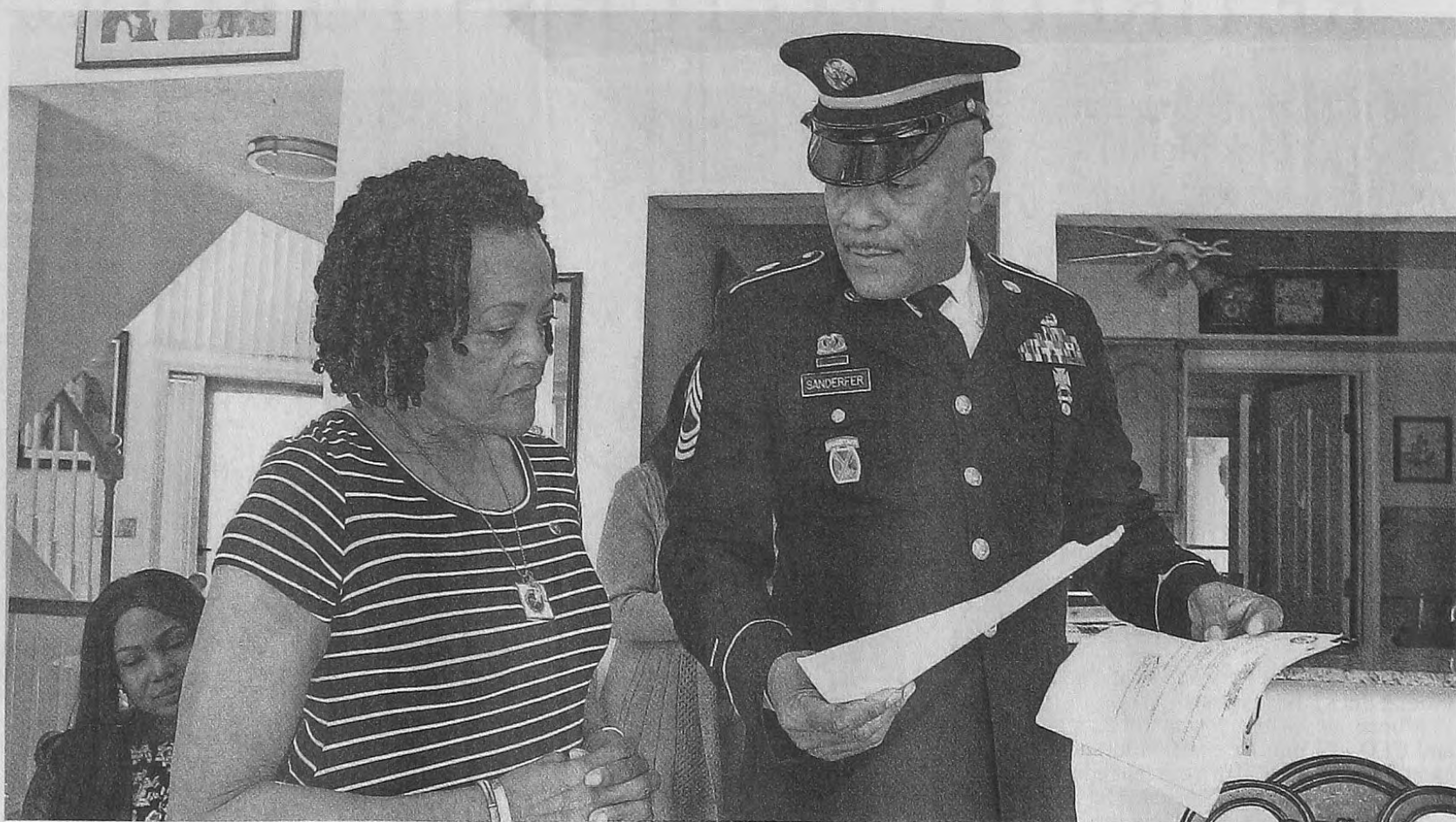
Molly Ross-McMillan received several medals the U.S. Army determined her brother had earned during his military service in the early 1950s. They were presented to her by Army Master Sgt. William Sanderfer. Those awards included the Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman Badge and Republic of Korea War Service Medal, among others.

"Ms. Ross-McMillan, as a representative of the United State Army, it is my highest privilege to present to you these awards," Sanderfer said, kneeling before her. "Let them be a symbol of the grateful appreciation that our nation feels for the distinguished service rendered to our country and our flag by your brother. May God bless you and may God keep you."

Ross-McMillan, who keeps a display honoring her brother over the door to her home, said the medal presentation was something that took more than a year.

She attended a three-day event in Washington, where she gathered information and contacts for reaching out to see if her brother was due to receive any awards.

"After 50-some years, the army contacted a family member and it was forwarded to me," she said. "A year later, I



Master Sgt. William Sanderfer explains the medals and certificates earned by Mollie Ross-McMillan's brother, James Ross, who is still missing in action in South Korea.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

received a call, stating they had found all the awards."

It was an event, she said, that sparked great emotion, especially when she looked at a certain medal Sanderfer brought with him.

"I'm breathless," she said. "Chills go over me when I look at the Purple Heart."

She said her brother enrolled in the military when he was 15 and decided he wasn't going to work in the fields of Alabama. He was declared missing when he was 18.

"In that era, he was able to join the service without any questions asked," she said. "He became MIA at 18. He really didn't get to enjoy



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

James Ross was 18 years old when he went missing during the Korean War.

his life, that's the emotional part of it."

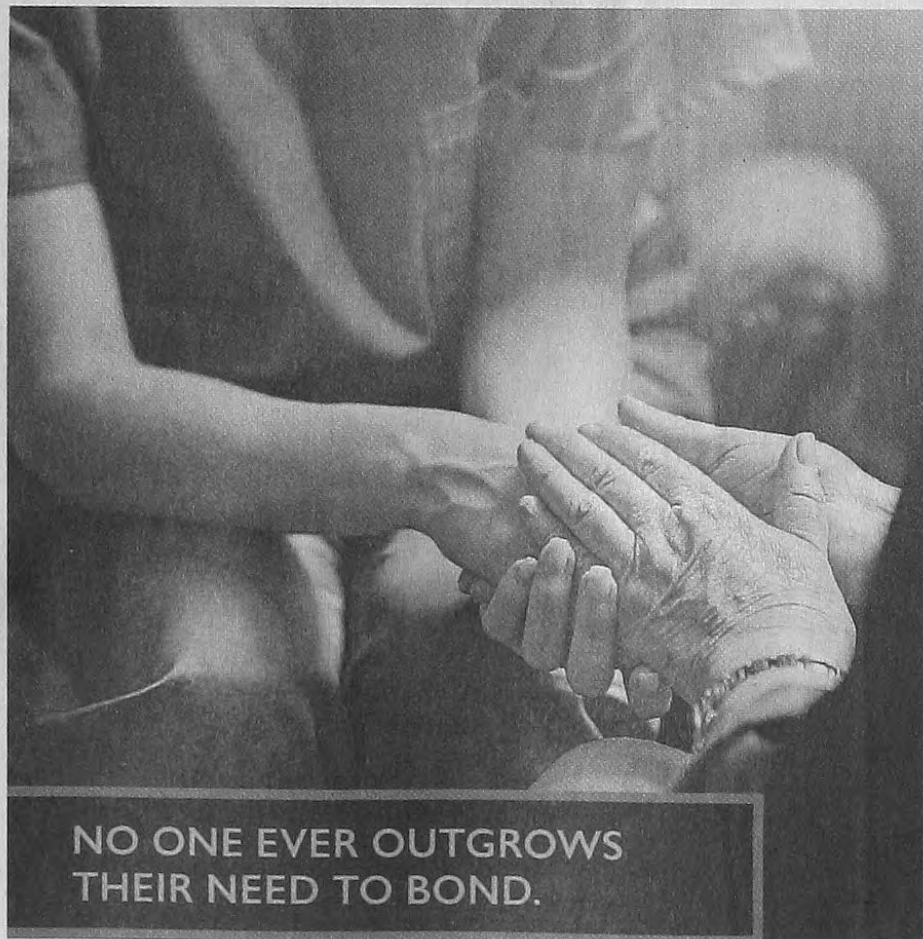
dveselenak@hometownlife.com  
734-678-6728  
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Purple Heart, earned by Cpl. James Ross, missing in action in South Korea.

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## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for Pottery Wheels. Specifications of the Request for Proposal (RFP) are available on at PCCSK12.com, under departments and business office or by contacting Kristen Hennessey, Director of Procurement, for Plymouth Canton Community Schools at [kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com](mailto:kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com). Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals at PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on/or before **Monday, May 15, 2017 at 1 p.m.** Bids shall be labeled: Bid document enclosed- "Pottery Wheels Bid." The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education  
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools  
Anupam Chugh Sidhu

Published: May 7 & May 11, 2017

## INVITATION TO BID 2017 UST SYSTEM UPGRADE - TRANSPORTATION FACILITY NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Board of Education of Northville Public Schools is accepting Prime Contractor firm bids for all labor, materials, equipment and all other services to complete the Underground Storage Tank (UST) System upgrade work at the Northville Public Schools.

Project specification documents will be available at [www.archenvgroup.com](http://www.archenvgroup.com), or picked up at Arch Environmental Group's office at 37720 Interchange Drive, Farmington Hills MI, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. starting May 3, 2017. Bidders must notify Arch Environmental Group (24) hours in advance of pick-up, and there is a non-refundable \$50 per set charge for all hard copies of the project specifications.

Your sealed bid proposal will be accepted **NO LATER THAN 3:00PM, THURSDAY, MAY 18TH, 2017 TO: NORTHVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION-ROOM 307, 501 WEST MAIN STREET, NORTHVILLE, MI 48167.** Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud beginning at 3:00 P.M., May 18th, 2017 at the Northville Board of Education-Room 104, 501 West Main Street, Northville, MI 48167.

**A mandatory pre-bid conference is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2017 beginning at 10:00 am at the NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FACILITY, 504 WEST EIGHT MILE ROAD, NORTHVILLE MI.**

All contracts to be entered into by the Northville Public Schools must and will comply with the equal opportunity laws of the State of Michigan.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet.

All bidders must provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid proposal. The bid proposal will be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Northville Public Schools, Board of Education or the Northville Public Schools, Superintendent. The District will not accept a bid proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Proposals must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Northville Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each proposal over \$23,417 and must be submitted on the bid proposal form furnished with the specifications. Proposals must also include a performance bond and labor and material payment bonds in the amount of 100% of the Contract price. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of sixty (60) days.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part; to award contract to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the owner.

Questions regarding the project specifications should be addressed to Mr. George Ontko, Arch Environmental Group, at [george@archenvgroup.com](mailto:george@archenvgroup.com) or by phone at (248) 229-8074.

Roland Hwang, Secretary  
Northville Public Schools, Board of Education

Published: May 7, 2017

LO-0000219475

3x8

# Milford's Cowboy Church lassos the faithful

Sharon Dargay  
hometownlife.com

When Mark Bernabei and his family heard about Cowboy Church at Miracle Ranch in Milford, they were ready to saddle up and pray.

The Clinton Township man, his wife and three daughters all take riding lessons at the ranch. They also attend church regularly in Sterling Heights, but they were intrigued by the idea of a Christian event that promised equestrian demonstrations and a free chuck wagon dinner in addition to prayer and spiritual lessons.

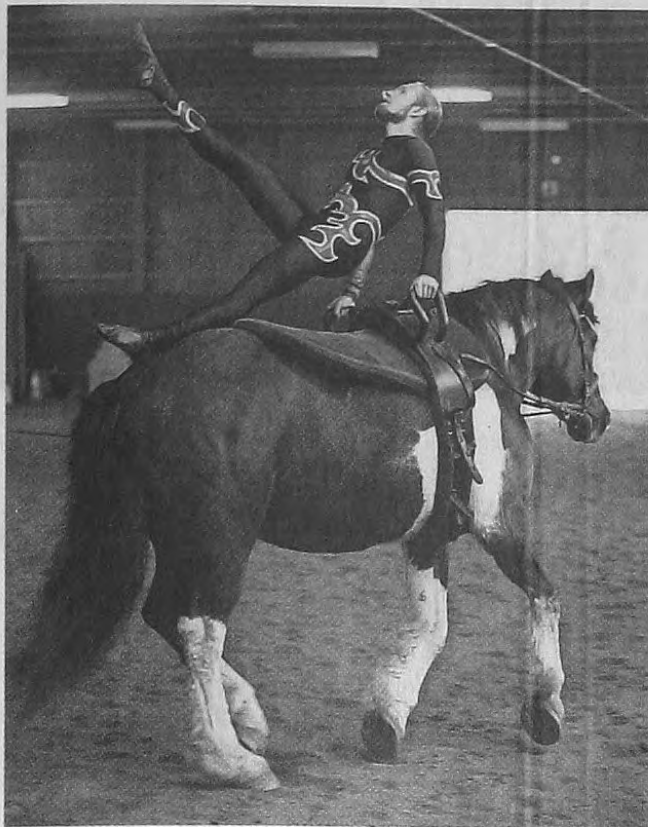
"This is our first Cowboy Church," Bernabei said as he ate pizza, pasta and salad after attending the hour-long celebration April 29. "It was awesome."

The family arrived early to stake out front row seats in what would become a packed viewing area set up just outside the riding ring in the ranch barn. Bernabei's daughter, Sophia, 9, was close enough to touch a pony that stuck its nose through the metal barrier in search of a treat. All three daughters left the event with a free toy and the family ate dinner together with other attendees in the ranch classroom afterward.

"More churches should be like this," Bernabei said. "You've got music. You've got horses. You've got acrobats, a story, a message and they've got free food."

That combination of horse and faith activities drew some ribbing from late night talk show host Stephen Colbert during a sketch on his CBS network show last week. Quoting from a Milford Times story that previewed the event, Colbert said the gathering would include a scripture lesson from a cowboy perspective, then he added a punchline that "instead of wine, Jesus turns water into sarsaparilla."

Cowboy Church organizer Dominic Francese, an ordained minister, and ranch owners, Karen Rach-St. Clair, who also runs the Miracle Ranch



Steven Patterson presents some maneuvers while astride a cantering Percheron.



The Rev. Dominic Francese, pastor of Oak Point Church, offers a benediction at the start of the Cowboy Church service.

