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## Schools chief earns contract extension

Merritt's pact extended through 2019-20 school year

**Brad Kadrich**  
hometownlife.com

When Monica Merritt and her husband Darron were looking for a school district for their children, they chose Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Late in the 2015-16 school year, Merritt was chosen to replace Dr. Michel Meissen, whose contract was not renewed. She was officially named superintendent July 1, 2016.

Her first year must have gone pretty well. On Tuesday, the district's Board of Educa-

tion extended her contract by a year, through the 2019-20 school year.

"We finished (Merritt's) evaluation in June and we felt we've had a successful year," board President Kate Borninski said. "(The extension) is a reflection of that success."

Merritt's career has included stints as a teacher, a principal and an administrator in districts including Southfield and Ypsilanti. After advancing to be executive director of human resources in Ypsilanti, Merritt joined Plymouth-Canton's leadership team in 2011 as assistant super-

intendent for human resources and labor relations.

Merritt has relaunched the P-CCS Blue Ribbon Panel, a community-based initiative to help boost student enrollment in the district, and, in July 2016, P-CCS was one of 58 districts in the state (and one of three in Wayne County) to be named as a "Notably Successful" district — the highest measure given — in the Michigan Education Finance Study, recognizing how financial resources are used to increase academic achievement.

Her contract extension comes just a couple of weeks after the board completed her



BRAD KADRICH

Monica Merritt (left), with Board of Education President Kate Borninski, was rewarded with a contract extension Tuesday.

See MERRITT, Page A2

## FIVE YEARS LATER

Slain Sikhs remembered as locals combat hate

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

Five years after six Sikhs were shot dead at a Wisconsin temple, they are being remembered in metro Detroit by people of all faiths who vow to fight back against hate, discrimination and intolerance.

A crowd representing Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Jewish people gathered Aug. 4, the eve of the anniversary of the massacre in Oak Creek, Wis., for a prayer ceremony at the Mata Trip-ta Ji Gurdwara Sahib of Plymouth, often called Hidden Falls.

Afterward, Steve Spreitzer, a Plymouth Township resident and president/CEO of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, left to show his support in Oak Creek along with Canton resident Julia Smith, who attends Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton and whose father, Bryan Smith, is pastor there.

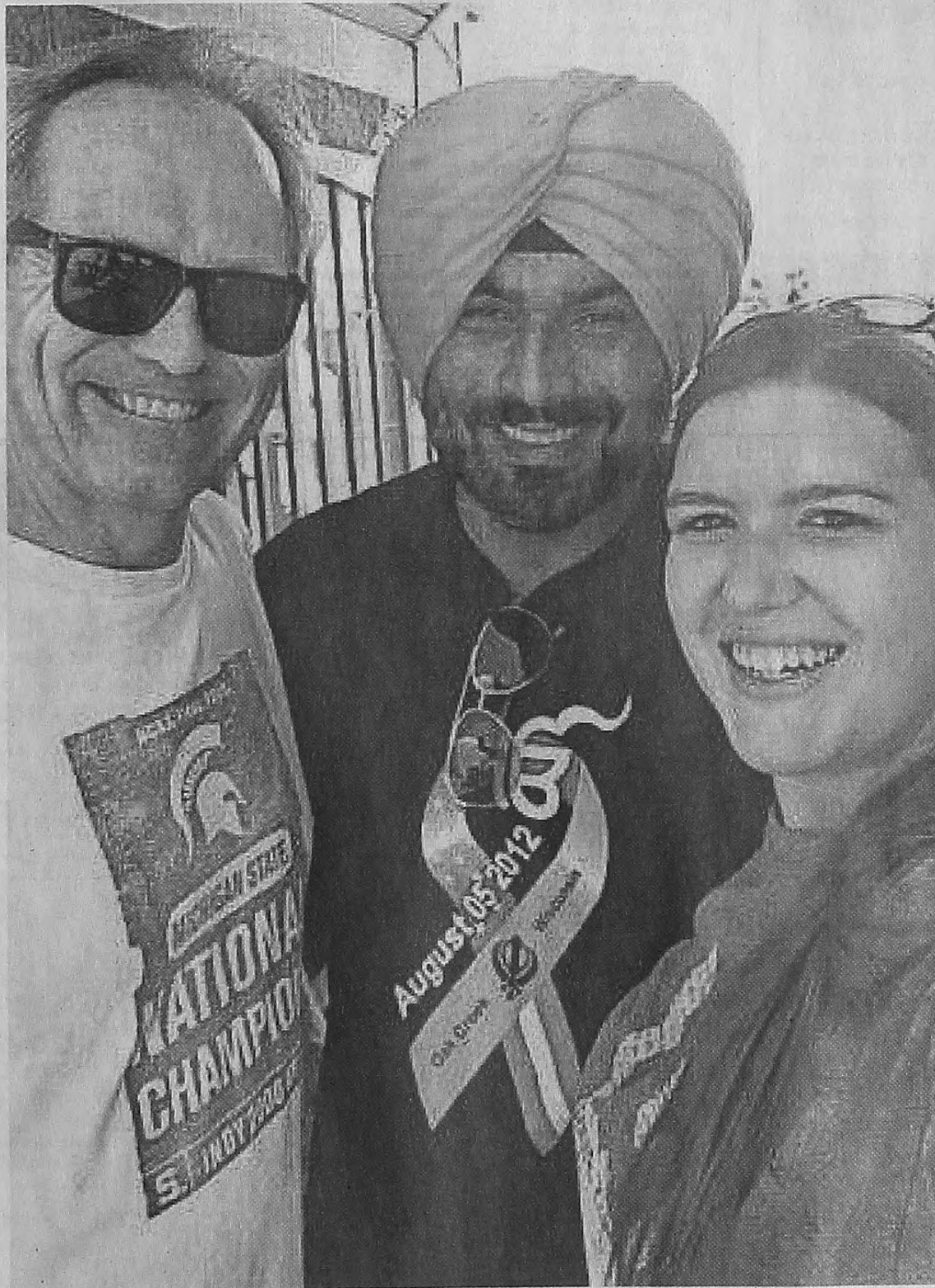
"We went to both remember those who were killed in a hate crime, but also to learn from that community," Spreitzer said.

He took along cards and letters written by local Sikh youngsters thanking Oak Creek police Lt. Brian Murphy, the first responder who survived 15 gunshot wounds as he intervened to save what officials believe would have been more lives lost.

"He is considered one of the great heroes in the Sikh community," said Spreitzer, who hand-delivered the letters to Murphy.

On the fifth anniversary of the Sikh massacre, Spreitzer and Smith attended an event at Oak Creek High School that included a 6K run — honoring the six killed — a blood drive, turban-wrapping and other activities. Then they went to the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin — site of the killings — for a ceremony honoring those who died. Spreitzer said about 1,500 people joined the day's events.

"That is such a strong message both of love to the Sikh community, but also a message to those who would do harm that the Sikh community is loved and cared for by their neighbors," he said.



Pardeep Singh Kaleka, who lost his father in the Wisconsin Sikh massacre, is flanked by Steve Spreitzer of Plymouth Township and Julia Smith of Canton during events in Wisconsin.

Last September, Pardeep Singh Kaleka, whose father died in the Oak Creek massacre, came from Wisconsin to metro Detroit to attend a screening of the film "Waking in Oak Creek" by Patrice O'Neill at Madonna University. The film told the story of the Oak Creek killings.

While here, Kaleka invited Spreitzer and others to attend this year's fifth-anniversary

*"From Oak Creek to Detroit, no community is immune to this crisis and, by sharing stories of compassion and service in response to these dramatic acts of bigotry, we can better educate the American public."*

**RAJANPREET KAUR PANNU**  
spokeswoman for The Sikh Coalition

See SIKHS, Page A3

## Stabenow visits area to highlight success in improving waterways

**LeAnne Rogers**  
hometownlife.com

Stopping in Wayne to highlight success stories like the federally funded Rouge River improvements, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow noted the calming influence of the flowing water.

"After the last few months I've had, the idea of sitting by the river is alluring," the Michigan Democrat said. "It's great to be here on a beautiful Pure Michigan day. Everyday is a Pure Michigan day."

Traveling around the state this month, Stabenow is highlighting success stories under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative — federal legislation she authored which has brought more than \$400 million in funding to Michigan to improve and protect lakes and waterways.

"I've lived my whole life in Michigan. We are very blessed to live in the most beautiful state. Water is a big part of it," Stabenow said. "Forty million people get their drinking water from the Great Lakes. We are surrounded by 20 percent of the world's fresh water. It's in our DNA to protect water. It's a special responsibility."

That special responsibility means fighting to keep GLRI funded, she said, noting the current federal budget director proposed no funding, dismissing the GLRI as a local issue.

Eight states and officials from Canada are involved in bipartisan efforts to protect the Great Lakes from a variety of threats like Asian carp, along with improvements like the Wayne Road dam removal.

"I never thought an ugly fish would keep me up at night," Stabenow said. "The bad news is that the budget proposes to eliminate the funding. People around Michigan rose up. At the moment, the funding is back in."

During her visit Aug. 4, Stabenow was joined by Wayne

See STABENOW, Page A2



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# STABENOW

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city officials, representatives of the Alliance of Rouge Communities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on the Rouge River to see the completed Wayne Road Dam Removal and Habitat Improvement Project.

Completed in 2013, the Wayne Road Dam Removal and Habitat Improvement Project received more than \$1 million in GLRI funding through NOAA. The pro-

ject reconnected approximately 121 miles of river and tributaries to the Great Lakes system for the first time in more than a century.

The three-foot tall Wayne Road Dam no longer served a public purpose and acted as a barrier to fish and promoted the accumulation of sediment and debris behind the dam. The dam removal opened up new opportunities for canoeing and kayaking and restored passage for a variety of fish, including trout, small mouth bass, northern pike and walleye.

"It's a miracle you got the Wayne Road Dam out without collapsing the road," Stabenow said. "The dam was built in the 1900s to hold water to fight fires. There are more efficient ways to fight fires today."

With the Rouge River running through the city just north of Wayne City Hall on the edge of Goudy Park, the free-flowing river is providing a focal point for activities in the city.

In visits to various communities and through stories posted online, Stabenow said she wants to focus on the success stories regarding Michigan lakes and rivers.

"One in five Michigan jobs are tied to water. It is more important than ever to continue investing in the health of our Great Lakes and waterways," said Stabenow,



Wayne City Manager Lisa Nocerini (left) introduces U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, at a program along the Rouge River.

LEANNE ROGERS

Senator Stabenow for her efforts to keep the GLRI funded," O'Meara said. "We are in the process of connecting waterway trails. This would connect with the Detroit River."

Improvements to waterways are a quality of life issue, he said, but also improve property values and result in jobs being created.

"Habitat restoration creates a big return on investment," said Julie Sims, Great Lakes regional coordinator, NOAA Restoration Center. "It's more than just better fishing—restoration projects can improve local property values, aid in flood control, improve access for recreation and add jobs to the economy."

Following the program along the Rouge River, Stabenow stopped to visit local businesses Karma Kitchen and Coffee and ICON Computers.

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and visitors enjoy fishing, kayaking and canoeing in the Rouge River."

The 41-community member Alliance for Rouge Communities has done 15 projects, stretching all the way south to the Raisin River, principal engineer John O'Meara said.

"This shows the importance of what we are all doing. I want to thank

# MERRITT

Continued from Page A1

annual evaluation, during which Merritt scored an "effective" rating.

Kim Crouch, who served as board president during Merritt's first year, had high praise for the superintendent.

"It was a really outstanding first year, and a job well done," Crouch said.

Merritt has also developed a solid working relationship with the board, which has had a tumultuous relationship with several superintendents (the district has had six superintendents since 2000).

The board and the

administration have worked with Wayne RE-SA experts on board governance and the roles of the administration and board. Merritt lauded the "journey we've taken together" after her evaluation was completed.

She reiterated that praise Tuesday, when her contract was extended. She said she was grateful for the chance to lead the district her family had chosen.

"Having the opportunity to join the team (in 2011) was like catching lightning in a bottle," Merritt said. "Then I was given the chance to lead this district. Who gets to catch lightning in a bottle twice?"

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# Hunger games: Old Village Restaurant Crawl returns

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

It's a food lover's paradise — a chance to sample the cuisine of seven restaurants and wash it down with Plymouth-made beer, all for \$15.

That averages out to just over \$2 per eatery, a deal that's hard to beat.

It all happens in Plymouth's oldest neighborhood as the 18th annual Old Village Restaurant Crawl offers mouth-watering deals 5:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21.

This year's lineup is bigger than most: Hermann's Olde Town Grill, Liberty Street Brewing Co., Station 885, Jeff Zak Catering, Beyond Borders Latin Street Food, Northville's Wok Asian



FILE PHOTO

Customers enjoy the food at Hermann's Olde Town Grill during a previous Old Village Restaurant Crawl.



FILE PHOTO

Station 885 is a popular stop on the Old Village Restaurant Crawl every year.

**Old Village Restaurant Crawl typically draws 120-140 customers to eateries that set aside special sections ...**

"And it gives people a chance to see a part of town they don't always get to see."

Old Village Restaurant Crawl typically draws 120-140 customers to eateries that set aside special sections for participants to dine buffet-style, Graff said. Patrons also can try locally made craft beer at Liberty

Street Brewing Co. Moreover, the event provides a chance to explore the charm of the city's oldest neighborhood.

Two restaurants — Wok Asian Bistro and Beyond Borders — plan to serve their food in front of 3&UP, a board game lounge. Similarly, Honey Hole plans to welcome visitors in front of its upcoming location on Starkweather.

Tickets are \$15 each or \$5 for children 12 and under. Call the chamber at 734-453-1540, stop by the office at 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail or go to <http://www.plymouthmich.org>.

[dclem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclem@hometownlife.com)  
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Bistro and, even though it's not yet officially open in Plymouth, Honey Hole Market.

Organizers say the restaurant crawl gives Plymouth residents and

visitors a way to sample food while enjoying an evening of camaraderie in Old Village. Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce,

said the event also can bring new business to local restaurants.

"It's mostly to expose these restaurants to new customers," Graff said.

## SIKHS

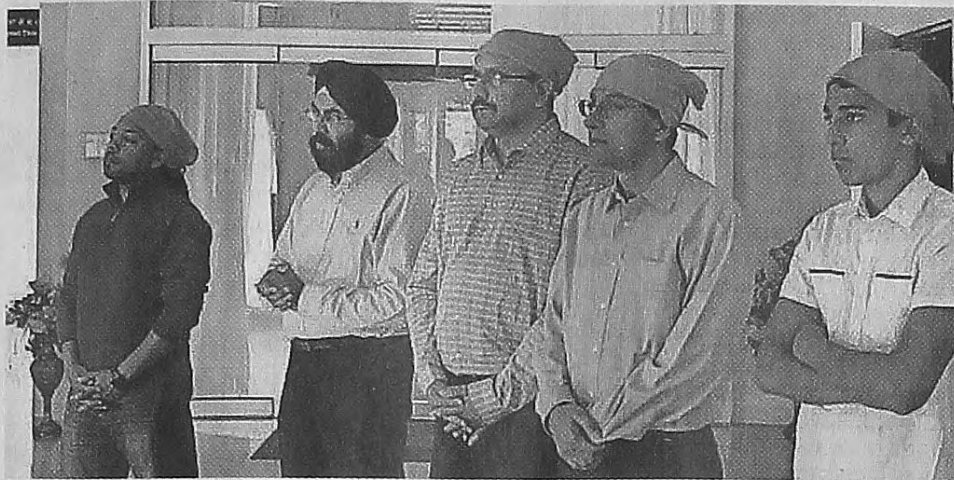
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ceremony in Oak Creek.

Closer to home, the Sikh community of Detroit commemorated the five-year anniversary July 30 by serving food and distributing care packages to the homeless community in Midtown Detroit, fulfilling the Sikh concept of seva, or selfless community service.

Rajanpreet Kaur Panu, a spokeswoman for The Sikh Coalition, said it's important for Sikhs to serve the community with acts of kindness that, hopefully, can stem the tide of hatred.

"Sadly, this tragedy did not happen in a vacuum and, five years later, the continual tide of hate crimes underscores the urgency of initiatives that promote an appreciation for Sikhs and other



Attending the interfaith prayer ceremony at Hidden Falls gurdwara in Plymouth are Yasir Khogali of Plymouth, Dr. Herminder Singh of West Bloomfield, Chandru Archaya of Canton, Dr. Nauman Imami of Plymouth Township and Sawan Ahmed of Canton.

communities most affected by these crimes," Panu wrote by email.

