

## Action heating up in prep boys hockey state tournament

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# OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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## Project links students, Sikhs

Religious group aims to promote diversity, unity

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Raman Singh, addressing a diverse group of seventh-graders visiting a Sikh place of worship in Plymouth Township, had a strong message of religious unity.

Sikhs, Hindus, Christians, Muslims and Jews may worship in different ways, but their similarities — their yearning for a better world — outweigh their differences.

"There should be no barriers between us," Singh said.

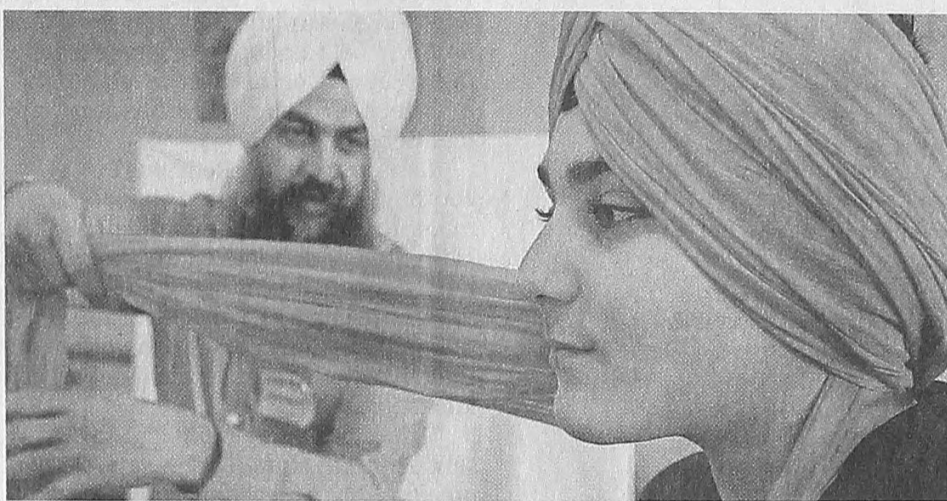
People of all faiths should vow to bet-

ter understand one another, to improve the world and to help others "without discrimination," she said.

Singh's message is at the core of Religious Diversity Journeys, a project of the InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit, of which Singh is president. A program Tuesday brought 150 seventh-graders from seven schools to the Sikh Gurdwara Sahib Mata Tripta Ji (Hidden Falls).

In all this school year, 700 seventh-graders from 11 public school districts and seven private schools are partici-

See **SIKHS**, Page 2A



Harminder Singh wraps a Sikh turban on student Mahdi Khalife's head. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Kerry McCarthy of Novi and Lori Angove of Farmington put their artistic ability to good use. BRAD KADRICH

## HAPPY TREES

Iconic painter Bob Ross inspires Coffee Bean artists

**Brad Kadrich**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Bob Ross is making a comeback and he's doing it in Plymouth.

Ross, the creator and host of "The Joy of Painting" on PBS from 1983-94, died

in 1995. But for the last couple of months, he's been alive and well at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, where staffers have used his works — and his TV show — to bring a little bit of art to downtown Plymouth.

The Bean last week hosted its second monthly Bob Ross Night, encouraging

painting enthusiasts to enjoy the iconic painter's laid-back, "happy" style.

"One of the things we're trying to do is to get more community involvement. ... Something I'm personally passionate about is art and bringing

See **PAINTER**, Page 4A

## Fourth defendant sentenced in theft ring case

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A 19-year-old Ypsilanti man has been sentenced for his role in a crime ring that Canton police say involved stolen guns, cars and credit cards.

However, a Wayne County Circuit Court clerk said details of Saviontray Antonio Scott's sentencing Feb. 22 cannot be divulged because he pleaded guilty under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act, or HYTA.



Scott

Under HYTA rules, defendants can plead guilty but keep crimes off their record if they are under age 21, stay out of trouble and comply with certain court orders. Public records of Scott's criminal case have been deleted from the circuit court's website.

Before those records were deleted, the website indicated Scott had pleaded guilty to a charge of receiving and concealing stolen firearms and a sto-

See **SENTENCED**, Page 3A

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# Sikhs

Continued from Page 1A

pating, along with teachers and parents, in an initiative Singh said began 15 years ago. Their journeys also teach them about Judaism, Islam, Christianity and Hinduism as they visit synagogues, mosques, churches and temples.

Neveaha Roberts, 12, who came from Holbrook Elementary in Hamtramck, reflected on her journeys Tuesday as students took a lunch break at Hidden Falls to sample Sikh cuisine such as choley, made with chickpeas and spices, and naan flatbread.

"You can learn a lot about other religions," she said, adding that students have opportunities to ask questions about the different faiths.

Students tour houses of worship, enjoy a meal with those of different faiths,

have an opportunity to ask questions of clergy and meet peers their age.

Naseem Alhalimi of Kosciuszko Middle School in Hamtramck was among the students who learned that Sikh men grow their hair and wear turbans because gurus teach it as a way to show respect and love toward God. He learned about iron bracelets, or kada, worn by Sikhs.

"They wear it to do good things for other people," Naseem said. "They want to protect people."

Religious Diversity Journeys was started through a grant obtained by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion. Now, the IFLC oversees the project, which has reached an estimated 2,500 students, along with their teachers and 150-200 parents.

Atekeh Qazweeni, who teaches religious studies and social studies, accompanied students from an Islamic school, Wise Academy in Dearborn Heights. She said Islam teaches followers that they should work to understand other religions.

"We're all human," she said, "and we have to learn from each other."

Qazweeni said Religious Diversity Journeys helps to dispel misconceptions and stereotypes.

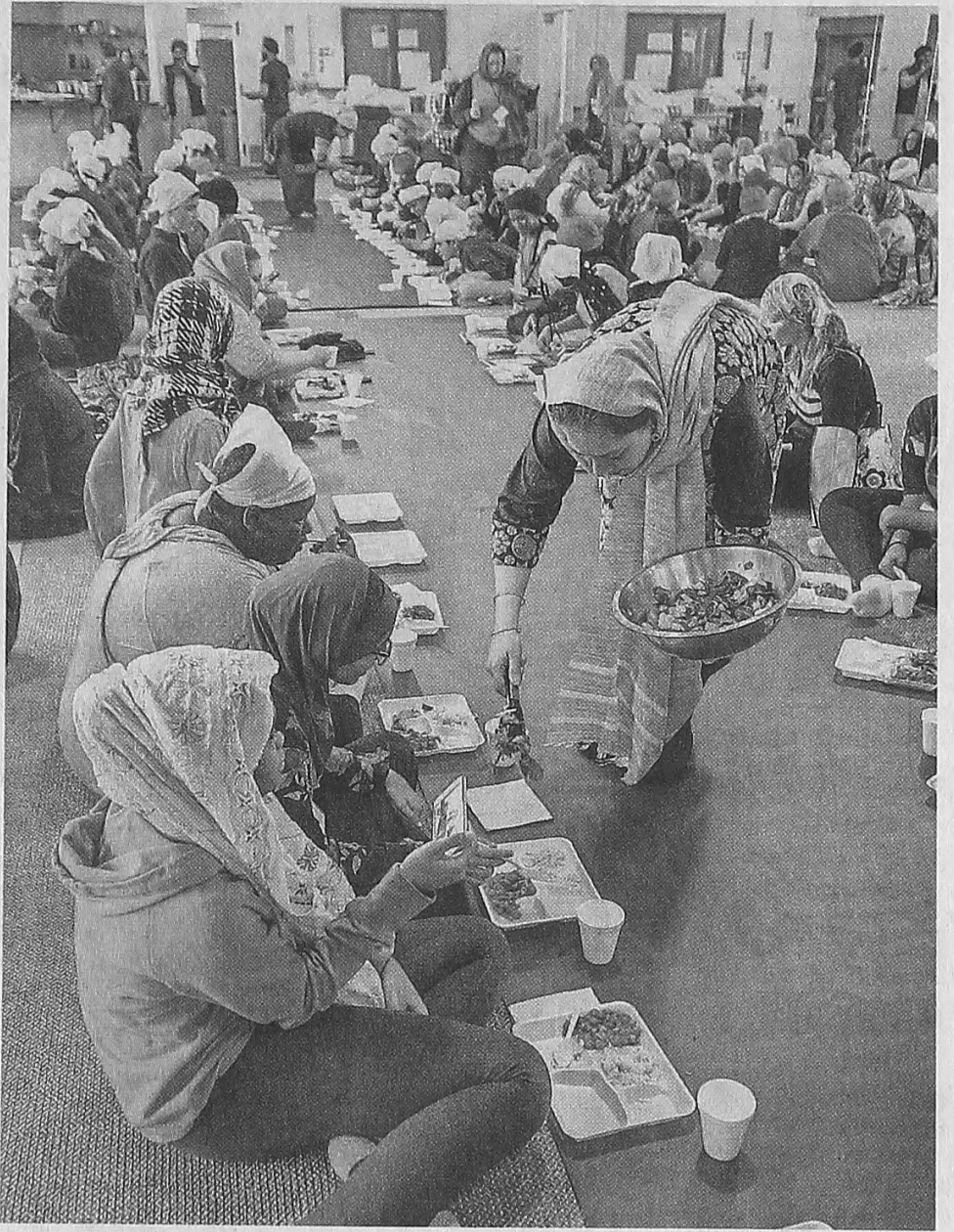
Harminder Singh, Sunday school principal at Hidden Falls, said the program can help seventh-graders learn why Sikhs wear turbans and grow their hair and beards due to religious teachings. He wore on his arm several of the bracelets, or kada, that Naseem had mentioned.

Raman Singh said Religious Diversity Journeys gives students a chance to immerse themselves in other religions and learn firsthand that all faiths should not be divisive, but uniting. She is hopeful the effort can help dispel misconceptions that youngsters learn, often in their own homes, and enrich them with knowledge.

"They can take it back to their schools and share," she said. "This breaks down barriers and builds bridges. It opens hearts. It opens minds."

Singh said the project, which also has a separate adult component, also can help to reduce bullying as seventh-graders learn respect toward peers of other cultures.

"A lot of them come from homogeneous school districts," she said. "They



Students are served lunch by members of the Gurdwara Sahib Mata Tripta Ji (Hidden Falls) in Plymouth Township. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Published Sunday and Thursday by  
Observer & Eccentric Media

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### Subscription Rates:

Newsstand price: \$1.50  
\$104 per 12 months home delivery

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get to experience this diversity and religious diversity as a positive thing."

Parent Susan Bryant accompanied her son Ethan from the Waterford Montessori Academy.

"I think this program has broken down a lot of barriers," she said. "It dispels a lot of misconceptions. It's a very good program."

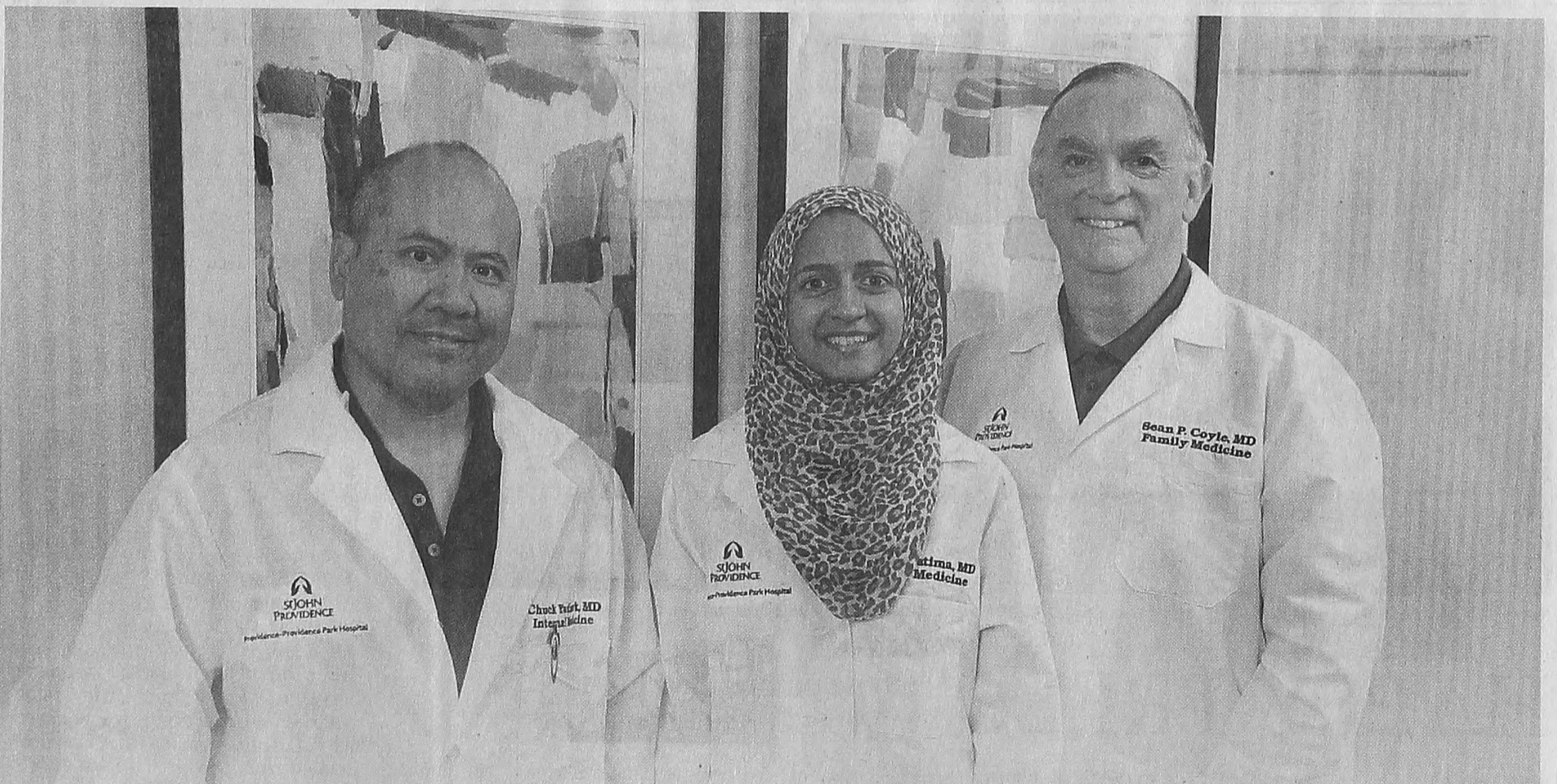
Wendy Miller Gamer, IFLC program director, said students each year also take a field trip to other places, including the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farming-

ton Hills.

Other schools participating Tuesday were Hilbert Middle School from the Redford Union district, Clifford Smart Middle School from Walled Lake and the Islamic Beverly Hills Academy.

For more information about the InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit and its programs, go to <https://detroitinterfaithcouncil.com/>.

Contact Darrell Clem at [dcllem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dcllem@hometownlife.com). Follow him on Twitter: @CantonObserver.



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ships and must be completed by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 13. To qualify for any of these scholarship opportunities, applicants must meet the following criteria:

■ Demonstrate the Community Financial "People Helping People" philosophy.