Riding Academy, and her husband Don "Cowboy Don" St. Clair, took the joking in stride.

"It was good. It could have been way worse," Francese said. "This

must be a God thing, because he could have mocked the whole thing. He did not do that. He had some good lines."

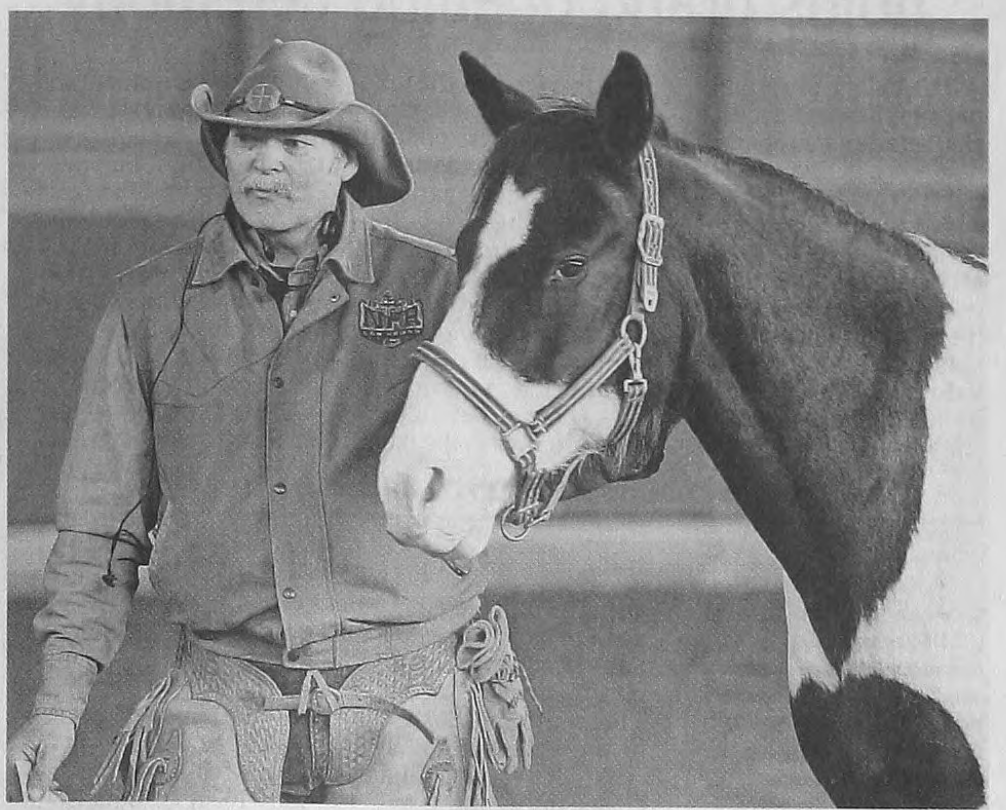
"That's what he does. It was a funny take. We found amusement in it," Rach-St. Clair said.

Her husband said the segment was good exposure for Cowboy Church.

"He used the line that a religion had started in a barn," St. Clair said.

### Faith experience

The couple and Francese have offered Cowboy Church on a seasonal basis since 2015. The event draws horse owners, horse lovers, church goers and those with little to no church experience.



Don Rach-St. Clair talks about the story behind his horse Zoro during the Cowboy Church at his Miracle Ranch stables and farm in Milford Township. Rach-St. Clair, his wife Karen and Dominic Francese of Oak Point Church teamed for an entertaining and spiritual look at God through horseback riding, showmanship and the bond of man and horse.

"There are so many people out there that want a spiritual experience because they are spiritual people, but they've had a negative church experience," Rach-St. Clair said. "It's providing an outlet for that, for people who have had a negative experience in church, but still want to pursue God."

"This was something we could do for the community."

Cowboy Church also offers simple lessons in kindness. Miracle Ranch uses "natural horsemanship" in training and caring for its charges. Horses may enter and leave the barn day or night. Rach-St. Clair and

Cowboy Don establish themselves as leaders, "but not in an overly dominant way," Rach-St. Clair said.

"It's letting the horse be a horse. They are loved and appreciated. We communicate in ways horses understand," she said.

### Horse vaulting

For riders Rachel Harris, 11, of Commerce Township, Jenna Crantas, 16, of Highland Township and Steven Patterson, 34, of Ypsilanti, Cowboy Church was a chance to demonstrate their vaulting skills on horseback in the ring. Individually, then in pairs, they posed in gymnastic-style

stances, balancing atop Ranger, the horse used for vaulting at the ranch.

Rachel slid into a split on the back of the horse while he trotted around the ring. Patterson and Jenna looked similar to pairs figure skaters as they posed together on Ranger's back.

"I loved it the first time I tried it," said Jenna, who has vaulted for three years.

The next Cowboy Church is set for 5 p.m. Saturday, June 10, at Miracle Ranch, 3380 Morrow Lane. For more information, go to cowboychurchonline.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

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## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for Dishwashers and Installation. Specifications of the Request for Proposal (RFP) are available on at PCCSK12.com, under departments and business office or by contacting Kristen Hennessey, Director of Procurement, for Plymouth Canton Community Schools at [kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com](mailto:kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com). Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals at PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on/or before **Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 11 a.m.** Bids shall be labeled: Bid document enclosed- "Dishwashers and Installation Bid." The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education  
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools  
Anupam Chugh Sidhu

Published: April 30 & May 7, 2017

## PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for Cameras and Accessories. Specifications of the Request for Proposal (RFP) are available on at PCCSK12.com, under departments and business office or by contacting Kristen Hennessey, Director of Procurement, for Plymouth Canton Community Schools at [kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com](mailto:kristen.hennessey@pccsk12.com). Proposals will be accepted as specified in the Request for Proposals at PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 on/or before **Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 10 a.m.** Bids shall be labeled: Bid document enclosed- "Cameras and Accessory Bid." The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education  
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools  
Anupam Chugh Sidhu

Published: April 30 & May 7, 2017

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# New pet store in Livonia holds grand opening ceremony

Pet Valu, a premium pet supplies and accessories retailer, has opened a new store in Livonia.

Its grand opening, which took place recently at the store, 30997 Five Mile, gave the community a chance to check out the signature pet products and services Pet Valu is known for, such as its self-serve dog-wash stations where customers

are provided all the amenities — without having to clean up. Also popular are its lines of adorable toys, gourmet treats, fashionable accessories, cozy furnishings and everyday pet supplies.

The Livonia Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Dennis Wright participated in a ribbon-cutting

As part of Pet Valu's commitment to the com-

munity, each store partners with at least one local animal shelter or group to facilitate pet adoptions and fundraising activities. Pet Valu's partners in Livonia include Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Happy Days Dog and Cat Rescue, both of which were expected to show up during the grand opening celebrations last week.



A ribbon-cutting took place at the new Pet Valu shop that recently opened.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Send calendar items to LIV-OEnewstip@hometownlife.com. Submission deadline for Thursday paper is the previous Friday. For the Sunday paper, submit items by the prior Wednesday.

### Noble hours

State Rep. Jeff Noble of Plymouth will host an open office hour 9-10 a.m. Monday, May 8, at the Plymouth Township Office Multi-Function Room, 9955 N. Haggerty Road. No appointment is necessary. Those unable to attend may contact Noble at 517-373-3816 or via email at JeffNoble@house.mi.gov.

### Coffee hours

Wayne County Commissioner Glenn S. Anderson will host coffee hours in Garden City and Westland with elected officials from the state of Michigan on Monday, May 8. Coffee hour in Westland will be co-hosted with state Sen. Hoon-Yung Hoppood and state Reps. Robert Kosowski and Jewell Jones, 9-10 a.m. at Mr. Mike's Grill, 1 6047 N. Wayne Road.

Coffee hour in Garden City will be 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Michigan room at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood Street, co-hosted with state Sen. David Knezek and state Rep. Jewell Jones.

### Art gallery shows off artists

Dickerson Art Gallery in collaboration with Three Cities Art Club will host a special exhibition of its 10 artists beginning later this month in Westland's Gallery at City Hall.

The exhibition runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through May 30 (plus weekends during special events) in the gallery, 36300 Warren Road.

### Sandburg Library now open

The Sandburg Library in Livonia is now open

with the following hours: noon to 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; and closed Friday through Sunday.

Noble Library will be closed until May 8.

### Silver Strings Dulcimer Society performs

The Friends of the Livonia Library will present the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society in a concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 7, at the Robert and Janet Bennett Library in Livonia. On a hot afternoon in July 1983 this group met in a park in Wyandotte to review what they had learned together. This was the beginning of the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society. The group has now grown to over 100 members playing a variety of acoustic instruments such as the Hammered dulcimer, guitar, fiddle, autoharp, ukulele, and harmonica. The official theme song is Westphalia Waltz. They perform for many meetings, workshops, and other related activities. The of the organization is to play the hammered dulcimer with other instruments for their enjoyment. A free reception will follow the program in the Michigan Room. For more information, call 734-466-2495.

### Firearms training for ladies

The Michigan 14th District Republican Committee will host a Ladies Night for firearm training and proficiency training 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, at Firing Line Indoor Gun Range and Gun Shop, 33000 Ford Road, Westland. The event is a fundraiser, but Firing Line is providing the training. The cost is \$40. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mi-14th-cd-gop-cmte-invites-you-to-ladies-night-firearm->

safety-proficiency-registration-33364162107

### 3D Photography club meeting

The club meets at 7-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 10, at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, just south of Five Mile.

The meeting will feature a special presentation of "DSS History in Candid 3D Pictures" by club VP Doug Kaller. After a refreshment break, we'll conclude with our final monthly club 3D image competition of the season.

We invite everyone to join us to see lots of award-winning 3D images. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome. Stereo cameras, 3D movies, and educational videos are available for members to borrow or rent. Contact [www.Detroit3D.org](http://www.Detroit3D.org), or call Dennis at 248-398-3591.

### Hearing Loss meeting

Dr. Candice Colby-Scott will present "Common Ear Problems and Solutions." There is no cost and is open to all. The meeting is at 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesday, May 10, at the Westland Library Contact Tony 734-664-3297, [afcrack@comcast.net](mailto:afcrack@comcast.net)

### Credit score seminar

Catholic Vantage Financial will host a credit report workshop for the public on Wednesday, May 10. The workshop "Know Your Credit - Know Your Score" will be held 6-8 p.m. at the credit union's Plymouth branch, 8817 Sheldon Road, at the northwest corner of Sheldon and Joy roads.

During the workshop, attendees will learn about factors that can affect your credit report, how to get a free report and how to make a dispute. Guests will also

receive valuable tips and real strategies that work to help improve your credit score. New borrowers will also find out how to establish credit and earn a good rating. Attendees are welcome to bring their personal credit reports and scores to the workshop or request one from a member service representative. To attend this free workshop, register online at [www.mycvf.org/credit-workshop/](http://www.mycvf.org/credit-workshop/) or call 734-432-0212.

### Romanian music festival

The American Romanian Music Festival String Quartet returns to the Straight Farmhouse for Musical Exhibit III. An early evening of delightful quartet music.

The concert will be at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 13. The tickets are \$30 per person and include a wine and cheese afterglow. Tickets are available at the Straight Farmhouse home of the Garden City Historical Museum, 6221 Merriman Road, from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday or call 734-838-0650.

### Touch-A-Truck

The public is invited to the Touch-a-Truck charity event, presented by the Livonia AM Rotary Interact Club from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at Rotary Park in Livonia.

Touch-A-Truck, which is a free hands-on family event that provides a unique opportunity for children and adults alike to explore vehicles of all types, including public service, emergency, utility, construction, landscaping, transportation, delivery, and just plain awesome - all in one place.

Guests can hear sirens, watch the tractor bucket move, learn how they operate all up close and hands on. Children will be allowed to touch

their favorite vehicles, get behind the wheel, and meet the people who help to build, protect and serve our community. Refreshments, such as ice cream, pop and chips will be for sale.

Donations are being accepted to benefit the Livonia Police and Fire Departments, Livonia Public Schools, Foundation and the Wayne County Animal Shelter.

### Historical society banquet

At 6 p.m. Thursday, May 18, the Livonia Historical Society will hold its annual banquet with a program on "Detroit Baseball" presented by Jeremy Dimick of the Detroit Historical Society. Tickets are \$16 in advance. Call 734-464-9450 to order. Deadline is Monday, May 15. The event will be held at the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead, Livonia's Historical Park. Enter the parking lot off Newburgh Road, just south of Eight Mile Road and in front of the house.

### Forever Families 5K

On Saturday, May 20, Forever Families will host its third annual 5K Fun Run/Walk for Foster Care Awareness at Nankin Mills Park in Westland. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. 5K Fun Run/Walk start at 10 a.m. Event also features a Kids Fun Run for children 10 and under, as well as a post-race celebration and picnic. Supporters of all ages, foster/adoptive families and health enthusiasts are invited to hit the pavement, get moving and raise awareness and funds for children in need of a loving, nurturing home.

To register for the Forever Families 5K Fun Run/Walk for Foster Care Awareness or for more event info, go to [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com) or contact Sunny Kerschenheiter at [skerschenheiter@forev-](mailto:skerschenheiter@forev-)

er-families.org or 734.762.0909. To learn more about Forever Families' quest to give children in need a forever home, go to [forever-families.org](http://forever-families.org).

### St. Colette car show

Customs to Classics, everything you see at the Dream Cruise standing still just for you. St. Colette is the place to kick off summer in a cool ride. The Dooley Knights are hosting this charitable event from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June 3 on the church grounds. The lot will open at 8 a.m. for registration (\$15 per participant). There will be food/beverages, music, raffles and a great time for all. St. Colette Church is located at 17600 Newburgh Road, just north of Six Mile Road, in Livonia.

For additional info, go to [www.dooleyknights5492.com](http://www.dooleyknights5492.com) or contact [bobdebrais@hotmail.com](mailto:bobdebrais@hotmail.com).

### Seth Meyers arrives

Late-night show host Seth Meyers will headline the 25th annual comedy night hosted Saturday, June 17, by Forgotten Harvest. Tickets may be purchased at Fox Theater's box office or at [www.olympiaentertainment.com](http://www.olympiaentertainment.com). They range from \$25 to \$150. This event offers an opportunity for Forgotten Harvest and their supporters to celebrate their achievements in the community. Contact Nicole Heins at 248-268-7521 or [emailnheins@forgottenharvest.org](mailto:emailnheins@forgottenharvest.org) for ticket concerns or questions.