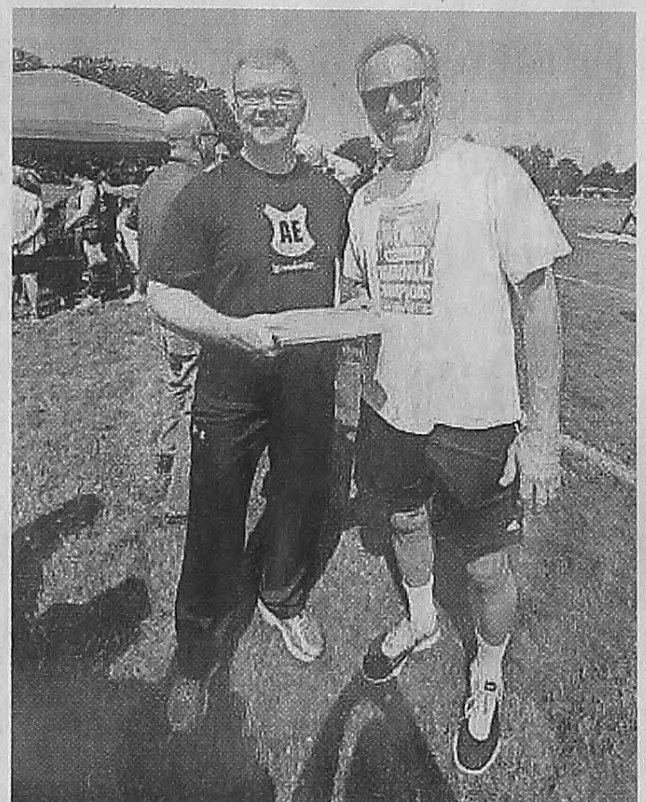
She noted that Sikhs wear articles of faith, such as the turban, as religious expression and to represent equality and justice. However, she said, since 9/11, Sikhs

have become a frequent target for bigotry and backlash, despite their lack of involvement in the terrorist attack.

"From Oak Creek to Detroit," Panu said, "no community is immune to this crisis and, by sharing stories of compassion

and service in response to these dramatic acts of bigotry, we can better educate the American public."

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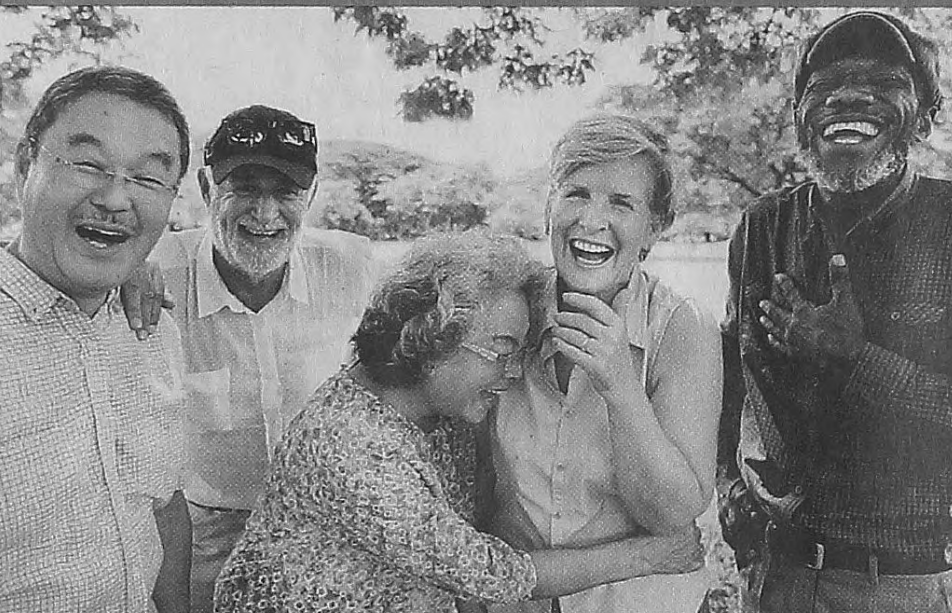
Steve Spreitzer hand-delivered thank you letters and cards from Sikh youngsters to Oak Creek police Lt. Brian Murphy, who intervened to save lives at a Milwaukee Sikh temple.

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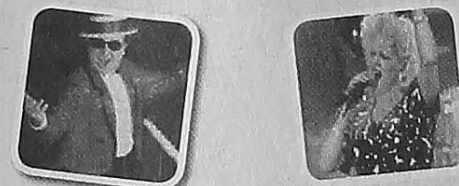
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## Library to welcome solar eclipse Aug. 21

Plymouth District Library officials have scheduled a number of events planned to safely celebrate the upcoming solar eclipse Aug. 21.

All American Eclipse is the first visible solar eclipse in the contiguous United States in 40 years. Thanks to the "generous support" of the Bosch Community Fund, library officials said, there are free eclipse safety glasses available for pick up at the front desk of the library.

The library will host a group viewing of the

eclipse 12:30-4:30 p.m. Aug. 21 at Plymouth Township Park. All ages should plan to come to the 4 Seasons Pavilion to pick up free safety glasses (until supplies run out) and enjoy some eclipse activities. Attendees are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket.

Plymouth Township officials and the Bosch Community Fund are making this event possible.

For more information, go to [plymouth-library.org](http://plymouth-library.org).

## Pewabic mural comes to the library

The Plymouth District Library will soon install a new custom tile mural in its vestibule, created by Pewabic Pottery of Detroit.

Including community landmarks and natural features, the mural features approximately 650 tiles glazed over a dozen colors in hallmark Pewabic style. Founded by Mary Chase Perry Stratton in the early 1900s, Pewabic Pottery has enriched lives through art education and outreach for more than 100 years.

Installation begins next week. Installers plan to work while the library is open, so library customers can see the mural as it takes shape.

This project, made possible by the generous contribution from an anonymous donor, has been in the works for the last year. Over many months, advance meetings took place to envision what such a piece of art would include, representing and celebrating the community.

The Pewabic design team — including Genevieve Sylvia, senior designer, special projects, and Alex Thullen, glaze development specialist, among others — worked through several renditions to convey the Plymouth community, including both the city and township.

One-half of the mural features iconic landmarks of the city, such as the Penn Theater and downtown clock. The township portion of the mural features a natural landscape of trees, rendered in hallmark Pewabic green and blue glazes, representing Township Park and the water tower in Lake Pointe.



PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY

Library Director Carol Souchock joins Pewabic designers Genevieve Sylvia and David McGee for mural inspection.

*"We are so excited to share the tradition and history of Pewabic Pottery with the patrons of the Plymouth District Library."*

**MARY MAGUIRE**  
president of the library's Board of Trustees

Both portions are then united by the "railway" track — an important part of the community, past and present.

The tile mural was created, cut and molded by hand through Pewabic's team of artists. Tile pieces then passed

through multiple kiln firings (2,300°F) to achieve the end-glaze colors. At that point, the mural pieces were then re-assembled to insure fit, quality and final approval.

Early discussions by the Library Board of

Trustees pointed toward Pewabic and its long-standing reputation in southeast Michigan.

"We are so excited to share the tradition and history of Pewabic Pottery with the patrons of the Plymouth District Library," said Mary Maguire, president of the library's Board of Trustees. "The art tile installation not only honors the Plymouth community, but the larger metro area, as Pewabic is a Detroit-based nonprofit. Like our library, Pewabic Pottery is committed to excellence and to providing educational opportunities, passing knowledge to those who seek it."

Plymouth District Library Director Carol Souchock worked with all parties on the project, including library architect Ron Cieslak.

"It was through this diligent effort that a final design was determined," she said. "In the coming years, this work of art will become a landmark in itself." Installation, by the DeSandre Brothers, will take place by the end of August.

The library will celebrate the installation of the Pewabic tile mural with a reception 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22. Following the reception, Pewabic archivist Kimmie Dodos will share highlights of the 100-plus years of Pewabic history and feature current projects, including the creation of the library's mural.

For more information on Pewabic Pottery, go to <http://www.pewabic.org>. Additional programs will be offered in collaboration with Pewabic Pottery at the Plymouth District Library this fall. Go to <http://plymouth-library.org> for updates.

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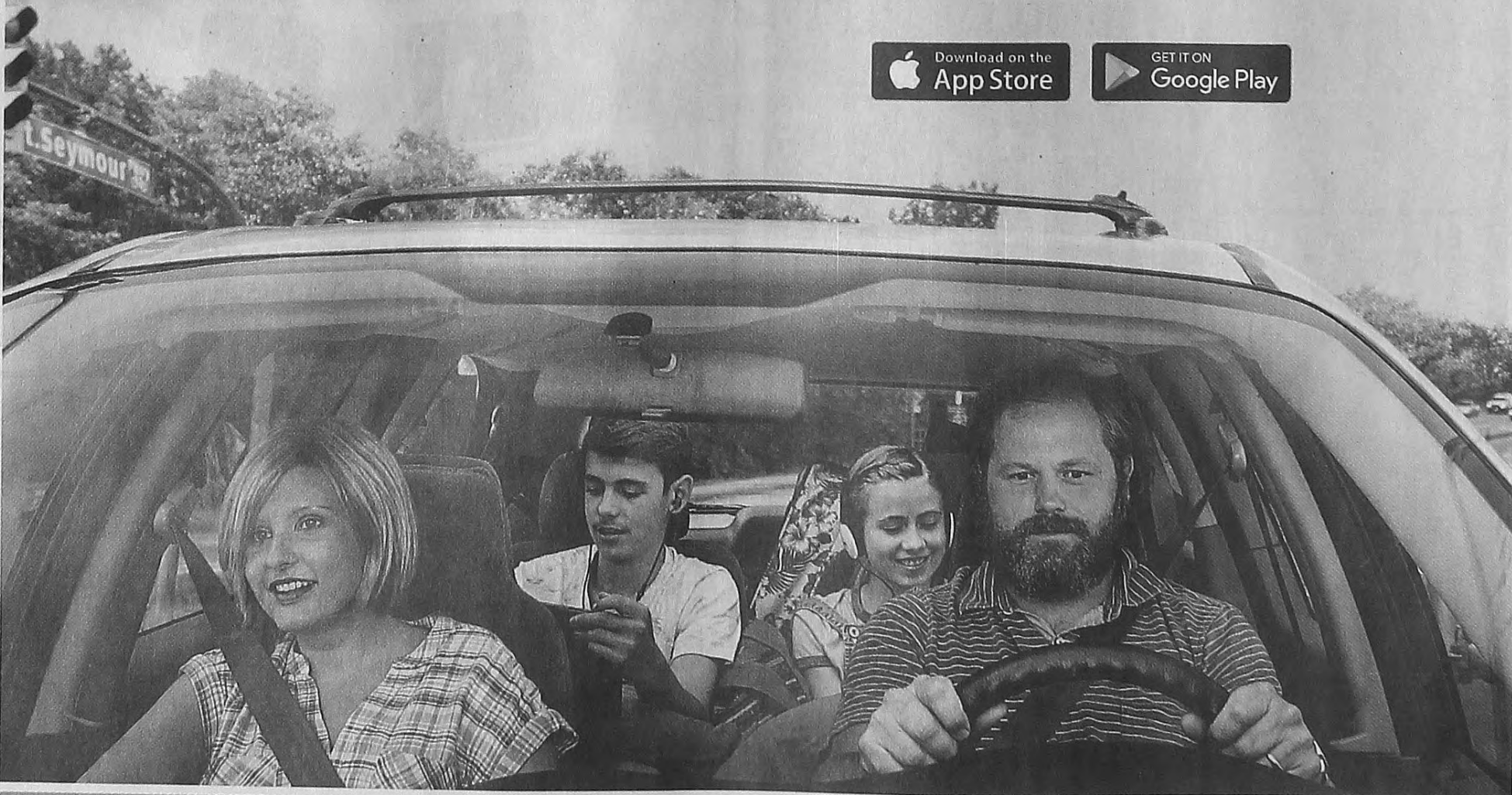
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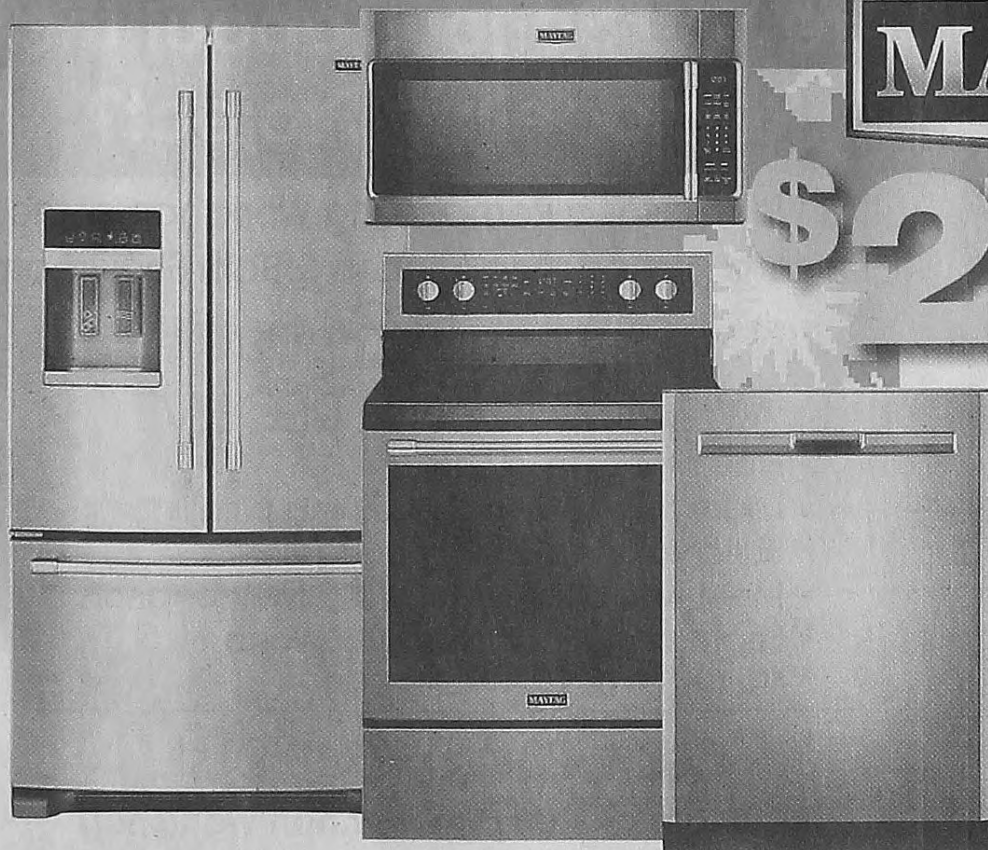
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# Michigan Philharmonic youth programs add staff

The Michigan Philharmonic is pleased to announce the promotion of Hektor Qyteti to artistic director and conductor of organization's Youth Orchestra program. Qyteti had previously been assistant conductor of the MPYO and director of the String Ensembles.

As an accomplished professional violinist, Qyteti has an extensive background in performance, as well as teaching. Currently, serving principal second violin for the Michigan Philharmonic and was associate concertmaster for the prior seven years. He is also assistant concertmaster of the Grosse Pointe Symphony and plays in the violin section of numerous other Detroit-area orchestras, including symphonies in Dearborn, Warren, Rochester and Pontiac. Prior to moving with his family to the U.S., he had a five-year tenure as concertmaster of Korce Philharmonia Orchestra in Albania. A dedicated teacher, Qyteti maintains a busy schedule teaching



Goldstein

violin and chamber music as a private instructor and is also on the faculty of Steppingstone School for the Gifted in Farmington, Jerry Luck Studios and Evola Music Center.

The MPYO is also adding Joanna Goldstein to the staff as the new director of the Michigan Philharmonic Flute Choir. Goldstein is fairly new to the area and comes with an extensive background in performance and teaching.

As an orchestral musician, she has performed with the Boston Pops Orchestra and with the

Santa Rosa (Calif.), Portland (Maine) and Toledo symphonies. She currently appears frequently with the Rochester and Battle Creek symphonies. As an educator, Goldstein helps students connect to their own sense of purpose so they can make a positive impact in their communities, both within and beyond music. She's taught flute and coached groups at Tanglewood, through her private studio and at the Boston University Flute Ensemble.

Goldstein holds degrees from Peabody Conservatory and Boston



Qyteti

University and an aArtist diploma from the Longy School of Music. Currently, she is on the faculty at Community Music School of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw Community College.

The Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra was founded in 2003 and has grown significantly since its inception. Currently the MPYO consists of more than 120 students in four ensembles – two levels of beginning and intermediate strings, the MPYO Flute Choir and the full Youth Symphony. Students have the opportunity to give three performances on a

professional stage at the Village Theater in Canton in addition to side-by-side performances with the Michigan Philharmonic for the two upper ensembles.

This year, with the addition of Goldstein to the MPYO staff, the program is now offering students the opportunity to join the new Michigan Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensemble. This ensemble is an excellent opportunity for talented middle schools students, who have been playing one or two years, to supplement their school band or orchestra music programs. The ensemble will rehearse 5-6 p.m. each Tuesday at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex.

The Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra will be holding its final auditions for 2017 on Monday, Aug. 21, at the Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex. Musicians at all levels of strings, winds, brass and percussion may audition. Please contact MPYO Manager Jane Libbing at 734 451-2112 or [jane@michiganphil.org](mailto:jane@michiganphil.org)

make arrangements for an audition time. Other dates may be arranged to accommodate audition requests.

The Michigan Philharmonic opens its new season Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Village Theater in Canton with "A Bit of Beethoven & Blue Jeans." This 2017-18 concert series, themed "Arts Advocacy," highlights the Michigan Philharmonic's commitment to community and diversity as the orchestra features music by composers from different cultural backgrounds, as well as inviting local artists and various youth groups to collaborate. Over the past 72 years, amid ever-changing educational systems, policies and economic stability, the Michigan Philharmonic's unwavering support for composers, music education and community engagement has remained pertinent in preserving artistic integrity and enrichment through performance and education.

For more information, go to [www.michiganphil.org](http://www.michiganphil.org)

## CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

### ELL Reading Group

**When:** From noon to 1 p.m. each Friday

**Details:** Beginning or intermediate English language learners are invited to read together and discuss short articles, etc., in English with a tutor. Please refer to the English Language Learner Program FAQ page on our website for more information.

### Summer Storytimes @ Canton Farmer's Market

**When:** 10 a.m. and noon Sunday, Aug. 13

**Details:** The Canton Farmers Market is a celebration of

locally grown food, interesting vendors and a thriving community spirit. We are thrilled to be back connecting with our community, offering storytimes and activities to enhance your farmers market experience.

### World Lizard Day

**When:** 2-3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 14

**Details:** Leapin' lizards, it's World Lizard Day! We're going to celebrate with a visit from some scaly friends from the Leslie Science and Nature Center. Experience seeing live lizards up close and expand your knowledge about these interesting reptiles. This pro-

gram is for ages 6 and up.

### Summer Movie Madness

**When:** 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18

**Details:** Join us for the last Movie Madness of the summer for "Trolls." Bring pillows, blankets and snacks to enjoy your movie.

### Connect Your Summer Final Party

**When:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19

**Details:** You have worked all summer long and now we celebrate! Join us for great fun, including music from Cello-Bella, a visit from Rufus

the Dufus, Kona Ice, hot dogs, live animals and a bouncy house.

### Experience the Solar Eclipse!

**When:** 1:30-2:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21

**Details:** Come by the library (one pair of glasses per person, first-come, first-served) to get your official safe-for-solar viewing glasses. Join us to watch the total eclipse of the sun in Heritage Park. Glasses generously provided by the Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning and STARnet for Libraries. Discov-

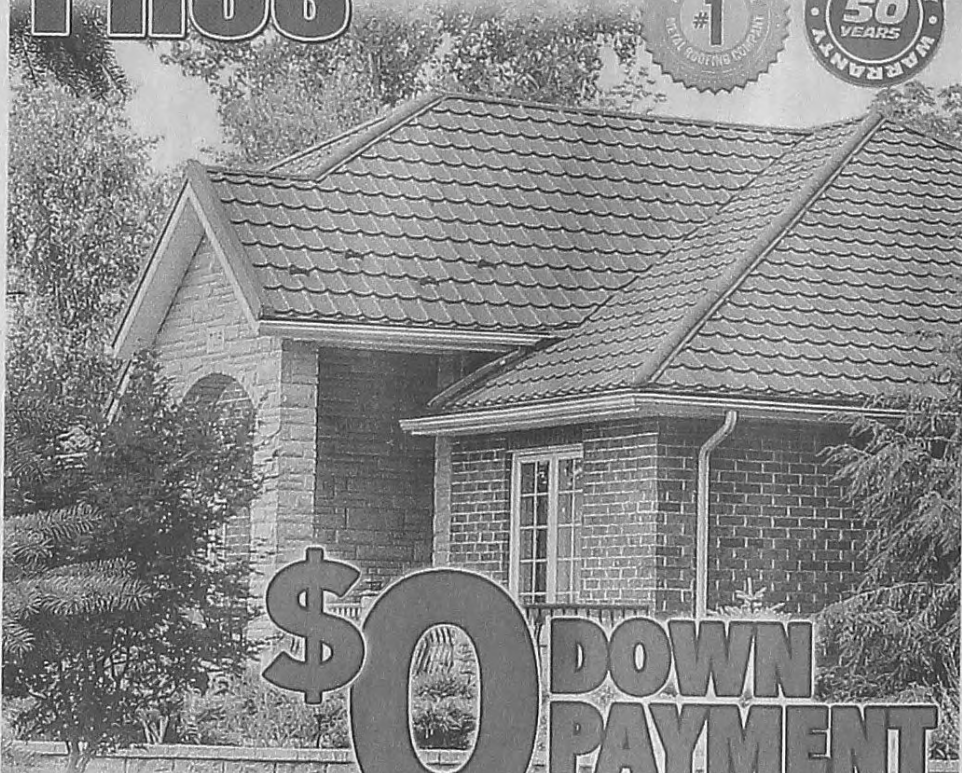
er more information about the solar eclipse at [eclipse2017.nasa.gov](http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov).

### K Club - Getting Ready for Kindergarten

**When:** 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Aug. 22

**Details:** Young learners getting ready for kindergarten are invited to meet new friends, listen to reassuring stories and explore our back to school sensory table. It will be a great way to start out the new school year. K Club is for children ages 4-6. Registration is required.

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# High-end loft apartments hit the market in Plymouth

**Detroit Free Press**

The second wave of rental units will hit the market later this month for the Starkweather Lofts, a \$21.1 million development in the city of Plymouth.

The Starkweather Lofts, situated between the city's historic Old Village area and Hines Park, is about 90 percent full for Phase I. It's the first major multi-family

development to be built in the community in more than a decade.

The second phase of rental units will be available from Aug. 22-31.

The final phase will finish in mid-September.

Rental prices range from \$1,650 to \$1,850 a month for 815- to 935-square-foot, one-bedroom lofts and \$1,975 to \$2,325 a month for 1,137- to 1,393-square-foot, two-bedroom, two-bath lofts.

The high-end, 93-unit residential development is composed of two, four-story buildings. It sits on a 5.8-acre parcel, which includes a fountain, a park, grilling stations, a fire pit, outdoor tables and a pavilion. Residents will also have access to a community lounge, on-site storage units, bike storage and garage or covered parking.

Because the lofts are rentals and not condos,



CORE PARTNERS

The Starkweather is the newest addition to Plymouth's residential options.

Mark DeMaria, principal for DevMar Development LLC., noted that residents will get benefits of the amenities and sleek style of a loft ware-

house without having to pay a burdensome down payment or deal with long-term commitment anxiety.

DevMar partnered

with Burton-Katzman, LLC., of Bingham Farms and F5 Investments of Ann Arbor for the project.

## FREE PRESCHOOL

It's for You and Me!

If you live in Oakland County, your child may be eligible for free preschool programs.

Free, high quality preschool programs are available through Head Start and the Great Start Readiness Program. Families of four earning up to \$61,500 per year are usually eligible and those earning more are sometimes eligible. Half- and full-day openings are available now throughout Oakland County with transportation services offered at select sites.

For referral to a program, please call **844.456.KIDS**

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education.

**FreePreOakland.org**  
Child must be three or four years old before September 1, 2017.

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877-998-1098 PDresearch@med.umich.edu

I am an American We are One Nation

# CREATING ATMOSPHERE FOR LEARNING

Principal toils long hours to create great experience at diverse middle school

SADY SWANSON  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Each week, this series will introduce you to an exceptional American who unites, rather than divides, our communities. To read more about the American profiled here and more average Americans doing exceptional things, visit [onenation.usatoday.com](http://onenation.usatoday.com).

Leshler Middle School principal Tom Dodd hasn't taken a sick day since 1997. "I don't really get sick," he said. "There's so much to do." Dodd has been the Fort Collins, Colorado, school's principal for 12 years. Leshler Middle School is one of the most diverse schools in Poudre School District. Of its 770 students, almost half are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch; more than a third are minorities. Students come to Leshler from about 23 elementary schools. "We have everybody," Dodd said. "We have some of the most privileged, affluent kids in our city coming here, and we have 20 homeless kids."

In 2016, Dodd won the National Secondary Principal of the Year award, months after winning the Colorado Secondary Principal of the Year award. "As principal of the year, I've had an opportunity to do some policy advocacy," Dodd said. "That has created some opportunities for me ... to say, 'Here's what's really going on out there.'" One opportunity that arose from the award was to travel to the Dominican Republic with the photography company Lifetouch and educators from around the country to build a school in January. Dodd realizes there's still work to do for schools on the local level. "Public education in America is still better than anywhere I've read about or heard about," Dodd said. "Our funding system in Colorado is woefully inadequate. ... That inadequacy ... is what motivates me. It's that we can do better. And I can't get more funding. So what do I have to do? I have to work harder."



Tom Dodd of Leshler Middle in Fort Collins, Colo., was named National Secondary Principal of the Year in 2016, months after being named Colorado Secondary Principal of the Year.

For Dodd, creating a great experience for his students is at the heart of his mission. Dodd said every year, the incoming class of sixth-graders comes into the gym, sits on the bleachers and is inducted into the Leshler Middle School Vikings family. But it isn't that simple. "Vikings are like angry white guys, and that's not real inclusive, so we have Vikings and Vi-queens," Dodd said. "I tell them, 'I want for you, when you reflect back on your K-12 experience ... (to) say the three years I was at Leshler was a great experience.'"

### ONE NATION Nominate an American

Who are your American heroes? Share stories and nominees at [onenation.usatoday.com](http://onenation.usatoday.com) or via email to [onenation@usatoday.com](mailto:onenation@usatoday.com) or post a video submission to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram (no longer than 2 minutes, please) with the hashtags #IAmAnAmerican #WeAreOneNation.

### Q&A WITH TOM DODD

**What does it mean to be an American?** Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I still believe in the American dream, but I don't know if it's a real dream anymore. The idea that you, just by growing up in America, that you're going to have a better life than your parents, I don't know if that's true anymore. ... What are you doing to contribute to your community and society as a citizen? ... I think you should have an appreciation and show respect for your parents and the people that came before you who made this nation great.

**What moment touched and motivated you in your work in education?** I lose sleep over the big tragedies that happen. We've had students attempt suicide. We've had students (die by) suicide, while they're students here, ages 11-14, or shortly after leaving here as a freshman, sophomore, junior in high school. I also lose sleep over the inequity of it all. Every day I come to work, I realize I don't have what I need to do the job to the level I want. I've got 770 kids from diverse backgrounds; I have 75 adults in this school. And I've never been an educator who's crying about money, saying, "We need more money." What touches me and motivates me is knowing that there's work to do.

**What gives you hope and what concerns you?** I have faith in people, in spite of the fact that we have such disunity and partisanship. I just have faith in everything, that it's all going to work out. That human beings and people are inherently good. That parents want what you want. No. 1, they want someone to love and care about and know their kid. I tell my teachers that all the time. What concerns me is our partisanship and differences and the fact that we can't come together on some core values. ... And how can you have a good intellectual conversation without some foundational agreement on core values? What gives me hope is my fundamental belief ... that we can get there, that people are inherently good.

**What do you hope to accomplish through your work?** My job is to create the conditions and culture and climate for teachers to teach. I want them to love coming to work here, and I want kids to love coming to school here.



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# RHP Properties announces acquisition of two Canton manufactured home communities

RHP Properties, the nation's largest privately held owner and operator of manufactured home communities, has announced the acquisition of two communities in Canton, bringing the company's total of manufactured home communities to 225 nationwide.

The announcement was made by Ross H. Parrich, CEO, RHP Properties. RHP Properties acquired the 365-site Sherwood Village Manufactured Home Community and the 51-site Glen Ridge community, both all-age communities. This 416-

site portfolio is located 20 minutes from downtown Detroit and a 10-minute drive to Metro Airport. Additionally, the communities are near an IKEA store, as well as other big box retailers, including Home Depot, Walmart, Sam's Club, Target and Kohl's. Canton is one of

Michigan's fastest growing communities and is consistently ranked as one of the safest cities in the United States. "RHP Properties is pleased to announce the addition of Sherwood Village and Glen Ridge to our portfolio of communities in Michigan," Parrich said. "These communities provide convenient, easy access to the many amenities offered in the metro Detroit area, including shopping, medical facilities and close proximity to freeways. Canton Township is a vibrant community with great schools and recre-

ational facilities. We are proud to be a part of this community and offer a high quality, affordable housing option." With these acquisitions, RHP Properties now owns and operates 225 manufactured home communities totaling 56,997 home sites.

## AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to [LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com](mailto:LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com).

### Nankin Mills programs

» **Salt mine history**  
Wayne County Parks will hold an indoor nature presentation on Michigan's Salt Mine History from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland.

A guest speaker from the Detroit Salt Mine Company and a park naturalist will share the history of the mine from the early days of table salt production to current production of road salt.

Cost is \$3 per person for ages 12 and older; non-Wayne County residents add \$1 per person. Pre-registration 72 hours before program is required.

For more information, call 734-261-1990 or go to [www.parks.wayne-county.com](http://www.parks.wayne-county.com).

### » Middle Rouge River

An indoor nature presentation titled "1800s Mills and Villages of the Middle Rouge River" is set for 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 26.

The Rouge River was a magnet for settlement from the Native Americans to the earliest settlers who harnessed its water power for mills. Explore the many mills built along the Middle Rouge River and the early villages that grew around them. Some of these communities remain, while others have become ghost towns.

Cost is \$3 per person for ages 12 and older; non-Wayne County residents add \$1 per person. Pre-registration 72 hours before program is required.

For more information, call 734-261-1990 or go to [www.parks.wayne-county.com](http://www.parks.wayne-county.com).

### » Mill Daze

A family program titled Mill Daze is set for 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26.

Step back into the 1800s to try hand-grinding grain into flour or apples into cider. Play old-time games and learn what life was like in the 1800s by watching wool spinning and other demonstrations.

Cost is \$6 per child ages 5-17 and \$2 per adult; non-Wayne County residents add \$1 per person. Pre-registration 72 hours before program is required.

For more information, call 734-261-1990 or go to [www.parks.wayne-county.com](http://www.parks.wayne-county.com).

### Bookstore bag sale

Secondhand Prose Bookstore is having a Bag Sale from Monday, Aug. 14, to Saturday, Aug. 19.

Fill a bag with books, DVDs and other items for \$6. The bookstore, operated by the Friends of the Canton Public Library, has an ever-changing inventory of newly donated books, CDs, and DVDs available for purchase at bargain prices. It is in the southwest corner of the library, 1200 Canton Center Road.

Bookstore hours are: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 2-3 p.m. (premium members only) and 3-8 p.m. Tuesday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

### Polish folkdance enrollment

PNA Centennial Dancers, a Plymouth-based children's Polish folkdance ensemble serving the Polish-American communities in Wayne, Oakland and Livingston counties, is offering open enrollment through August.

Formed in 1980 by the Polish National Alliance (PNA) Lodge 53, formerly PNA Lodge 3240, the dance ensemble has been educating students ages 3-18 and sharing Polish heritage and culture through music, dance and language for over three decades. Beyond the regular

dance classes and recital, students can participate in a variety of additional performances. For more than 30 years, Centennial has participated in events and won awards from across the state: Polish American Night at Comerica Park, Plymouth and Northville Fourth of July parades, Plymouth Fall Festival, Polish Folk Dance Festival in Troy, Milwaukee Polish Festival, Polski Festiwal at Buddy's Pizzeria, the PNA Youth Jam-boree and more.

For more information on registering, go to <https://pnacentennialdancers.wordpress.com/registration/>.

### Help a neighbor

On Saturday, Sept. 9, the FRIENDS program will once again come together to help a resident spruce up their home.

The program was started in 1998 to help a Wayne resident whose home needed some tender loving care. Homes are usually chosen based on the homeowners' inability to handle the work themselves, due to either financial or health reasons. The FRIENDS committee coordinates with willing volunteers to complete the task. This program is completely funded through donations and volunteers.