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■ Be enrolled or are anticipating enrollment in an accredited institution for the fall 2018 semester.

To begin an application or learn more about these scholarships, go to [cfcu.org/scholarships](http://cfcu.org/scholarships).

For membership information, go to [www.cfcu.org](http://www.cfcu.org) or call 877-937-2328.

## Sentenced

Continued from Page 1A

len car. He also had pleaded to a felony firearm charge that typically carries a mandatory two-year prison term, but under HYTA rules the judge has the discretion not to impose that sentence.

In return for Scott's plea, authorities agreed to dismiss other charges, including counterfeiting, that arose after police executed search warrants in Detroit and Ypsilanti and seized counterfeit

money and a printing press.

Scott becomes the fourth of five defendants sentenced since Canton police last October broke up the crime ring. Detective Lt. Mike Steckel has said authorities seized five guns and 17 credit cards and recovered two stolen cars.

Only one more defendant, 19-year-old Destiny Capri Moore of Wayne, is still facing sentencing. That is expected to happen Feb. 28 after she pleaded guilty to one count each of stealing a credit card and identity theft.

Steckel has said charges against the five defendants arose from a two-week

crime spree in October. He has said authorities began making arrests after catching some of the suspects breaking into garages Oct. 21 near Sheldon and Cherry Hill roads in Canton.

Police recovered a Cadillac Escalade stolen from Canton and a Jeep Liberty stolen in Ann Arbor.

Three defendants already sentenced under HYTA rules include:

■ Nineteen-year-old Kobie Tyree Richardson of Ypsilanti, who pleaded to receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle, stealing a financial transaction device, or credit card, and breaking and

entering a vehicle causing damage.

■ Seventeen-year-old Elliott Deshawn Montgomery of Ypsilanti, who pleaded to receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle, stealing credit cards and larceny from a motor vehicle.

■ Nineteen-year-old Carolyn Danielle Hoskins of Ypsilanti, who pleaded to one count of receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle, fraudulent use of a credit card and breaking and entering a motor vehicle.

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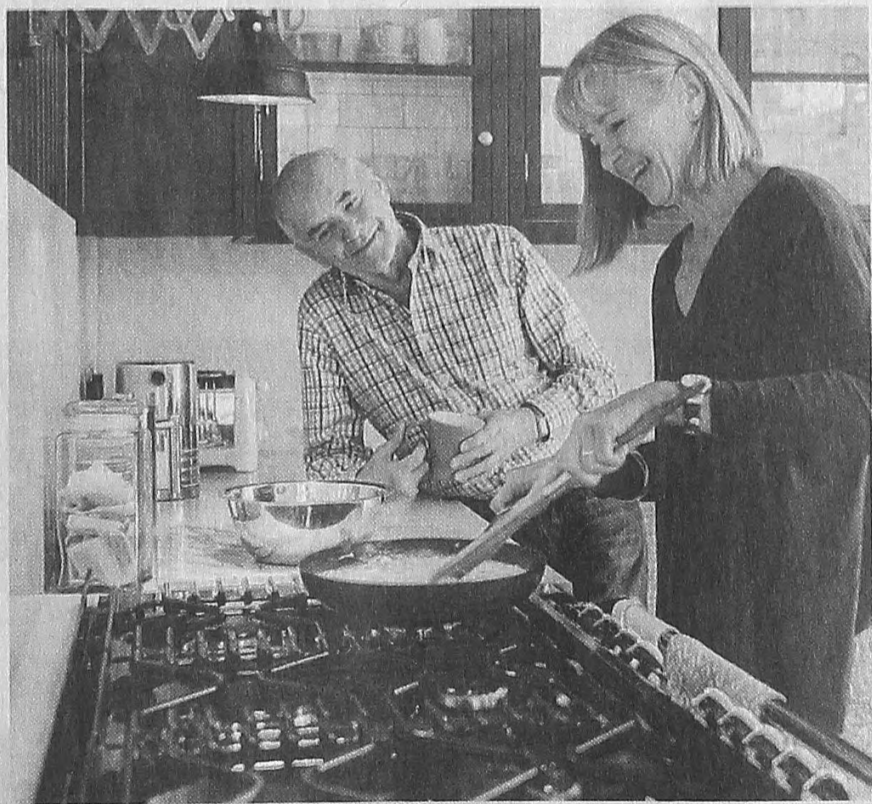
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# Painter

Continued from Page 1A

art into the community," said Holly Antal, a manager at The Bean. "(Ross) is becoming really popular right now; he's really trendy. He's famous for making art accessible. He really reached out to people and wanted everyone to do it. We wanted to bring that kind of spirit behind it and be, like, 'It doesn't matter how good you are or how bad you are, we just want you to make something and express your creativity.'"

The first attempt took place in January. Antal scheduled it in one of The Bean's smaller rooms, then watched as would-be artists flooded the room. When last week's February session came around, Antal moved it to the building's biggest stage.

"It was way better than we expected," Antal said. "We were in one of the other (smaller) rooms and we were way overcrowded. People were all over the floor. There's a need for it, we can tell."

Chelsea Lonsdale of Plymouth used to work at The Bean a dozen years ago and still considers it "my regular coffee place." She heard about the initial Bob Ross Night and came to check it out, only to find the large crowd.

When time for the second night rolled around, she and her friend, Jody Day, got to The Bean early. Even though she may not be the biggest fan of his actual work, she does love Ross's style.

"I don't know that I love his art style so much, but I like watching him paint," Lonsdale said. "It's relaxing to watch and even just to listen to him paint."

Ditto for Day, also a Plymouth resident.

"I like his presentation," said Day, who is new to the area. "He's very calm, very positive, a very upbeat person. He has a very soothing delivery."

Sami Scott, a 22-year-old from Flint, likes to paint as a hobby and, even though she's "way too young" to have seen Ross's show, she still enjoys his style.

And while she doesn't usually use Ross's wet-on-wet style, she still enjoys the art of painting.

Painting is something I do for fun ... it's a good stress relief for me," said Scott, a Kettering University student. "I enjoy listening to him talk. His style of



Bob Ross-inspired paintings from the January event adorn one wall of the Plymouth Coffee Bean. BRAD KADRICH

**"I like his presentation. He's very calm, very positive, a very upbeat person. He has a very soothing delivery."**

**Jody Day**  
Plymouth resident

painting is very easy to blend, which is something I struggle with."

Orla Hynes, the co-owner of the Plymouth Coffee Bean, encourages her staff to come up with ideas for these kinds of themed nights, especially during the cold winter months.

"People are always looking for something to do in the winter," Hynes said. "There aren't many things to do, espe-

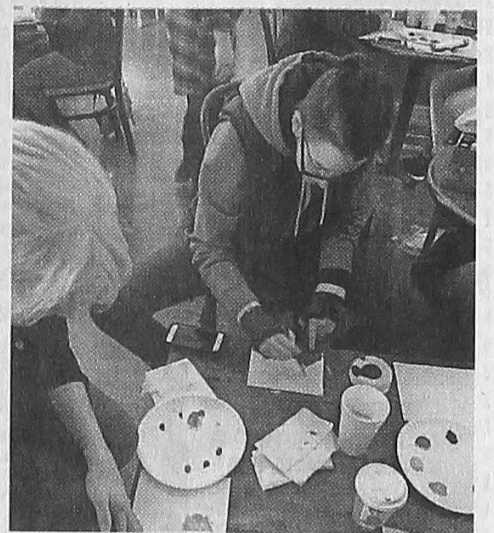
cially with your kids. This is just a cool thing that everyone can do, whether you're 5 years old or 90."

That kind of support — "We're lucky to have owners who encourage us to have ideas," Antal said — is welcomed by the staff. Antal said that attitude, along with the success of the first two Bob Ross Nights, has the staff thinking of things to do.

There are already poetry nights (Thursday) and Antal said more ideas will be coming.

"We're brainstorming ideas to bringing more creativity," she said. "We want to bring people together and bring a sense of community, using art and creativity."

Contact Brad Kadrich at [bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com). Follow him on Twitter: @bkadrich.



Jody Day (left) and Chelsea Lonsdale of Plymouth were on hand to enjoy Bob Ross Night at the Plymouth Coffee Bean. BRAD KADRICH

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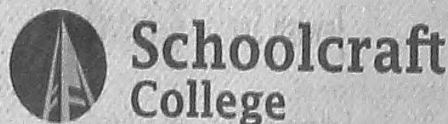


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# Man 'made a mistake' in gym locker thefts

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

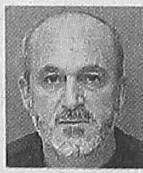
A defense attorney is hopeful that a 54-year-old Dearborn man will receive probation when he is sentenced for stealing from customer lockers at the Lifetime Fitness in Canton.

Ali Sami Hammoud, father of 11 children, is facing sentencing March 23 in Wayne County Circuit Court after he pleaded guilty to one count each of larceny in a building and stealing a finan-

cial transaction device, or credit card. Authorities have dismissed two identical charges.

"We're hopeful for probation," defense attorney William Amadeo said. "He's a father of 11 with a very clean record. He made a mistake and he is redeeming himself for that mistake."

Canton police arrested Hammoud on Jan. 27 at Lifetime Fitness following reports of stolen wallets, cash and credit



Hammoud

cards at the fitness center on Haggerty Road, south of Ford.

Detective Lt. Mike Steckel said police went to the fitness center after a man whose credit card was stolen reported that it had just been used at the Walmart store on Ford Road, east of Lotz. Steckel said police reviewed Walmart's surveillance video to obtain information about a Lincoln Navigator the suspect was driving.

Steckel has said police executed a search warrant at Hammoud's home and recovered some of the stolen items.

Police say about 15 thefts occurred at the fitness center in December and January, but Hammoud was charged with only four felony counts — two of which have been dismissed.

A review of online records for Wayne County Circuit Court showed no other criminal cases against Hammoud.

Contact Darrell Clem at [dclm@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclm@hometownlife.com). Follow him on Twitter: @CantonObserver.

# Threat prompts second lockdown in Plymouth-Canton

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

A threatening message was seen Thursday morning on a wall at Canton High School, prompting the second lockdown in six days at the 6,200-student Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said.

Traylor said police believe there is "no immediate threat," but the schools were placed on a soft lockdown, meaning students and employees were told to shelter in place.

The situation began unfolding about 8:30 a.m. Traylor said he didn't yet know the contents of the threatening message, who discovered it or specifically what it said. The investigation was continuing.

Classroom instruction was continuing and the Canton Police Department issued a statement saying "there is not a threat at this time" as the investigation continued.

The district also issued a statement saying there is no immediate threat and that students, faculty and staff "are fine and accounted for." The district said

more information would be released later.

Buses were placed on standby in case classes are dismissed early.

The latest incident comes after the high school campus had a soft lockdown Feb. 23 amid unfounded rumors that a student had brought a gun to school.

Parents are being asked to refrain from calling the high schools and the police department so that lines can remain open for emergency calls. Parents also are asked not to come to the school, as some did Feb. 23.

"That's the last thing we want them to

do," Canton Public Safety Director Joshua Meier said after the earlier incident.

When officers have to divert their attention to parents, it pulls some resources away from the investigation, Meier said.

"We ask that parents wait for notification to take place and allow us to do our jobs," Meier has said. "The safety of the students will always be our No. 1 priority."

Contact Darrell Clem at [dclm@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclm@hometownlife.com). Follow him on Twitter: @CantonObserver.

# Busch's spring milk drive to support local charities

Busch's Fresh Food Market will partner with local organizations, including United Dairy Industry of Michigan and Michigan Farmers for a spring milk drive to reduce the need for milk within the community. The drive will run March 12-25 at all Busch's locations.

"All donations will go to various local charities such as Forgotten Harvest and Food Gatherers," said Todd Robinson, marketing director. "This is a community-based effort."

Any Busch's My Way member who donates two or more gallons of milk in the same transaction will be automatically entered to win a Detroit Pistons gift package, which includes a variety of fan gear and four tickets to the game at Little Caesars Arena at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 6. Prairie Farms white milk will be on sale the week of this drive for all Busch's guests at two gallons for \$5.

Additional store contests will be held among Busch's employees and store

managers to encourage associates to beat last year's goals and promote the value of giving back.

"Fresh milk not only provides nine essential nutrients kids need for growth, children prefer it over shelf-stable milk," said Sharon Toth, CEO of UDIM. "Fresh milk is the No. 1 requested item, but rarely donated."

UDIM and Michigan Farmers will match up to 20,000 gallons of milk. Last fall, Busch's donated 41,166 gallons of

milk to local charities.

Busch's Fresh Food Market has 17 locations, including Ann Arbor, Clinton, Carleton, Canton, Dexter, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Novi, Pinckney, Plymouth-Northville, Rochester Hills, Salsine, South Lyon, Tecumseh, West Bloomfield and Brighton. For more information, go to [buschs.com](http://buschs.com), follow Busch's on Twitter or like them on Facebook.



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# Canton Leisure Services wins mParks awards

Canton Leisure Services received special statewide recognition at the 2018 mParks Annual conference and trade show last month at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. mParks, a statewide professional association for Michigan's parks and recreation industry, honored Canton Leisure Services with two awards: Innovative Programming Award for Canton's Teen Leadership Xperience program, as well as a Marketing Award for Best Graphic Design for the 2016 Canton Leisure Services annual report. In addition, state Rep. Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, received the mParks State-Elected Official Award, as a result of a nomination submitted by Canton Leisure Services.

These annual mParks awards recognize parks and recreation professionals, agencies, advocates and legislators, who provide enriching and engaging experiences that support the state of Michigan's recreation industry, which has long been an important economic driver by inspiring tourism, supporting jobs and improving health and wellness for residents and visitors.

"This statewide recognition is a great honor and we are incredibly pleased to receive these awards," Canton Leisure Services Director Greg Hohenberger



State Rep. Kristy Pagan poses for a photo along with Lead #LikeAGirl program participants after conducting a workshop. THE B.L.O.C.K. YOUTH & TEEN CENTER

said. "Canton residents are fortunate to have access to these award-winning programs in our community, as well as year-round recreation opportunities, health and wellness classes and activities, fine arts and cultural programs, family-friendly community events and much more."

Canton Leisure Services Teen Leadership Xperience Camp was implemented through the B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center in 2017 to expose teens to potential careers in the parks and recreation industry. A group of nine teens was selected during the pilot program and was educated about the industry

through interactive tours, engaging guest speakers and certification classes and exams. The Xperience gave teens an opportunity to interact with and foster relationships with community leaders and powerhouses in the field, offering insight to the industry. Lastly, the program inspired teens to get involved in their communities, make positive change and recognize the benefits of pursuing a career in the field of parks and recreation. All nine participants completed the curriculum with a new understanding of the benefits of community service, as well as an active lifestyle and the many benefits of parks.

Pagan represents the 21st District and has long been an advocate and active supporter of Canton Leisure Services programs and initiatives. Most recently, Pagan has attended and presented at Canton's annual Not In Our Town community event, which furthers the nationwide movement to stop hate and build safe and inclusive communities with zero tolerance of bullying. In addition, Pagan has been a featured presenter during The B.L.O.C.K. Youth & Teen Centers' Lead #LikeAGirl program and annually invites participants to the state Capitol to be recognized on the house floor for their participation in this award-winning program. Canton Leisure Services nominated Pagan for her commitment to the quality of life in her community, as well as for serving as an inspiring and positive role model for so many area youth. Pagan will be recognized by the Canton Board of Trustees as a recipient of this mParks award and her support of Canton Township at a future board meeting.