### Widowed Friends

Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group for widowed men/women hosting Men's Breakfast, 9 a.m. Steve's Family Restaurant (second and fourth Thursday of the month) 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Contact Dick at 313-534-0399

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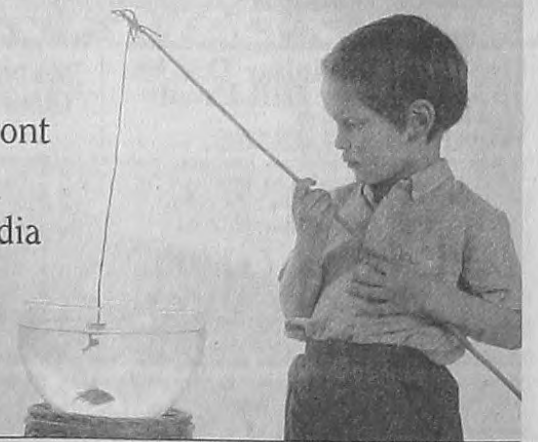
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# National 'Mail Call' exhibit at Yankee Air Museum

A name is shouted out, and a parcel is handed through the crowd to its eager recipient — mail call is a moment when the front line and home front connect. Letters, news and packages from home unite families, boost morale and in wartime, elevate the ordinary to the extraordinary.

The traveling version of the National Postal Museum's permanent exhibition, "Mail Call" explores the history of America's military postal system, and examines how even in today's era of instant communication, troops overseas continue to treasure mail delivered from home. Organized and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), the exhibition tells the fascinating story of military mail and communication — from the American Revolution to current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The exhibition will be on display at Yankee Air Museum in Belleville through Aug. 6, before continuing on its nationwide tour.

"We are very pleased to bring 'Mail Call' to southeastern Michigan," said Kevin Walsh, executive director of the Yankee Air Museum. "This is the natural encore to our recent project that assembled and mailed nearly 100 care packages to our troops in the Middle East. Yankee Air Museum proudly joins the past with the present as we look to the future."

Throughout American history, the military and postal service have combined forces to deliver mail under challenging—often extreme—circumstances. Mail call forges a vital link with home, whether it takes place at headquarters or in hostile territory, on a submarine or in the desert. On the battlefield and at home, mail has long sus-



Unloading mail aboard the USS Nimitz in 2003.

PH1 ARLO ABRAHAMSON | U.S. NAVY

tained the vital connections between military service members and their family and friends. With compelling documents, photographs, illustrations and audio stations, "Mail Call" celebrates the importance of this correspondence. Visitors can discover how military mail communication has changed throughout history, learn about the armed forces postal system and experience military mail through interesting objects and correspondence both written and recorded on audiotape. The exhibit offers an appreciation of the importance of military mail and the hard work that has gone into connecting service men and women to their government, community and loved ones at home.

"Mail Call" features a number of items that bring to life the story of military mail. One such highlight is a kit with supplies for "Victory Mail," a microfilm process developed in World War II to dramatically shrink the volume and weight of personal letters. Beginning in 1942, V-Mail used standardized stationery and microfilm processing to produce lighter, smaller car-

go—150,000 microfilmed letters could fit in one mailbag. Visitors will also gain access to dramatic firsthand records and heartfelt sentiments through excerpts from letters exchanged between writers on the front line and the home front. The exhibit also explores how the military postal system works today and describes the new ways the men and women of the armed forces are communicating with home.

From the earliest handwritten letters that took days or even months to deliver, to today's instant communication via email or the Internet, "Mail Call" presents the changing look and format of mail pieces through the decades. It also examines the complex operations systems set in place to ensure safe delivery, and it explores the incalculable role mail plays in maintaining the morale of American soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen.

"Mail has always played a very important role in the lives of the men and women of our armed forces and their families at home," said exhibit curator Lynn Heidelbaugh of the Na-

tional Postal Museum. "Writing and receiving correspondence has a significant power to shape morale. The relationship between mail and morale is expressed time and again in messages from deployed military personnel, and it is a compelling reason behind the extraordinary efforts to maintain timely mail service."

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for 65 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. Exhibition descriptions and tour schedules are available at [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).

The National Postal Museum is devoted to presenting the colorful and engaging history of the nation's mail service and showcasing one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of stamps and philatelic material in the world. For more information visit [www.postal.museum.si.edu](http://www.postal.museum.si.edu).

Yankee Air Museum is located at 47884 D Street, Belleville, on the grounds of historic Willow Run Airport. The museum is

open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

## Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers  
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

### Boucher



**Rudrick E., M.D.** age 79, died in Cleveland, Ohio, on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, from complications of leukemia. He is survived by his wife Mary Ellen (nee Keyes), three children, Ed (Laura), Michelle Riddell (Steve), and Denise Van Pelt (Josh), ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Family will receive friends Friday, May 12th 5-8 p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile) 248-549-0500. Funeral Mass Saturday 11 a.m. at St. Hugo of the Hills Stone Chapel, 2215 Opdyke Rd., Bloomfield Hills. In lieu of flowers, family graciously suggests memorial tributes to the Cleveland Clinic or the Antrim Conservation Districts. View obituary and share memories at [AJDesmond.com](http://AJDesmond.com)

A.J. DESMOND & SONS  
Funeral Directors

### BRINKS



**DAVID EDWARD** passed away at his home April 8, 2017, at age 79. He was born March 28, 1938 in South Haven, Michigan to Jacob and Evelyn Brinks. He grew up in Plymouth, Michigan, where he worked on the Brinks family farm and roadside market on Ann Arbor Road. He was a long time member of 4H, where he was a 7 time Grand Champion in Dairy Cattle. After graduating from Plymouth High School, where his friends would remember him as "Boomer", he attended one year at Michigan State University, continuing to be a lifelong Spartan Fan. David married his high school sweetheart, Marilyn Beth Outman on April 23, 1960. They celebrated more than 53 years together. Marilyn preceded him in death December 12, 2013. They moved to Flint, Michigan where Dave sold cars, before he got a job in Quality Control at Buick until he retired. After retiring, he helped run Marilyn's porcelain business. They enjoyed traveling, classic car shows and gardening. David took great pride in his beautiful flower-filled back yard, which hosted the family gatherings over the years. He was an avid golfer for many years, and enjoyed elk hunting trips to Dutton Colorado with family and friends. He taught his kids to play golf and coached their Little League baseball teams. Surviving are children: Daniel & Connie, Christopher & Renee, and Sheryl & husband Dan Wood. He also leaves his grandchildren: Candace, Emily, Taralyn, Jacob, Eric, Kristen, Joshua, Hannah, Heather, Sarah, and Nathan. His loving great grandchildren: Kylie, Gony, Sarah, Aaliyah, Harper, Charlotte, Benjamin, Max and Jaynie; Brother Don and Josie Brinks, and sister Sue and Larry Shade. He is preceded in death by brothers: Ken Brinks, and James Brinks. Dave and Marilyn's house was filled with love and laughter. He will be greatly missed by all.



Paying tribute to the life of your loved one.

### de Stigter

**Priscilla** Age 94, passed away April 29, 2017. Beloved wife of Cornelius for 64 years. Loving mother of Helen Geglio (Michael), Alice de Stigter (Louis Mitchell), Beth Jorgensen (Scott). Cherished grandmother of 8 and great-grandmother of 1. Priscilla graduated from Knox College in 1944, she was active in the Livonia AAUW, National Association of Teachers of Singing and a member of Salem United Church of Christ. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salem United Church of Christ Memorial Fund.

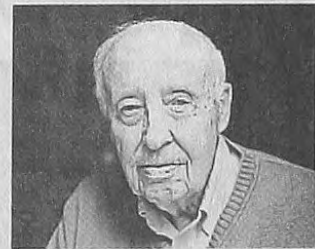
### FINLEY JR.



**DR. JOHN "JACK" H.** age 88 passed into eternal life on April 27, 2017. Beloved husband of Genevieve for 59 years. Loving father of, Michael Finley (Michelle Miller), Mary (Gary) Straffon, Maureen (Paul) Kaplan, Bridgit (Brian) Hermann, Molly Finley (Paul Riccio) and Colleen Finley (Bill Bertolet). Cherished grandfather of RJ and Casey Finley, Megan Straffon, Lauren and Craig Kaplan, John and James Hermann and Nicholas Riccio. Services have been held. Charitable donations may be offered to: The Ted Lindsay Foundation, Midwestern University (Glendale, Arizona and Oakbrook, Illinois) or the Western University of Health Sciences (Pomona, California). Obituary and condolences at

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### Snyder III



**Benjamin McClellan** Benjamin McClellan Snyder III, the only son of Dorothy Palmer and Benjamin McClellan Snyder Jr., passed away on April 29, 2017 at the age of 96. Born in Philadelphia, Ben lived in his early years between his grandparents in St. Petersburg, Florida and his father in Pennsylvania. As a boy, he attended Camp Cedar Pines in the "Little Grand Canyon" of Pennsylvania where he ultimately purchased a 100 acre farm, his most treasured place on earth. Ben attended the University of North Carolina, graduating with a degree in English, Phi Beta Kappa and becoming a lifetime Tarheels' fan. In 1943, he enlisted in the Air Force and was trained as a bombardier where he flew 41 missions in the Pacific. In 1947, Ben obtained a master's in history from Harvard University. A year later, he accepted a history teaching position at Cranbrook School in Michigan where he worked until his retirement in 1990. During his tenure he served in a number of capacities: history teacher, track coach, Assistant Head, and Director of Special and Summer programs. However, his greatest legacy is the Horizons Upward Bound program he founded at Cranbrook in 1965 to give low income youth from inner city Detroit an opportunity to realize the advantages of higher education. HUB has served over 2000 boys and girls from Greater Detroit for 50 years. A lifelong educator, Ben led a current events discussion group for residents of Ocean View until his final days. Ben is survived by his caring wife Margot, son Ben and his wife, Sarah, daughter Abby and her husband John Bennett, daughter, Amy, and four grandchildren, Abby, David, Donald, and Caroline. In lieu of flowers gifts in his memory can be made to Horizons Upward Bound. To share a memory or condolence, please visit [www.coastalcremationservices.com](http://www.coastalcremationservices.com)

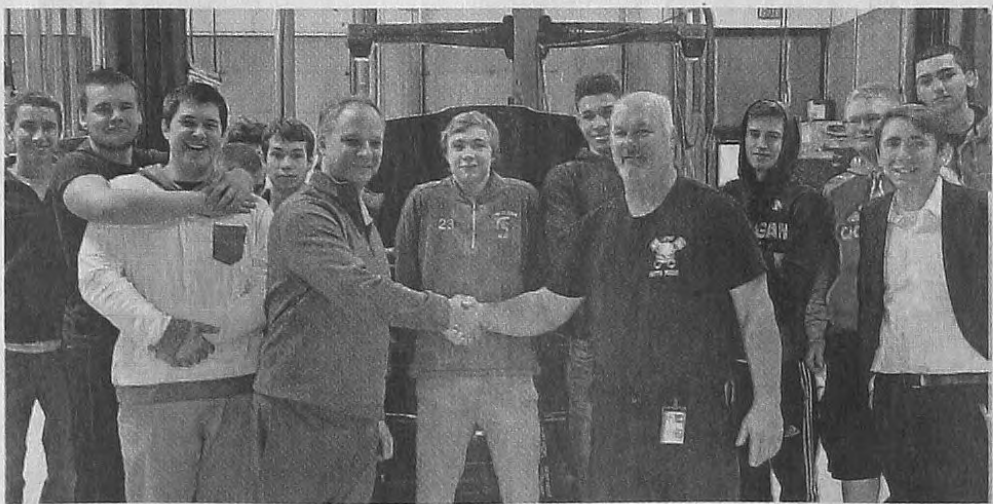
## Mitsubishi donates vehicle to technical center

Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America, Inc., recently donated a Mitsubishi Endeavor, a cross-utility vehicle built by Mitsubishi Motors, to the Livonia Career Technical Center. The LCTC is a high school program in Livonia that provides automotive repair curriculum to junior and senior students.

The vehicle was previously used to demonstrate various Mitsubishi Electric technologies to customers, including engine components, starters, alternators, exhaust gas recirculation valves, radios and more.

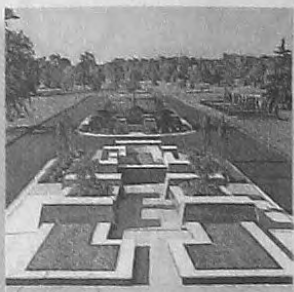
The Endeavor was presented by Clint McDermott, research and development manager, Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America, Inc., and accepted by Greg Osofsky, automotive technical instructor, LCTC. The LCTC will immediately place the crossover SUV into service as a "test vehicle" to teach students about automotive fuse maintenance and technology. "On behalf of the students and staff at the Livonia Career Tech Center, I would like to thank Mitsubishi Electric for the donation of the vehicle to the Automotive Technology Program," Osofsky said. "It has caused a lot of excitement and the students are very eager to begin working on it."

LCTC currently offers automotive programs that focus on disassembly, inspection, diagnostic testing, repair and reassembly.



Clint McDermott, research and development manager, Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America, presents and Greg Osofsky, automotive technical instructor, with a Mitsubishi Endeavor cross-utility vehicle that will be used for educational purposes.

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# Roth IRA a perfect way to help grandchildren

**Q: I have three grandchildren who I would like to help out financially. They're all in their early 20s, single and they all have decent jobs. They make between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year. I want to help them save money for their retirement. The question is what, is the best way of going? I want to give them about \$5,000 apiece every year. All three of my grandchildren have no idea how to handle money and I'm afraid that if I just give them the money, it will be gone relatively quickly. Therefore, I am looking for something that will sort of lock them in. Do you have any suggestions?**

**A:** I think it is great that you want to help



**Rick Bloom**  
MONEY MATTERS

your grandchildren with their retirement. Even though I am sure they would prefer to have the money today, I can almost guarantee you they'll be very appreciative of your decision down the road, because they will have a nest egg that will help them in retirement. I think an excellent vehicle to use for your grandchildren would be a Roth IRA.