For more information, to donate or to volunteer, call the Wayne's Community Development department at 734-722-2000, ext. 1032.

### Dog wash

A dog wash event to benefit Wreaths Across America will be held at noon Saturday, Aug. 26, at 520 Blunk, Plymouth. Baths are by donation. All proceeds benefit WAA. For more information, visit [wreathssacrossamerica.org](http://wreathssacrossamerica.org).

### Bowling fundraiser

A bowling event, with proceeds going to the building fund at VFW Post 6695 in Plymouth, will be held 6-8 p.m. Sat-

urday, Aug. 26, at Plaza Bowling Lanes, 42001 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth.

There will be bowling, desserts, 50/50 drawing and a full tin can basket raffles. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$8 for kids. Tickets includes two games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and pop.

Sign up by Aug. 12 by calling 734-265-7908 or emailing [strawjazz@yahoo.com](mailto:strawjazz@yahoo.com).

### Jazz concert series relocated

The 2017 Canton Color Block Jazz Concert Series continues this summer with its remaining concerts scheduled to take place at a new location in Canton's Heritage Park. The outdoor concerts will now be held 7-9 p.m. each Friday evening through Aug. 25 at the Heritage Park Amphitheater, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

To allow larger audiences the chance to experience these free jazz concerts, this popular series has been relocated from the Super Bowl to Canton's Heritage Park. The concert lineup and schedule remain the same:

- » Aug. 18: RYZ Mr. Gerard Gibbs
  - » Aug. 25: Greg Nagy
- Audience members are encouraged to bring

a lawn chair or blanket and then sit back and enjoy. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will be canceled.

For more information, go to [www.shopcanton.org](http://www.shopcanton.org).

### Shoe drive for homeless

Orangetheory Fitness-Canton, in partnership with HERO and Midwest Recycling, will conduct a shoe drive for the homeless throughout August. HERO is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping homeless people or those at risk of homelessness.

Orangetheory Fitness, 41818 Ford Road, will be an official shoe collection site. If you would like to donate a pair of shoes, come by during hours of operation. All shoes are welcomed.

### Runestad seeks public input

State Rep. Jim Runestad has scheduled two public meetings to gather input on proposed child custody reforms. Runestad, chair of the House Judiciary Committee, is working on legislation establishing shared custody with equal parenting time as the starting point for all child custody deliberations in Michigan.

"I want to get as much input as possible from people involved with the family court system throughout our state, including parents, attorneys and other experts," said Runestad, R-White Lake. "This information will allow me to move forward and make meaningful reforms that improve child custody laws in Michigan."

Public meetings will be at 6-8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, at Studio D2D, 401 Hall St. SW, Grand Rapids; and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, at Antonio's Cucina Italiana, 2220 N. Canton Center Road, Canton.

Anyone unable to attend one of the meetings is encouraged to contact Runestad's office at 517-373-2616 or email [JimRunestad@house.mi.gov](mailto:JimRunestad@house.mi.gov).

### Summer send-off concert

Kick back, relax and enjoy an unforgettable night of lively Christian bands and artists 6-7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, performing traditional to contemporary selections at Kellogg Park in Plymouth. Presented by St. Michael Lutheran Church of Canton. Go to [smlucanton.org](http://smlucanton.org) or call 734-459-3333 for more information.

## Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

How to reach us: 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • [www.middeathnotices.com](http://www.middeathnotices.com)

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

### Catherman-Bullock



**Eleanor M.** Age 100, August 1, 2017. Beloved wife of the late Howard Catherman and the late Andrew Bullock. Loving mother of David (Sandy) Catherman and Linda Snelling. Cherished grandmother of Kimberly (Don) Martin, Kurt Snelling and Steven Catherman. Memorial Celebration of Life Service 2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 20th (visiting 1:30 p.m.) at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334. [www.thayer-rock.com](http://www.thayer-rock.com)

### Scott



**Mildred I.** of Livonia, 94, fourth African American female to graduate Wayne State University with a bachelors degree in education, all while embarking on a lengthy teaching career for the Detroit Public School system, died August 6, 2017. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 61 years, Joseph. Surviving by her devoted and loving son, Brian (Mary Jane); and three grandchildren, Brianna, Lauren and Michael Scott. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by sons, Daryl and Errol. Private interment Mt. Olivet Mausoleum, Detroit. Memorial tributes suggested to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, [lls.org](http://lls.org). Arrangements entrusted to the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington (248-474-5200).

HEENEY-SUNDQUIST FUNERAL HOME

### Williams



**Rose E.** Age 94, August 10, 2017 Beloved wife of the late Forrest Williams. Loving mother of Janice (James) Balcom, Denise Horner, Dennis (Janet), Kurt and Jeffrey (Julianne). Dear grandmother of 13 and great grandmother of 17. Rose worked for the Livonia Public Schools for over 42 years. She was a Bus Driver, Dispatcher and served the AFSCME Counsel for more than 26 years. She retired in 2008. A visitation will be held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday from 2 until 8 p.m. She will be Instate at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, 10 a.m. until her Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. Memorials may be directed to: Arbor Hospice or American Cancer Society. Please share a memory at [www.rgharris.com](http://www.rgharris.com).

## WEDDING

### Robinette-Neil

Mariah Robinette and Andrew Neil were joined in marriage May 6 during a double-ring ceremony held at Bedford Alliance Church. The bride is the daughter of Elsworth and Helen Robinette of Lambertville. The groom is the son of Tracy and Raeann Neil of Canton.

The reception was held at The Pinnacle Toledo, Maumee, Ohio. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica.

The bride is a 2011 graduate of Bedford High School and a 2015 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is employed as an office manager at a law office in Temperance and a dance instructor in Perrysburg.

The groom is a 2010 graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy and a 2015 graduate of EMU. He is employed as a corporate accountant at Domino's Pizza in Ann Arbor.



Mariah Robinette and Andrew Neil

May the memory of your loved one...  
...bring you peace.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**Dorothy Reynolds**  
8/13/1925 - 8/28/2014  
Can't believe it's been three years. Miss You, Love You Forever,  
Marion, Doug, Bob and Friends.

# There's nothing like a good purpose statement

**H**ello, I'm Dean Johnson, senior pastor at Lake Pointe Bible Church in Plymouth and I'm the new religion writer for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. My wife Crystal and I have three great kids and we live in Plymouth Township. When our kids were very young, we heard a speaker who challenged us to write a mission or "purpose" statement for our family. So we did. It goes like this: "We exist to glorify God by loving Him, loving each other and loving others, especially the poor and 'outsiders.'" (By "outsiders" we mean refugees, widows, the mentally handicapped, unwed mothers, etc.) Hopefully, if you know our family, you see some of these qualities in



**Dean Johnson**  
CULTURAL RELEVANCY

us. It's also good for an organization to have a purpose statement. Lake Pointe Bible Church's purpose statement is "Building disciples of Jesus Christ." So we exist not just to convert people or to do social programs or recreational activities, we exist to win people to Jesus and then help bring them to spiritual maturity. It is also good as an individual to have a mission or purpose statement. Why are you here? What is your purpose in life? So I have one of those, too. (To be honest, it's pretty similar to our

family statement!) Did you know that, according to the Bible, Jesus had a mission statement? It's in Luke chapter 4. I have to warn you, Jesus's purpose statement made one group of people unexpectedly happy, but another group of people very unhappy and even violently angry, kind of like a church who calls a new pastor and, when he arrives, the longtime members think he's going to make them comfortable and happy, but he starts reaching out to an entirely different group of people and makes the longtime members uncomfortable and unhappy. In the Luke passage, Jesus was at his hometown synagogue and they ask him to do the daily

*It is also good as an individual to have a mission or purpose statement. Why are you here? What is your purpose in life? So I have one of those, too. (To be honest, it's pretty similar to our family statement!)*

reading from Isaiah the prophet. Jesus reads it and then sits down in front to expound on the passage. Here's what the Isaiah text said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Jesus's "exposition" added one thing that no one expected him to say: "Today this is fulfilled, and I am the one fulfilling it." He was saying, "This passage is about me. In fact, it's my purpose statement." The Jews loved this quote from Isaiah 61 because it talked about all the great things God was going to do for the Jewish people. But people picked up on the fact that Jesus left off the last

line of the Isaiah 61 quote, the part that says "and the day of vengeance of our God." This line assured the Jews that the day of their salvation — the day the Messiah came to release and heal them — would also be the Day of Judgment on Israel's pagan enemies, the Gentiles. Jesus was refusing to say that his messiahship was for any one group of people. He's implying that God's love and mercy is for all people, to any who would come to him in faith. He has come to bring hope for all people. It turns out that's his purpose statement.

Dean Johnson is senior pastor at Lake Pointe Bible Church in Plymouth. Email him at DeanLPBC@sbcglobal.net.

## Loc Performance Products awarded \$417 million defense contract

Michigan-based Loc Performance Products Inc., whose corporate headquarters is in Plymouth, has been awarded a \$417 million defense contract to restore lost mobility to the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. The U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command issued the contract as a follow-on effort to its \$161 million dollar contract awarded in 2014. Together, they represent the

Army's Bradley Fighting Vehicle Engineering Change Proposal One (ECP-1) production and fielding program. Loc began fielding in summer 2015 and continues today at a rate of 36 vehicles per month, according to a press release. The new contract award includes scope for fielding upgraded Bradley final drive systems, in addition to the suspension and track systems being upgraded under

the original 2014 contract. It also includes scope for fielding at Army fort locations in Kuwait, Germany and South Korea in addition to numerous sites within the continental United States. The follow-on award adds 2,264 vehicles to the 1,080 vehicles from the original contract, bringing the total to 3,344 in the United States' global Bradley fleet. "This award validates

Loc as the Best Value provider of suspension, driveline and track systems for combat tracked vehicles. The Army is driving hundreds of millions of dollars out of the system for upgrades like this through competition. Loc is well positioned to win and deliver on competitive solicitations like this Bradley ECP1 program," said Lou Burr, president, Loc Performance. Jason Atkinson, Loc's chief operating officer said, "Loc has built its sound reputation through decades of winning business competitively and exceeding performance to contract, including business for commercial customers such as Cater-

pillar and General Electric where we compete on a global scale. Loc is able to support the warfighter through this ECP1 effort to obtain more capability at significantly lower prices. The funds freed up through Loc's competitive cost structure allow reallocation of funds to other warfighter needs." Chad Darr, Loc's chief program officer said, "A key success factor for winning this award is Loc's proactive management approach for executing its programs. This approach has allowed Loc to be at or ahead of schedule at all times, to accelerate when the Army requested it and to save the Army an addi-

tional \$5,000 per vehicle by refurbishing removed suspension arms into their updated configuration." Loc Performance Products, Inc. provides full services for complex mechanical products, fabricated structures and systems that range from complete design services to prototype manufacturing, testing, production launch, full rate production and product service and sustainment. The Plymouth facility serves as corporate headquarters and specializes in suspension, driveline and track systems and the Lansing facility specializes in fabrications and armor product solutions.

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Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on August 31st, 2017, 1:00 PM at 40671 Joy Road Canton, MI. 48187 County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on property stored at 40671 Joy Rd Canton MI 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit B08 Peterson, Household Goods: Unit B21 Roberts, Household Goods: Unit C113 Lockett, Household Goods: Unit C217 Ray, Household Goods: Unit C227 Coffey, Household Goods: Unit D28 Johnson, Household Goods: Unit E29 Wimberly, Household Goods: Unit F32 Mortenson, Household Goods: Unit F45 Fogarty, Household Goods: Unit G24 Taylor, Household Goods: Unit H20 Boyd, Household Goods: Unit I08 Parker, Household Goods: Unit I30 Maxwell, Household Goods: Unit I42 Williams, Household Goods: Unit J07 Leksche, Household Goods: Unit J34 Sindici, Household Goods: Unit K11 Gaines, Household Goods: K13 Nye, Household Goods.

Publish: August 6 and 13, 2017

STATE OF INDIANA )  
COUNTY OF LAKE ) SS: IN THE LAKE SUPERIOR COURT  
CAUSE NUMBER: 45D06-1604-JC-000376

IN THE MATTER OF:  
JSC - DOB 1/13/2005  
A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE  
A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES  
AND  
JACQUELINE CALDERON, MOTHER  
JOSEPH TADROS, ALLEGED FATHER  
AND ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED FATHERS  
(Parents)

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY  
PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF  
CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES  
HEARING

TO: Joseph Tadros and Any Unknown Alleged Fathers;

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, as well as Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are also unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Lake Superior Court, 3000 W. 93rd Avenue, Crown Point, IN 46307, 219-660-6900 for a CHINS Publication Service Return Hearing on 9/11/2017 at 1:00 PM. At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is a child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing.

UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including child support.

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition and a dispositional decree may be entered against you without further notice.

Dated this 12th day of July, 2017

Michael A. Brown  
Juvenile Court Clerk

Justin R Paris, 31076-64  
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services, 661 Broadway, Gary, IN 46402  
Work: 219-881-6944

Publish: July 30, August 6 & 13, 2017

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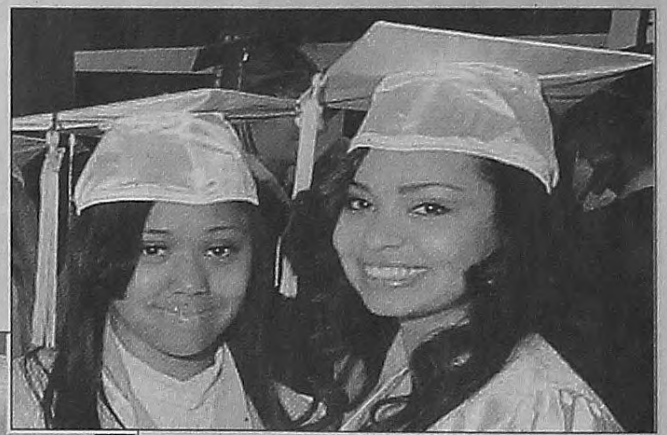
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- SHOPPING SPREE RAFFLE
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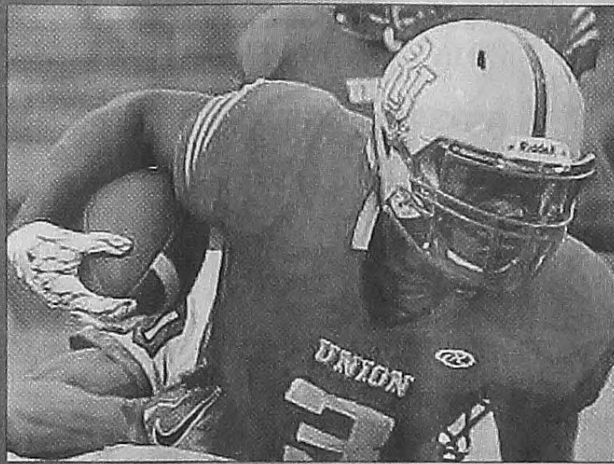
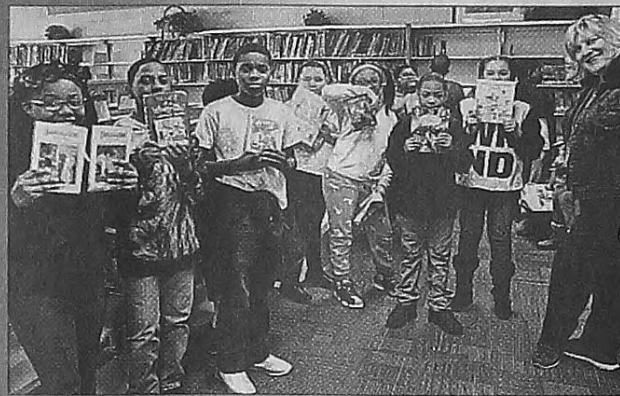
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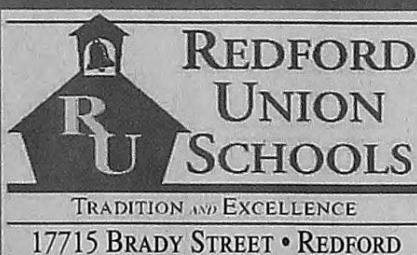
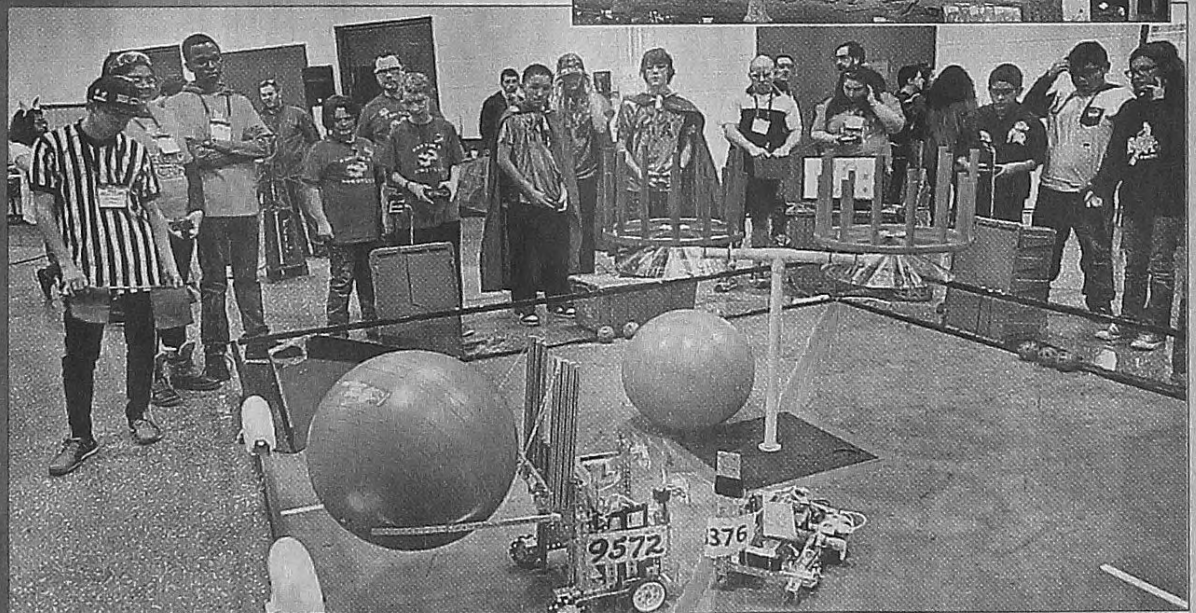
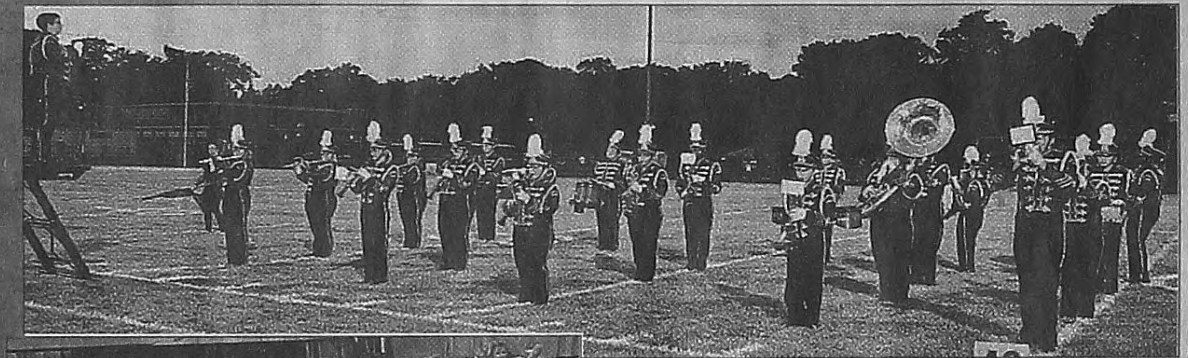
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## PREP FOOTBALL