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

For more information about Canton Leisure Services, go to [www.cantonfun.org](http://www.cantonfun.org) or call 734-394-5460.

# Asner to appear in Village Theater production

Ed Asner will take the audience on a comedic journey of pain, laughter and anatomy — not necessarily in that order — during his one-man show, "Ed Asner: A Man and His Prostate," coming to The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10.

Audiences will watch as Asner brings to life the true story of screenwriter and television producer Ed Weinberger's Italian vacation that takes an unexpected turn, one that scares the life out of him and, at the same time forces self-reflection and appreciation for what he has.

Asner has been an enduring presence in television, film and stage for 60 years.

Developing his craft in Chicago and New York, Asner established himself as a solid and versatile performer, regularly featured in roles on the big screen and in such landmark television series as "The Outer Limits," "Gunsmoke," "The Wild Wild West," "Ironside," and "Mission Impossible," totaling more than 100 television credits.

In the '70s, his role as Lou Grant in the long-running hit sitcom "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" catapulted him to stardom. He then cemented himself as



Asner

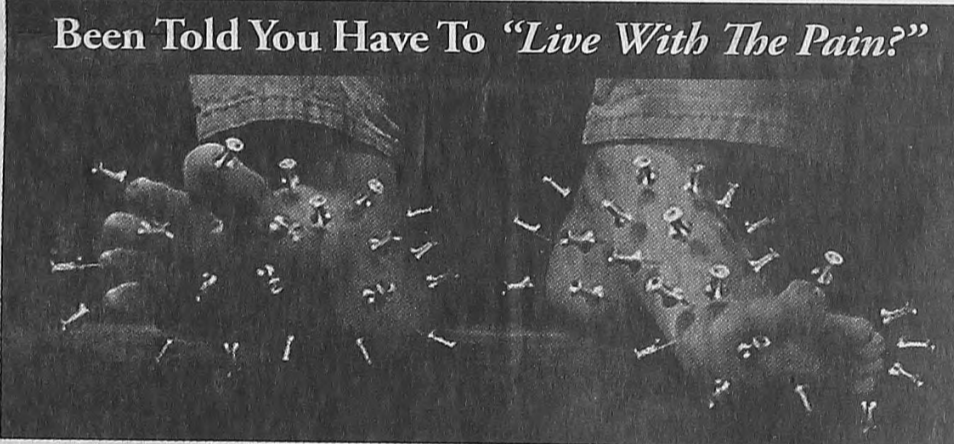
an "actor's actor," perpetuating his character in the dramatic series "Lou Grant." Asner is the only actor to have won an Emmy for the same role in both a comedy and a drama (five total as Lou Grant). He went on to win two more Emmy Awards for roles in the miniseries "Roots" and "Rich Man, Poor Man."

"Ed Asner: A Man and His Prostate" is written and produced by Weinberger. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Weinberger began his TV career after he dropped out of Columbia University to begin a writing career for stand-up comedians Dick Gregory and Richard Pryor. His first job in television was writing for "The Tonight Show" starring Johnny Carson. He was also a contributing writ-

er for Bob Hope, "The Dean Martin Variety Hour" and "The Cosby Show."

Weinberger also wrote for the TV series "Taxi," for which he was awarded an Emmy for Outstanding Comedy Series. He went on to create several sitcoms, including "Amen," "Dear John," "Baby Talk" and "Sparks."

Tickets are \$27 for adults and \$22 for seniors. VIP tickets can be purchased for \$37 and will include a post-show meet-and-greet opportunity with Asner. Tickets are available online at [www.cantonvillagetheater.org](http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org) or by calling 734-394-5300. Tickets can also be purchased at the Village Theater box office, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, one hour prior to show time.



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**WHEN:** Friday: March 16, March 23 or March 30, 11AM-12PM  
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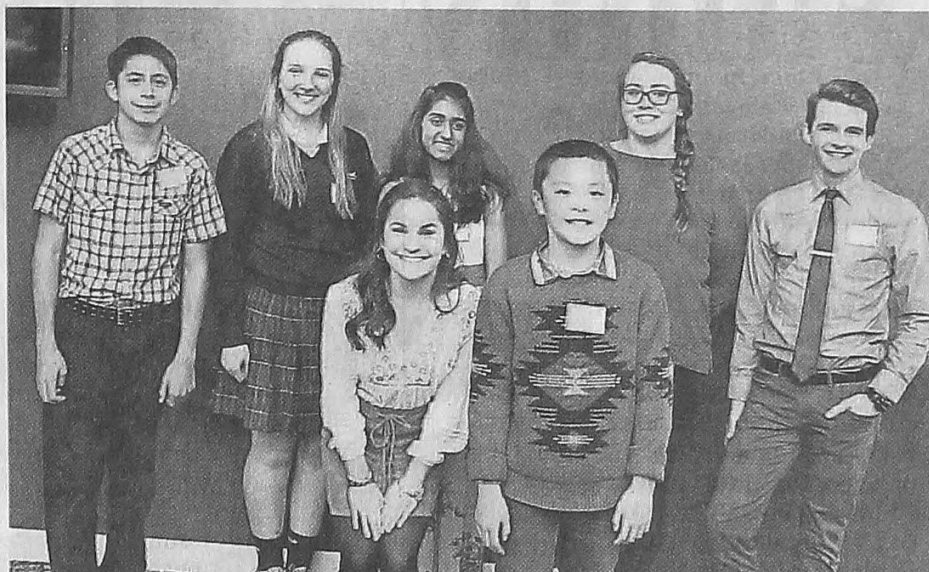
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# BENCHMARK OPTICAL CELEBRATES 120 YEARS



Benchmark Optical, located at 1358 S. Main Street in Plymouth, recently celebrated its 120th anniversary as a business with a ceremony. Currently operated by Dr. Brian Carney, the business was started in 1897 by Charles Draper, who opened his watch/jewelry and oculist shop, first on Main Street before relocating on Sutton Street, now known as Penniman Avenue. Draper held one of the first licenses of optometry in Michigan. He handed his practice down to his son-in-law, Dr. Elmore Carney, who then passed the family practice to his son, Dr. James Carney, father of the current owner. Brian lives in Plymouth with his wife Lisa and their three daughters. For more information, go to [www.benchmarkoptical.com](http://www.benchmarkoptical.com).

# DAR ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



The local Sarah Ann Cochran Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held its annual awards day luncheon Feb. 19 at the Plymouth District Library. It is held to recognize and honor the student participants and winners of the DAR essay contests. The essays are written by students in grades 5-12 in various categories who are nominated by their schools. Winning essays were written by (front, from left) Gabby Harter of Churchill High School and Andrew Wu of Gallimore Elementary and (back, from left) Aiden Farmer of Pioneer Middle School, Abby Reppen of Ladywood High School, Sreya Sista of Canton High School, Amanda Noel of Garden City High school and Nathan Preiskom of Huron Valley Lutheran High School. All chapter winning essays have been sent to the state committees to compete with entries of more than 50 other DAR state chapters for the state award. For more information, go to [www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org) or connect with DAR on social media at [facebook.com/TodaysDAR](https://facebook.com/TodaysDAR), [twitter.com/TodaysDAR](https://twitter.com/TodaysDAR) and [youtube.com/TodaysDAR](https://youtube.com/TodaysDAR).

# Carefully consider strategy for IRA distributions



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
USA TODAY NETWORK —  
MICHIGAN

**Q: I have a few questions regarding required minimum distributions that I hope you can help me with. My situation is, I will turn 70½ in July. I don't need the money from the IRA, as my pension and Social Security more than cover all my needs. My first question: Is there any way I can avoid taking a distribution? If I do have to take a distribution, I am confused as to when I have to take it. Everyone**

**tells me it's when you turn 70½. I was at one of your talks a couple of years ago and I remember you said something different. Lastly, since I don't need the money, it was recommended to me that I take the money, pay the tax and put it into a Roth IRA; is that a good move for me?**

**A:** When it comes to required minimum distributions from a traditional IRA, when you turn 70½, you must begin taking distributions. The one big exception with Roth IRAs. If the money was in a Roth IRA, there would not have to be a distribution (the required minimum distribution laws do not apply to Roth IRAs). In your case, since the money is

in a traditional IRA, you have no alternative but to take a distribution.

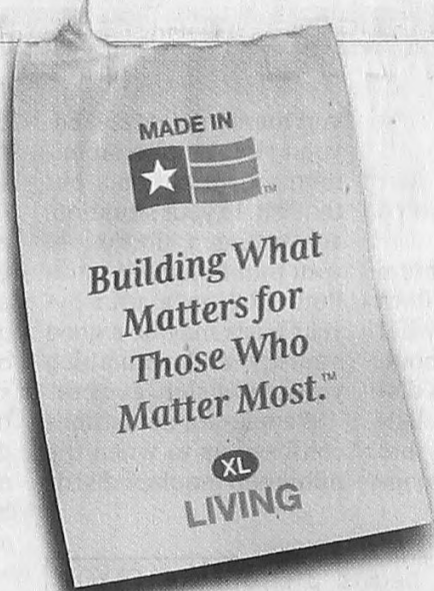
With regards to when you have to take the distribution, the rules are that during the year that you turn 70½, you must take your required minimum distribution and every year thereafter. There is one exception to the rule and that is in the year you turn 70½. For your first required minimum distribution, you can delay your distribution until April 1 of the next year. For example, if someone turns 70½ this year, they can delay their 2018 required minimum distribution until April 1, 2019.

Although, delaying the distribution may sound appealing, it's important to

keep in mind that the distribution on April 1, 2019, is your 2018 distribution, which means that you still have to take another distribution by Dec. 31, 2019. The result is that you would have two taxable distributions in 2019, which can put you into a higher tax bracket, causing you to lose deductions and to potentially pay higher Medicare premiums. For anyone who is thinking of delaying their first required minimum distribution into the next year, you need to explore how that will impact your tax situation.

Whoever told you that you can put

See BLOOM, Page 8A



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# Family waits for closure in missing woman's case

**Brad Kadrich**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Because their birthdays are so close, Chris Paliewicz and his niece, Danielle Stislicki, would routinely celebrate them together.

This year, as happened last year, that celebration went on as always, but with a major part of it missing.

Danielle.

Stislicki's 30th birthday passed Wednesday, with her family and friends stuck in limbo, praying, waiting and hoping for some closure in the case of the missing Farmington Hills woman, who disappeared Dec. 2, 2016, and hasn't been seen since.

"There's a big hole," Paliewicz posted on his Facebook page. "We have all stuck together to cover that empty space, but it's still there. You can't avoid it ... but what you can do is fill it with all the great memories Danielle gave to us."

It's a big hole for everyone. Stislicki was last seen leaving work Dec. 2, 2016. By now the details are well-known: Her car turned up at her Farmington Hills apartment complex the next day. Police have conducted dozens of searches and continue to investigate.

Floyd Galloway, who pleaded guilty in an unrelated case to kidnapping, criminal sexual conduct-assault with intent to commit sexual penetration and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder by strangulation in a Livonia courtroom last November, has been identified as a person of interest in the Stislicki disappearance.

Galloway was sentenced to 16-35 years in



A crowd estimated at some 500 people turned out for a candlelight vigil for Danielle Stislicki shortly after her disappearance. BRAD KADRICH

**"There's a big hole. We have all stuck together to cover that empty space, but it's still there. You can't avoid it ... but what you can do is fill it with all the great memories Danielle gave to us."**

**Chris Paliewicz**  
Danielle Stislicki's uncle

the Livonia case. So far, he has not been charged in the Stislicki case and Farmington Hills police are mum on any possible evidence.

For family and friends, life without Danielle has become a grim reality, one her mother, Ann Stislicki of Howell, said they are "learning to cope with."

"Grief is a tremendous challenge we face daily, with emotions that vary frequently," Ann Stislicki said. "Our employers have been patient and empathetic as we attempt to manage daily activities outside the comfort zones of our homes since her disappearance."

As they have for more than a year now, Stislicki family members have re-

lied on support they've gotten through family, friends and even complete strangers, largely via social media.

There have been shows of support through the distribution of #finddani bracelets, websites (finddani.org) and Facebook pages (Find Danielle Stislicki). Countless people have had #finddani adorn car windows. Word of mouth has helped keep Danielle's name and case in the forefront.

"We have been very blessed to have the support from our family, friends, co-workers and country-wide followers," Ann Stislicki said.

Now, the family is hoping people will do one more thing in honor of Danielle's 30th birthday:

Pay it forward.

"We are asking Facebook followers to do an act of kindness in recognition of (Danielle's) birthday and share that she continues to be missing," her mother said. "Our family will always continue to recognize her birthday, as many do when their loved one is no longer with them."

It's not like the case has gone cold. In the 15 months since Danielle disappeared from that Southfield office building, the Farmington Hills Police Department has initiated 78 search warrants. Officers have searched Galloway's Berkley home multiple times, while a



Danielle Stislicki

search last summer of Hines Park in Livonia turned up nothing.

Police Chief Charles Nebus won't name a suspect. "We don't offer information on suspects unless someone is charged," he said. But thanks to DNA related to both cases, Galloway remains a person of interest.

Nebus said his department continues to run down leads and he believes there is someone in the public who has information they may not even recognize as relevant.

"I believe there is someone out there who can help," Nebus said. "Sometimes the person does not know the information they have is important, sometimes the person is afraid to come forward and sometimes the person does not come forward because they choose to protect a killer or because they believe the person is innocent."

"(But) I still do believe the case will be solved, but I can't say when," he added. "I do know that no one at the Farmington Hills Police Department will rest until justice is served."

Ann Stislicki understands and supports the police attitude — "Law enforcement agencies continue to work on her case, remain silent on the details and we understand that process," she said — and continues to focus her attention where it's always been — on Danielle.

"We talk about Danielle frequently, laugh out loud with the thoughts of her silliness and enjoy our memories as this attempts to soften the heartache that she has not been located," Ann said.

As for that big empty space in the lives of Danielle's family, her uncle believes Danielle is filling that hole.

"Her spirit has occupied that space since she has been gone," Chris Paliewicz said. "She is with us, every day, all day and all night. She never leaves us. She is in our dreams, daydreams and songs. She's in our funny stories, our movie quotes, our family photos. She is truly in our hearts."

Contact Brad Kadrich at [bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com). Follow him on Twitter: @bkadrich.

## Bloom

Continued from Page 7A

your required minimum distribution into a Roth IRA doesn't know what they are talking about. Required minimum distributions are not eligible to be converted into a Roth IRA. You can con-

vert money above and beyond your required minimum distribution, but that's it. In your situation, converting a portion of your traditional IRA into a Roth IRA on a year-by-year basis may be a good strategy and something you may wish to explore.