Considering the ages of your grandchildren, they are eligible to invest \$5,500 yearly in a Roth IRA. The beauty of the Roth is that the money grows tax-free. Down the

road, when your grandchildren withdraw the money in retirement, they will not have to pay any taxes. Just think how much that money will be worth at the time they need it for retirement. I cannot think of a better investment for a grandchild than investing in a Roth IRA.

There is another opportunity that you should take advantage of that may be as valuable, if not more so, than the money you are contributing. I believe you should also take this opportunity to try to teach the grandchildren about the importance of investing and how investments work. The sooner they learn about investing and its benefits, the better it will be for them. Maybe getting them involved in

*Just think how much that money will be worth ... I cannot think of a better investment for a grandchild than investing in a Roth IRA.*

where and how the money is invested can be a good start.

It is more important than ever that, when people enter the real world and have to be accountable, they know the basics of investing. They don't have to be Warren Buffet, but at the same time, we want them to avoid Bernie Madoff. It would be nice if by the

time someone graduated from high school or even college they had an understanding of investing; the reality is, they don't. For whatever reason, investing and personal finance are sadly neglected. If you don't teach your child or grandchild about personal finance, more likely than not, they won't acquire those skills, putting their financial future in jeopardy. Obviously, life would be difficult if you couldn't read. Trust me, life is also difficult if you don't know how to take care of your finances.

For those parents or grandparents who want to help their adult children in a way other than retirement, some other good options for money would be to pay down outstanding debt such as

a student loan or charge card debt. Typically, I would say charge card debt first because it is non-tax deductible and usually the interest rate is substantially higher than other types of debt.

One last note — if you want to encourage your adult children to invest, think of a matching program where you'll provide some sort of match if they invest their own money. I know you shouldn't have to provide a match to encourage your adult children to invest, but it is what it is. Good luck!

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like him to respond to your questions, email [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*

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### PUBLIC NOTICE Regular Meeting

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its regular meeting May 16, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Room on the main level of the Library at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 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:

Sandra Young, Administrative Assistant  
Plymouth District Library  
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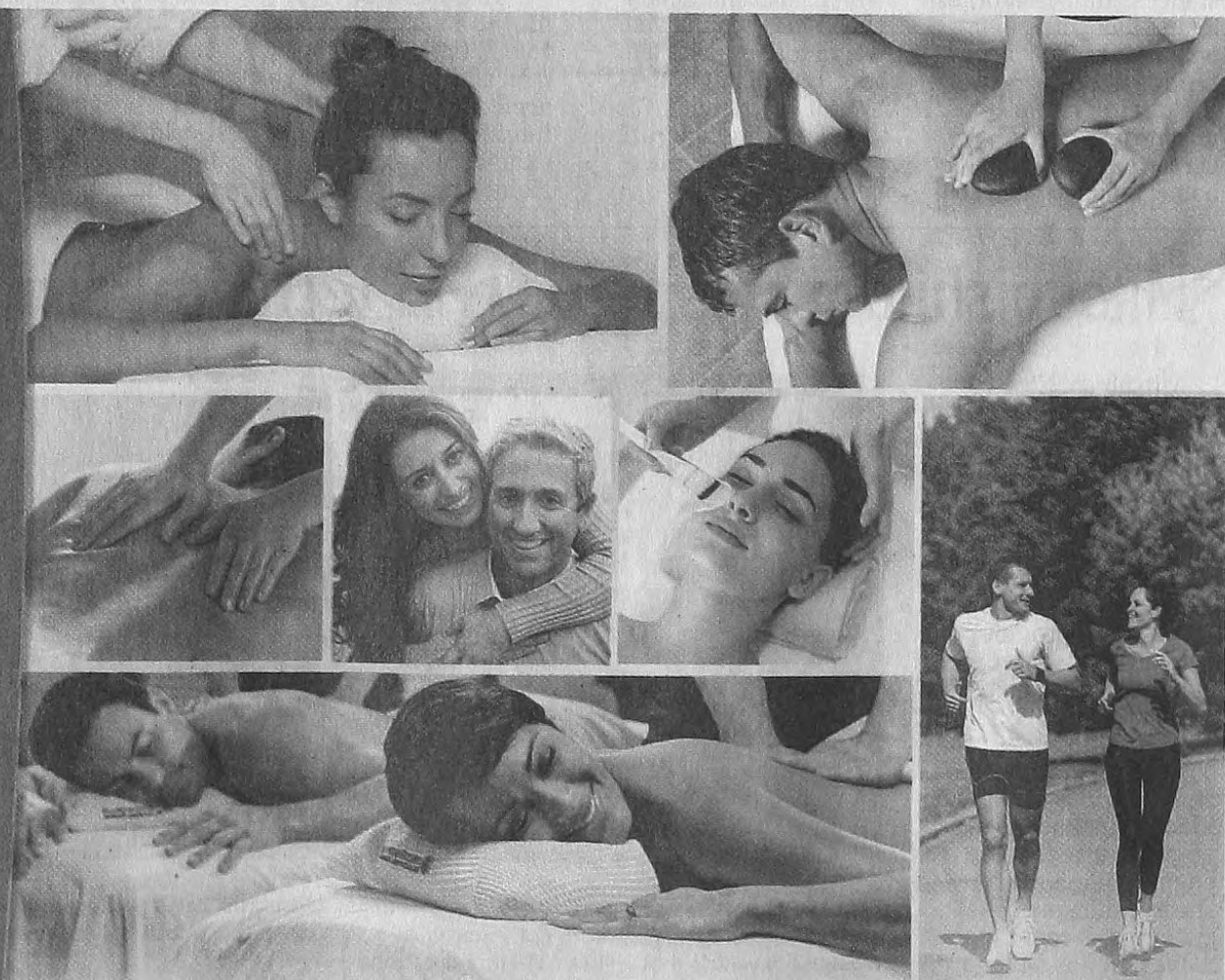
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# SPORTS

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 248-926-2237

**PREP PROFILE**



Poised and ready during a recent Salem softball game is Morgan Overaitis, a University of Michigan commit.

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

## SHE'S NOT STAR-STRUCK

Future Wolverine Overaitis keeps nose to grindstone as she works to lift Rocks, improve her already stellar game

**Tim Smith**  
 hometownlife.com

When Morgan Overaitis is away from the softball field, she is a very humble and unassuming young woman.

Put the Salem junior and University of Michigan commit between the white lines, however, and she is as driven and



Overaitis

ferocious as they come — with simultaneous goals of lifting her game while helping the Rocks (or Beverly Bandits during travel competition) post victories.

What else would you expect from a future Wolverine?

"I'm hoping to hit a few more home runs this year," Overaitis, 17, said during a recent Salem practice. "I'm at one right now. I had eight last year, so I'm hoping to beat that."

"I guess I just want all percentages to be higher than they've been," she added. "I think these goals help me push myself."

In 2016, with the shortstop-pitcher

See **OVERAITIS**, Page B2

**GIRLS SOCCER**

## Rocks, Mustangs go down to the wire

KLAA Central rivals don't let tough weather conditions slow them down

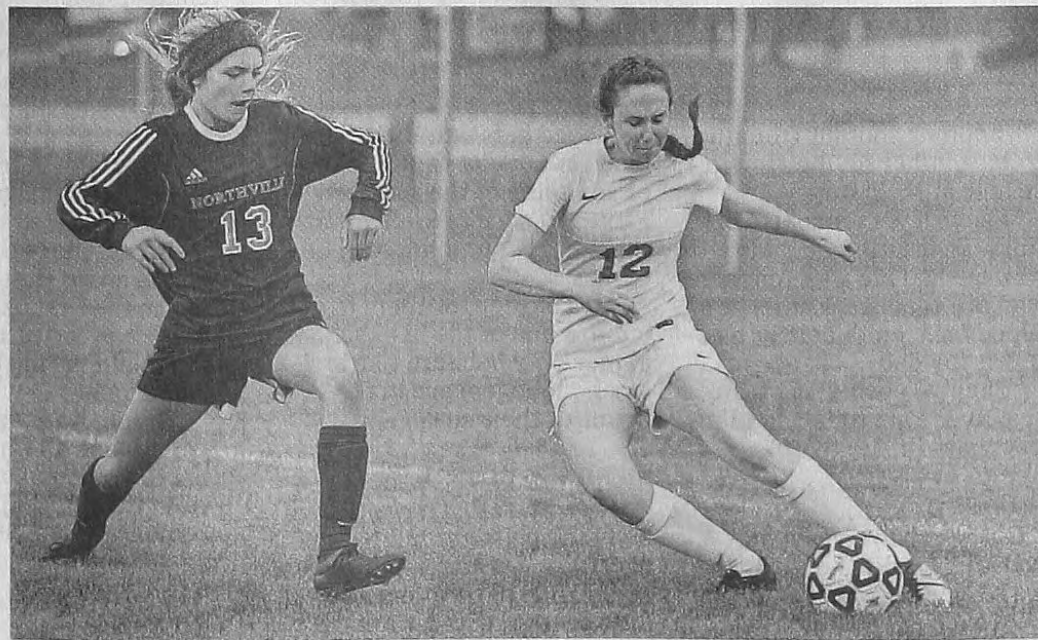
**Tim Smith**  
 hometownlife.com

Tuesday's varsity girls soccer clash between KLAA Central Division rivals Salem and Northville featured blood and sweat — but no tears — as the teams left it all out on the field in a 1-1 tie.

Along the way, two Mustangs were bloodied or bruised, while Salem senior goalie Skylar Brant had to leave the game for five minutes in the first half after taking a foot to the face while diving to smother a ball.

"Definitely not, this is a really big game for us," Brant said about being forced off the field due to her bloody nose. "I wasn't trying to come off the field."

Although Salem head coach Kyle Karns said junior goalie Anna Lundh played well during her brief stint for the Rocks, there was no way Brant wasn't going to come back for the final 42 minutes of the contest, which was played at



Salem's Katie Coleman (right), looks to dribble around Northville's Jenna Lauderback during Tuesday's game

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park on a cold, windy evening.

"She's a gamer. She'll get back in there as quickly as possible," said Karns, whose

team improved to 5-2-3 overall and 4-0-2 in the KLAA Central.

See **SOCCER**, Page B2

### Tim Shaw camp

The eighth annual Tim Shaw Football Camp will be from 5-9 p.m. Saturday, June 3 at the Livonia Clarenceville High School.

The camp is free for students in grades 3-11 with four hours of coaching and competition hosted by former NFL linebacker and special teams ace Tim Shaw, a Clarenceville grad who played football at Penn State.

The camp is limited to the first 200 registrants. To sign up, visit [facebook.com/timshawfootballcamp](http://facebook.com/timshawfootballcamp).

### Hole in one club

David Bruni, of Plymouth aced the 143-yard No. 6 hole at Idyl Wild in Livonia on April 26. He used a 9-iron to sink the hole-in-one, the first in his 25 years of golfing.

### Golf outing

The 24th annual Ladywood High School golf outing will be Tuesday, June 20 at Livonia's Fox Creek Golf Course.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 10 a.m. for the four-person scramble format. Lunch will be provided at the turn followed by a sit-down dinner and cash bar.

The cost is \$440 per foursome, or \$110 per single golfer. Dinner only is \$35.

For more information, email Trish Murray at [trishmurray1219@gmail.com](mailto:trishmurray1219@gmail.com).

### Youth football

Registration is underway for the Michigan Panthers, a new youth football team for freshman through varsity levels (ages 8-13) for the fall season of 2017 in the Western Suburban Junior Football League.

The Panthers will also offer cheer. The season will run from late July through November with home games played in Canton.

To register, visit [michiganpanthersyfc.com](http://michiganpanthersyfc.com).

### Hoop camp

The Novi Lady Wildcats Basketball Camp for grades 2-9 will be from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, June 19-23 at the Novi High School Performance Gym and Fieldhouse.

All participants will receive a T-shirt and outdoor basketball.

To register, visit the Novi Community School District website and click on the "Novi Wildcats" tab followed by the "2017 Camps" tab.

For more information, email Novi varsity girls basketball coach Bill Kelp at [bkelp@novischools.net](mailto:bkelp@novischools.net).

### Optimist golf

The 2017 Optimist International Junior Golf Championship will conduct a local qualifier at the Royal Oak Golf Club.

The annual tournament, sponsored jointly by the Royal Oak and Birmingham Optimist clubs, is scheduled for Saturday, May 20. Tee times begin at 9 a.m. and junior golfers ages 10-18 years are eligible to play.

Contact event chair Mike Ripinski at 248-789-2735 or email at [mrripinski@yahoo.com](mailto:mrripinski@yahoo.com).



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## PREP GIRLS SOCCER

## Spartans, Rocks battle to scoreless draw

Top teams in KLAA Central Division go at it on another harsh weather night

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Earlier in the week, Livonia Stevenson varsity girls soccer coach Ken Shingledecker found out senior captain Megan Verant definitely would miss the rest of the season with a torn ACL.

"We know we're going to be for the rest of the season without her," Shingledecker said. "And I think we're starting to come together."

So on Thursday, the Spartans continued to deal with adversity — although of a different kind — battling rain and whip-

ping winds during a home game against their nearest competitor in the KLAA Central Division, the Salem Rocks.

Both teams played a hard and spirited match, finishing in a 0-0 tie.

"It was really, really tough," said one of Stevenson's go-to players, junior defender/forward Kennedy Thurlow. "The harsh winds and rain made it really tough because the ball kept skipping on the ground."

"... But I think our team did a really good job tonight, we came together, we knew it was going to be a tough game and we persevered."

Stevenson (11-0-3 overall and 5-0-2 in the KLAA Central) came within inches of getting the win that would have pretty much sealed up the division title.

With about 10 minutes remaining, freshman forward Abby Werthman served a corner kick into the box and the ball bounced behind Salem goalkeeper Skylar Brant, who found herself out of position.

The carom went to Stevenson sophomore midfielder, who wheeled and — with a wide-open cage in front of her — got under the ball and lifted it over the crossbar.

"Those scrums in there off corners, it's all difficult, it just went over," Shingledecker said. "Good location, she was in the proper spot. She's just got to

put it away."

The Rocks (5-2-4 overall, 4-0-3 in the division) also had an opportunity off a corner kick with mere seconds remaining.