## 'Basics' training for grididders

Chiefs start practices with eye on Big House opener

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Drink plenty of water, keep your head up and make sure you bring red socks to The Big House.

Those were three takeaways for Canton varsity football players Thursday, as they begin to ratchet up their practice intensity in advance of the season opener against Muskegon Mona Shoes — 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, in the annual Battle of the Big House.

"I'm a Michigan fan, so I always wanted to play in the Big House," said co-captain Noah Brown, a linebacker/tight end entering his senior season. "Just think of it as another

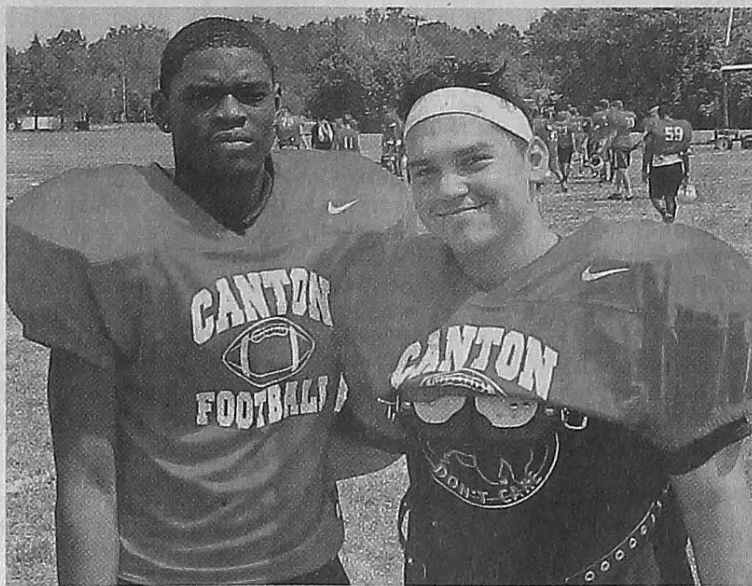
game.

"It doesn't matter where we're playing, we have the same goal, to come out with a 'W.'"

With over two weeks before the season opener, the Chiefs ran routes and drills wearing just helmets and shoulder pads Thursday.

Veteran head coach Tim Baechler implored players following the practice to stay hydrated and be prepared for the first day of full pads Friday.

That's when the rubber starts to hit the road after weeks and months of weightlifting and non-football work-



Noah Brown (left) and Lou Baechler will be leading the 2017 Canton Chiefs on and off the football field.

See TRAINING, Page B3

## MAJOR LEAGUE LACROSSE

## After a small taste, Perkovic shooting for long pro career

Marty Budner  
hometownlife.com

It's not easy breaking into the world of lacrosse — where the majority of top-level talent is produced in the East — but Bloomfield Hills resident Sergio Perkovic is certainly making his mark.

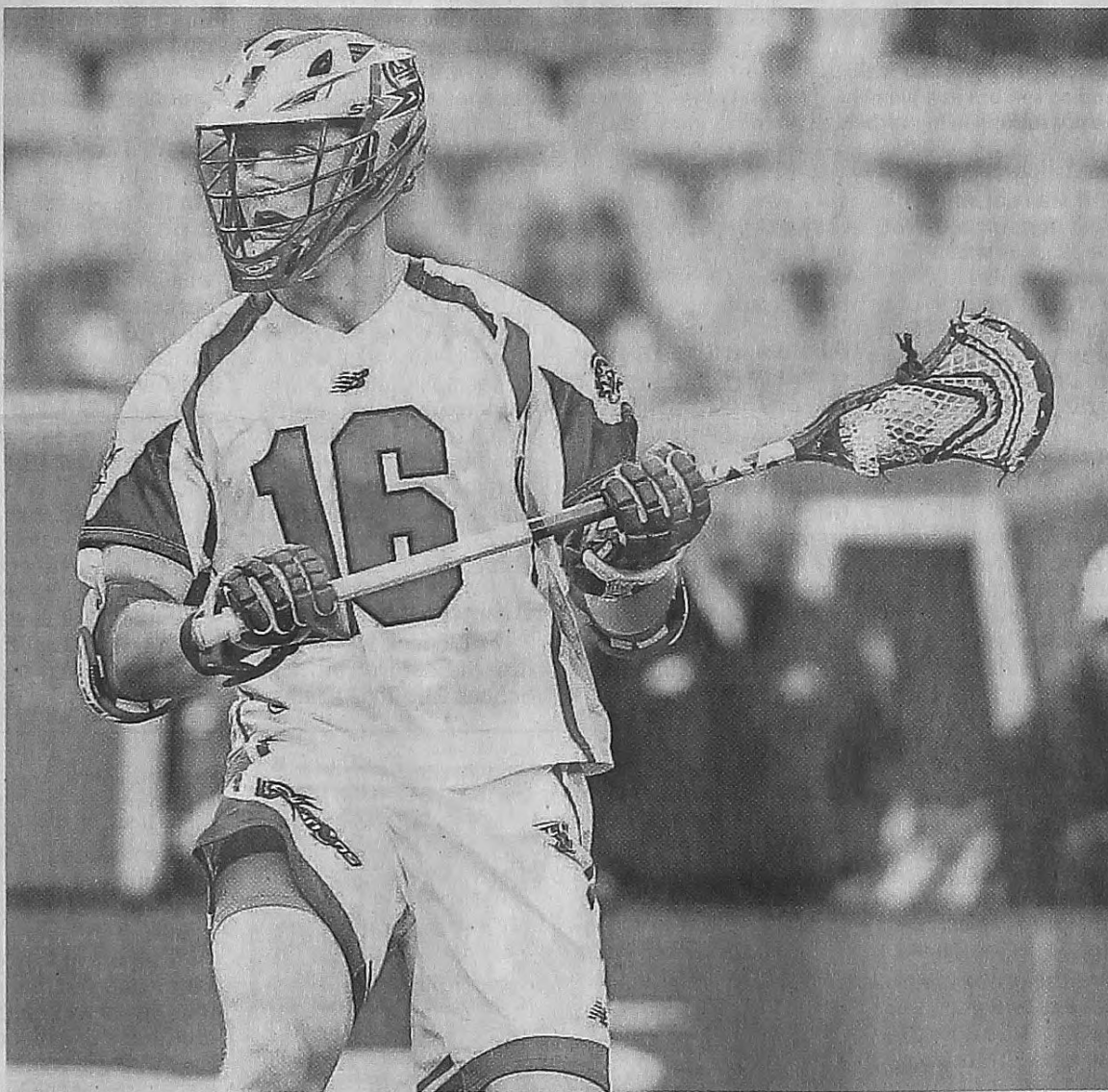
Perkovic recently completed his first season as a member of the Boston Cannons, who play in the nine-team Major League Lacrosse. The rookie was the only Michigan native and one of just four players on the 33-man Boston roster with roots west of Penn-

See PERKOVIC, Page B2

*"It's pretty cool to kind of see that the sport has grown that far and that somebody from a place like Michigan, from Bloomfield Hills or from Birmingham, can make it all the way to the top in a sport like lacrosse."*

## SERGIO PERKOVIC

Brother Rice grad playing pro lacrosse for the Boston Cannons



Sergio Perkovic, who honed his game at both Brother Rice and the University of Notre Dame, was the No. 2 overall selection by the Boston Cannons in the 2107 Major League Lacrosse draft.

## COLLEGE ATHLETICS

## Albion College to honor pair of athletes with Country Day connections

Marty Budner  
hometownlife.com

Albion College is set to honor a pair of athletes with Detroit Country Day connections

Soccer standout Ben Upward and diving star Daniel Fradeneck are among 11 individuals who will be inducted into the Albion College Athletic Hall of Fame this fall. Upward and Fradeneck will be formally recognized at a dinner Oct.



Fradeneck



Upward

20 at Baldwin Hall prior to the Albion-Alma football game Oct. 21.

Upward and Fradeneck are

honored to be part of the the Hall of Fame's Class of 2017.

"I found out about two months ago and it was a surprise and I was very happy and felt honored," said Upward, a Birmingham resident and 1996 Detroit Country Day graduate.

Fradeneck was caught completely off-guard when he was notified.

"It was shock and disbelief when I first found out about it," said Fradeneck, an IT de-

partment worker the past four years at Detroit Country Day, who also serves as the school's diving coach. "I was joking with my friends and co-workers that I was waiting for them to call back and say, 'Oh, we made a mistake.'"

"But, yeah, it's a great honor and I'm looking forward to the ceremony. I know a couple of the coaches that I was able to

See ALBION, Page B2

## MIHL Showcase teams set

The Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League Selection Committee recently announced the 42 teams that will fill out the 2018 event, which takes place Feb. 1-3, 2018, at the Kennedy Ice Arena in Trenton.

Teams from the Observer & Eccentric/Hometownlife areas that are slated to participate include Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice, Novi Detroit Catholic Central, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Stevenson, Northville, Novi, Plymouth and Salem.

The Showcase features some of the Midwest's top teams and attracts more than 80 scouts from all different levels of hockey.

The 2017 MIHL Showcase, for example, featured all six state finalists and 10 of the 12 semifinalists in the annual MHSAA postseason tournament. Each team is guaranteed to play two games.

## Prep Kickoff Classic on tap

Tickets are on sale for the 2017 Xenith Prep Kickoff Classic, scheduled for Aug. 24-26 at Wayne State University.

The three-day event kicks off at 4 p.m. Aug. 24, when 2016 MHSAA Division 2 finalist Walled Lake Western faces West Bloomfield. The second game at 7 p.m. will feature Davison taking on Southfield A&T.

On Friday, the two-game slate will include Almont vs. Grosse Ile at 4 p.m. and Warren De La Salle against Lowell at 7 p.m.

The final day features a three-game menu — Detroit East English Village vs. River Rouge (noon), Oak Park vs. Utica Eisenhower (3 p.m.) and two-time defending Division 2 champion Detroit Martin Luther King vs. Indianapolis Cathedral (6 p.m.).

Tickets are available at participating schools for a discount rate of \$9. Game day tickets are \$10. Children under 5 are free. One ticket allows admission to all games on that day.

## Little League fall registration

The South Farmington Little League is currently conducting registration for its fall season.

Fall ball is an opportunity for players ages 4-15 to play baseball or softball for six weeks starting Sept. 4. All games are scheduled for Saturday, with one practice each week through Oct. 14.

Limited spots are available, so some divisions may fill up quickly. The fee is \$50 for T-ball and \$90 for baseball and softball.

Registration ends Aug. 20 and is open to residents of Farmington, Farmington Hills and surrounding communities.

To register or for more information, go to southfarmington.org.



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## PREP VOLLEYBALL

## Clutter will keep things simple as Churchill coach

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

Following a legend is a tough assignment for any coach.

But Kristin Clutter is open to the challenge as she succeeds Mark Grenier as varsity volleyball coach at Livonia Churchill.

"As with any change, I'm sure there will be bumps in the road," said Clutter, who previously coached at Dearborn and Dearborn Edsel Ford, as an assistant and co-coach, respectively. "But I know that I have a group of exceptional kids that will adjust in no time."

Clutter knows that because she's coached them on the club volley-

ball scene.

"Mark has quite a history at Churchill and the kids really admired and respected him as a coach, so I know that there will be a small adjustment period," Clutter said. "I don't expect it to be a difficult one, as I've been lucky enough to coach some of the kids in the program during the club season."

"I've gotten to know the kids and their families and they have gotten to know me."

Another reason the 36-year-old Clutter does not foresee any difficulty



Clutter

grabbing the baton from Grenier (who joined the Madonna University coaching staff) is the quality program he left behind.

"Mark Grenier and (Churchill athletic director) Marc Hage have really created a culture of hard work, incredible sportsmanship and respect," Clutter said.

"These are truly some of the most positive and hardest working kids I've ever coached and that makes coming to the gym every day really exciting."

"This culture extends to a great parent network, who are all incredibly supportive and willing to help in any way they can. Finally, there is some really great talent

in the program and at the middle school levels. I'm excited to be here for this and future seasons."

Meanwhile, Clutter doesn't let her last name influence the way she instructs her players.

"I like to break down and simplify volleyball fundamentals by teaching kids to use efficient and repeatable movement patterns designed by some of the most successful volleyball coaches in the world," she said. "This approach is closely aligned with many of the collegiate strategies and is even used at the professional and national levels."

A veteran coach with two decades experience at the club level, Clutter

— who also played volleyball at Dearborn High and the University of Michigan-Dearborn — intends to foster an upbeat learning environment.

"I believe that the best way to motivate kids is to encourage them with positive reinforcement," Clutter said. "This helps them hear and heed the necessary corrections to become better volleyball players."

"With a combination of truthful feedback and constructive criticism, kids improve at a faster rate and, in the process, develop a deep connection with the game of volleyball and strong relationships with their teammates."

Clutter also wants her Chargers to leave the gym after every game or match with knowledge they can file away and put to good use whenever they need to.

"In addition to skill training, I focus on character attributes like teamwork, sportsmanship, perseverance, discipline, integrity, respect and leadership that round out player development," Clutter said. "As the majority of all athletes will eventually go on to jobs outside of playing sports, my goal is to develop skills that increase the chances of success in both volleyball and life."

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## ALBION

Continued from Page B1

get in touch with that coached me were very excited about it."