People are sometimes confused as to when the minimum required distri-

bution must occur. If you turned 70½ in September, a distribution from the IRA in February will count. Any distribution in the year you turn 70½ counts toward your required minimum distribution. Lastly, people should always know that the required minimum distribution is just a minimum; you are free to take more from your IRA as you choose.

Good luck!

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

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Published: February 18, 25 & March 4, 2018

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## AREA EVENTS

Send calendar items to [LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com](mailto:LIV-OENewstip@hometownlife.com). Items must be received at least two weeks prior to the event.

### Noble to host office hour

State Rep. Jeff Noble, R-Plymouth Township, will host an open office hour 1:30-2:30 p.m. Monday, March 5, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street. No appointment is necessary. Those unable to attend may contact Noble at 517-373-3816 or via email at [JeffNoble@house.mi.gov](mailto:JeffNoble@house.mi.gov).

### Three Cities event at township hall

Three Cities Art Club will host art instructor Kim Ensich to critique members' art 7-9 p.m. Monday, March 5, at Canton Township Hall, 1150 S Canton Center Road. Members can bring pieces that they would like to improve and Ensich will make suggestions.

For more information about this event or joining the club, contact Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939, email [marilynmeredith@wowway.com](mailto:marilynmeredith@wowway.com) or go to [www.threecitiesartclub.org](http://www.threecitiesartclub.org).

### Kandouz exhibit at Village Theater

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, in Canton will exhibit the collected works of artist Mustapha Kandouz in the Gallery@VT, through March 29. This exhibit, titled "Facets of the Human" features numerous paintings that represent Kandouz's interpretation of the human condition; what it means and how it is shaped by modernity.

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

For more information, call 734-394-5300 or go to [www.cantonvillagetheater.org](http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org).

### Benefit fashion show

To help bring awareness to the problem of local human trafficking, Pearls of Great Price Coalition, a local Christian coalition, is hosting a Fashion for Freedom fashion show dinner 6:30-9 p.m. Monday, March 5, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial Road, in Plymouth.

The fashion show will feature human trafficking survivors. Speakers from Sanctum House and Vista Maria will give short talks on how their organizations are helping survivors to heal and rebuild their lives.

The event includes a dinner, desserts and a cash wine and beer bar. Some proceeds will be used to support Sanctum House, the first southeast Michigan safe home for female human trafficking survivors ages 18 and older. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at [fashionfreedom.eventbrite.com](http://fashionfreedom.eventbrite.com).

### Rotary Club presentation

The Canton Rotary Club will host Lt. Dale Waltz from the Canton Police Department at 6 p.m. Monday, March 5, at Antonio's Italian Cucina, 2220 N. Canton Center Road. Waltz will speak on the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition.

Members of the community are invited. Attendees can order and pay for their individual meal from the restaurant menu. RSVP to Susan Kowalski at 734-968-1436.

The Canton Rotary Club meets at 6 p.m. the first Monday of each month and also at noon the second through fifth Monday of the month. For more information, email [suekowsk@mac.com](mailto:suekowsk@mac.com) or go to <http://www.cantonrotary.com>.

### Forever After Productions to present 'Mary Poppins Jr.'

More than 70 children and teens from Plymouth, Canton and surrounding communities make up the cast of Forever After Productions that will present "Mary Poppins Jr." at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Center, 650 Church Street. Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 8-10, as well as 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, March 11.

The show runs just over 70 minutes with one intermission, making it ideal for younger performers and audiences. Tickets are \$10 general admission and on sale now at [www.iheartforeverafter.org](http://www.iheartforeverafter.org) or by calling 734-547-5156.

Free parking is available behind the building, off Adams Street. For more information, go to [www.iheartforeverafter.org](http://www.iheartforeverafter.org), email [foreveraftermail@gmail.com](mailto:foreveraftermail@gmail.com) or follow on Instagram at [foreverafterproductions](https://www.instagram.com/foreverafterproductions) or Facebook



Forever After Productions will present "Mary Poppins Jr." March 8-11 at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Center.

at [www.facebook.com/ForeverAfter/](http://www.facebook.com/ForeverAfter/).

### Movie premiere at St. John Neumann

St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, in Canton will host the world premiere of the latest Footprints of God film starring Steve Ray, "ELIJAH & ELISHA: Conscience of the Kingdom," at 7 p.m. Friday, March 9.

The film runs 1:15, followed by a reception with light refreshments. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Ray, as well as to purchase the DVD and have it autographed. Tickets are \$5 and proceeds will benefit the seminarians at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit for their Desert Experience in Israel.

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [www.goo.gl/12RcT9](http://www.goo.gl/12RcT9) or call St. John Neumann at 734-455-5910.

### Music at the Elks

Blues @ The Elks happens 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Plymouth Ann Arbor Elks Lodge No. 325 in partnership with the Detroit Blues Society ([www.detroitbluesociety.org](http://www.detroitbluesociety.org)). There is a \$5 donation at the door and bring your dancing shoes.

The Bobby Murray Band returns Tuesday, March 13, featuring Murray on guitar, Lenny Watkins on vocals, Renell Gonsalves on drums, Dave Uricek on bass and Norman Rhoades on keyboards.

Jazz @ The Elks happens 7-9:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month. There is a \$10 donation at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres.

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

### Free home buyers workshop

Catholic Vantage Financial is hosting a free home buyers workshop 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at the credit union's Plymouth branch, 8817 Sheldon Road. James Clemens, a loan officer with the mortgage center, will talk about navigating the mortgage process, different home financing options, what costs are real and what fees you need to watch out for, along with differences between a home appraisal and inspection.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive handouts. A local Realtor from Metropolitan Real Estate will also be on hand to discuss how to make an offer on a home, decoding "mortgage talk" and other issues. To ensure adequate seating, advance reservations are requested by email to [memberservice@mycvf.org](mailto:memberservice@mycvf.org).

For more information and to learn how you can join, call 734-432-0212 or go to [www.mycvf.org](http://www.mycvf.org).

### Baseline Folk Society

The Baseline Folk Society continues its 2018 season, at The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, at 774 N. Sheldon Road. Performances include 10 open-mic artists and then the feature act at 8 p.m.

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

The season schedule is available on its Facebook page. For more information, email [bfsresident4u@gmail.com](mailto:bfsresident4u@gmail.com).

### St. Mary to hold wellness expo

St. Mary Mercy Hospital will be holding a free health and wellness expo, hosted by the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

late, coffee and tea to warm you up. Set for a spell under our full spectrum LED white light lamps. Just 20 minutes can brighten your mood and help you sleep better. The lamps do not emit UV or IR radiation, so don't worry about getting sunburned. Patrons and staff are welcome to use these lamps on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information on Electrify Your Winter, go to [www.cantonpl.org](http://www.cantonpl.org).

### Easter egg hunt

The Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Road, in Canton is hosting an Easter egg hunt from noon to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 25, for children of all ages. They can hunt for candy and small toy filled plastic eggs that will be hidden inside the church and have a picture taken with the Easter bunny.

This free event is open to the public. For more information, call 734-495-0035.

### Lions Club Easter egg hunt

The Plymouth Lions Club will hold its annual Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 31, on the ballfields of Plymouth Township Park, 46640 W. Ann Arbor Trail. Bring baskets and camera for photos with the Easter Bunny.

### VFW fish dinners

The Plymouth VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill Street, will host fish dinners during Lent 5-7 p.m. each Friday through March 30.

Diners can get cod or walleye, baked or fried. There will also be shrimp and chicken strips available. All dinners include french fries, baked potato or mac and cheese, along with cole slaw, a roll and butter. Coffee is on the house, all other drinks are available on a cash basis. There is also a dessert table and 50/50 drawings.

### Diabetes support group

A diabetes support group meets 2-3:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main Street. Facilitator is Fern Vining, R.N., a diabetes educator. The group is sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club.

Thursday, March 15, at the Friendship Station Senior Center, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth. It is a drop in event and everyone is welcome.

Topics will include blood pressure checks, chair exercise, fall prevention, diabetic education, signs and symptoms of a stroke, pneumonia prevention, diet education, education on advance directives and plan in a can. Educational material and handouts will also be available.

For more information, call Bobbie Pummill at 734-354-3222.

### Electrify Your Winter

Avoid cabin fever, stay entertained and engaged without having to leave your house with Electrify Your Winter, the Canton Public Library's winter program. Now through March 20, the International Day of Happiness, you can take part in a Checklist Challenge, engage in online opportunities like Facebook Live storytimes, Youtube fireside storytimes, a Pinterest board with projects and much more, without leaving your couch.

When you feel like braving the weather and making a trip to the library, you may be surprised with hot choco-



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# Vaccinations can contribute to divorce disagreements



## Tales From the Front Lines

Henry Gornbein  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Is there any valid reason for not vaccinating your child?

I was recently in Judge Karen McDonald's courtroom, where a hearing was continuing on the issue of whether a child should be vaccinated. The former husband wanted the child vaccinated and his former wife does not. An accredited doctor was testifying as to why there is no medical reason to withhold vaccinations. There were camera crews and reporters in the courtroom and there has been a lot of controversy over this issue.

I was recently reading a magazine called *The Week*, which distills the news of the week both nationally and internationally.

There was a short piece from Rome stating that measles cases are soaring. It stated that more than 21,000 people got measles in Europe last year, more than quadruple the number in 2016, and at least 35 people died. The World Health Organization blames the spike

on parents rejecting or delaying vaccinations for their children because of the discredited but widespread belief that there is a link between childhood vaccinations and autism.

The vaccination rate for young children in Italy is 85 percent. The World Health Organization stated that 95 percent should be immunized to prevent outbreaks. Measles is highly contagious and can cause blindness, encephalitis and death.

In Michigan, under the best interests of the child statute where there is joint legal custody, there must be an agreement on issues such as health-related issues or else the parties must go to court.

What I am observing is a tremendous waste of time and money over an issue that has been medically resolved for years. Vaccinations have eradicated many terrible diseases here in the United States, including mumps, measles, and polio, as well as small pox. There are vaccines for chicken pox and even pneumonia.

A parent may argue that his or her child should not be vaccinated for medical or religious reasons, but this fails to take into account the fact that if more

and more people are not vaccinated, then the protection for our society as a whole will start falling apart and the gains in medicine to immunize and protect our children will be lost. Every competent physician I have spoken to has unequivocally stated that vaccinations are critical and are safe!

What are some solutions?

I have had some cases where a judge would award joint physical custody to one parent and sole legal custody to the other. There can even be rulings by a court to have some decisions made by one parent and others by the other parent. For example, the final say on medical issues could be with one parent, while the final say on school-related issues could be with the other.

This is something that can be negotiated by the parties and their attorneys or it could even be ordered by the court.

The end result would be to end the disputes that can go on endlessly in court.

In one of my cases, the mother who is a physician was granted sole legal custody and then had the ability to make all decisions based upon the best interests of the child of the marriage.

We are going through an era where

people are more and more contentious and will use the courts to take out their anger over almost every issue, even long after the divorce is final. Emotional problems, a failure to move on to the next chapter of life, as well as anger and bitterness — all contribute to what I call the never-ending divorce. In these cases, such as the one playing out over vaccinations, one or both parents are unable to move on and will put their child or children in the middle of this mess.

These are some of my thoughts on this issue. Please share yours.

*Henry S. Gornbein specializes in all aspects of family law. He is a partner in the Birmingham law firm of Lippitt O'Keefe Gornbein PLLC, where he heads the family law unit. He is creator and host of the award-winning cable television show "Practical Law," with more than 800 episodes aired to date. He is the author of the book "Divorce Demystified, Everything You Need To Know Before You File For Divorce." Contact him at hgornbein@lippittokeefe.com or 248 646-8292.*

# Plans scrapped for senior housing on Eight Mile

## David Veselenak

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

It looks like a proposed senior housing development originally pitched on the Livonia/Farmington Hills border will not move forward in development.

Detroit-based Southwest Housing Solutions withdrew its proposal last week to construct a senior living complex with 55 units at 29023 Eight Mile, just east of Middlebelt.

The company withdrew its proposal Feb. 12 in a letter to the Livonia City Council, the same day the council was set to take up the issue during a meeting that night.

"Due to our limited option on the



**A proposed senior living complex for this site on Eight Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, looks to be off the drawing board for now.** DAVID VESELENAK | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

property at 29023 Eight Mile Road and the likely timetable for required approvals, we must respectfully withdraw the petition ... at this time," wrote Stephen

Ragan, senior vice president for development and external relations for Southwest Housing Solutions. "We want to thank the city council, city officials and potential neighbors who took the time to learn about this project and the needs of high-quality affordable senior housing for Livonia residents."

The project would have consisted of a three-story facility that would have had apartments for low-income seniors. The Detroit organization went before the city's planning commission back in November seeking to change the zoning from C-1 General Business to OS-Office Services. The city council removed it from its agenda during its Feb. 12 meeting.

The withdrawal came after some res-

idents voiced concerns regarding the development, including several who attended the planning commission meeting to rezone the property last fall.

Steve Palackdharry, director of communications for Southwest Housing Solutions, said the organization plans on continuing to look for opportunities to construct affordable senior housing in the western suburbs of Detroit, but that there was nothing planned for the immediate future.

"I believe we would like to explore possibilities," he said. "But there's nothing on the table right now."

Contact David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728.

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# Obituaries

## Frank W. Allen

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO - Frank Walling Allen died on February 20, 2018 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was eldest son on Ethan Newell Allen and Ruth Brown Allen, born December 17, 1927 in Chicago Illinois. In his youth he spent enjoyable summers with his grandparents in Colorado Springs after moving to Birmingham in 1933.

He graduated from Baldwin High school in Birmingham in 1945 and was drafted into the US Army Air Corps as a clerk for the duration of World War II. He graduated from University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Economics in 1950 and entered U of M Law School, graduating in 1952. He married his high school sweetheart Dorothy Lois Atkinson on March 4, 1950, and they lived in Royal Oak and Birmingham for 26 years, attending the Birmingham First United Methodist Church all that time. He practiced law with Dykema, Jones and Wheat after finishing law school in Detroit, Michigan until joining the legal staff of General Motors Corporation in 1953. His career with General Motors Corp. focused on safety, safety systems, and product liability. He retired from General Motors Corporation as Vice Counsel and head of product liability in 1986. After retiring he and his wife lived in Kona, Hawaii, Pagosa Springs, Colorado until settling in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1989. He was an avid duplicate bridge player, achieving silver life master status, enjoyed stamp collecting and he and Dorothy both enjoyed many world and United States travels.

He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Lois in 1997, his parents and a brother Phillip Brown Allen. He is survived by his four children Stephen (Andrea Trautman) Allen of Richland, Michigan; Thomas (Ethel Klimes) Allen of Ukiah, California; Nancy Higgins of Maui, Hawaii; and Barbara (Kirk Reichel) Springer of Aspen, Colorado. There are four grandchildren and a younger brother, Dr. George Leighton Allen of Rochester Minnesota, as well as his close friend Beverly Allen of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

His body was donated to science and later his remains will be buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs.



## Joan Rossow

LIVONIA - Joan Rossow, age 87, of Livonia, Michigan passed away on Sunday February 25, 2018. Joan was born February 2, 1931 to Edith Cardiff and John Cardiff.