But Stevenson freshman goalie Mackenzie Fifer was able to bat away the bid by Salem junior defender Gabriella Mazzuca.

"She's just a freshman," said Shingledecker, about Fifer. "She's done very well for us."

Mazzuca nearly put the Rocks on the scoreboard midway through the second half, again off a corner kick. Her rising shot hooked off the crossbar and bounced out of harm's way.

"This is what KLAA games are supposed to look like," Shingledecker said. "No one left disappointed (after) seeing a

good soccer game tonight."

Concurring was Karns, who said that the weather conditions added another wrinkle to the KLAA Central matchup. The Rocks also faced tough weather in Tuesday's 1-1 tie with Northville.

"Both teams had chances back and forth," Karns said. "They had a nice chance there at the end that went over the bar."

Although Karns and the Rocks would have loved to have knocked off the division leaders, he insisted there's plenty of time left.

"We're one point behind them, there's still a lot (of season) left," Karns said. "Northville's taking care of (third-place) Novi tonight, so that's in our favor."

## OVERAITIS

Continued from Page B1

hitting above .600, the Rocks won the KLAA Central Division championship, but came up short in districts.

This spring, although a divisional repeat would be nice, she and her teammates would like to make plenty of postseason noise.

"Winning the division last year was a very big accomplishment for us," said Overaitis, who happens to carry another winning statistic — a 4.0 grade-point average. "This year, we're really hoping to win the division again and, hopefully, win districts and move on from there."

## Undeniable talent

Veteran Salem coach Bonnie Southerland can't help but beam when talking about Overaitis, who walked into the spotlight as a freshman (she verbally committed to Michigan in 2015) and hasn't wavered since.

"You can tell the ones that have been around the field since they were little, probably 7-8 years old," Southerland said. "She just has a presence when she's out here."

"She works hard, she knows the game, she has a phenomenal bat and she's always there to take swings, do the tee work and do those extra things that make her swing even better."

Southerland also concedes that Overaitis and other standouts on the team (she listed senior Kristin Mihalic, juniors Maddy Rosiewicz and Caroline Miller, among others) step into varsity softball already very much polished players thanks to playing much of the year for high-octane clubs.

"It's not like the old days, where only two or three kids would go on to play in college," Southerland said. "Every single girl on this team is on a travel team, so they're playing all summer long and I anticipate more than half of this team will be playing at the college level."

Overaitis is something really special, however. Before the 2017 season began, her name was among 25 prep athletes — regardless of sport — listed as the cream of the crop for the spring season by the *Detroit Free Press*.

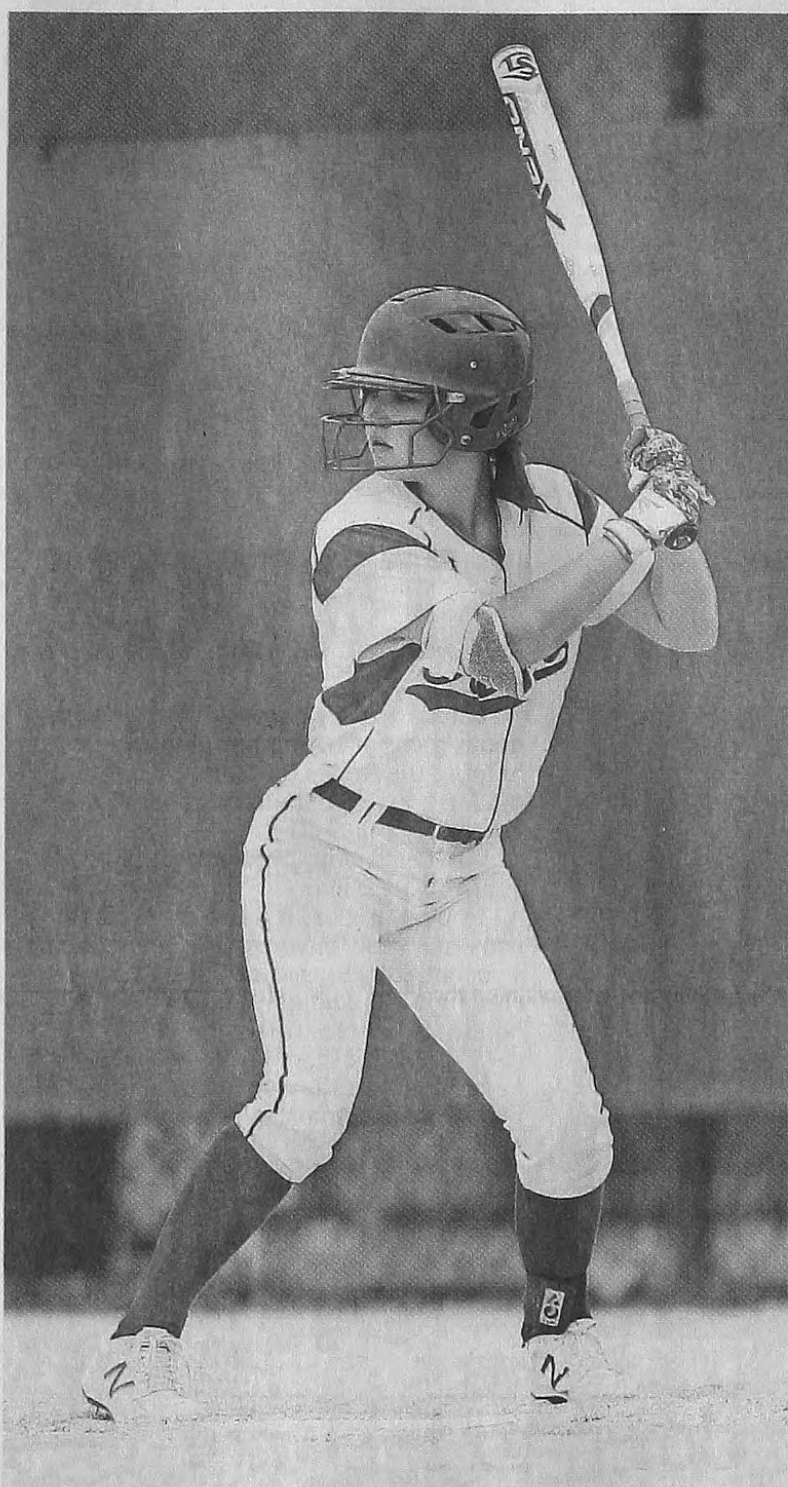
"It's an honor to be in the list, obviously, as one of the top players in the state of Michigan," said Overaitis, whose parents are Michelle and Craig Overaitis of Canton.

Southerland said that "great honor" has not changed Overaitis's low-key personality and attitude.

"I don't think Morgan looks at those things, she just works on what she knows she needs to work on," Southerland said. "She doesn't let that stuff go to her head."

"She's a very humble player, which is hard to do when you're getting all these acknowledgments from people."

She credits her dad and others such as Bandits coach Eddie Keteluh for helping her to always want more. Another hit, another home



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Getting ready to crush the softball yet again is Salem junior Morgan Overaitis.

run, another shutout from the circle, another diving stop in the hole at shortstop.

"I have a very strong work ethic," Overaitis said. "My dad's pushed me a lot to where I am. My coaches, Eddie, he's helped me tremendously, as well as my dad."

"They've pushed me to be the player I am today and I'm very thankful for that."

## Clubbing it

But as much as anyone, Overaitis credits her growth as a player to going full tilt for clubs such as the Columbus, Ohio-based Bandits and, in previous seasons, the now-defunct Michigan Pride.

"It really helps when you're playing the best competition," she said. "Because when you go down south (to states such as Florida), the competition is totally different."

Overaitis said travel ball is "a whole different game" than high school is.

"It's faster; you've got commits going everywhere," Overaitis said. "My pitcher (with the Bandits), she's going to Alabama. Our other middle infielder is going to Illinois. Everyone's committed, everyone's playing to prepare for college."

Southerland added that exposure via travel programs is crucial to players garnering interest from colleges.

"Word gets out," Southerland said. "A lot of the coaches see some of the summer games. It's a lot easier for them to get out to those games."

"It's harder for them to get out to some of the high school games only because that's when (colleges) are in the prime of their season."

## Future is bright

Soon enough, Overaitis will be in the prime of her Salem career — she still has the conclusion of this year and the 2018 season to look forward to.

And then, it will be off the Big Ten to play Division I softball. Overaitis can't help but be thrilled about what the future holds.

She said she will play third base or shortstop with the Wolverines, likely leaving behind her pitching career.

"I'm so excited to play on the Alumni Field," Overaitis said with a gleam in her eye. "It's going to be great going there, after I've watched so many games that I finally get to be on the field and everyone's watching me."

With that, Overaitis calmly trotted back onto the field to take another series of grounders. For student-athletes of a certain pedigree, there's always work to do.

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## SOCCER

Continued from Page B1

Also going all-out for the Mustangs was junior goalkeeper Carlie Castiglione, who seemingly was 10-15 yards out of her goal crease all night scrambling after bouncing balls. The best stop at either end of the pitch was Castiglione's with about 20 seconds remaining in the first half, with the game tied 1-1.

## Providing a spark

Salem's fleet freshman forward Sydney Smith — who was on the go all night long — drove a labeled shot from inside the 18-yard box. But Castiglione challenged Smith and batted the hard shot to the side.

"She's incredible," Karns said about Smith. "She having a great year. She's a spark-plug for us. She comes off the bench and just provides that spark for us. She's such an energy player."

Northville head coach Eric Brucker called Tuesday's difficult weather conditions another example of "Pure Michigan," but stressed that both teams had to deal with the same cut-to-the-quick wind and cold while trying to get through 80 minutes of soccer.

"I thought both teams played well," Brucker said. "For once this season, we picked up our aggression — it showed. We got a couple girls that got nicked up, but we needed it."

"We have not been playing tough, if you will, against our competition."

Karns noted that the weather had an impact, but stressed that it merely added another element to a "tough division game. It's a tough division in general and that's a good, hard-fought battle there."

Northville (4-6-3, 2-3-1) got on the board first with 17:22 left in the first half, when freshman forward Erica Toupin found the back of the Salem net.

Toupin was denied on a point-blank attempt by Brant, but the rebound caromed right back to Toupin. She turned and sent another shot on its way, which found the top corner.

## Fast response

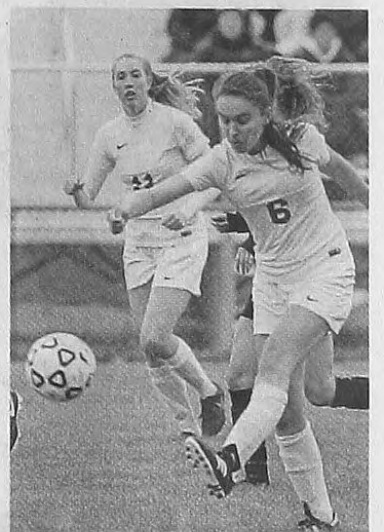
But it took the Rocks only 2:29 to get it back, in what turned out to be the final goal of the game.

Sending a 20-yard shot from the side was Salem junior defender Gabriella Mazzuca. The ball hit the crossbar and bounced straight down. Heading it into the Northville net was junior forward Katie Coleman.

"We got a good goal in the first half, but we gave one up too quick," Brucker said. "It was a good back-and-forth game. Both teams had opportunities ... that's what the KLAA's all about."

Tuesday's game began what is a crucial series of games for both teams.

"This is what we call the gauntlet, because you have to play the same teams back



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Putting her foot into it is Salem's Chloe Parana (right), while teammate Anna Faybrick joins the rush.

through the second time," Brucker said. "Everybody knows what everybody has and it's a question of who wants to play better."

According to Karns, the Rocks are "sitting kind of where we want to be in terms of the division, somewhere we haven't been in a long time — near the top. So this is a tough stretch for us."

**STEVENSON 2, SOUTH LYON 1:** Livonia Stevenson improved to 11-0-2 overall and 5-0-1 in the KLAA Central Division on Tuesday.

The Spartans, ranked No. 7 in Division 1, outshot the Lions, 16-4, but needed to survive the one-goal victory.

Scoring both goals for Stevenson was Audrey Kopitz, who now has 17 for the season. Kennedy Thurlow and Maria Bayouk both had one assist.

"I had this game circled as a trap game for a while now," Stevenson coach Ken Shingledecker said. "South Lyon has some nice players and they have been playing everyone tough."

"We seemed to get a little too comfortable after scoring the second goal and they caught us flat-footed on a corner to make it 2-1. We'll take the three points."

**LUTHERAN WESTLAND 4, ROEPER 0:** Lutheran Westland improved to 1-2 with Monday's Michigan Independent Athletic Conference victory.

Starting the scoring for the Warriors was freshman Emilie Fremder, from senior Becca Gembariski (who also scored a goal).

Also scoring was freshman Faith McLeod as the Warriors built a 3-0 lead at halftime.

In the second half, Fremder scored her second goal of the game.

Posting the shutout with a five-save performance was freshman goalkeeper Hannah Brown.

"The girls really played well and as a team," Lutheran Westland coach Sara Schaefer said. "We had solid passes and made key runs."

**GARDEN CITY 6, FORDSON 0:** Ashley Hahn set the tone for the Cougars with her goal just three minutes into Monday's Western Wayne Athletic Conference match-up.

Brooke Collins blasted home a penalty kick late in the first half and goalie Amanda Noel posted the shutout.

Garden City (5-5-1 overall) went on from there, scoring all six goals in the first half.

"I was very impressed with the poise of our midfield in controlling possession of the ball and distributing to our forwards," Garden City coach Jeff Szypula said. "We are in a must-win situation every conference game, so it was nice to see the girls play an extremely efficient game of soccer."

On a down note, captain Alex Shierlock will miss the rest of the season due to an injury suffered against Belleville.

**REDFORD UNION 5, THURSTON 2:** The one-two scoring punch of Cassidy Sandelin and Maggie Osovski combined for all five goals Monday as Redford Union (3-4, 2-1) turned back winless Redford Thurston in a Western Wayne Athletic Conference match.

Sandelin notched a hat trick, while Osovski had two goals and an assist as the Panthers won their third straight.

Sandelin now has 11 goals and 12 assists on the season, while Osovski has 12 goals and three assists.