## Onward and Upward

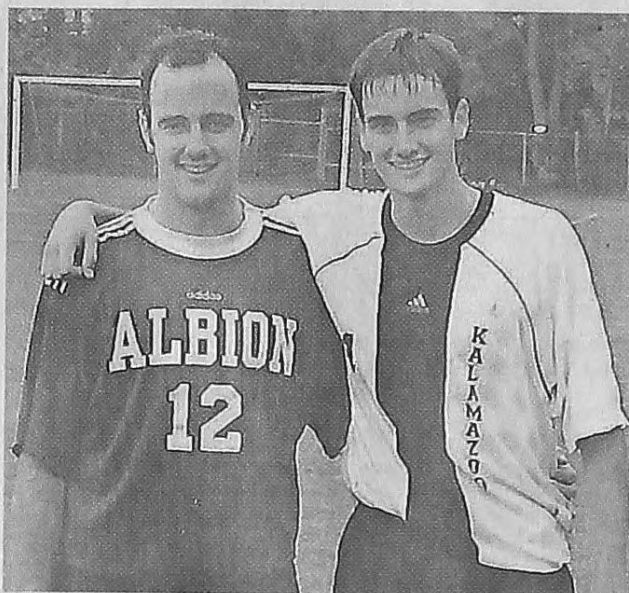
Upward began his college soccer career Claremont Graduate University in California after starring at Country Day. However, he transferred to Albion in summer 1998 and it couldn't have worked out better.

Upward played sweeper as a junior and center forward as a senior in his two years on the pitch with the Brittons.

He was an all-league (Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association) selection after scoring 19 goals in 1999, which still stands as a single-season school record. He scored 12 of those goals in the MIAA to finish second in the league's goal-scoring race.

One of Upward's favorite goals — a first-half marker from some 40 yards out on a severe angle — came against his younger brother Andrew's Kalamazoo team.

"Yeah, it was curving and dipping and that was probably one of my best goals ever," said Upward, who now works at Synchronicity in Birmingham.



Ben Upward (left), pictured with his brother Andrew, had two outstanding seasons as a member of Albion College's soccer squad after starring in high school at Detroit Country Day.

ham. "It was definitely my most memorable. Not only because it was a good one, but also because it came against my brother."

"I enjoyed it a lot at Albion. I made a lot of good friends on and off the field. We had a good team both years and I was able to play at both ends of the field."

"I was lucky to have some good defensive players and a goalie around me (as a junior) and we actually allowed the fewest goals ever at Albion, so that was really

cool. And my senior year, they put me up top and I was able to kind of help us on the other side by scoring some goals."

## Albion in the family

Upward's father Geoff is also a member of Albion's Hall of Fame. Geoff Upward was a member of Albion's 1969 MIAA title-winning club soccer team that was inducted in 1995. Jim Francis, a family friend, is in Albion's Hall of Fame as both an individual soccer player and as a member of that 1969 team.

"I really had a good experience there and a lot of my family lives in Albion," said Upward, whose mom Meredith also attended Albion. "It was pretty cool that I can join my dad in the Hall of Fame. So it was nice that I was able to have a bit of a legacy there as well."

Upward played four years on the DCD varsity and helped lead the Yellowjackets to three state championships under then head coach Paul Bartoshuk. He was also a member of the Kurt Keener-coached Country Day basketball team that finished with a pair of state titles.

Upward amazingly finished with five state championships.

"I was lucky enough to play on a soccer team that, my junior year, for most of the season, was ranked No. 1 in the country and all four years it was some of the most competitive soccer I ever played," Upward said. "That was quite an experience. And it was pretty much the same thing on the basketball team and playing with guys like Shane Battier, Jason and David Webber and Javin Hunter."

## Diving into the HOF

Fradeneck learned to dive at East Detroit High School. The 2003 gradu-

ate then went to Albion, where he earned All-America honors in 2005 by finishing seventh overall off the one-meter board at the NCAA Division III championship meet.

In 2004, Fradeneck was an honorable mention All-American performer in both diving events. The MIAA's most valuable diver in 2006, Fradeneck was a three-time league and a three-time all-MIAA award winner in his three years with the squad.

"I had coaches tell me when I was in high school that I had a natural affinity for diving," said Fradeneck, who credited coaches Sarah Loop (at East Detroit) and Terry Howard (at Albion) for his diving proficiency. "In the off-season, I went to private coaches in the Macomb County area. It was lots of hard work, but it was talent, too. You have to have some natural talent, otherwise the hard work isn't going to amount to much."

"I went to nationals all three years at Albion," added the 2007 Albion grad. "And I think, although I'm not positive, that I was the first diver to get the (MIAA most valuable diver) award when they split it to be both a swimmer and a diver."

The others to be inducted into the Albion College Hall of Fame include Lindsay Brown Salvador (diving and track, '07), Kevin Bushinski (football and track, '88), Amy Dempsey Karns (soccer and swimming, '95), Bruce Foulk (track, '59), Ben Gitler (football, '00), Lori Haas Lepard (swimming, '94), Neil Johnson (baseball and football, '98), Jared Owens (football and track, '02) and Casey Sivier (football, '96).

In addition, the 1965 and 1966 football teams, plus the 1971 swimming and diving team, will enter the Hall of Fame.

This year's group of inductees increases the total number of Hall of Fame individuals to 316.

Men and women are honored either by their athletic performance on athletic teams representing the college or by meritorious efforts in years after graduation. An athlete must have earned two letters in one sport or one letter in three or more sports and must have been a graduate for at least 10 years to be eligible for selection.

A team is eligible if it has won an MIAA championship and 10 years have elapsed since competition.

## PERKOVIC

Continued from Page B1

sylvania.

"It's cool to be a guy from a non-traditional lacrosse hotbed playing at such a high level," Perkovic said. "It's pretty cool to kind of see that the sport has grown that far and that somebody from a place like Michigan, from Bloomfield Hills or from Birmingham, can make it all the way to the top in a sport like lacrosse."

## A successful pro debut

The 22-year-old Perkovic joined the Cannons in June, midway through their 14-game season, after a stellar college career at the University of Notre Dame.

In his professional debut against the Denver Outlaws — the league's only franchise west of the Mississippi — Perkovic scored his first goal on his first possession and first shot. The 6-foot-4, 225-pound midfielder played in only three games because of a recurring wrist injury and finished with four goals and four assists.

"Hopefully, scoring in that first game is a good omen for me going forward," Perkovic said. "It's awesome to be playing professional lacrosse and it feels incredible."

"When you play sports your whole life, you hopefully get to play at the highest level. I got to

make it this far and I was fortunate enough to play at Notre Dame for four years and then get drafted by the Boston Cannons to play professionally, as well.

"The sport is a lot faster in the pros than it is in college and you learn a lot because you're playing against the best lacrosse players in the world. But it's cool to make it this far and be at the top of your sport."

## Showed star power at Rice

Perkovic learned the game around the fields of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, eventually showcasing his star potential at Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice, where he played four years of varsity and helped lead the Warriors to four Division 1 state championships.

At Rice, Perkovic was a two-time All-American and a two-time Mr. Lacrosse winner — still the only player awarded that honor in consecutive seasons. He was a team captain as a junior and senior for former head coach Rob Ambrose and was voted the Midwest Scholastic Lacrosse Coaches Association's Player of the Year as a senior.

Perkovic graduated from Brother Rice in 2013 as the country's No. 58-ranked player overall and the No. 20 midfielder.

"Playing lacrosse at Brother Rice was a very good stepping stone,



Bloomfield Hills resident Sergio Perkovic (right) scored four goals during his rookie season as a pro lacrosse player with the Boston Cannons.

because I got to play against really good players and in big games," said Perkovic, whose mom and dad own the popular Ember's Deli in Bloomfield Hills. "I got pushed extremely hard early on and that really prepared me, obviously, for the next level."

## Shining at Notre Dame

The highly-rated recruit earned a scholarship to Notre Dame, where he gained national acclaim while helping lead the Fighting Irish to the final four in two of his four seasons. Like at Rice, Perkovic garnered multiple awards.

Perkovic was a three-time first team USILA All-American, a three-time all-ACC selection and a three-time all-ACC Academic Team recipient. This past spring as a senior, when he served as a team captain, Perkovic earned second team In-

side Lacrosse All-America designation and was the 2017 Senior CLASS Award Finalist.

Perkovic stood out in Notre Dame's postseason tournament runs. As a freshman playing in the national championship game, he scored five goals in a loss to Duke. As a sophomore, he scored five straight goals in the national semifinal overtime loss to Denver.

For his career, Perkovic finished sixth in program history with 111 goals and 12th in total points with 134. He had the distinction of leaving South Bend as the program's all-time scoring midfielder.

"I didn't really know what to expect at Notre Dame," Perkovic said. "I knew they had a great lacrosse program at the time, but I didn't know how I would fit in and how good I'd be compared to all those East Coast players I was play-

ing with. I was the only Midwest player on the team when I first came in. It showed me I was a good player and I could play with the best of them."

"Playing at Notre Dame and starting all four years was an incredible experience. Every single week, we were playing the best teams, so having that experience on my resume and getting to play on the big stage that we did really prepared me for where I'm at now."

## Drafted second overall

Perkovic was such a highly regarded commodity that he was drafted second overall — the highest draftee ever to come out of Notre Dame — by Boston in the 2017 draft. He had always wanted to play the sport at its highest level and is now living out that dream.

"It's an honor to get drafted that high," Perkovic said. "I always aspired to play at the highest level, but I really wasn't thinking pro right away. So to be where I'm at right now is really cool."

Perkovic, a finance major at Notre Dame, lives in Manhattan, where he works as an investment banker for Credit Suisse. It is less than 200 miles from New York City to Boston, so Perkovic has little trouble making his pro games, which are normally played on week-

ends.

It's an ideal situation for Perkovic, as it allows him to gain experience in his business career while continuing to grow as a professional lacrosse player.

"Because it is a growing sport, nobody is making a ton of money, but people just love the sport and want to grow the sport," said Perkovic, who is sponsored by New Balance and Warrior Lacrosse. "You can make a little bit of money, but a lot of guys work during the week, as well."

"It's a cool opportunity to grow in both (careers) as much as I can and see what happens from there," he added. "It's not a bad gig."

Perkovic loves playing in Boston — a city he had never visited prior to this year — and plans to continue making an impact as a pro.

"Boston is a really cool city and the fans are great here. We probably have the best fan base in Major League Lacrosse," said Perkovic, whose team plays in historic Harvard Stadium. "I've met a ton of cool people. It's a cool league and I love playing and interacting."

"I have high expectations for myself next year. I think I can make a pretty big impact with the Boston Cannons and a pretty big impact in the league. I'm super-excited to get to play a full year and be 100 percent for the year, as well."

WOMEN'S AMATEUR GOLF

# Her calm approach in playoff nets O&E title

Tim Smith  
hometownlife.com

When Olivia Bayagich went out Aug. 5 to Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course for the annual Observer & Eccentric Women's Open, she figured she'd have fun with friends and try to keep her shots on the fairway.

The 56-year-old Washington Township woman did all that and more — she won a playoff hole to capture the Championship Flight and came away with a plaque and \$80 gift card for the Whispering Willows pro shop.

"I bought myself some golf balls," Bayagich said with a chuckle. "I got myself some Titleists, which I always play."

She edged Livonia's Lauri Ponikiewski and Novi's Shelly Manning, who finished the par-5 playoff hole (No. 1) with respective scores of 6 and 7 strokes. All three registered an 18-hole score of 83 to finish in a three-way tie for the lead, necessitating the playoff on the par-5 first hole.



From left are O&E Women's Open winners Cynthia Pickard, Yvette Gagnon (Bloomfield Hills), Olivia Bayagich, Shelly Manning (Novi) and Cindy Hill. Bayagich won the Championship Flight; Pickard and Gagnon finished first and second in the First Flight; Manning and Hill finished first and second in low net scores (total minus handicap).

**'Felt wonderful'**

"It felt wonderful; it's a hard course," said Bayagich, in her third O&E tournament. "You have to keep it straight and shoot up and down and, hopefully, try to one-putt or two-putt and that's what happened that day, I guess. It all came together."

Bayagich said the key to her win was not putting too much pressure on herself and trying to have fun.

"I relaxed. Just pretend you're playing with your friends — which they are. Most of the people in that group are friends, people I know," she said. "So I just relaxed, tried to hit a

straight ball out wherever I could.

"If I got in a little crooked, I tried to get my second shot back out on the fairway. And I was able to make a third shot, the third shot was on."

That approach shot landed on the front edge of a mammoth green. She surveyed the slope and went to work.

"The pin was way in the back and I, of course, landed in the front," Bayagich said. "It was a really long putt, had to go all the way to the back."

"I just told myself, 'OK, I know the break goes from right to left, so hit it about a foot to the right.' It landed about a foot and a half out and my second putt was right into the hole."

Even after sinking the putt, Bayagich didn't realize she had clinched the O&E tourney.

"It was fun, it was exciting," she said. "When I realized I made the putt, everyone said, 'Congratulations, you won.'"

**Other winners**

Also earning plaques and prize money were Ponikiewski (second in the Championship Flight); Cynthia Pickard (Southfield) and Yvette Gagnon (Bloomfield Hills), top two finishers in the First Flight with respective pre-handicap scores of 95 and 100; Manning and Cindy Hill (Ypsilanti), top two in Overall Net (total score, minus handicap) with

respective scores of 64 and 71.

Others in the championship flight were Janina Jacobs (St. Clair), Sarah King (Livonia), Alethea Van Gorp (Livonia), Deb Horning (Bloomfield Hills), Suzanne Madej (Detroit) and Sue Dorr (Livonia).

In addition to Pinkard and Gagnon, golfers in the First Flight included Denise Buechel (Walled Lake), Joan Cleland (Waterford), Angela Cook (Ypsilanti), Raida Abdullah (Redford), Barbara Coury (Plymouth), Susan Merrick (West Bloomfield), Monica Oliver (Farmington Hills), Pat Shelton (Farmington) and Liz Cantu (White Lake).

Tournament director and Whispering Willows PGA pro Paul Worley said 21 women took part in the event, down slightly from last year, when 24 participated.

The O&E Men's Open, also at Whispering Willows, is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, Worley added.

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LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

# Birmingham U-12 boys team concludes 'awesome run'

Marty Budner  
hometownlife.com

The Birmingham Little League's Under-12 boys baseball team's memorable postseason run recently came to a halt in the Upper Peninsula.

After winning their pool with a perfect 3-0 record, the Birmingham Bulldogs advanced to the quarterfinal round of the state tourney in Gladstone, near Escanaba. It took an Upper Peninsula team, Kingsford, to end Birmingham's state tournament hopes.

"It was an awesome run," said head coach Mark Simpson, whose team finished with a 3-1 state tournament record. "It was very exciting. I was very proud of this group of boys. We were the only final four team from last year to even qualify this year and I'm very proud of that."

"We went to a beautiful part of the world in Escanaba up there," he added. "It was a very well-run tournament and there was some great competition."

Following is a recap of Birmingham's state-tournament run to the

elite eight:

**BIRMINGHAM 3, BC**

**NW 2:** In the tournament opener July 21, Bay City shot out to a 2-0 lead and was cruising right along until the fifth inning. In that fateful fifth, Birmingham's Logan Connaughton and Gunnar Dudlar reached base and were brought home on a timely round-tripper by Noah Wood. The three-run blast put Birmingham ahead by a run and pitcher Grant Stice, in relief of starter Ben Catlin, held things in check by striking out six and walking just one.

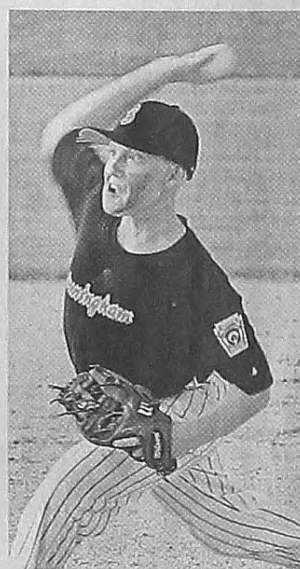
"This was a fantastic game," Simpson said. "It was just a huge win for us and a wonderful way to start the tournament."

**BIRMINGHAM 5,**

**WHITE LAKE 4:** Birmingham pitchers Wood, Joe Simpson and Henry Allen combined to scatter five hits while striking out nine. Allen hurled the final two innings to pick up the win. The big blow offensively was a key two-out, two-strike, first-inning base hit by Bradley Babitch, which gave Birmingham the early 2-0 lead.