Joan was a founding member and very active at Timothy Lutheran Church. She was a loving sister, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother who loved to travel the world. Never one to say no, she was always up for an adventure. Her social calendar was usually full, but could always find time for a cup of tea and short bread. Joan enjoyed watching wild life and enjoyed the visits of her family, including her grand dogs.

Joan is survived by; son Lawrence (Carol) Rossow; and son Glenn (Ginger) Rossow; brother Michael (Jackie) Cardiff; grandchildren David (Amanda) Rossow, Michael (Molly) Rossow, Michelle (Bryn) Blankenship; great grandchildren Gracelyn Rossow, Franklin Rossow, Harper Rossow, Cole Rossow and Miah Pechette; niece Paula (Lee) Mitchell; nephews Mark (Ysabel) Cardiff and Alec (Sole) Cardiff.

Joan was preceded in death by her beloved husband Richard Louis Rossow; son Paul J. Rossow; father John Cardiff and mother Edith Cardiff; brother Jack Cardiff.

A visitation for Joan will be held Saturday, March 3, 2018 from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Harry J Will Funeral Homes, 37000 Six Mile Rd, Livonia. A funeral service will occur Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 1:00 PM at Timothy Lutheran Church, 8820 Wayne Rd, Livonia. An instate will occur Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 12:30 PM at Timothy Lutheran Church. A burial will occur at Glen Eden Memorial Park, 35667 W. Eight Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Joan's memory may be made to Timothy Lutheran, 8820 Wayne Rd, Livonia; Humane Society; and The Elephant Sanctuary, 27 E. Main St, Hohenwald, Tennessee US.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com](http://www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com) for the Rossow family.



## Deanna Sadlowski

### STERLING HEIGHTS

- Sadlowski, Deanna McFarlane, of Sterling Hts., died Thurs. Feb.22. Beloved wife of the late Gerald V. Sadlowski. Survived by much loved brother Donald (Patricia) McFarlane; "sister" Arlene (Robert) Bieniewicz; great friend "daughter-in-law" Janie Scott (Phil Eichmiller). Also survived by many loved cousins, nieces & nephews, grand nieces & nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and friends. A memorial service will be held in the spring. Donations may be made to Seedlings Braille Books, Michigan Humane Society, Huntington Disease Society of America (HDSA), or charity of your choice.

## Dora DeMarco

- - Dora. February 6, 2018. Age 96. Loving mother of Anita DeMarco Goor, Claudia L. DeMarco and Dennis J. DeMarco. Cherished grandmother of Leah Goor Burtnett, Lauren DeMarco Stevenson and Matthew DeMarco Stevenson, and dear great grandmother of Anders Ogger, Johan Ogger and Gina Elizabeth Burtnett. Dora was born in Monessen, Pennsylvania, the daughter of immigrants who left Italy after World War I to pursue the American Dream. Always proud of her heritage, she had a long life with a good marriage and loving family. At age 41 she enrolled at Wayne State University and realized her dream of higher education, graduating and pursuing a satisfying career as a school librarian. Dora had a wonderful retirement including active contribution to the Birmingham-Bloomfield community and travel to many parts of the world. Family will receive friends Saturday, March 10, 2018 3-6 p.m. with a Celebration of Life Service at 4:00 pm at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile), 248-549-0500. Memorial tributes to The Baldwin Public Library Trust in Birmingham or charity of the donor's choice. View obituary and share memories at [AJDesmond.com](http://AJDesmond.com)



## Barbara Elizabeth Lewis

NOVI - Age 90, on February 23, 2018.

Born June 12, 1927 in Adrian, MI, daughter of James & Edna (Ryan) Lewis.

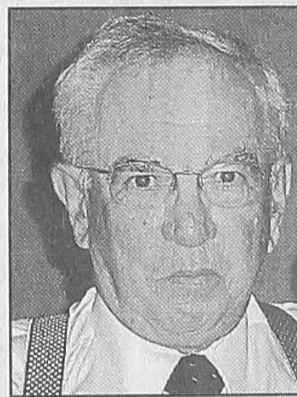
B.A. from U of M in 1949 and Masters in Library Science in 1970; Zeta Tau Alpha sister, Teacher and Media Specialist in MI and CA for more than 33 years and worked in two public libraries in retirement.

Lived in Birmingham, MI and was an active member of 1st Presbyterian Church for almost 50 years. Resident of Fox Run Community in Novi for 5 years.

Memorial Service 11 AM March 3, 2018 First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, MI. Memorials can be made to the church or U of M School of Information.

## Richard Nelson

PLYMOUTH - Richard (Dick) John Nelson, 85, of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away peacefully on February 9th, 2018 in Sun Lakes, AZ, with his wife Patsy at his side. He was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1932, moved to Plymouth during adolescence, and remained since. Survived



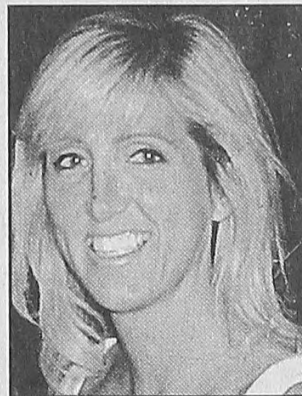
by his wife of 62 years, Patsy Ann Nelson, sister Barbara Krump (Ron); daughters, Linda Harbaugh, Cheryl Maxwell (Ron), Jackie Capriotti (Chet, decd), and Rachelle Skehan (Mike); grandchildren, Laura (Joey), Ryan (Aubrey), Christine (Ryan), Stacey (Alex); four great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Helen Nelson, and stepmother Alfreda Nelson. Visitation will be March 9th, from 3-8pm at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth with his Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel on March 10th, at noon. To leave a condolence and view full obituary, please visit [schrader-howell.com](http://schrader-howell.com)



## Christine Kiernan

TROY - Kiernan, Christine (nee Vilums), Age 53 of Troy, Michigan

Beloved wife of Terry for 17 wonderful years. Loving mother of Brittany (Nick) Stensen. Dearest daughter of the late Gene and Sue Vilums. Cherished sister of Linda (Jerry) Clause and Gena (Ken) Smith.



Sister-in-law to Patricia (Richard) O'Connell, Jane (Donald) Oliver, and Edward (Cathy) Kiernan. Treasured aunt of Ashley and Kelly Smith, Thomas (Leah) and Daniel (Laura) Murray.

The things Christine loved the most in life were her friends and family, the beach, bowling, working out, and a good glass of red wine.

Visitation Wednesday at the Sterling Heights Chapel of the E.J. Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. (3801 18 Mile Rd. NW corner of Ryan) from 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm with a 7:00 pm scripture service. Funeral Mass Thursday at St. Anastasia Catholic Church (4571 John R Rd. Troy, MI). Christine will lie in state at 9:00 am until time of Mass at 9:30 am. Please share memories at [mandziukfuneralhome.com](http://mandziukfuneralhome.com)

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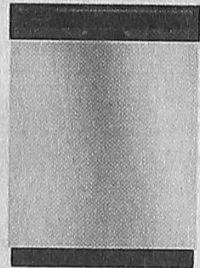
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# Sports



Marian junior Olivia Weymouth captured the giant slalom state championship Monday at Boyne Mountain in Harbor Springs. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## GIRLS SKIING

# Weymouth captures state championship

Marian junior places first in giant slalom at Boyne

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Call her a state champion. Birmingham Marian junior Olivia Weymouth captured the giant slalom individual state championship Monday at Boyne Mountain in Harbor Springs.

Her combined time of 1:08.11 was just barely ahead of Birmingham Unified's Katie Bridges, who placed second in 1:08.40.

"It was awesome. I was so excited for the championship title," Weymouth said. "It was a great feeling to win. I thought that my dedication and work to the sport was really showing off in this event and it was great."

"I really love giant slalom," she added.

See WEYMOUTH, Page 2B

## BOYS SWIMMING



Seaholm senior captain Michael Arpasi heads to the Division 2 state meet as the defending 100-yard butterfly state champion. MARTY BUDNER

# READY TO FLY AGAIN

Seaholm senior hopes to defend 100 butterfly state championship

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Take it from Michael Arpasi. There's something to be said about the rich tradition that fuels the highly-regarded Seaholm High

School boys swimming program.

During his freshman year, after nurturing his swim talent with the Birmingham Blue Dolphins and Birmingham Athletic Club, Arpasi quickly learned about the successful culture developed by veteran head coach Tom Wyllie.

Arpasi paid attention to the hard work and the exemplary leadership provided by then senior captains Jack Russell, Nick Ross and Evan Burke. Wyllie's captains helped lead the Maples to the 2015 Division 2 state championship.

Although Arpasi finished 15th that season in the 100-yard butterfly, he was inspired to make himself the best swimmer he could be. Now, as a senior captain, he heads to this year's state meet as the defending 100-yard butterfly champion.

"I started getting serious about swimming my freshman year in high school," Arpasi said. "I owe a lot of that to Jack Russell, Nick Ross and Evan Burke. Those guys were my captains when they seniors that

See ARPASI, Page 2B

## BOYS HOCKEY

# Stevenson prevails in clash of top teams

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

On the second night of the 2018 boys hockey state tournament, fans at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia might have witnessed one of the top games that will played right up through the March 10 coronation of three division champions. With the top two teams in Division 2

going head to head Tuesday and one state-ranked team destined for a one-and-done scenario, Livonia Stevenson squeaked out a 3-2 victory over Plymouth.

The Spartans (21-5), No. 2 in the Michigan High School Hockey Hub's super 10 rankings, were led by senior defenseman Jake Beaune (goal, two assists) and senior goaltender Will Tragge, who was unbelievable all night, but es-

pecially in the scoreless first period, when the Wildcats carried the play and outshot the Spartans, 11-3.

Tragge and the Spartans also survived a hectic finish, following a goal by Plymouth junior forward Jack VanDen-Beurgueury with 56 seconds to go and 'Cats goalie Brendan Olepa pulled for the extra attacker.

See STEVENSON, Page 3B



Vying for the puck are Plymouth's C.J. Mullenax (right) and Livonia Stevenson's Kyle Siroki. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



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# Cranbrook ices Birmingham

## Cranes eliminate Kings in pre-regional game, 4-0

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Birmingham Unified had a much better tournament showing this year against perennial power Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood in Division 1 pre-regional action.

Cranbrook Kingswood scored a first-period short-handed goal by senior co-captain Hugh Lambert and it stood up Wednesday as the game-winner in a 4-0 win over Birmingham Unified at the Wallace Ice Arena. Last year, in a pre-regional game, Cranbrook eliminated BU with a 9-1 mercy-rule triumph.

While the final results weren't as lopsided, that was hardly any consolation to the disappointed Kings.

"We had a team, for sure, that could compete this year and it's too bad we ran into another powerhouse in round one of the playoffs," Birmingham Unified coach Steve Kruk said. "But I'm genuinely proud of our group. None of us wanted it to be over tonight and we knew we, actually, had a real good chance to not end it tonight."

"But there are two good teams out here and we had our chances," he added. "And that's not to take anything away from Cranbrook. They are a superb team and they are well-coached. Unfortunately, we just didn't have any puck luck tonight."

### Topouzian scores twice for CK

Veteran Cranbrook Kingswood coach Andy Weidenbach acknowledged this year's battle was much more competi-



BU's Brett Hutchison (left) skates ahead of Cranbrook's Mac Brice. DAN DEAN | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

tive.

"I thought (Birmingham) played a real good game," Weidenbach said. "They fore-checked well and they had a lot of jump. We haven't scored many short-handed goals this year and to get one like that right away in a playoff game, that was definitely a big lift for us."

After Lambert's timely goal four minutes into the opening period, teammate Stepan Topouzian scored the first of his two goals and Cranbrook held a 2-0 lead after the first 17 minutes. The Kings remained with their game plan and held the Cranes off the scoreboard for the game's next 24 minutes.

Cranbrook took a three-goal lead 1:39 into the third period on Topouzian's second goal, which he scored into a wide open net from the right face-off circle. The Cranes scored their final goal by junior forward Kam Hellman into an empty net.

Senior captain Chase Kantgias contributed three assists.

### Both goalies stand out

"We had our moments. Sometimes, we had them bottled up for a while and then they'd get up there and break out pretty easily a couple of times," Weidenbach said. "It was kind of an up-and-down game. I don't think we were consistently good or consistently bad. I think there was some ebb and flow in that game."

Cranbrook Kingswood outshot Birmingham Unified by a more than 2-1 margin (38-18), but both goalies made key saves throughout the game.

Kings goalie Gabriel Barish, only a junior, made a two great saves on point-blank Cranbrook shots from Oliver Doran and Tyler Lee late in the second period. Barish finished with 34 saves.

"Gabriel Barish was outstanding to-

night," said Kruk, who believes his goalie can play at the college level. "He is so dialed in, so ultra-focused and so passionate about the game. I think he was definitely nervous in the first period, but oh my gosh, did he make saves in the second and third. He was incredible."

Cranbrook Kingswood goalie Colin Rutter wasn't as busy as Barish, but still made his fair share of saves to keep the Kings at bay. BU senior forward Charlie Michaud had two excellent shots, one of which Rutter saved and the other which went just wide of the far post on a redirection of a perfect cross-ice feed from linemate David Breagh.

"Our goalie made some tremendous saves — some key saves at some key times," Weidenbach said. "If he doesn't make those key saves, they get momentum. I think our goalie was a big reason why we were successful."

"I think their team worked pretty hard and had some good chances," he added. "Our goalie just stood on his head."

Cranbrook Kingswood (16-9-1-1) advanced to the regional championship game against U-D Jesuit (15-11). Birmingham Unified captured the OAA White Division championship this year and finished with an 18-4-2 record.

"I'm extremely happy with this season," Kruk said. "These graduating seniors will always have this family. They'll always have each other no matter where they go."

"While we fell short of what we wanted, there are still a ton of positives to take away from this season," he added. "I think this program is in great shape and I think we're trending upwards."

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## Arpasi

Continued from Page 1B

year and they really got me into swimming.

"We won the state title when I was a freshman and that was really exciting," he added. "And I didn't really consider myself a swimmer until that year. Tom Wyllie made me the swimmer who I am, the man who I am. I owe 95 percent of what I've accomplished in the sport to all of them."

### An 'outstanding' swimmer

Wyllie gets sentimental when reflecting on Arpasi's eventful high school swim career, which will officially end March 9-10 at the Division 2 state championship meet at Oakland University.

"I'm going to get choked up a little bit, because I remember Mike coming in as this skinny, deer-eyed freshman and now, here we are four years later, he's grown into an outstanding swimmer, outstanding leader and an outstanding young man," Wyllie said.

"Mike put in one heck of a performance (at the recent OAA Red Division meet). He was part of the winning medley relay, he won the 50 free, the 100 fly and he was on our second-place 200

freestyle relay," he added. "And that's how, as a senior, you want to end your last league meet, but know that there is bigger fish to fry, to use that cliché."

The "bigger fish" refers to the state meet, where Arpasi eyes a 100 fly repeat.

Arpasi improved his 100-yard butterfly time each year at state.

As a freshman, he turned in a 55:31, but earned all-state honors as a sophomore, when he finished third in a time of 52:37. Last year, Arpasi won in 50:24. He also was all-state last year in the 50 free (seventh place) and both freestyle relays.