**CLARENCEVILLE 8, ROBICHAUD 0:** Allie Snage finished with five goals and one assist Monday as host Livonia Clarenceville (1-5, 1-3) notched its first victory of the season.

The Trojans, who unloaded for 35 shots, also got two goals from Myla Hoskins-King and one from Mel Lind.

Clarenceville goalies Allison Lay and Deanna Gordon combined on the shutout. The Trojans also got strong play from Yumeko Sakamoto, CaMaria Kelley and Stephanie Phan.

"Overall, we played harder and we were driven to finish the ball," Clarenceville coach Amanda Truitt said.

**REDFORD UNION 6, CLARENCEVILLE 4:** Maggie Osovski's hat trick enabled the Panthers (2-4, 1-1) to earn a WWAC victory April 26 at home over Livonia Clarenceville (0-5, 0-3).

Michelle Marzolo scored all four goals for the Trojans, who couldn't overcome a 4-1 halftime deficit.

Clarenceville, which had 15 second-half shots, also got offensive help from Allie Snage, Mel Lind and Paola Gonzalez.

Goalie Allison Lay stopped 28 shots in a losing cause, while Myla Hoskins-King, Breanna Ford and Monica Gonzalez stepped up defensively for the Trojans in the second half.

## BASEBALL, SOFTBALL

## Bats boom all over the KLAA

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

Plymouth bounced back from Monday's tough loss to Livonia Stevenson with a sweep of Wayne Memorial on Wednesday.

The Wildcats started off the doubleheader with an 11-0 win in five innings, behind the shut-out pitching of Dylan Brown.

Collecting two hits in three trips each were Zach Beadle and Evan Good.

Game 2 was a 9-2 victory, paced by Chase Every's 3-for-4 day. Every homered and drove in five runs for Plymouth.

Combining their efforts on the mound were Jeremy Fuchs, Dylan DiStefano and Mitch Harber, who were solid throughout the KLAA South Division baseball matchup.

For the Zebras, Kyle Swindlehurst and Gio Ramirez had

one hit each in the opener while Justin Johnson and Malik Lewis chipped in with run-scoring doubles in the second game. Scoring both Wayne runs was Devin Puckett, who also tallied a hit.

**SWEEP FOR SALEM:** The Rocks took both ends of Wednesday's doubleheader against Novi, with outstanding pitching performances turned in by Matt Brooks and Jake Seipenko.

In Game 1, Brooks threw a complete game and struck out 10 Novi batters. Seipenko fanned 13 in the nightcap.

## Girls softball

**ROCKS SPLIT PAIR:** On Tuesday, Salem lost a suspended game from April 19 to Livonia Stevenson but bounced back in the second game.

The Spartans won 16-2 in the opener, but Salem featured two

doubles from Morgan Overaitis, a double and single from Caroline Miller and Jordan Hazel and two singles from Morgan Reno.

Salem won 10-3 in the second game, behind the pitching of Rae Campbell.

Overaitis (three hits), Hazel (three hits) and Hailey Dechalk (two hits) led the Salem charge. Also singling were Kristin Mihalic, Miller, Grace Hokett and Makayleigh Silverman.

**CHIEFS WIN 7-5:** Izzy Dawson went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs as Canton defeated South Lyon East, 7-5.

Also coming up big was Hannah Zajdel (3-for-3), who doubled in three runs in the fifth to tie the game at 4-4.

Olivia Grant (2-for-3) had a key two-run single in the sixth.

Going the final four innings for the win was Canton's Avery Kilgore.

**PATRIOTS TAKE TWO:** Livonia Franklin rolled to 22-2 and 21-0 wins over Westland John Glenn in Wednesday's KLAA South Division softball doubleheader. The Patriots improved to 6-8 overall and 4-7 in the division.

On the day, Brooke Garbarino had four hits (including three doubles) and six RBIs while Sarah Iler (four hits, four RBIs) and Haley Bennet (three hits, two doubles) also made their presence felt at the plate.

Jordan Berger and Ashley Couch were the starters and winners for Game 1 and Game 2, respectively. Couch threw a 1-hit shutout.

**LADYWOOD 10-11, MARIAN 0-1:** On Tuesday, host Livonia Ladywood (2-7, 2-4) earned its first two victories of the season sweeping Birmingham Marian in a Catholic League Central Division twinbill.

CeCe Werner had three hits and three RBI, while Allee Schellenberger added three hits and one RBI as the Blazers took the opener, 10-0.

Jamie Gietl also collected two hits and knocked in three runs, while winning pitcher Liz Kemp threw a one-hitter to go along with six strikeouts.

In Game 2, Lauren Holdsworth collected three hits and three RBI, while Sarah Cervenan added three hits and two RBI in an 11-1 Blazer's victory.

Kemp threw a three-hitter while striking out four. "Liz had good control tonight and pitched with confidence," Ladywood first-year coach Jerry Twigg said. "Our defense was solid and we had some girls have big nights at the plate. I'm just happy to see their hard work in practice pay off and this is another step forward."

## BOYS GOLF ROUNDUP

## Stevenson victorious at Livonia City golf meet

Tim Smith

hometownlife.com

Livonia Stevenson's varsity boys golf team won Thursday's Livonia City Meet held at Fox Creek, winning 11 out of 12 points to best Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin.

Eight players per team were divided into four groups of two players, each playing a different format. Those included scramble, medal play, best ball and alternate shot.

Churchill and Franklin finished with eight and five points, respectively.

"They won three out of four formats and came in second in the alternate shot format, one stroke behind Churchill," Stevenson head coach Mark Hay said.

The Chargers' Logan Welch and Adam Sinclair finished with a 38 in the alternate shot contest, edging Stevenson's Craig Jakacki and Evan Kuczmariski.

In the scramble, the Spartans' tandem of Jacob Anderson and Alex Pohl registered a 34 score, defeating the Chargers' Peyton Elkins and Davis Coughlin (36) and Patriots' Jacob Kenward and Devin Visnau (36).

It was a three-team battle for the best ball victory, but Stevenson held on to first as Connor Jakacki and Griffin Matick combined for a 34 — enough to top Franklin's Brandon Tirador and Eric Liberati, second with a 38. In third, with 39 strokes, were Churchill's Aaron Walton and Max Proulx.

Medal play also went to the Spartans. Trevor Lopus and Schlatterbeck finished with an 82 score, with John Doyle and Chase Fallu of Churchill right behind with an 88. In third were Franklin's Trevor Vanvlie and Graham Opie (96).

After the tourney, the Spartans had their photo taken behind the Nick Collins Memorial Bench at Fox Creek. Collins was a former Spartans golfer who died suddenly from meningitis just one year after graduating from Stevenson.

## RU golfers fall

Cameron Johnson took medalist honors with a 38 on Wednesday



Livonia Stevenson's varsity boys golf team celebrates after winning the annual city meet.

day leading Belleville (5-1) to a WWAC victory over host Redford Union at Glenhurst G.C.

Senior Evan Albright paced the Panthers (4-2, 3-2) with a 39 followed by senior Ben Hawn (42), senior Jesse Suiter (44) and sophomore Jon Havier (57).

## Canton prevails

Canton's boys golf team defeated Westland John Glenn 193-210 at par-35 Fox Hills.

Sparking the Chiefs (3-0) were medalist Quinn Yun, 43; Josh Bauldry, 48; freshman Alex Heyde, 50; Charles Visger and Jonham Chen, each 52 scores; and Ben Samoy, 53.

The 0-3 Rockets were led by Matt Wilkins and Ben Damion, who registered a 50 and 51, respectively. Giuseppe Crachiola shot a 53.

## Rocks nipped

Salem dropped a 167-172 match to South Lyon at Fox Hills despite senior Matt Schaumburger's 40 score.

Other finishers for Salem (1-2) were Shawn Weldon (43), Robbie Hermes (44), Justin Polce (45), Bryce Henderson (46) and Josh German (46).

Match medalist was Zach VanBoren of the Lions, with a 36 score.

## Plymouth wins

Plymouth remained undefeated in the KLAA, following Tuesday

day's 197-243 victory over Wayne Memorial at Fellows Creek.

For the Wildcats, Carson Graves and Kyle Krause each tallied 48s, followed by Carter Makelim (49), Caden Musa (52) and Justin Perry (54).

## Brother Rice invite

The Rocks came in 15th at Monday's Brother Rice Invitational, at par-71 Orchard Lake Country Club.

Novi Detroit Catholic Central won the invite with a team score of 295.

For Salem, Jack McCarthy shot a season best 76 to finish 11th overall.

Other solid performances by the Rocks were turned in by Weldon (87), Henderson (87), Hermes (88) and German (89).

Plymouth tied for fifth place at the Rice invite. Justin Kapke (75) and Timmy Baldwin (79) had strong showings. Other Wildcat finishers were Josh Wein (82), Ian Smith (84) and Nick Andrews (91).

## Panthers victorious

Under wet and windy conditions Monday, the host Redford Union boys golf team earned a 188-235 WWAC win over Dearborn Fordson in a dual match at Glenhurst G.C.

Evan Albright and Ben Hawn paced the victorious Panthers (4-1, 3-1) with nine-hole rounds of 40 and 42.

## GIRLS TRACK

## McNamara steals show in Northville girls track win

Mustangs improve to 3-0 with victory over Salem

Brad Emons

hometownlife.com

Clare McNamara may only be a ninth-grader, but she's already put her name in the record books for the Northville girls track and field program.

The freshman set a new standard in the long jump with a leap of 17 feet, 9.5 inches as the Mustangs improved to 3-0 in the KLAA Central Division with an 81-56 dual meet triumph April 25 over host Salem at Centennial Educational Park.

McNamara broke the mark of 17-7.5 set in 2001 by Maggie Ossola.

"I could not be happier for Clare," Northville coach Tim Dalton said. "She just works hard, does everything we ask her to do both at meets and in practice. Clare adds to the list of girls who have rewritten the record books over the last five years."

During the five-year span, 13 of the 17 Northville track and field records have fallen.

"It's a testament to the work ethic of our kids and our coaching staff," Dalton said. "Our long jump coach, Tom Brown, is in his 16th year coaching at Northville had done a great job working with Clare. He is one of the best in the business."

McNamara also captured the 400-meter dash (59.58) and teamed with Emilie Chen, Claire Wan and Yasmine Affes for first in the 1,600 relay (4:18.22).

Other Northville individual winners included

Barbara Davis, discus (104.7); Daryn Lobingier, pole vault (10-0); Erin McCallum, 100 dash (13.39); Affes, 200 (26.55); Ana Barrott, 1,600 (5:11.8); and Olivia Harp, 3,200 (11:14.41).

Northville also captured the 3,200 relay as Emily Assemany, Emma Smith, Harp and Barrott combined for a time of 10:00.65.

Second-place finishers for the Mustangs included Sara Ismail, shot put (30-5.5); Lora Haupt, pole vault (8-6); Abby Dunn, 300 hurdles (50.97); Lauren Marshall, 100 dash (13.56); Savannah Manley, 400 (1:00.86); Taylor Gatto, 800 (2:31.01); Harp, 1,600 (5:16.83); and Barrott, 3,200 (11:53.53).

Placing third for Northville were Davis, shot put (29-8); Sarah Herring, high jump (4-8); Dunn, 100 hurdles (19.03); Sinyu Yang, 300 hurdles (53.05); Affes, 400 (1:01.84); and Katie Chevoor, 3,200 (12:14.27).

"Our girls were strong," Dalton said. "We took care of everything we needed to do to come out with the win. It was a team effort across the board from sprints, distance, to the field events."

Haven Essien paced Salem (2-1) with first in the 100 and 300 hurdles with times of 15.66 and 50.22, respectively.

Other winners for the Rocks included Lyniah Wilson, shot put (33-2.5); Mikayla Ward, high jump (4-10); Shea Wilson, 800 (2:29.24); and Haven Essien, 100 hurdles (15.66).

Salem also took the 400 and 800 relays with times of 51.83 and 1:43.71, respectively.

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## PREP GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

## Salem bests Stevenson

Blustery weather Tuesday didn't slow down Salem's varsity girls track and field team, as the Rocks rolled to a 103-34 win over Livonia Stevenson.

Salem posted several events with runners in the top three spots, including the 200 dash (Madeline Kernahan, first; Ayanda Brydie, third), 400 dash (Haven Essien, first; Madison Grieb, third); 800 run (Hannah Jeffress, first; Erin McCann, second), mile run (Shea Wilson, Hallie Younglas and Jessica Hughes took the top three spots) and two-mile

run (Madison Grant, Gabby Mancini and Anna Kubinski finished 1-2-3.)

The Rocks kept the pressure going in the 100-meter hurdles, with Essien and Makayla Ward finishing first and second, respectively. They took the 2-3 spots in the 300 hurdles.

Salem won in throwing events, with Lyniah Wilson (shot put) and Alex Johnson (99-10 in discus) doing the job.

Other individual wins were scored by Cloe Longeway (pole vault, 8-6) and Ward (long jump, 16-3 and high jump, 4-10).

Salem's 400-meter relay team of Brydie, Maddie Kerna-

han, Lauren Ogarek and Alex Szegi captured the top spot while the 800-relay unit of Brydie, Kernahan, Ogarek and Mari Westley also won.

## Ladywood triumphs

Ally Hill captured three individual events Wednesday leading host Livonia Ladywood (1-3, 0-3) to a its first girls track and field dual meet win of the season with a 77-51 victory over Wixom St. Catherine of Siena.

Hill won the long jump (15 feet, 2 inches), while also sweeping the 100- and 200-meter dashes in 13.85 and

27.73, respectively, while Kelly Solak added firsts in the shot put (31-8.5) and discus (85-6).

Other individual winners included Maddie Bastin (300 hurdles, 51.16) and Meghan Sullivan (400, 1:09.09).

## Patriots win big

Livonia Franklin's varsity girls track and field team dominated KLAA South Division rival Westland John Glenn on Tuesday, earning a 93.5-43.5 victory.

"The Lady Patriots struggled a bit today with the weather and the level of competition," Franklin coach Megan

Wilson said. "Wayne Memorial has some extremely talented kids and they made a great showing."

Individual wins for the Patriots were posted by Ava Morrison (high jump, 4-2), Jessica Huddleston (long jump, 13-5), Erin Seibert (mile run, 5:33.52; 800 run, 2:31.49) and Mikaela Hille (400 dash, 64.9).