**BIRMINGHAM 17,**

**PORTAGE LAKE 7:** After



Birmingham's Noah Wood shows off his pitching form in U-12 state tournament action in the Upper Peninsula.

two nail-biting one-run decisions to open the tourney, Birmingham concluded pool play with this tension-free 10-run triumph. Portage surged ahead 3-0 in the top of the first inning, but Birmingham's bats exploded for eight runs in the bottom of the first. Birmingham held an 8-3 lead and was in control the rest of the way. Stice finished with a



Joe Simpson executes a bunt for the Birmingham U-12 team during recent state tournament action in the Upper Peninsula.

pair of hits, including a homer and triple. Allen registered three hits. Pitchers Catlin and Simpson, who was credited with the win, combined to allow four hits while striking out five.

**KINGSFORD 6, BIRMINGHAM 1:**

In the state quarterfinal, the Kingsford squad belted a pair of solo home runs in the opening inning to go up 2-0 and take a lead it would never relinquish. The Birmingham boys finished with three hits, including a triple by Catlin and a long home run by Stice. Pitchers Wood

and Catlin combined to allow only six hits and struck out 11 Kingsford batters (nine by Catlin).

"It was an eventful game," Simpson said. "They play a different brand of baseball up there. But I was very proud of my kids. They played with class, guts, fire and passion and that's a great combination."

"I thought we pitched fantastic the entire tournament. Our hitting was very good but, obviously, we didn't hit on the last day and we lost," he added. "But I told the kids at the end to remember this great journey and not this last game that we'd like to have back."

Team members were Timmy Cooper, Leo Kooisis, Jeffrey Sheldon, Graham Doman, Allen, Babitch, Catlin, Connaughton, Simpson, Stice, Wood and Dudlar.

The loss ended an exciting two summers for this particular group of Birmingham Little Leaguers. Last year, representing the BLL in the U-11 state tournament, the boys advanced to the final four.

"We've only been together for two years with

this group," Simpson said. "We won two districts, went to a final four and a final eight and had an incredible amount of fun the entire way. So that is a very successful run with a bunch of great kids and great families. We made some great life memories, that's for sure."

Simpson and assistant coaches Tim Connaughton and Brett Stice are grateful for the community support.

"I just absolutely loved working with these kids and these families," Simpson said. "It's just been a wonderful journey for all of us. The community support was just so passionate. All the phone calls and the texts. All the people checking in on us and listening in on the radio, when it was available."

"It was a lot of fun. We always tell the kids you're playing for Birmingham. You're playing for your teammates, you're playing for yourself and you're playing for your community."

"And we really felt it. It was awesome," he added. "I know I'll never forget it and they won't either."

## TRAINING

Continued from Page B1

outs. "It's like starting over," Baechler said. "It's frustrating, when you get at the end of the year last year, you see how fast and how well you're playing and the kids know it."

"And then you start out the first week again, it literally is starting over again. ... We get impatient because we know what it's supposed to look like."

"But it's always a slow process, getting them used to it. Football is not a natural thing to do."

**All about team**

Another thing Baechler stressed to players was the importance of doing things the right way. He talked about all players wearing identical uniforms, right down to the socks.

"The team's our motto, nobody's special," said senior co-captain Lou Baechler, another linebacker and tight end



Following Thursday's practice, longtime Canton football coach Tim Baechler (right) talks to his players about staying hydrated and getting ready for Friday's practice, the first with full pads.

returning from last year's KLAA South Division champions. "Just like on the field, everyone does their one 11th, does their one job and that's how we're successful. We don't have a lot of talent, just play as a team."

About uniformity being important, Brown smiled.

"Everybody better

have their red socks," Brown said. "(Coach Baechler) wants us all to look the same out there. No one guy's more important than anybody else. That's something that we really stress."

With full contact about to commence, players also are constantly reminded about proper technique for hitting and tackling — largely to

protect themselves against concussions.

"We teach face-up tackling and hitting with the shoulder and our face mask, keeping that neck bowed so no concussions happen," Lou Baechler said. "And hitting on that back hip, keep the head out of the tackle."

Brown chimed in that Canton players "really focus for tackling drills



This Canton varsity football player runs a route during Thursday's practice.

on keeping our heads out of the play and not going across the body. So we're not turning our necks or anything like that. And just keeping your head up is just what the coaches have been teaching us this year."

According to Tim Baechler, football numbers are down "in most communities," and fall-out to the 2015 movie "Concussion" is one factor. This season, Canton has 54 varsity players and another 56 for the

freshman and junior varsity squads combined.

"It's not enrollment, it's less kids grow up playing football, less kids wanting to commit to a solid, hard-working program," Baechler said. "I think the concussion thing is scaring a lot of parents away and it shouldn't be. Numbers are dropping, especially in our community, for sure."

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## 6 tips for job hunting while you're employed

BY MIRANDA PENNINGTON  
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

Looking for a new job while still employed in another makes you more employable; however, it can backfire if your current employer finds out. Workers have various reasons to continue the job search. Perhaps your current job is too far away from where you live and commuting costs are pecking away at your salary, or your salary is on the low side for your job description. Maybe you want to work your way up the ladder faster. Whatever the reason, job hunting while employed is common. A few tips on how to do it can help.

### 1. Keep quiet about your job search

If you are looking at job ads for a new position, don't tell your co-workers. That's the fastest way for word to get around and eventually your boss will hear about it. Although some employers don't care if an employee wants to change jobs, the knowledge of it may keep you from getting pay raises or responsibilities that you want.

Additionally, if you have social media accounts, you often have friends in the same office, or friends of friends who may share your posts. Be discreet and refrain from post-



GETTY IMAGES

ing about your job search. Be careful about posting on job boards as well, for the same reasons.

### 2. Don't quit your job

It's easier to get a new job if you are already working. In addition, don't get lazy in your current job because you are hoping to get a new one. You still owe your current employer a good day's work for your pay.

### 3. Think before you list character references

While your first inclination may be to include your current boss or co-workers as references on your job application, don't do it. Obviously, if you get called for an interview and the hiring manager calls your references, everyone in the office will know you are job hunting. Surprisingly enough, many of those seeking a new job don't think to leave

these references off of their resumes.

### 4. Schedule job interviews outside of office hours

Hours when you are supposed to be at work are not the times to schedule job interviews. Missing work hours can make your boss suspicious and does not look good to other employees. In addition, it looks odd if your

office dress is casual and you show up for work dressed up for an interview. Instead, schedule interviews outside of office hours or on weekends, if possible.

### 5. Don't bad-mouth your boss

Your current boss may not be all sweetness and light, but bad-mouthing your employer is always a bad idea. It may give recruiters the impression you are a complainer or difficult to get along with. Focus on your qualifications for the job and the opportunity it offers for your advancement.

### 6. Don't use office equipment

Don't use office phones, computers and fax machines to conduct a job search or send in resumes. First of all, many companies monitor use of their machines to ensure employees are not spending company time on personal affairs. Second, you are actually supposed to be working, so keep your mind on the business at hand.

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

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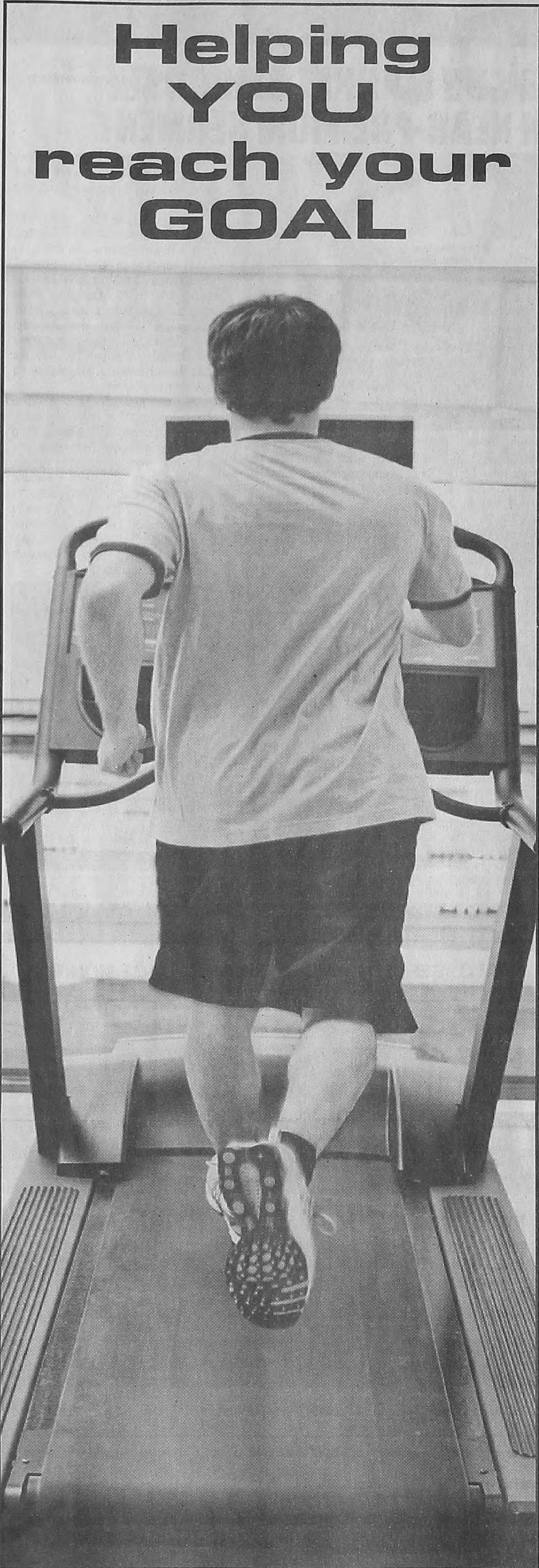
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SUNDAY PUZZLE CORNER CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS 1 1995-96 CIA director John... 7 Seat of Johnson County, Kansas... 13 Dahl's counterpart in Morse code... 16 Ungar of poker... 19 African antelope... 20 Mink's relative... 21 Actress Jennifer... 23 Nebraska-based insurance company (1935)... 25 Panther... 26 "I've Got a Crush..."... 27 Bean high in protein... 28 "Wide — Sea" (Jean Rhys novel)... 29 Desires... 31 Summons for speeding, say (1948)... 35 Footfaraw... 36 Like granola... 37 Up to the time when... 38 Chicago-to-Tampa dir... 39 Sharp items with eyes (1956)... 43 Bond part... 47 Day, in Chile... 48 "Seats sold out" sign... 49 Mood of an environment... 53 Cloud layer... 57 Being attacked (1946)... 61 Funny... 62 Water, in Chile... 64 "— you one" (1946)... 65 Ventriloquist Bergen... 66 Egg layers in coops... 68 Refittings of cars' motors (1955)... 73 Fluids with antibodies... 74 Writer Asimov... 76 Comical idle... 77 Water pit... 79 Racer Jarrett... 80 Having recognized the value of one's own conscious being (1978)... 84 Artist's mixing board... 86 Amber wines... 87 "You betcha" (1956)... 90 "Angle" actor Stephen... 91 Ollie's buddy... 92 Executive arm headed by Antonio Guterres, for short (1973)... 99 Acer or Asus products... 102 Touch base on a fly... 104 Easy throws... 105 Gp. backing arms... 106 "Just Shoot Me!" actress (2005)... 111 Protest type... 113 Tree expert... 114 Christmas party quaff... 115 Chicago air 'hub'... 117 Machine on a skating rink... 118 Event won by the horses at the ends of eight answers in this puzzle... 123 Up for debate... 124 Lipton drink, informally... 125 Actress Driver... 126 Booming jet of old, briefly... 127 Suffix with 25-Across... 128 Quagmire... 129 Actor Liam... 40 Lupino of old Hollywood... 41 Naldi of old Hollywood... 42 "How — Want It" (#1 hit for 2Pac)... 44 "The Detour" channel... 45 French river... 46 Honey drinks... 49 Realms... 50 Guitarist Ted... 51 Table wine... 52 Big online investing site... 53 Deep divide... 54 "La Mer," translated... 55 President after Jimmy... 56 Part of SPF... 58 Sibling of a nephew... 59 Two, in Chile... 60 "That's Icky!"... 63 "— just a number"... 67 Bank boxes... 69 Like the verb "lie": Abbr... 70 Game with matchsticks... 71 Baby wolf... 72 Slings... 75 "I Am —" (Jenner's reality show)... 78 Supplication... 81 Clerical title... 82 Dreams... 83 Tincture... 85 Incus' organ... 88 Pastoral poems... 89 Grads' event... 92 Sheepskin boot brand... 93 "Rapa —" (1994 film)... 94 Wrench, to a Brit... 95 Kindle download... 96 ER trainees... 97 Moviedom's Meyers... 98 Bronzy... 99 Some statue sites... 100 Gem measures... 101 Yield (to)... 103 Home pest... 107 Rips off... 108 Sprang forth... 109 Congested cavity, often... 110 Terra — (tile material)... 111 The Beatles' "Sexy —"... 112 "Fame" star Cara... 116 Choir melody... 118 Basinger of "Batman"... 119 — friendly... 120 — in "crossword"... 121 Yearbook bit... 122 Deep longing

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-129.

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

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9.

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!

Completed 9x9 Sudoku grid.

QUILTING WORD SEARCH

Word search grid containing quilting-related terms like R UN K D H G B A T T I N G S B R W B, R E N S L N M K N K N P O W H D O E I E, etc.

WORDS

- GRAIN LAYOUT LINEN MONOFILA MUSLIN NEEDLES ON POINT PIECEWOR QUILT REDWORK SAMPLER SLEEVE STIPPLIN STUFFING TATTING TEMPLATE THIMBLE THREAD

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

Crossword Answers grid with words like DEUTCH, OLATHE, DIT, STU, IMPALA, FERRET, ANISTON, MUTUAL, OFOMAHA, LEOPARD, etc.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word search grid with words highlighted in a different color.

# Car Report

## VOLKSWAGEN SHOWS IT'S TAKING SUV MARKET SERIOUSLY WITH TOUAREG THAT COMPETES IN NEAR-PREMIUM SEGMENT



By Dale Buss

Now that it's past its near-death experience in the United States market over the diesel emissions scandal, Volkswagen has been able to get Americans to pay closer attention again to its vehicle lineup. And as they do, consumers are seeing a lot to like in the 2017 Touareg mid-size SUV.

VW long has been more or less an afterthought in the SUV segment, preferring to emphasize its zippy and fuel-efficient little cars and its iconic Beetle. But recognizing that American buyers have made a definitive shift in favor of the utility-vehicle type over traditional sedans, Volkswagen is taking SUVs more seriously than ever. Soon, for example, it'll have a seven-passenger new SUV called Atlas.

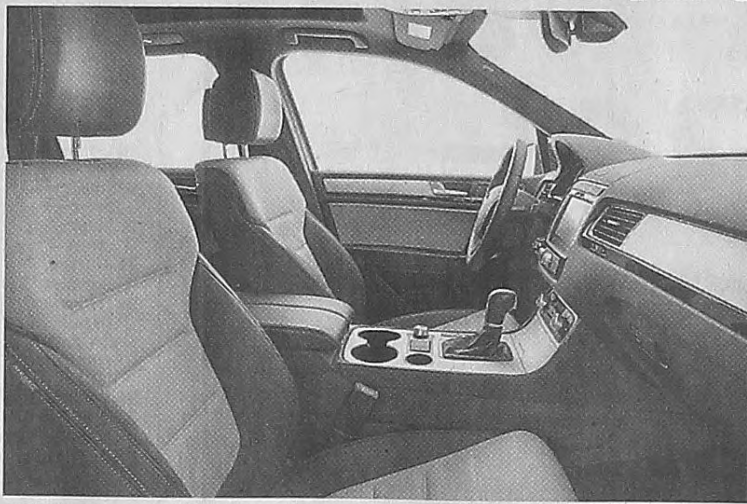
And for the time being, VW is making Touareg an even more serious

entry in the crowded mid-size, near-premium segment. It competes with the top trim levels of Ford Explorer and Grand Cherokee, while licking at the heels of true high-end models such as Acura MDX, BMW X5 and Lexus RX350.

Significantly larger than the Volkswagen Tiguan just below it, Touareg presents as pretty formidable competitor in the segment. It already was loaded with a near-premium list of features, but for 2017 Volkswagen also added as standard adaptive cruise control, a rearview camera, a trailer hitch and eight-inch touch screen.

Touareg's appeal starts with its spare exterior styling, a very German execution of what an American SUV should look like. The design is beautiful in a somewhat minimalist way, and when emphasized with its 20-inch wheels, the Wolfsburg Edition makes for a handsome presence on the road indeed.