At the recent OAA Red Division meet, Arpasi won the 100 fly in a time of 50:01, which set a pool and overall OAA record.

### State-meet challenges

The 18-year-old Arpasi enters the state meet with the fastest 100 fly time of any Division 2 foe, but knows Nik Eberly from defending state team champion Dexter is lurking right behind. Eberly, a junior, was second to Arpasi last year by just three-tenths of a second.

"Last year was the first time I had won an individual state title and, ac-



Arpasi



Wyllie

ording to Tom, I was the first Seaholm swimmer to ever win (the 100 fly state title) and that was very satisfying," Arpasi said. "It was a great experience. I'm looking to win it again and just go out on top again at states."

"It's going to be a lot more challenging this year. The competition has gotten a lot better. I just have to work harder and find ways to get faster in the fly. It's my senior year and this has been one of the best seasons."

"I've gotten a lot faster. I had to recover from an injury at the beginning, when I broke my foot," he added. "But from that I feel like I've actually made some major improvements and I'm really looking forward to the state meet."

Wyllie believes Arpasi is capable of defending his title, but he knows the competition will be fierce and Arpasi needs to be well-prepared to race.

"Mike is going in as the repeat champion, but he has a big target on his back he didn't have before," Wyllie said. "Nik was second (to Mike) last year and will be gunning for him this year and there will be others who will challenge these guys. Mike will have to bring his 'A' game and be ready, because everybody else is will be prepared."

"He has to really focus on how we

want him to do that. He has to swim his own race, focus on what he's capable of doing and let the time speak for itself," he added. "If he focuses on his time to place, I don't think that's the way to succeed. If he focuses on 'how well can I swim,' 'what kind of race can I put together for me,' then chances are he puts together his ideal race and he should succeed."

### Denison is next stop

Arpasi will swim next year at Denison (Ohio) University, which recently captured its 10th consecutive North Coast Athletic Conference championship. The Big Reds won 10 of the 21 events.

Denison was third at the NCAA Division III national championship meet last year after winning it all the previous season. The Big Reds own three national championship trophies.

"What I'm really proud of, too, is he's going to a great university in Denison, a Division III powerhouse," Wyllie said. "The state meet will be the end of his high school career, but it's just the beginning of his next step which is big time NCAA Division III swimming. I'm very excited to watch his progress."

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## Weymouth

Continued from Page 1B

ed. "It's my favorite race and to get a title in that event just means so much more to me."

Weymouth, who was second in the giant slalom last year, said the strategy was to just make it down the hill during her first run and then go for the gold during the second. It worked to perfection.

"I was in second place after the first run and, in the second run, I came though to take the overall," Weymouth said. "My coach (Robert Rhoades) told me to ski the second run really well and go for it, but to hold back on the first run and just try to make it down and be ready for the second run. I just skied the first run conservative and the second run fast."

Although the three-year varsity veteran had skied at Boyne previously, this was her first trip down that particular mountain this year.

"The courses themselves weren't challenging, but in the first run in the snow there were big cat tracks from the groomers that made the course a little rough," she said. "Just from that and the

fall-away right footers, it made the course a little harder than the set was between the snow conditions. And on the second one, I ripped the flats and I skied the pitch smart and it seemed to work out."

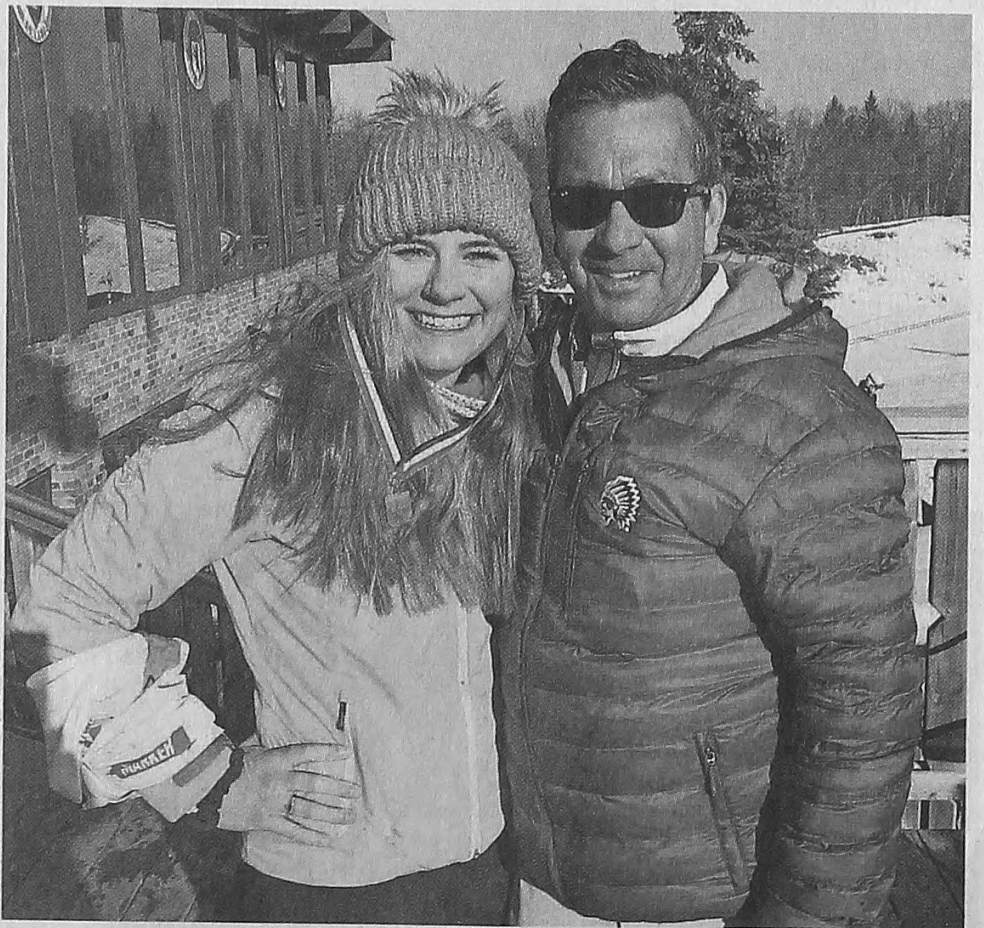
Neither Weymouth nor Bridges finished the slalom after earning first team all-state honors in the giant slalom.

"In the slalom, I made it all the way down the down the face, there was just a flush and I straddled about four gates," she said.

The victory capped a marvelous season for Weymouth, who started slowly after recovering from a knee injury. She regrouped to place first in the giant slalom and second in the slalom at the Alpine Division championship meet. She was Marian's lone representative at the annual SEMSL championship meet.

Weymouth qualified for the state meet after winning both races at the regional hosted by Pine Knob. In fact, she was the top skier among a field of more than 130 racers, which included both boys and girls. It marked the second straight season she was won both regional races.

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Olivia Weymouth, with Marian ski coach Robert Rhoades. MARTY BUDNER

# State tourney seeding sought by coaches

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Perhaps it's time to plant a high school hockey seed and help watch the sport grow.

If anything, the low-hanging fruit would be making sure the first night of the MHSAA state tournament isn't the last for the very best teams in the state.

Tuesday night's Division 2 boys hockey pre-regional at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia, between Livonia Stevenson and Plymouth, was riveting stuff for the hundreds of spectators who crammed inside the venue.

The 3-2 victory by the Spartans ensured the top team in Division 2 would live to skate another day. Plymouth, however, is done for the year after a 17-7-2 season.

Meanwhile, in the same pre-regional, an up-and-coming team in Canton — not quite there yet as a contender under the guidance of first-year head coach John Bartle — received an opening bye.

Although veteran Stevenson coach David Mitchell was happy to see his team survive the Plymouth game, he emphasized that something's wrong with the picture of seeing the Spartans and Wildcats fighting for their postseason life before it really begins.

"Win or lose this game, we felt this has to be a game that's played later on in the state tournament," Mitchell said. "The spotlight was on high school hockey tonight with the two top teams in the division, so it would have been nice to have this later in the tournament."

"Both teams deserve to have this later in the tournament. Plymouth is an unbelievably well-coached, well-run program with a ton of good hockey players and great character kids. No matter who won this game, I'm an advocate for definitely seeing this game later in the tournament."

The losing coach Tuesday, Gerry Vento, didn't mince words about a system where tourney draws are the by-product of luck — a so-called "blind



Plymouth senior Tim Baldwin is stopped by Livonia Stevenson senior goalie Will Tragge during Tuesday's Division 2 pre-regional. The teams faced off on the first night of the tourney despite being ranked Nos. 1 and 2 in D2. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

draw" where match-ups are selected out of a hat.

"It is what it is," Vento said. "Whoever thinks this is a good idea needs to explain it to me, because I don't understand it."

## Skeptics remain

Coaches are hearing rumblings that the MHSAA might soon try to craft a plan where powerhouse teams aren't rendered powerless at tourney time, while lesser teams can breeze through an easier bracket.

Yet skepticism remains.

"I've heard it for years; I'll believe it when I see it," Vento said. "They've been saying that for a while. Hopefully, after they see what happened out here today, a 3-2 game with the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in D-2 playing in the first night of the playoffs, it's kind of a joke."

Another coach who would like a more common-sense approach to scheduling tourney games is Salem's Ryan Ossennmacher.

By the way, his team was in the Division 1 state rankings throughout the season. The Rocks' reward: Facing unstoppable Novi Detroit Catholic Central at USA Hockey Arena.

"It is a tough pre-regional; three teams are ranked in the top 10 in Division 1 and it's another example of a failure of seeding and its effect on the tournament," Ossennmacher said. "It's a blind draw, you draw it out of a hat ... the team that gets drawn gets a bye and the other teams play."

"Flip of a coin decides home and away. Unfortunately, a pretty trivial way to make that decision, but that's what we work with."

Ossennmacher said unfair match-ups are always going to happen, especially

in talent-rich areas.

But why not see how the tourney map is drawn up elsewhere, such as Minnesota? In that state, there is seeding at every level of the tournament, with balanced competition worth the extra miles that teams must log to play farther from home.

"These are hockey teams and they are used to traveling," said Ossennmacher, who played high school and college hockey. "If doing it right requires a little extra travel, so be it. Nobody's going to complain. You have to make sure teams that do the right things during the regular season are somewhat rewarded at the end of the season."

"What sport doesn't do that? The NCAA tournament seeds. The NFL seeds. Everybody does that, simply because you want the best match-ups and you want the regular season to have meaning. Otherwise, you could just drop the puck at the end of February. It frustrates me to talk about it."

Mitchell said Minnesota "seeds each regional and I hope that's the proposal that's out there. That we could at least see this (Stevenson-Plymouth) as a regional final instead of so early on."

He sounded hopeful that maybe things might begin to get done.

"It's got to go through committees," Mitchell said. "It's the state looking at seeding like they're doing for basketball. I think the wheels are in motion."

"Both coach Vento and I just talked that there's not much we can do. When it's at this point, we just have to play the game. But I know almost all coaches are advocates for some type of seeding system. I know the MHSAA is looking at it and I think we're heading in that direction."

If any proposal finally took root, fans of high school hockey in Michigan potentially would get to watch a postseason filled from start to finish with compelling match-ups such as what they saw opening night in Livonia.

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## Stevenson

Continued from Page 1B

VanDenBeurgery ripped a high shot that banked in off the goal post. But Stevenson held down the fort to close out the victory and earn a berth in Thursday's game against Canton.

"It was getting crazy down there," Tragge said. "But just trying to stay calm, stay composed, really show that calmness for my team. They feed off it, keeps them going."

Stevenson coach David Mitchell said his goalie was the key factor in posting the victory.

"Your best hockey players have to be your best hockey players," Mitchell said. "Will Tragge was the best hockey player tonight for us. We had some good performances, but he helped win us the hockey game."

"Truth be told, Plymouth had us on our heels a lot tonight. Will was cool, calm and collected back there. Made some really unbelievable stops and he made some good stops look easy and that's what great goaltenders do."

Plymouth coach Gerry Vento also tipped his cap to Tragge.

"I thought we controlled the play, had a lot of chances and Tragge did what he does," Vento said. "But it wasn't for lack of effort or lack of control in a period. Our guys got at it and put a lot of pucks at the net."

"I thought we played a great game. I didn't see any goals against us from sustained pressure. It was breakdowns and they capitalized, so you got to give them credit for that."

Tragge and Olepa were in a goalie duel until Beane broke the scoreless tie with 2:36 left in the second period.

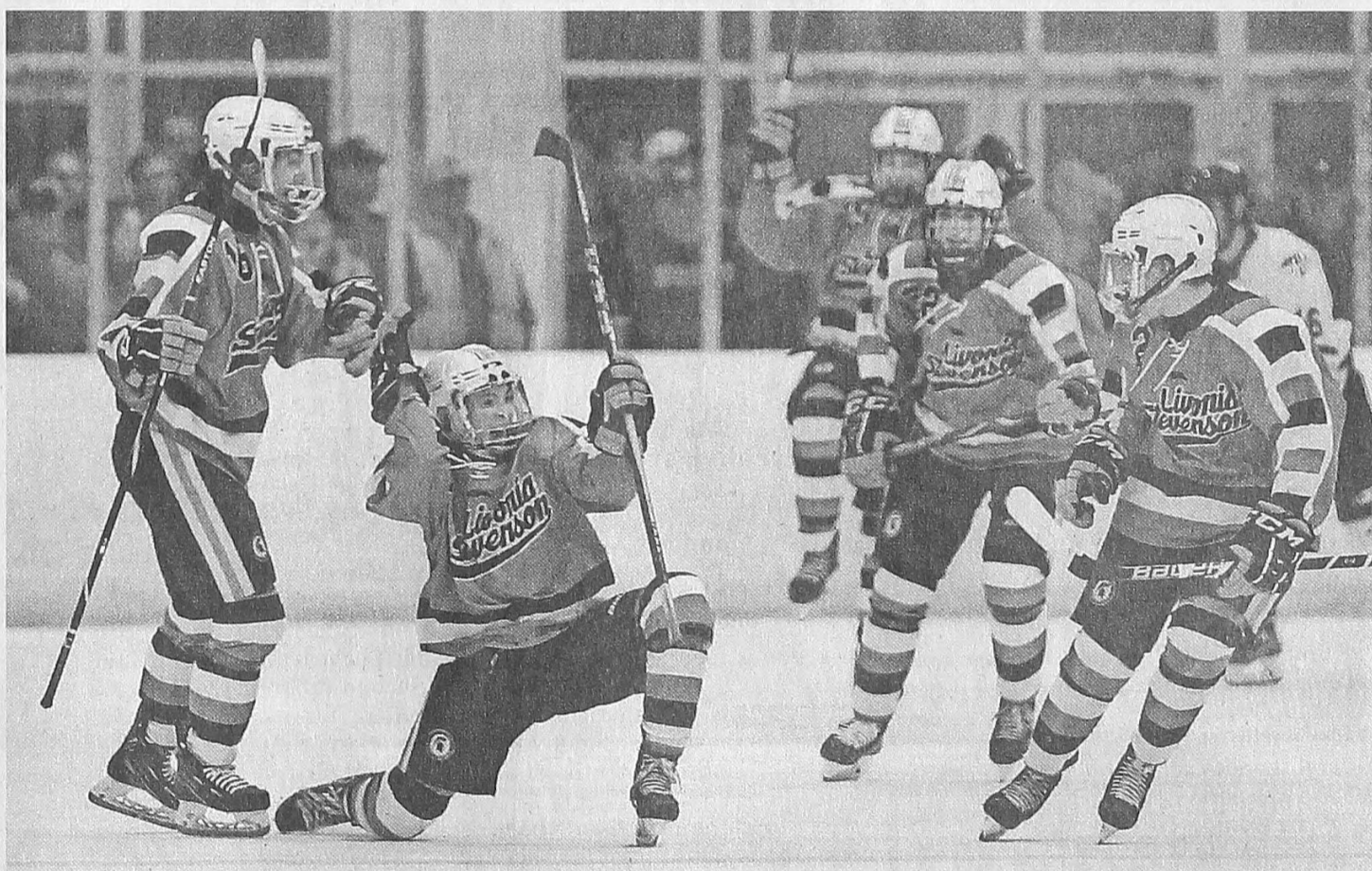
A Plymouth giveaway at the Stevenson line started a counterattack and the Spartans moved through the neutral zone around a fallen defender to create an odd-man rush.