Franklin's Kelly Peyton, Alaina Herrera, Hannah Strasser and Emily Esker won the 800 relay with a time of 1:58.27. The Patriots' quartet of Hille, Brooke Gietzen, Cierra Echebelem and Herrera won the 400 relay.

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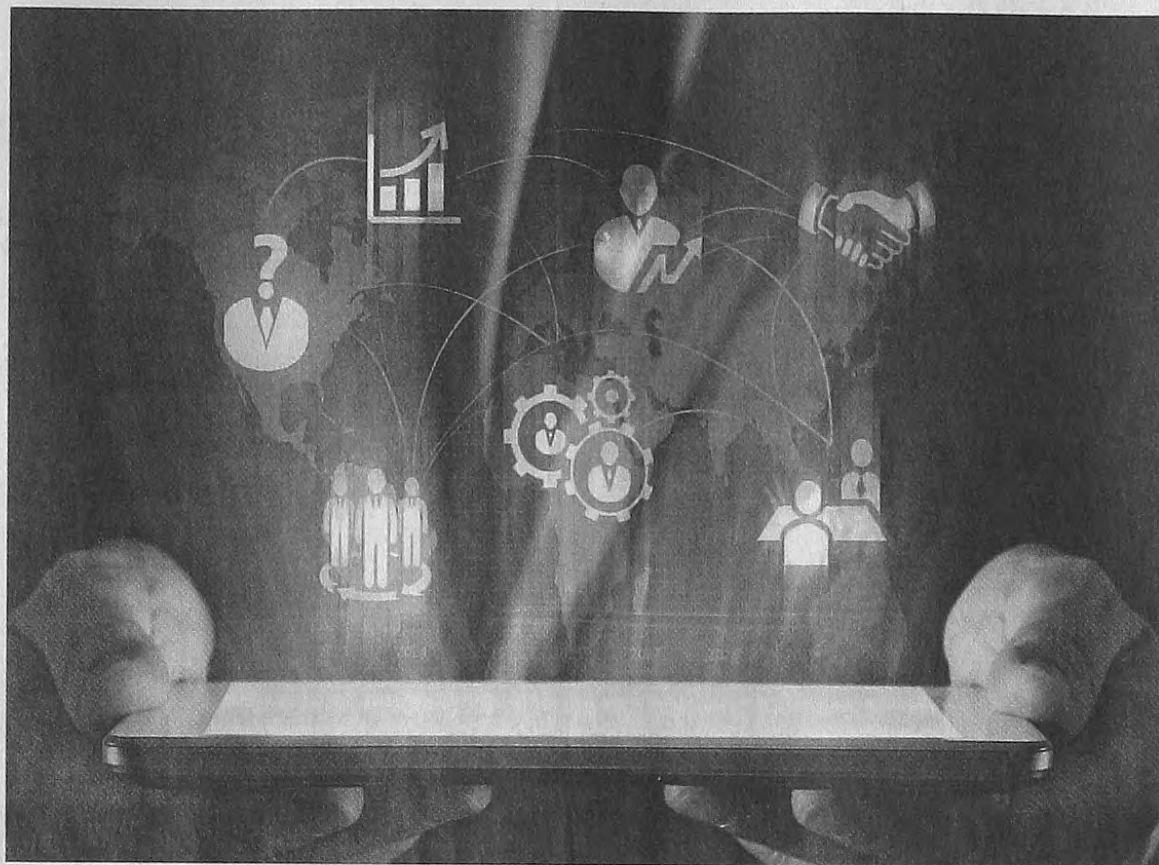
## 4 reasons why you should join a talent network

BY DEANNA HARTLEY  
 CAREERBUILDER

If you want to work for a company but can't find open positions, or have been rejected for a position at your dream company, it doesn't mean you're out of luck. You may be the right candidate for the company you're applying to, but not the best fit for any open positions right now. That means the right fit for you is still out there — and you can get closer to it by joining a talent network.

Talent networks are automated platforms where job seekers can enter their information into a company's database with the goal of being notified of new job opportunities. It's beneficial for the company because it allows employers to create a talent pipeline, and there are many ways job hunters can benefit from talent networks as well. Here are a few:

**1. It will give you a chance to understand the company better.** Companies today are increasingly leaning toward building and nurturing relationships with job seekers over time versus just looking to fill positions that may be open right now. Subscribing to a talent network opens the door to enabling employers to engage



GETTY IMAGES

with you — and other candidates who have opted in to a talent network — more so than they would with other job seekers who don't opt in. It will give you an opportunity to get to know the company, its culture and the expectations that are set for employees. And you can leverage this additional insight when applying for future positions at the company.

**2. It will save you time.** One pet peeve many job seekers complain about is

that they're forced to re-enter or resubmit the same information over and over again. With a talent network, you won't need to re-enter your information because it already lives in the database.

Also, since you will be alerted to new relevant opportunities that will open up down the road, you won't have to keep checking back in.

**3. It will keep you top of mind for employers.** Even if your dream employer or employers don't have any

job openings at the moment, you don't need to feel like you have to sit on the sidelines and wait. You can take a proactive step that could get you closer to landing that dream job when it becomes available. You'll have a better chance of remaining on a company's radar if you're in their pipeline.



"It can't hurt if it's a company you've always wanted to work at," says Christy Hopkins, a human resources consultant and writer at Fit Small Business who also maintains

an HR consulting and recruiting firm with small business clients. "If there are no open roles we are looking for that fit you, you can still submit your résumé to the general database. This is useful for us in that when a client comes to us for an urgent need — we can search our database and see if anyone fits their criteria by setting parameters around keywords and locations."

**4. The talent network can do some of the work for you.** We get it — you're a motivated job seeker and you want to get out there and do the hard work of finding the right job. But don't be afraid to get a little help from your friends — and in this case, a company's talent network can be your best friend.

Some companies will go so far as to send you personalized alerts with jobs that best match your experience and interests. You will be able to make the most of tailored job recommendations and customized messages coming directly from the company itself.

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

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**SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER**

**CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Thick-skinned river critters
  - 7 Women's soft hats of old
  - 14 Crouches, as a catcher
  - 20 Dream up
  - 21 Turkey's landmass
  - 22 Career-track type
  - 23 British hero sandwich?
  - 25 Cut in half
  - 26 Aunts, e.g.
  - 27 Magle of the old Giants
  - 28 Be sickly
  - 29 Give off
  - 31 Certain tennis edge
  - 33 "America" contraction
  - 35 Person born to be an apartment manager?
  - 42 Car made in an Alabama port?
  - 45 Schoolyard rejoinder
  - 46 Gap
  - 47 Small brawl
  - 48 "Drop — line"
  - 49 Place for petri dishes
  - 51 Hold tightly
  - 54 Syringe causing a bad skin reaction?
  - 58 Gmail rival
  - 59 World finance org.
  - 62 Holiday quaff
  - 63 Thin, white mushroom
  - 64 CBS drama
  - 65 Advil rival
  - 67 "Yipes!"
  - 69 Printer resolution
  - 70 Kids' author Silverstein
  - 71 Very busy checkout area?
  - 75 "— to You" (2009 Lady Antebellum hit)
  - 77 Lamprey lookalike
  - 78 Pepsi or RC
  - 79 Easily duped sort
  - 82 Body filled with eau
  - 83 Old TV's Desi
  - 85 The, to Jules
  - 86 Pitchfork-shaped letter
  - 87 Trim grass
  - 88 Put-down during a visit with the doc?
  - 92 John of plows
  - 94 Takes as one's own "Help!"
  - 95 Tar's "Help!"
  - 96 Doofus
  - 99 Any of three English rivers
  - 100 Pets that purr
  - 102 Gregarious protester?
  - 106 Beloved big rig?
  - 110 Pal, to Jules
  - 111 Big name in faucets
  - 112 Process part
  - 113 "As I see it," online
  - 115 Ending for percent
  - 117 Harass
  - 118 Like rabbit and shuls
  - 122 PC shortcut used by inflation calculators?
  - 127 Broad road
  - 128 Celestial body
  - 129 Let the wind freshen
  - 130 Not as bold
  - 131 Deluge
  - 132 Vagabonds
- DOWN**
- 1 "October Sky" memoirist Homer
  - 2 Eager volunteer's repetitive response
  - 3 Ballpoint tip
  - 4 Butter unit
  - 5 Big name in elevators
  - 6 State political bodies
  - 7 GO target
  - 8 Take — loan
  - 9 Brief mental glitch
  - 10 Arum lily
  - 11 Equine beast
  - 12 More, to a maestro
  - 13 Duel tools
  - 14 1976 Sally Field title role
  - 15 Packs it in
  - 16 FedEx rival
  - 17 Kong, e.g.
  - 18 Small jerk
  - 19 TV unit
  - 24 Koteas of "Crash"
  - 30 China's — Zedong
  - 32 Future lice
  - 34 1973 novel by Toni Morrison
  - 36 Theater level
  - 37 Data plan datum
  - 38 "Whoops!"
  - 39 Multicolored
  - 40 Tick by
  - 41 Bring past a simmer again
  - 43 Ida of old films
  - 44 Early online protocol
  - 48 Units of a million watts per ampere
  - 49 Skimpy swimsuits
  - 50 Here, to Jules
  - 51 Gun, in slang
  - 52 Senator Blunt
  - 53 Very versatile
  - 55 Rationale
  - 56 Inner: Prefix
  - 57 Like bit-free orange juice
  - 60 Folks not living in the past
  - 61 Spoken with ease
  - 66 Suffix with northeast
  - 68 Struck out in editing
  - 70 Realize
  - 72 Quahog or geoduck
  - 73 Spot for slots
  - 74 Big small-screen star
  - 75 Sgt. Friday catchphrase
  - 76 Get from a pitcher anew
  - 80 —easter
  - 81 She-sheep
  - 83 British islet
  - 84 Gives relish
  - 89 Big oil gp.
  - 90 Muzzle part
  - 91 "The Bicycle Thief" director
  - 97 Act like
  - 98 Denounces
  - 100 Stage signal
  - 101 Angle
  - 102 Playwright de Beauvoir
  - 103 PFC, e.g.
  - 104 Rip to shreds
  - 105 Bullion bars
  - 107 Time release
  - 108 Alternate
  - 109 Underage
  - 114 Arab country
  - 116 Arab bigwig
  - 118 Gridlock
  - 119 Day before
  - 120 Sign
  - 123 Cote sound
  - 124 Rink great
  - 125 Banjo finale?
  - 126 Coaching great
  - Parseghian

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

106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132

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

**SUDOKU**

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

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

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

**IN BLOOM WORD SEARCH**

WORDS

AMARANTHUS  
AMARYLLIS  
BOUVARDIA  
CARNATION  
CHRYSANTHEMUM  
DAFFODIL  
DELPHINIUM  
FRESIA  
GARDENIA  
GLADIOLUS  
GYPSOPHILIA  
HEATHER  
HYACINTH  
HYDRANGEA  
HYPERICUM  
IRIS  
LATHYRUS  
LIATRIS  
LILAC  
LILY  
LIMONIUM  
NARCISSUS  
ORCHID  
PEONY  
POPPY  
RANUNCULUS  
ROSE  
SNOWBALL  
SOLIDASTER  
STATICE  
STEPHANOTIS  
SUNFLOWER  
TULIP  
VERONICA  
WAXFLOWER  
WINDFLOWER

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

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

**Crossword Answers**

HIPPOS MOBCAPS SQUATS  
IDEATE EURASTIA YUPPIE  
CONTINENTALSUB BISECT  
KIN SAL AIL EMIT  
ADIN TIS NATURALSUPER  
MOBILEAUTO ISSO HOLE  
TUSSLE MEA BIOLABE  
GRASP ALLERGENICHYPO  
AOL TMP NOG ENOKI CSI  
TYENOL EGAD P ILSHEL  
PRODUCTIVECOUNTER  
IRUN EEL COLA LITVEONE  
MER ARNAZ LES PSI MOW  
APPOINTMENTDIS DEERE  
COOPTS SOS NIMROD  
OUSE CATS SOCIALANTI  
PRECIOUSSEMI AMI MOEN  
STEP TMO ILE NAG  
JEWISH ECONOMICSMAGRO  
AVENUE CORONAS AIRROUT  
MEEKER TORRENT TRAMPS

**Word Search**

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# Car Report

## THE NEW CHEVROLET EQUINOX ELEVATES THE BRAND IN CRUCIAL SEGMENT AS MARKETING CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF



By Dale Buss

The Equinox utility vehicle is Chevrolet's highest-selling retail nameplate once again this year behind the monster results of the Silverado

pickup series. So it's been crucial for the General Motors-owned mainstream brand to get it right when it comes to launching the greatly improved 2018 version.

So far, so good: Sales of Equinox have defied the overall industry slowdown so far this year, registering more than 83,000 units through April, or nearly 4 percent higher than a year ago. It has continued to edge out the hot Cruz compact sedan as Chevy's No. 2-selling model.

"It delivers on a variety of things, everything that compact SUV shoppers

demand: design, capability, technology and safety," Paul Edwards, vice president of Chevrolet marketing in the US, told me about the new Equinox. "It needs to perform well in all those different categories."

And now the marketing kicks in behind the latest version of a vehicle that has sold more than two million units. Appropriately, one ad to promote the new Equinox, "Everybody Everywhere," shows off the tremendous versatility of the new version, in all of the settings in which consumers make various demands on their vehicles.

In another new TV ad that extends Chevy's two-year-old "Real People, Not Actors" theme, the vehicles and the advertising "moderator" venture far outside of the warehouse-like space where Chevrolet has been showing actual customers -- not actors -- participating in what they think are focus groups.

The brand has put Equinox in a



hotel-valet scene. The valet brings a stylish new Equinox in front of the hotel. Because the rightful driver is late in getting there, the valet takes the liberty of inviting all kinds of passers-by to steal a spell in the vehicle that has rolled up and impressed them.

Naturally, of course, the people in this ad love the 2018 Equinox, with its interesting new "S" curve exterior design cue along the vehicle's shoulder, its "down-and-away" instrument panel and big new touchscreen.

I talked with Edwards about Equinox, "Real People" and marketing Chevy:

**Q: Why do you think "Real People" has been effective for so long? And how much longer can you find actual individuals who will be "surprised" to find out how good Chevy and your products and features are?**

Edwards: The effectiveness has gradually increased over the last 25

months. We've kept it fresh. We're always trying to find a fresh new way to engage consumers within the work itself and to extend it across everything that Chevrolet has to say in the marketplace: brand, retail, and across all our different segments.