Inside, Touareg is restrained in a classy way as well. The cabin design is pretty conservative, but it evokes the premiumness that VW is after in this segment. Standard features



Inside, Touareg's restrained design is classy.

include automatic and adaptive xenon headlights, foglights, LED running lights and tail lights, a hands-free power liftgate, heated mirrors, a trailer hitch, a rearview camera, front and rear parking sensors, a blind-spot monitoring system, a forward collision warning system and automatic emergency braking, a lane departure warning system, keyless ignition and entry, and adaptive cruise control.

Amenities include dual-zone automatic climate control, heated eight-way power front seats, a heated tilt-and-telescoping steering wheel, 60-40 split folding rear seats, an auto-dimming rearview mirror, Bluetooth phone and audio connectivity, an eight-inch touchscreen interface, a navigation system, and an eight-speaker sound system with HD and satellite radio, a CD player, and a proprietary digital media interface.

There also are some unique touches that reflect good old-fashioned German engineering. For instance, the split second row of seats locks into the flattest position for each portion, which is very handy for loading cargo and lends a certain solidity and stability

additional adjustments, driver memory functions, second-row air vents, leather upholstery and a power-folding rear seat.

Also of note are two other significant characteristics of Touareg. First, VW says Touareg can tow up to 7,716 pounds when properly equipped, which is considerably more than most rivals. And in a Michigan market where a considerable number of utility vehicles are counted upon to haul boats, JetSkis, motorcycles and other drag-behinds to points all over the state, this advantage alone may bear a look for many buyers.

Second, however, is a negative about Touareg: It's only adequately powered. It comes with a 3.6-liter V6 engine that produces 280 horsepower and 265 pound-feet of torque, coupled with an eight-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel drive as standard. It accelerated to 60 mph in an unremarkable 7.7 seconds in testing by Edmunds. Yet its mileage is only 19mpg combined, only an average figure for this segment.



The 2017 Volkswagen Touareg is a great match for Michigan summers.



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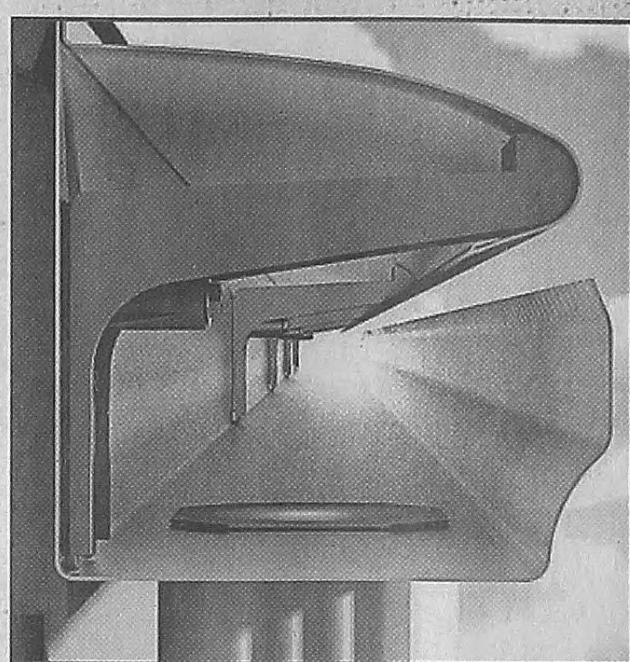
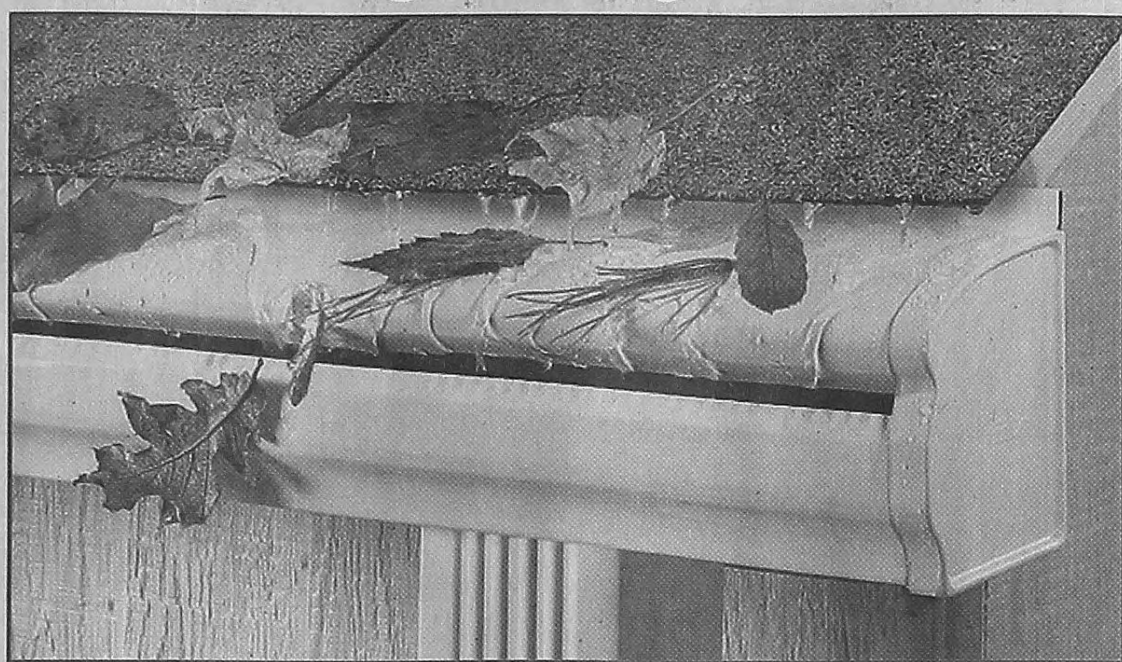
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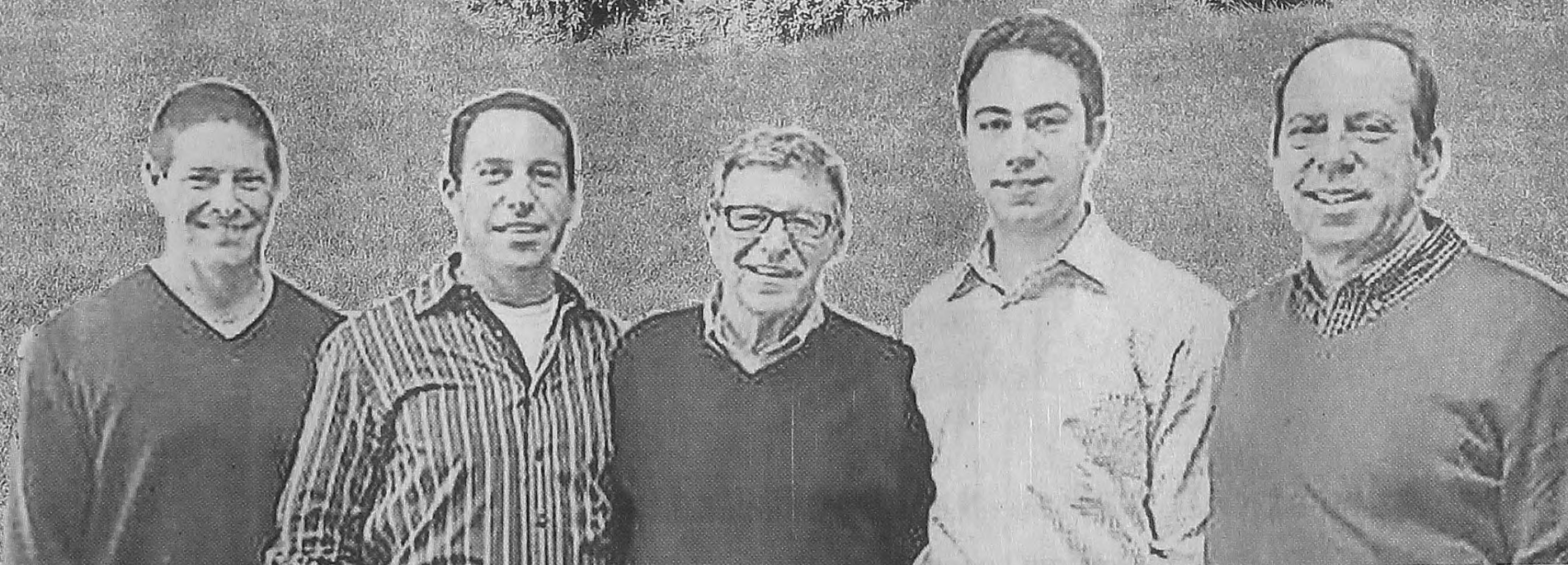
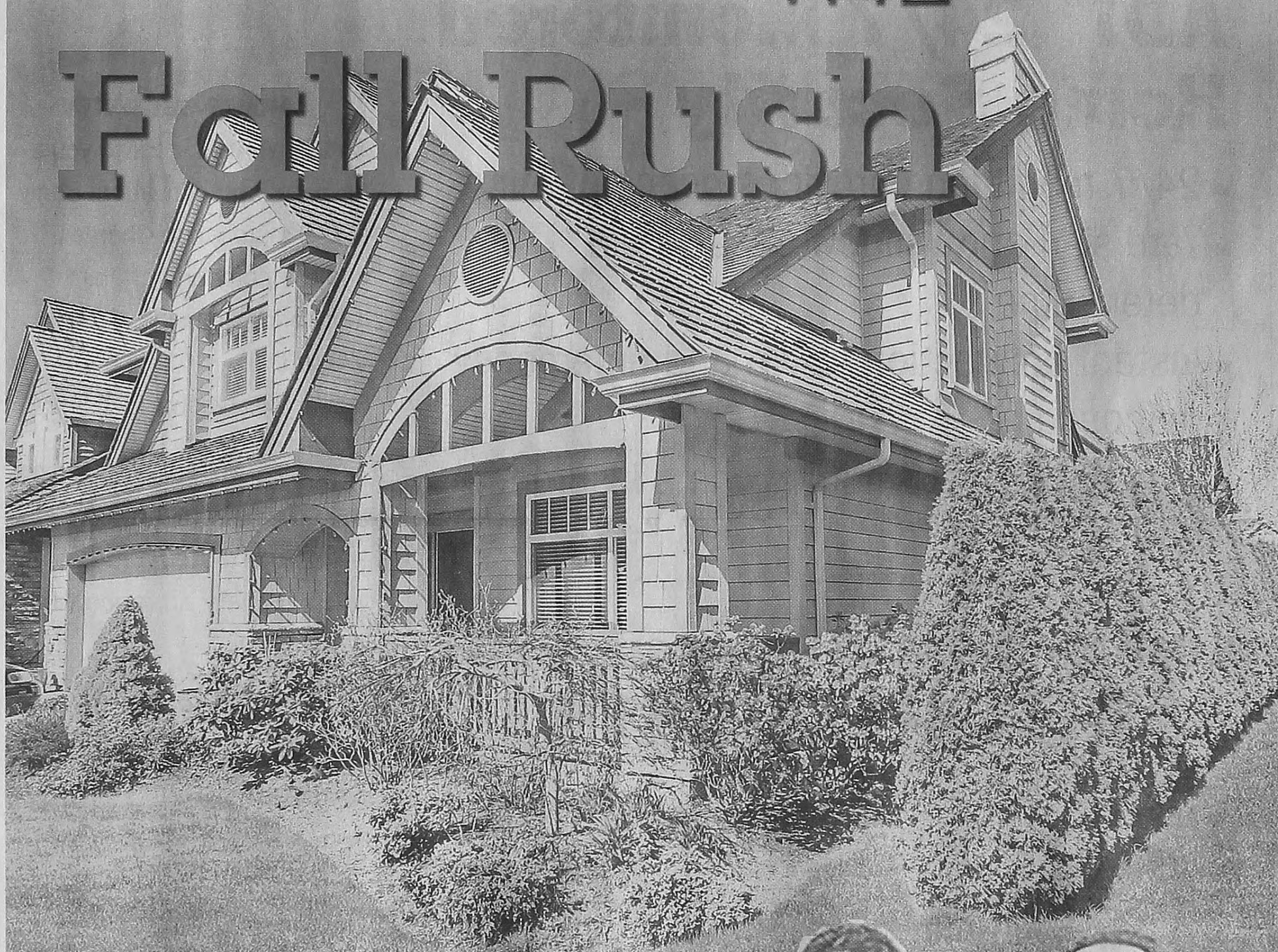
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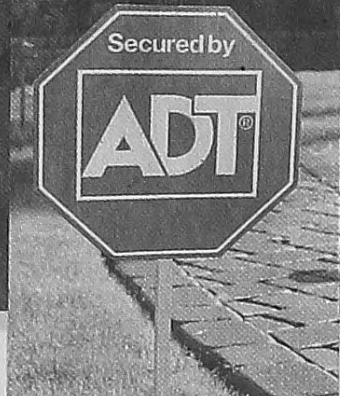
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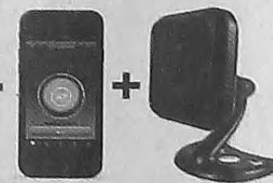
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**\$59/IMO\***

- 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio
- Remote Keyless Entry
- Rear Vision Camera
- Aluminum Wheels
- Onstar w/4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

24 MONTHS/ 10,000 MILES PER YEAR/ \$999 DOWN/ WITH A NON-GM LEASE

## 2017 Trax LS

MSRP \$21,895  
**STARTING AS LOW AS \$14,198**



STOCK #172681

**\$76/IMO\***

- 1.4 L Turbocharged Engine
- 10 Air Bags
- Rear View Camera
- Remote Keyless Entry
- Onstar w/4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

24 MONTHS/ 10,000 MILES PER YEAR/ \$999 DOWN/ WITH A NON-GM LEASE

## 2017 Cruze LT

MSRP \$23,535  
**STARTING AS LOW AS \$15,900**



STOCK #172086

**\$89/IMO\***

- 1.4L Turbo Engine
- 10 Air Bags
- 8 Way Power Seat
- Rear Vision Camera
- Onstar w/4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

24 MONTHS/ 10,000 MILES PER YEAR/ \$999 DOWN/ WITH A NON-GM LEASE

## 2017 Malibu LT

MSRP \$26,000  
**STARTING AS LOW AS \$17,680**



STOCK #170527

**\$109/IMO\***

- 1.5L Turbo DOHC Engine
- 8" Touch Screen MyLink Radio
- Rear Vision Camera
- Power Driver's Seat
- OnStar® 4G LTE and built-in Wi-Fi
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

24 MONTHS/ 10,000 MILES PER YEAR/ \$999 DOWN/ WITH A NON-GM LEASE

## 2017 Suburban LS 4x4

MSRP \$56,625  
**STARTING AS LOW AS \$43,108**



STOCK #171880

**\$395/IMO\***

- 5.3L V8 Engine
- 8 Passenger Seating
- Forward Collision Alert
- Previous Courtesy Vehicle Approx 3,000 miles
- 20" Polished Aluminum wheels
- Onstar w/4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

36 MONTHS/ 10,000 MILES PER YEAR/ \$999 DOWN/ WITH A NON-GM LEASE

## 2017 Traverse LS

MSRP \$32,745  
**STARTING AS LOW AS \$23,442**



STOCK #172006

**\$87/IMO\***

- 3.6L V6 Engine
- 8 Passenger Seating
- Rear Vision Camera
- Color Touch Screen Radio with XM Sat. Radio
- Previous Courtesy Vehicle Approx 3,000 miles
- Onstar w/4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

24 MONTHS/ 10,000 MILES PER YEAR/ \$999 DOWN/ WITH A NON-GM LEASE

## 2017 Silverado LT 4x4 Double Cab

MSRP \$44,560  
**STARTING AS LOW AS \$32,237**



STOCK #171491

**\$149/IMO\***

- 5.3L V8 Engine
- Allstar Package including:
- Trailering Eq Package
- Power Seat
- Remote Vehicle Start
- Onstar w/4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

24 MONTHS/ 10,000 MILES PER YEAR/ \$999 DOWN/ WITH A NON-GM LEASE

## 2018 Equinox LT

MSRP: \$27,705  
**STARTING AS LOW AS \$21,192**



STOCK #180016

**\$129/IMO\***

- 1.5L Turbo DOHC Engine
- 7" Color Touch Screen Radio with My Link Radio
- 8 Way Power Seat
- Rear Vision Camera
- Previous Courtesy Vehicle Approx 3,000 miles
- Onstar w/4G LTE with Wi Fi Hotspot
- Chevrolet Complete Care Included

24 MONTHS/ 10,000 MILES PER YEAR/ \$999 DOWN/ WITH A NON-GM LEASE

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Thursday	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



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