Beane batted a rebound past Olepa and then celebrated with Stevenson's student section by leaping up against the glass.

Stevenson went up 2-0 with 11:39 remaining in the third, with senior forward Jack Williamson tipping in a blast by Beane taken from the point. Senior defenseman Connor Jakacki also assisted.

"As long as it goes in, we won the game and that's all I care about," said Beane, who at first thought his shot got past Olepa.

The Wildcats cut the gap to 2-1 on a



Livonia Stevenson celebrates one of three goals against Plymouth. The Spartans won the hard-fought Division 2 pre-regional, 3-2. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Plymouth's Shane Agner (left) and Stevenson's Brenden Preiss head for the boards. BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

power-play goal with 9:33 to play. Senior defenseman Andrew Garby (two assists) fed a pass from the blue line to senior forward Jack Chumley, who one-timed a blast inside the far post.

But just over a minute later, a misplay near the Plymouth net led to Stevenson's eventual deciding goal. Junior forward Austin Adamic chipped a loose puck into a wide-open net, before Olepa could scramble back into position. Earning assists were Beane and junior forward Steven Hunt.

Here are several takeaways:

### WHERE THERE'S WILL

Tragge showed why he is one of the top contenders for the Mr. Hockey Award, showing swift movement, poise and a larcenous trapper. With about 6:30 left in the first period, he casually snagged Tim Baldwin's rocket from the left dot.

"Oh wow, Will Tragge was a brick out there, man," Beane said. "No one could score on him. He was great."

### BUZZWORTHY

The bleachers were packed and fans were lined up three deep at both ends as Eddie Edgar had a festive atmosphere befitting a quarterfinal at Yost Arena or a final four contest at USA Hockey Arena.

"Let's go 'Cats!" chants permeated the air, as Plymouth brought a large cheering section, perhaps larger than the Stevenson one.

"It was nice to see everybody come out and support us, that's really what high school hockey's all about," Plymouth team captain Chumley said. "It's just representing your school, having fun and doing whatever you can to get wins like that. It's nice to know they were all in our corner and we felt the support on the bench, for sure."

### JUST THE BEST

Vento had high praise for his senior class, led by Chumley, Baldwin, C.J. Mullenax, Olepa and Garby. Other seniors included Gianni Pinto, Thomas Casari, Luke Kaledas and Shane Aigner.

"Unbelievable senior group, best senior group I've had," Vento said. "As much as I wanted to win, I wanted it a lot more for them. I thought they deserved better in this game. They poured their heart and soul into this program."

The veteran coach added about Chumley that, "As great a player he is, he's an even better person. There's a lot of guys on the team like that, that's why it hurts so much right now."

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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Mercy slips past Groves in opener

Marty Budner

hometownlife.com

USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

The girls basketball state tournament opened Monday with a pair of league co-champions tipping off in a powerful Class A district at Farmington Mercy. The first-round battle between Groves and the host Marlins did not disappoint.

Mercy, which shared the Catholic League Central Division crown with Bloomfield Hills Marian, survived a thrilling clash with Groves, co-champion of the OAA White Division with Royal Oak. The Marlins held on for a 51-48 victory when the Falcons' desperation 3-pointer with seconds left fell just short.

"The downside of this for somebody like Groves is that here's the first game of the tournament and they're out," veteran Mercy coach Gary Morris said. "That's just the harshness, I guess, or whatever word you want to use, about the tournament.

"I mean, super teams and one of them, unfortunately, is out already," he added. "I'm just very happy it's us that's still playing. At this point, you don't worry about how or how many, you just live to play another day, right?"

First-year Groves coach Jessica Wieseler, whose team posted an 18-1 regular-season record, indicated it was Mercy's program stability over the years that ultimately proved the difference.

"We knew we drew a tough district and give (Mercy) credit," said Wieseler, whose team moved up to the White after winning the Gold Division crown last year. "They are an absolutely incredibly seasoned team and seasoned program. I mean, even though they are young, they have a whole system.

"It's our first year putting in a system and they did a great job," she added. "We had a lot of trouble handling (Mercy's) changes of defense sometimes. I think they've been the most successful team (we've faced this year) at slowing us down."

## Close all the way

The game was close all the way, as neither team enjoyed more than a six-



Mercy senior Bella Dugas, who scored a team-high 21 points, drives past Groves defender Kayla Taylor. MARTY BUDNER

point lead.

Groves opened the first quarter with an 11-6 advantage and, although outscored in the second quarter by four points, held a slim 20-19 halftime lead. Mercy outscored Groves in the third quarter to take a 34-31 lead into the final eight minutes.

It did not take Groves long to overcome that deficit.

The Falcons went on a 7-0 run to take a 38-34 lead three minutes into the fourth quarter.

Mercy followed with a sizzling run of its own, causing a number of turnovers with its tenacious defensive play and

mustered eight straight points — four each by senior co-captains Jenna Schuller and Bella Dugas — to regain the lead at 42-38.

Mercy never lost that advantage, but Groves did get it down to a point (49-48) with 15 seconds left by taking advantage of the Marlins' free-throw struggles.

With 11 seconds left and Mercy holding on to its precarious one-point lead, Marlins freshman Julia Bishop was fouled. She made her first free throw in a double-bonus situation, but missed the second.

Groves grabbed the rebound and raced down court, but Sha Carter's long

3-point attempt with about four seconds left did not fall. Mercy grabbed the rebound, was fouled again with two seconds left and Dugas made one of her two free throws to account for the final score.

## Mercy's defense shines

Over the game's final three minutes, Mercy was just 7-of-17 from the foul line. For the game, the Marlins were 11-of-27.

"We were very happy with how we competed. I thought, defensively, we were really good because (Groves) is really tough offensively," Morris said. "We told the kids we were going to have to score to beat them because they're going to put points on the board — and, fortunately, we did.

"Obviously, we would have liked to have been better from the free-throw line and we might have been resting a little bit easier there down the stretch. But we made just enough free throws to get by.

"We tried to mix up what we were doing against them. We tried to keep them a little bit off-balance as best as we could," he added. "I'm just really proud of our kids and how we played the entire game. We played most of that game with three freshmen on the floor and they stepped up and did a nice job."

Dugas led Mercy with 21 points, including 7-of-12 from the line. Bishop finished with 13 points and Schluter had nine.

Carter, Groves' leading scorer all season, scored a game-high 22 points (including 10-of-11 from the line). The next highest Falcons were Kalya Nelson with nine and Jasmine Worthy with six.

"We knew what we were going to see (from Mercy), but we had trouble actually changing up how we were going to break it," Wieseler said. "And every time we got it figured out, they changed to something new. They ran a great game, slowed it down and it worked for them. So wishing them the best of luck moving forward."

Mercy (18-3) advanced to play North Farmington in the district semifinal.

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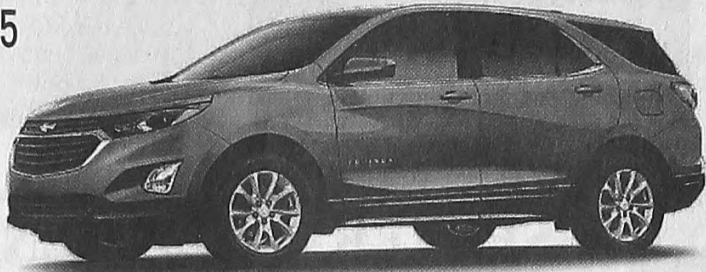
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**BOYS BASKETBALL**

# Cranbrook claims first Catholic League crown

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

Cranbrook Kingswood made history Feb. 25 at Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall.

In just their second year competing in the Catholic League tournament, the Cranes claimed the C-D Division championship with a 52-36 victory over Madison Heights Bishop Foley. They qualified by winning the regular-season Intersectional-1 title.

"This has been a goal of ours since the opening of training camp," said CK veteran coach Shane Finney, whose team hiked its record to 18-1. "I have a bunch of guys here who just compete. And to come through like this and see how hard we can play, we did it on the defensive end and that's what we pride ourselves in."

"I'm very proud of them," he added. "You have to give credit to Bishop Foley. We knew they weren't going to lay down. We knew they were going to give their best effort and they had a great tournament run. They're a tough team to go against."

**Sweep of the Ventures**

It was the third meeting between the Catholic League foes this year, with Cranbrook Kingswood engineering the sweep by their largest victory margin. The Cranes won by scores of 38-35 and 53-43 in their two regular-season meetings.

"I'm excited right now. We've worked hard all season for this," junior point guard Torrell Williams said. "Every practice, we go hard and it's a blessing to be here and win today."

"We played them twice this (earlier) season and they're a great team," he added. "We respected their guys and they came out and played hard. It was not easy defending them today. We knew they weren't going to stop, no matter how much we got up."

Cranbrook Kingswood's tenacious defense proved the difference.

The Cranes held a 21-11 lead after the first quarter and were up 32-20 at half-



**Veteran Cranbrook Kingswood coach Shane Finney led his team to its first Catholic League championship.** MARTY BUDNER

time.

Foley came out on fire in the third quarter, scoring the first eight points to make it a four-point game at 32-28. That's the closest the Ventures would get.

The Cranes scored seven straight points, keyed by a four-point play by junior guard Alex Finney when he was fouled on a 3-point shot that bounced into the net. Junior guard Clark Doman followed 30 seconds later with a trey that restored Cranbrook's lead to double digits, 39-28.

**Fourth-quarter defense**

Cranbrook Kingswood outscored Bishop Foley by a 13-8 margin the rest of the way to wrap up its first Catholic League crown.

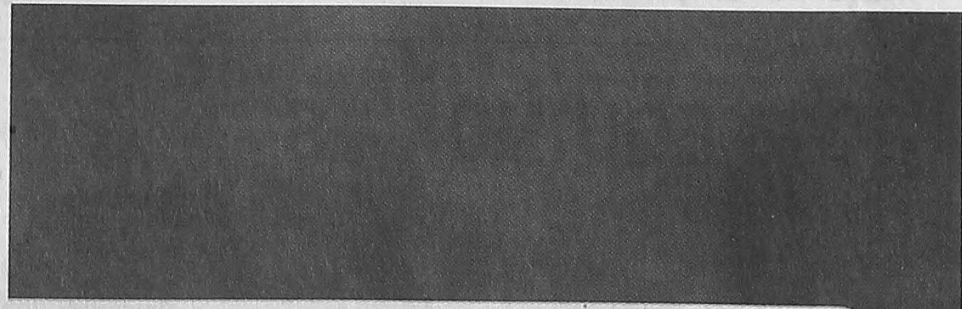
"Considering how we played the first half, I was happy that we were only down 12," said Foley head coach Matt Stefani, whose team finished 7-12. "We knew we needed to come out in that third quarter and cut it under 10 so that we could get to the fourth quarter and put some pressure on them."

"I thought we did that and we made them call the first timeout. After they switched their defense to the 2-3 trap, that kind of hurt us. We cut it to four points and we only scored eight points

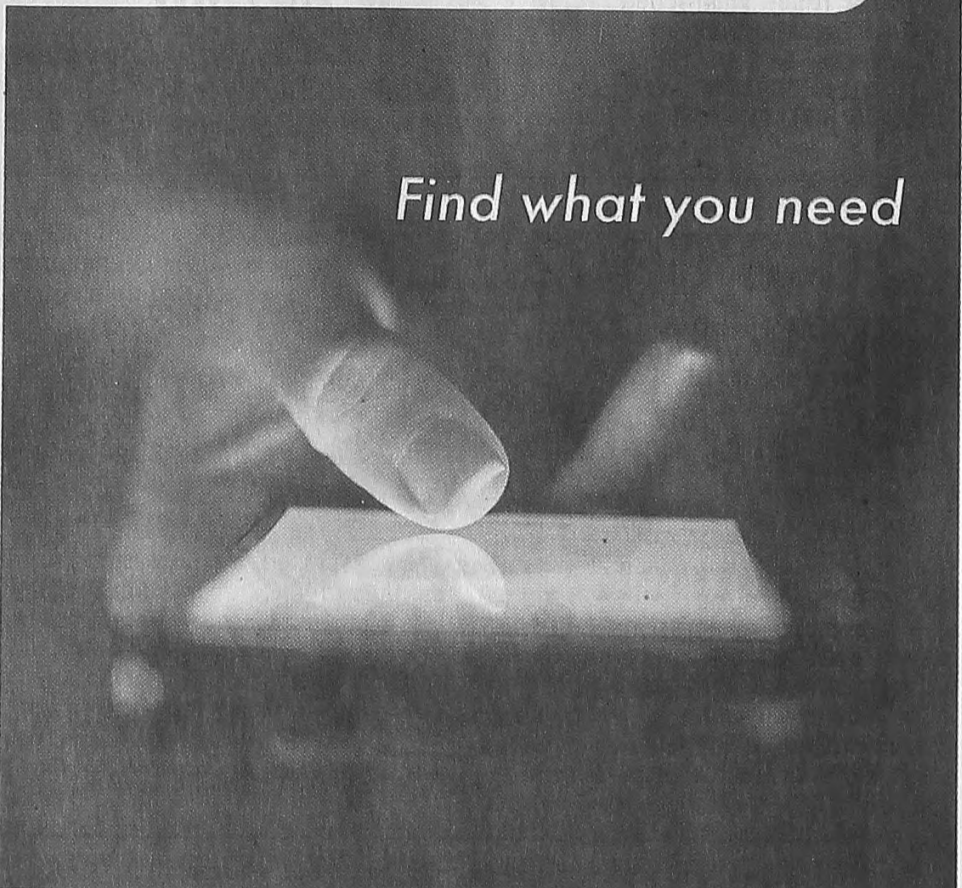
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Published: March 4 & 8, 2018