It does the quality job equally as well as to launch a nameplate like Equinox. We're seeing our highest breakthrough measures and our highest impact on opinion measures of all time because there's a familiarity with it in the marketplace.

But today's perceptions still lag reality. As much impact as we've made, there's still a long way to go. There are a lot more people to bring to the brand.

**Q: Even as good as the new Equinox may be, and your advertising, how do you find something truly "new" to say in SUVs these days, given how every brand keeps flooding into the**

segment with new models and features?

Edwards: That's the No. 1 segment and there's a lot of very healthy competitors. We do it in two different ways. One is the total package of Equinox. In "Everybody Everywhere," we wow people with the total package.

In another one we compare ourselves to the gold standards in the segment, Toyota and Honda. Those owners are blown away. A lot of people in the [buying] cycle are familiar with our competitive brands and are used to that level of technology, refinement and design, and when they get in a Chevrolet they're blown away by how we beat those competitors hands-down.

**Q: With US sales slowing and consumers largely rejecting sedans and flocking to utility vehicles, is it a pretty daunting environment these days for Chevrolet as a mainstream brand -- and one that has a lot of sedan models out there?**

Edwards: Well, over the last two years we've gained nearly a full point of retail market share, and sales of 120,000 incremental units. We went from 10.3 percent in 2015 to 11.2 in 2016. Another measure we look at is "excellent" opinions for the brand, and we've had a 30-percent increase in that from the baseline before we started the "Real People" campaign. And in our conquest business, it's grown about 20 percent -- our share of the conquest opportunity each month.



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**BELLAIRE** - 5975 Founders Ridge \$595,000. Architecturally designed with in-home elevator overlooking Lake Bellaire & Arnold Palmer's The Legend Golf Course/Shanty Creek Resort. MLS 1800337. Debbie Alexander Caldwell Banker Schmidt 5780 Shanty Creek Road Bellaire, MI. 49615 (231)564-0500



**SUGAR SPRINGS** Gladwin 2027 South Haven \$89,900 Custom ranch Lake Lancer Waterfront, 3BR, 3 BA, 7 Garages Alice-RE/MAX River Haven 989-430-0966 SugarSpringsRealty.com

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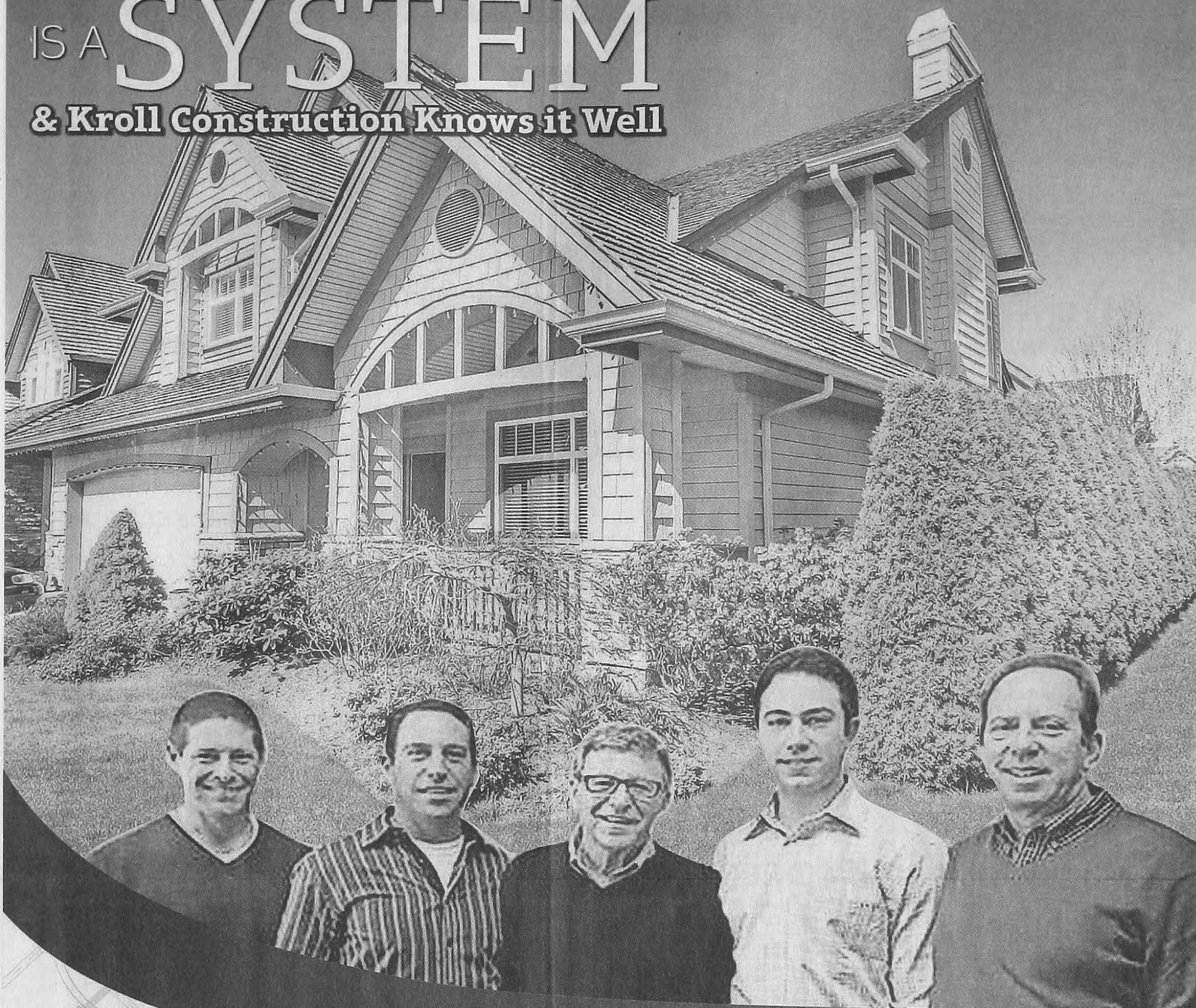
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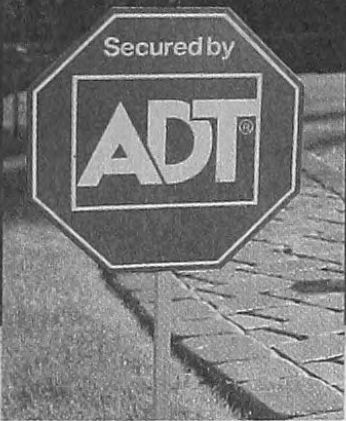
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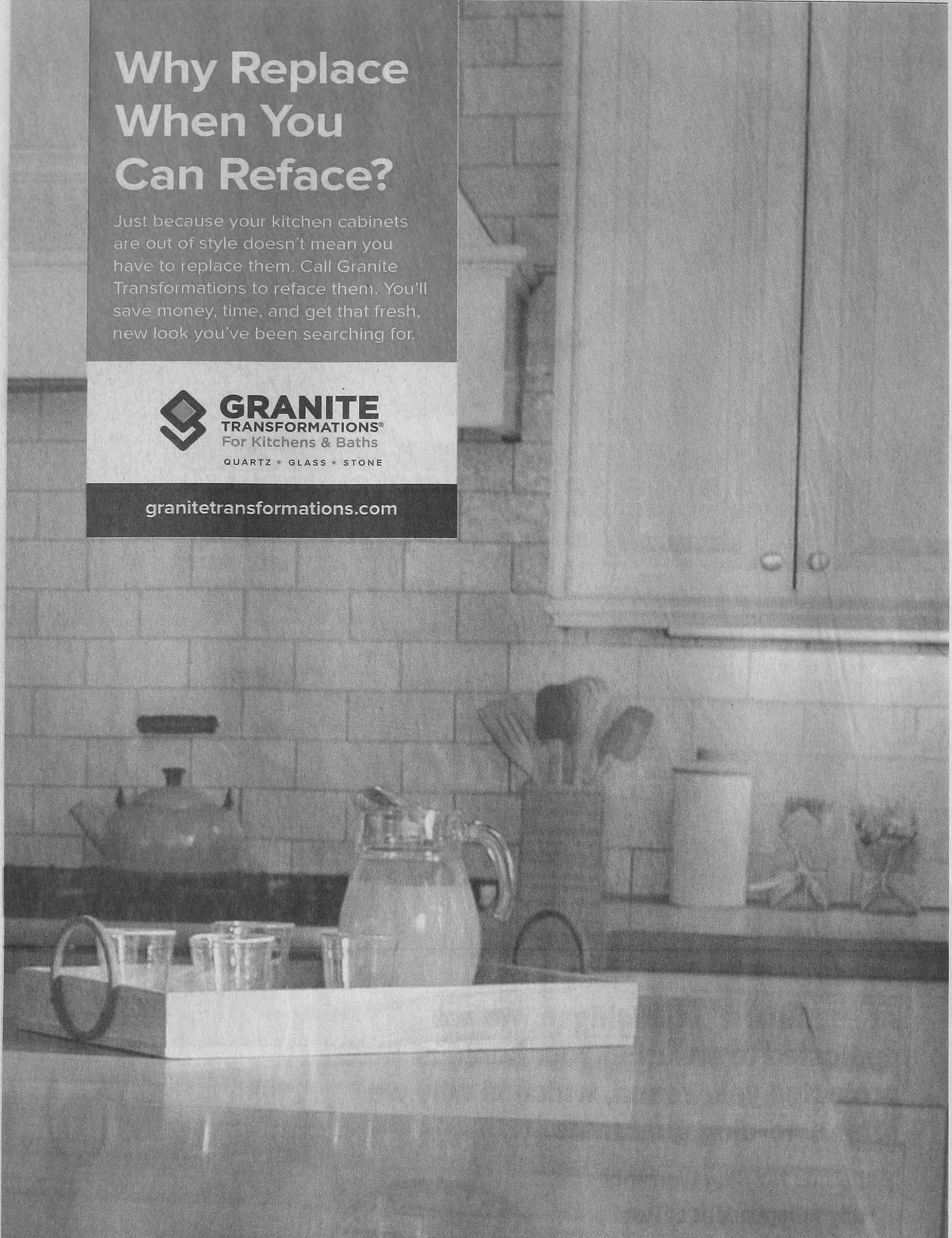
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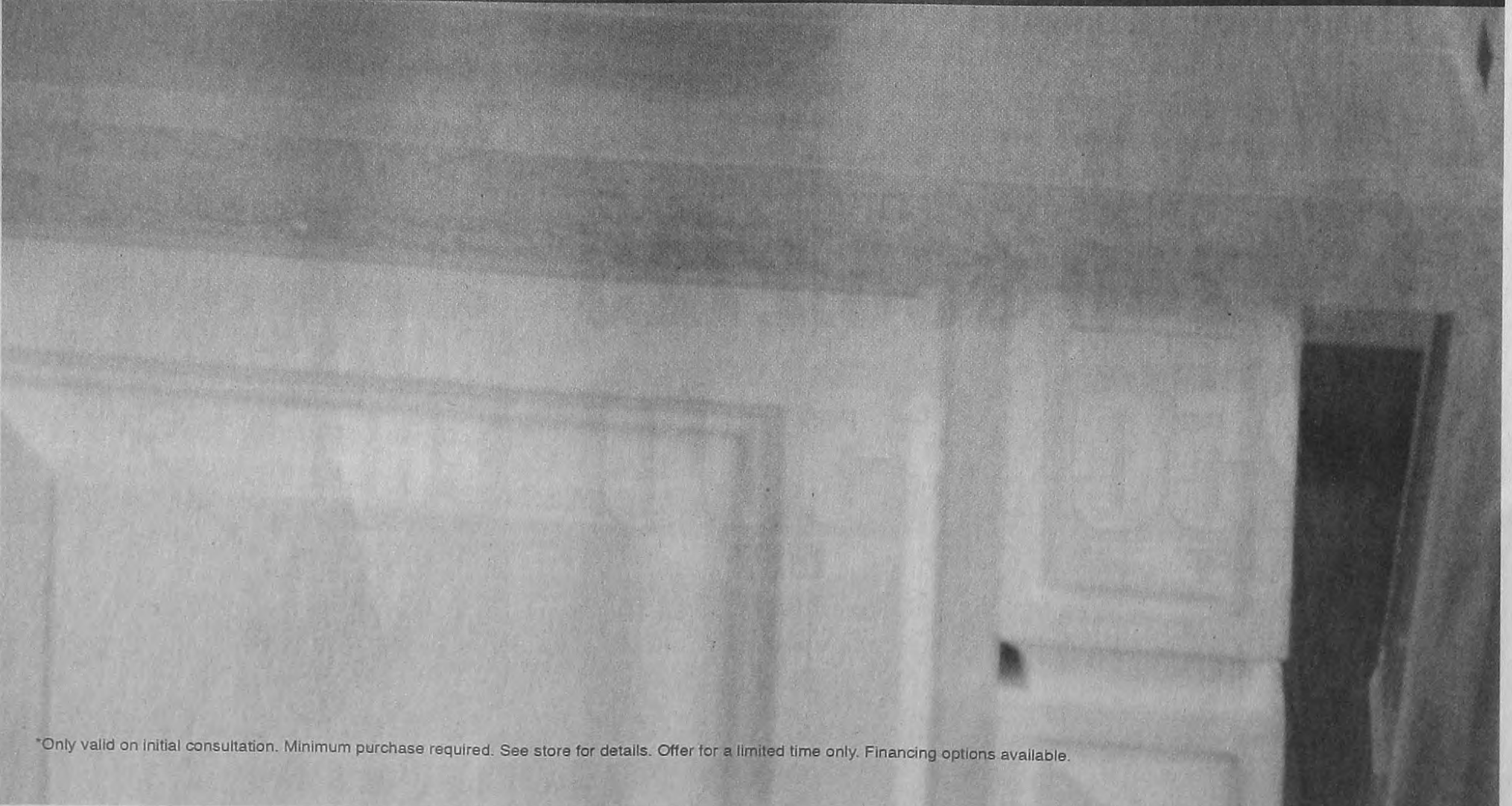
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