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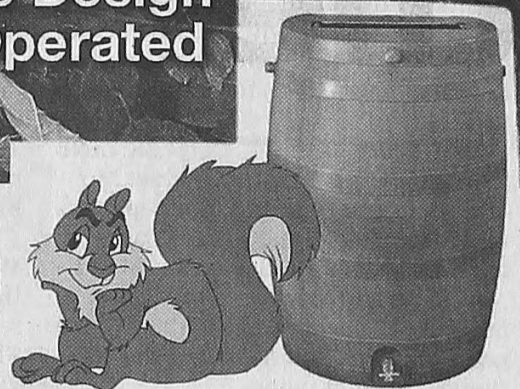


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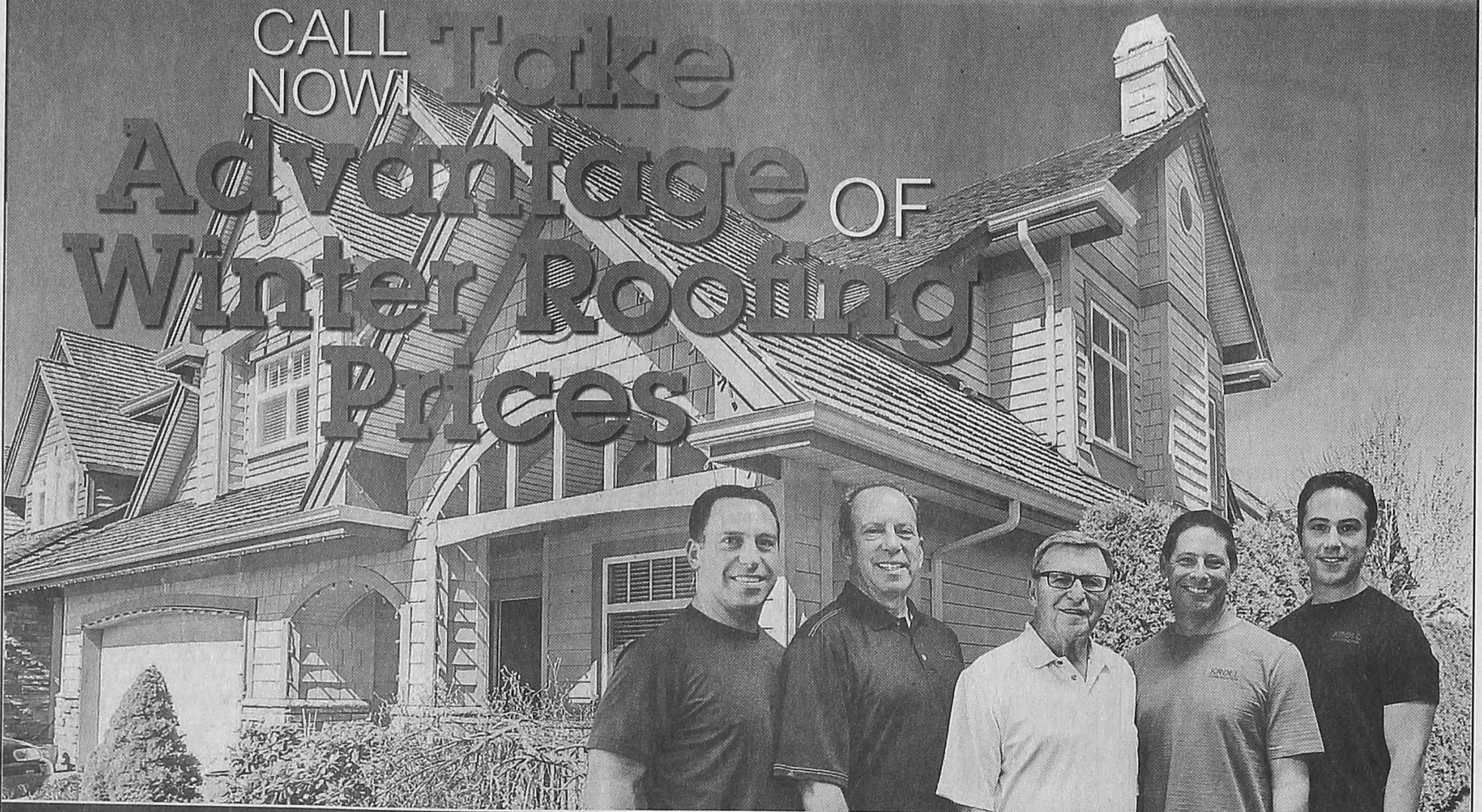
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## What to ask when negotiating a job offer

BY KATE LOPAZE  
 THEJOBNETWORK.COM

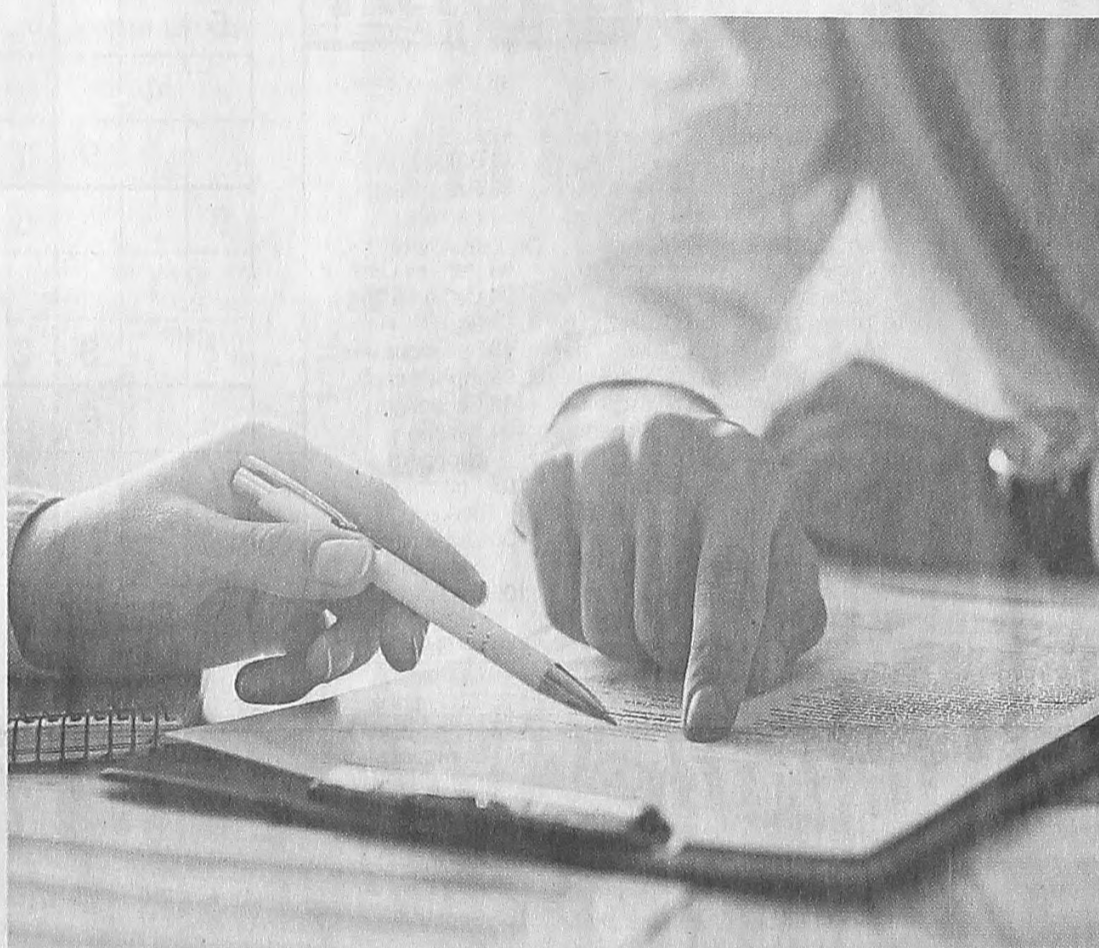
You have a job offer — awesome! Your work is done, right? After all, you've made it through the resume pile/interview/second interview gauntlet and emerged as the winner. Not so fast, champ ... you still have some work to do. The job offer is just the start of the next phase: negotiating. This is your chance to get as much compensation as you can while you prepare to start this new phase of your career.

Let's review the most important questions to ask as you start to negotiate salary and/or benefits with your new employer:

### 1. How are employees reviewed, and how is this tied to salary increases?

This question lets you know what you can expect down the line and what you should negotiate up front. If the salary seems low and the company is unlikely to budge very much during this first phase, you can start making your plan — and your case — for an increase later on.

If raises at this company are tied to good performance reviews, you can go in to the job on day one with the goal of achieving an "excellent" (or



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whatever the metric is), and can talk with your manager to set specific goals so you'll be in good shape when it comes time to talk about a pay bump.

### 2. Besides the base pay, are any benefits negotiable?

This gives you a sense of the playing field. If you can't

negotiate time off, insurance coverage or other benefits, there's no point in spending your time and energy on those points.

It also lets you push a bit on the salary, if nothing else is up for discussion. Knowing what's flexible and what's not will help you target your negotiation.

### 3. What is the fiscal year for this company?

This question is a good one to ask because it'll tell you when your next window for negotiation or a raise will be. If you're starting at the beginning of a year and the company's fiscal year starts in January, then you'll have a straightforward year before an increase.

But if you're starting in January and their fiscal year ends after the first quarter (April), you'll be waiting significantly longer than a year for a potential salary increase. That gives you a bit of leverage to say, "Since it will be more than a year until I'm eligible for a salary review, I'm hoping we can start with a slightly higher initial salary."

### 4. Can you send me employee benefit costs?

The company should be able to send you a one-pager or a packet outlining the basic benefits offered by the company (insurance, vacation time, etc.) and any related employee contributions/costs. Benefits aren't usually highly negotiable, but you can use this information as part of your proposed salary.

As you get started with the job offer negotiation process, the most important part is having as much information as possible at your disposal. That way, you can make realistic requests and have a good idea of how far you can push with your negotiation — or when you should retreat and live to negotiate another day.

*Kate Lopaze 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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## Car Report

### TOYOTA DECLARES SEDAN SEGMENT IS ALIVE AND WELL WITH GREATLY ENHANCED 2018 CAMRY, AND NEW AVALON HYBRID



By Dale Buss

This is an era when consumers are said to be looking down at sedans, as American car buyers have begun favoring sport-utility vehicles and crossovers more than the traditional automobile configuration that built the industry.

But no one's downcast about the sedans at Toyota. At a time when most other automakers are busily remaking themselves around SUV platforms – witness how Hyundai and Ford, for instance, are de-emphasizing cars nowadays – Toyota continues to rely heavily on sedans to maintain its heft in the U.S. market.

Those sedans include the new 2018 Toyota Camry and the hybrid version

of the 2018 Toyota Avalon, both of which I've driven recently.

In the substantially overhauled and elegantly executed 2018 Camry, Toyota improved everything from its exterior styling to the longer wheelbase to a revised suspension to traffic-adapting cruise control and other wondrous features of the Toyota Safety Sense-P system, which now comes standard on Camry.

Camry, of course, is an iconic nameplate and has been the best-selling vehicle in America over the last few decades, besides the Ford F-150 truck. But even its sales were taking a hit last year in the overall market slide of sedans.

The 2018 version, which now is available in full volume at Toyota dealers, changed all that. U.S. buyers flocked to the fully redesigned car in the fourth quarter, with Camry posting a second consecutive best-ever monthly sales total and marking the



The 2018 Toyota Camry cuts a new and improved figure on the road.

best-anytime fourth-quarter sales for the nameplate.

It "has reignited the car segment," declared Jack Hollis, group vice president and general manager of the Toyota Division. By "stimulating the mid-size segment, [the new Camry proved] that great sedans still sell."

No wonder. The new Camry is so good that it was one of the three finalists for the North American Car of the Year that was awarded at the Detroit auto show in January. It also received the highest safety award from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The 2018 Camry is alluring from first glance, with a substantially bulked up design presence that is sleeker and longer at the same time that it appears more substantial, partly because it is lower. Camry's look has come a long way over the decades.

At the same time, the redesign maintained the visibility and headroom required because the seats, hood and

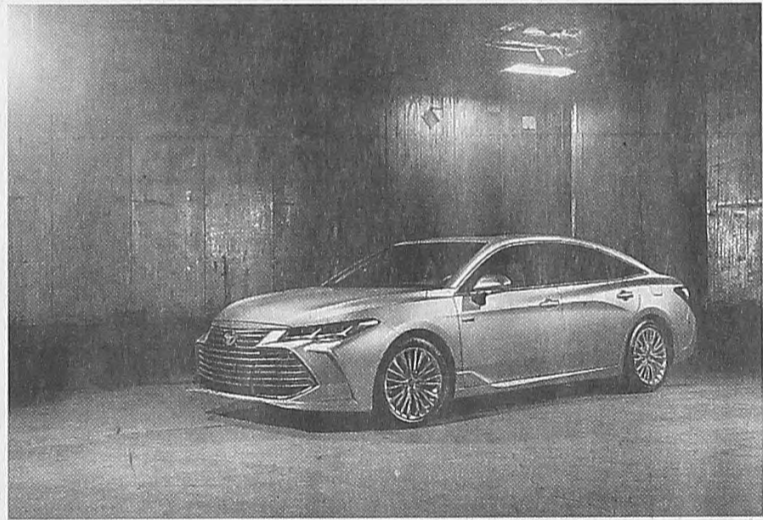
potholes that, quickly glanced, looked to be formidable.

Also a big help was the radar system that anchors Safety Sense P, the suite that also includes automatic emergency braking in case of an imminent forward collision, lane-departure warning and mitigation and auto-dimming LED headlights.

As an incurable leadfoot and tailgater, I was happy to rely on Camry's system in clear weather to keep me safely behind traffic on the highway. But when fog and rain enveloped me on the trip, both going from and coming back to Detroit, I especially appreciated the help – and ultimately, in a way, was counting on the automatic emergency braking if the fog got especially obscuring.

I also drove the Avalon Hybrid recently. I love what Toyota has done with the styling of this smooth, sumptuous, immensely capable full-size sedan. In many ways it has no rival these days in that segment. And now that Toyota has added a hybrid version of Avalon, the nameplate takes on even more allure for a wider range of consumers.

Still, I prefer the gasoline-powered version of Avalon, because I found that the hybrid powertrain was a bit lacking in pickup and produced some droning while accelerating.



The 2019 Toyota Avalon Hybrid is a leader in the full-size sedan segment.



Toyota is finding there's still a great market for great sedans.

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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

# SERRA CHEVROLET

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2018 Equinox, Trax, Cruze, Malibu, Silverado require the GM Supplier or GM Friends & Family Discount. The 2018 Volt, Traverse & Corvette require the GM Employee Discount, all payments & pricing include the GM Lease Loyalty Incentive for payment & Acquisition Fee are due at signing. You must qualify for Approved A1 or A+ credit through GM Financial & are all leases are calculated at 10,000 miles per year. Courtesy vehicles are calculated with the remainder of 10,000 miles per year. GM Financial may require a Disposition Fee at Lease Termination. For purchase pricing, you must finance through GM Financial. See dealer for final details, photos may not represent actual vehicle, you must take delivery before 3/8/2018.